

Liberty and Navy of Asia



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Hispanic Studies

Newsletter

2021 - 2022

LANGUAGE
RESOURCE
CENTER



¡Felicidades clase de 2022!



Avalon Bruno '22
Hispanic Studies



Daniel Maisch '22
Hispanic Studies
Economics



Tyler Maple '22
Hispanic Studies
Biology



Colleen Palczynski '22
Hispanic Studies
Sociology



Jake Tencza '22
Hispanic Studies
Accounting



Prof. Jessie Dixon-
Montgomery



Prof. Carmela Ferradóns



Stephanie Porter
Administrative Assistant



Prof. Carolyn Nadeau



Prof. César Valverde



Hispanic Studies | Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (WLLC)
Illinois Wesleyan University

MAJORS

Avalon Bruno is currently employed with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state program that works to help educate students and families about the college application process. They are working in community outreach, and after their summer training program will begin working with students through presentations and one-on-one discussions to teach them about things like financial aid and help them figure out their next steps after high school.

Daniel Maisch is working in Chicago in the area of Financial Analysis and Accounting and also plans to volunteer in a weekly food drive for low-income individuals in a predominantly Spanish-speaking community.

Tyler Maple will be studying in Buenos Aires this fall and plans on attending graduate school for a Masters in Biomedical Science, and then on to Osteopathic Medical School.

Colleen Palczynski is currently undertaking an internship at the state capitol where she will be working with the Democratic party and doing research on bills and helping with tasks around the legislation process.

Jake Tencza will be working for Deloitte in Chicago as an Audit and Assurance Associate and hopes to secure a position in their branch offices in Spain in the near future.

MINORS

Lindsey Agne (HS)

Sasha Arredondo-De Lipski (HSNHC)

Kaylee Bowers (HSNHC)

Leticia Camacho (HSNHC)

Maeghan Eaker (HS)

Nancy Escobar (HS)

Jessica Flores (HSBAFEM)

Malcolm Hedgepeth (HS)

Shannon Hogeman (HS)

Kaylah Keuch (HSNHC)

Brylee Lutman (HS)

Courtney McAuliffe (HS)

Madie Monk (HS)

Lesley Ortega (HS)

Sydney Runge (HSBAFEM)

Vicktoriya Salgalova (HS)

Jessa Salvador (HSNHC)

Jack Schneider (HS)

Jake Slovin (HS)

Amanda Smith (HSNHC)

Zachary Taylor (HS)

Jordan Thompson (HSBAFEM)

Saralexis Torres (HS)

Eryka Turner-Figueroa (HSBAFEM)

Wes Watson (HSBAFEM)

Hispanic Studies (HS)

Hispanic Studies for Nursing and Health Care (HSNHC)

Hispanic Studies for Business, Accounting, Finance,

Entrepreneurship and Marketing (HSBAFEM)

Kudos to our students!!

Victoria Ballesteros-González ('25), a Spanish tutor in the Language Resource Center, spoke this winter on a panel at the United Nations on access to clean water as part of the International Day of women and girls in science.

Lexi Ward ('24), a double major in Hispanic Studies and Educational Studies, was awarded a scholarship from the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The award will help pay for her studies here at IWU. ¡Felicidades, Lexi!

Daniel Maisch ('22), a double major in Hispanic Studies and Economics, was awarded the prestigious Lincoln Laureate, a prize awarded to one student in each of the universities across Illinois that recognizes excellence in and out of the class. Other Hispanic Study alums who have received this honor include Hannah Eby ('15), Danny Kenny ('12) and Kari Grace ('10).

EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Hispanic Studies has settled into our new office space on the third floor of the Center for Liberal Arts. Come visit and chat for a while in our new “Mermaid Lounge” or check out the art in the beautiful Language Resource Center where our new director, Cristina Almeida-Vélez, has put together an outstanding inaugural year of the intercultural corner and other LRC programming.

August

We finished the move into our new CLA home!

A Salvador Dalí sculpture of Don Quijote was gifted to the department. This 1972 bronze piece on stone plinth was originally donated to IWU by Joseph Czeszostowski and we are delighted to have it displayed in the mermaid lounge.

September

The student group SALSA organized a fun event of music, poetry and dance to kick off the Hispanic Heritage month celebrations. Different people performed including tutor Carlos Chávez Linares ('22).

Prof. Rocio Morales was a key note speaker that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion invited to speak at a campus-wide event. Rocio spoke of her evolving Latina identity over the course of her 20 years here in the US.

October

To continue Hispanic Heritage month, the department collaborated with the School of Music to invite “Sabor con fusión,” a Latin band from Urbana, IL. They played original tunes and covers of salsa, cha cha cha and other Latin sounds on the quad.

One of the spectacular events that came out of the Intercultural Corner of the Language Resource Center was the talk on Kichwa: Language, Gastronomy and Culture of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Speakers from Ecuador presented on the history and culture of Kichwa with particular focus on the language and the gastronomy. Those who attended were able to try Kichwa food and drink after the presentation. This programming was offered in conjunction with the class “Reading and Writing Culture: Food as Culture” that Profa. Nadeau offered in the fall.



Aug: Welcome to the new LLC



Aug: a Dali gift for the dept.



Aug: We're happy to be in the CLA



Sept: Carlos Chávez Linares ('22) performs live.



Sept: Rocio Morales discusses Latina identity

November

The Student organization, SALSA, together with Hispanic Studies, put together a beautiful Day of the Dead altar and invited students, staff and faculty to join in the celebration. The president of SALSA, Nancy Escobar ('22), gave a wonderful talk on the meaning of the altar, the different components and what they symbolize, and other related details.



Nov: Día de los muertos

February

Over the winter Hispanic Studies collaborated with International and Global Studies to bring the professional dancer Alicia Morris to campus. During her two-day visit to campus, she gave workshops on Cuban salsa to students in the basic sequence classes, to students in Prof. Dixon-Montgomery's "Span 334: Culture of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean World" class, and for all on the IWU campus. Students in the advanced culture class also watched the documentary, "La salsa cubana," to get a fuller understanding of salsa in Cuba and how it differs from salsa in other parts of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.



Mar: Ryan Woodall ('13) on Spanish in his life



Feb: Cuban salsa class!

March

Prof. Ryan Woodall ('13), who returned to IWU this year to teach in the Hispanic Studies program, presented a talk on the impact of Spanish language and

Hispanic culture on his professional development. Students (and staff and faculty) enjoyed learning how he used the skills acquired at IWU as an undergraduate in the workforce and how it led to living abroad and then returning to the states and attending graduate school. Next fall Ryan will begin a doctoral program at UT-Austin. We wish you the best and look forward to hearing more from you in the near future. ¡Buena suerte!



Apr: Dr. Adanri on Yoruba

Apr: Yoga en Español

April

The LRC also hosted an afternoon of Yoruba. Attendees were able to learn about Yoruba



history, language, music, food, dress, and connection to the Spanish-speaking world through a series of guests both in person and online. In the photo above, Dr. Adebayo Adanri explains the significance of wearing one's hat on the left and the right side.

Throughout the spring semester, the LRC organized a series of "Yoga en español" sessions. These classes provided a relaxed environment in which students, staff and faculty could breathe and move our bodies while using our Spanish language skills. We learned vocabulary for different yoga postures and connected our bodies, minds and love of Spanish.



Nancy Escobar ('22) shares "Día de los muertos" experiences.



Sigma Delta Pi Chapter Upsilon Rho, Fall 2021 initiation. From left to right: Avalon Bruno '22; Steven Lee '22; Catherine Drosch '23; Audrey Armstrong, '23; Madison Moore, '23; Colleen Palczynski '22, and profesora Cristina Almeida, who was inducted as an honorary member. ¡Felicidades a todas!

Spanish Honor Society Sigma Delta Pi-Chapter Upsilon Rho

Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, honors those who demonstrate a love of Hispanic studies and outstanding academic achievement in that field. Upsilon Rho was established at Illinois Wesleyan University in 2000. We were a 2012 chapter grant winner to host a workshop for teachers of Latino high school students and a 2010 recipient of the Premio Frida Kahlo for its outstanding website. Founded at the University of California, Berkeley in 1919, Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina and headquartered at the College of Charleston. Visit [IWU Chapter Upsilon Rho](#) on the web!

Questions about Sigma Delta Pi? Please contact Dr. Carmela Ferradán, Consejera Capitular cferrada@iwu.edu



2022 IWU Spain Program in Barcelona

Prof. Carmela Ferradán spent four months in Barcelona with 16 students from a variety of programs across campus: Anthropology, Computer Science, Educational Studies, International and Global Studies,

Hispanic Studies, and Nursing. The IWU Spain program runs every spring for the full semester. Students live with local families, take four classes, and experience the vibrant city of Barcelona as their classroom. This semester the director's class focused on discussing Catalan Modernism, Cubism and Surrealism, and Barcelona as a memory site for the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

One of the weekend trips to Northern Catalonia included a visit to El Museu de l'Exili in the border town of La Jonquera. This was one of the exile routes the Spanish refugees took on their way to France after the Spanish Civil War ended in 1939.

A group of students pose under the conjugation of the made-up Catalan verb "ravalejar" meaning strolling through the neighborhood of El Raval, one of the most diverse and interesting parts of the old city. From left to right, Isabella Garcia, Peyton Kumpula, Tristan Hyde, Emma Sempstrott, Izabella Villatuya, Bryson Connor, and Abby Barattia. This is what Peyton Kumpula ('24) had to say about her experience in Barcelona:

"Barcelona was an absolutely amazing experience. My favorite thing was expanding

my knowledge and appreciation for art and architecture and being in Barcelona made that super easy. I remember walking down the streets and random ally ways talking to my friends about what styles of architecture we were seeing."

Peyton is majoring in Nursing with a minor in Hispanic Studies for Nursing and Health Care, and she is also the recipient of one of the Luis Leal scholarships for studying abroad. In spring 2023, Dr. Kerr from the School of Nursing, will lead the program. For more information on the IWU Spain Program [watch this video](#) and visit the [Study Abroad page](#).



FACULTY ACTIVITY

Prof. Carmela Ferradans

Prof. Carmela Ferradans' English translation of Garca Benito's short story titled *Cailcedrat* was published in issue 11 of the literary magazine *The Arkansas International*. The story opens the collection *Por la va de Tarifa/By Way of Tarifa*, written originally in Spanish by Nieves Garca Benito, and first published in Spain in 1999. The collection features twelve short stories and twelve photographs that document the migration crisis in the Mediterranean at the end of the 20th century emphasizing the total indifference of the European powers to the tragedy. During the 1990s, this coast was (and still is) a silent witness to the human tragedy unfolding on the coasts of Southern Spain, where hundreds of migrant workers were trying to reach Europe in search of work and a better life. Many drowned in the waters, their corpses taken by the strong currents of the Straits of Gibraltar to the beaches of Tarifa. The collection is a journey that takes us from Senegal in West Africa all the way to Vitoria-Gasteiz in the North of Spain. A journey that narrates a human story of place, belonging, and cultural identity. The reader enters this journey with *Cailcedrat*, the mother-tree of West Africa: a Senegalese mother whispers the devastating story of Western colonization in Senegal into the ear of her dead grown up son. Prof. Ferradans' translation work has been supported by several IWU Scholarly/Artistic Development (ASD) grants and a sabbatical leave in spring 2020.



Prof. Carolyn Nadeau



This year, Prof. Nadeau published an article, gave the key note lecture at the annual Cervantes Society of America meeting and finished her three-year term as president of the CSA.

"European Perspectives on the 'Olla podrida' and other Early Modern Spanish Fare." *The Gastronomical Arts in Spain: Food and Etiquette*. Ed. Frederick A. de Armas and James Mandrell. University of Toronto Press, 2022, pp. 45-68. (article)

"Portrayals of Domesticity in Cervantes' Novelas ejemplares." Cervantes Society of America, Renaissance Society of America (RSA), Dublin, 2022. (key note speaker)

"Don Quixote: Spanish Masterpiece"
Guest Discussant with Ruth Fine and Edwin Williamson. The Forum. Hosted by Bridget Kendall. BBC News. World Service. Dec 16, 2021. Program link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct1rm7>

Cervantes Society of America, President, 2019-21. (finished term this past year)

COMMENCEMENT 2022

It was both the chilliest and windiest commencement in the history of Hispanic Studies but we said “hasta pronto” to another wonderful class of majors, minors, tutors and student workers.



Zoe Saputra, our beloved student worker, with Sharla Brown-Ajayi, Carmela Ferradáns, Suzie Smeeton and Carolyn Nadeau



Prof. Nadeau and Daniel Maisch



Nancy Escobar



Malcolm Hedgepeth



Tyler Maple



Colleen Palczynski



Wes Watson



Profa. Ferradáns with Avalon Bruno



Profa. Ferradáns, Jake Tencza, Profa. Nadeau and Avalon Bruno

ALUMNI NEWS

Susan Abraham ('05)

Susan is a doctoral candidate in Spanish at the University of Virginia and is working on early modern studies. In her own words, her research “focuses on representations and discussions of truth, falsehood, and authority in early modern (namely seventeenth-century) Morisco textual production. The central question I explore is what this preoccupation with truth and authority reveals about the symbolic function of Morisco manuals of faith and the ways their creators thought, taught, and imagined their history in the midst of their exile. My work tackles these epistemological questions through a framework and methodology that combines medieval Islamic and Christian rhetoric, as well as current theoretical debates in literary, religious, and Mediterranean studies.”

Mary Tackett ('12)

Last year Mary was hired as the Executive Director of Western Ave. Community Center (WACC) here in Bloomington. While a student at IWU she interned at WACC and after graduating from IWU taught in a variety of bilingual settings and earned her master's in education from Western Illinois University. Mary's passion for multiculturalism, education, and social justice is a perfect fit at WACC and we are delighted to continue working with her in this new role.



IWU Language School for Kids: Learn by doing!

The IWU Language School for Kids (LSK) hosts programming throughout the year in French and Spanish for children pre-K to fifth grade. LSK classes meet in the first floor of the Center for the Liberal Arts at IWU Campus. All classes, divided by age group and previous language experience, follow a curriculum aligned with state standards for bilingual/dual language education. Bilingual and heritage speakers are welcome.

The Language School for Kids fulfills IWU's foundational mission to educate students to be active, responsible, and empathetic global citizens. LSK programming is made possible by a 2014 IWU Donnocker Program Innovation Grant, the continuous support of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF), and donations from private donors like you. If you would like to support LSK, please fill out [this form](#) or scan the QR below to give your donation, any amount is welcome. On behalf of the LSK families and staff, Thank You!

For more information, visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media. You can always contact us at languageschool@iwu.edu



Luis Leal Scholarship

This year's Luis Leal Scholarship recipient is Tyler Maple ('22) who will participate in the SIT study abroad program in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Public Health Urban Environments.” The experience gained abroad will serve Tyler well as he heads off to medical school after returning from Argentina. He wrote, “my Spanish abilities along with Hispanic competency will help me better treat patients.” ¡ Felicidades, Tyler!

