HispaNews is an annual publication of the College of Charleston’s Department of Hispanic Studies.

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Changing times require thoughtful adjustments, and the Department of Hispanic Studies responded in kind during the 2016-17 academic year with several significant accomplishments. First, in November we launched our inaugural issue of the international, refereed journal *Hispanic Studies Review*. Under the direction of Editor Raúl Carrillo Arciniega and with the indispensable collaboration of the department's Editorial Team Members Edward Chauca, Susan Divine, Carl Wise, and Daniel Delgado, this publication is already establishing a prominent place in the research landscape and will undoubtedly reinforce the fine reputation already enjoyed by the department nationally.

Another ambitious project in spring 2017, and due to the leadership of co-organizers Ricard Viñas-de-Puig and Elizabeth Martínez-Gibson, the department co-sponsored the 84th Meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics, where CofC students Bethany Blamphin and Torrie Buchanan also presented their own research.

To conclude the academic year, the College approved a new Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Minor that will be the third minor offered by Hispanic Studies. Initiated by Professor Luci Moreira, this new program promises to incentivize further our students to pursue a more in-depth, interdisciplinary study of the Portuguese-speaking world.

These are just a few of the numerous successes of Hispanic Studies in 2016-17, but I encourage our readers to find out more about our student, faculty and program achievements in the pages ahead.

Mark P. Del Mastro
Chair, Department of Hispanic Studies
Well, it’s been twenty-five years now since I started at the College and as I am asked to look back and share my many accomplishments. I humbly hesitate because I tend to shy away from talking about myself and honestly, my achievements are what I believe any professor should realize.

I arrived at the College in 1992 as one of two Spanish linguists hired that year in what was then the Department of Languages. One of my first duties was as Coordinator of the Basic Language classes, since I came with that experience from the University of Florida. That first summer, along with another colleague, I established and recreated the Department’s Spain Study Abroad Program. We took the program to Málaga, Spain and placed students in families for an immersion experience. Since then, I have taken students abroad to Málaga and Trujillo and who knows what my future will bring. I have always been an advocate for study abroad because of my own experiences. It opened my world!

Another important contribution of mine to the College was the creation of two programs, the Linguistics Studies Minor and the Graduate Certificate for Medical Interpreting. I initiated the Linguistics Studies Minor back in 2000 and with the exception of two years (2013-2015), I have been directing it. I tell everyone: “Linguistics is in everything we do,” and I believe it is a subject that all students should have an opportunity to explore. Linguistics Studies continues to grow with new faculty and new courses. We started with only one course and currently there are seven linguistics courses. When I created this program, I also started the Language Fair, known today as the World Cultures Fair. It was an event to promote linguistics, language and culture. I am proud to say that this event has become an annual tradition for the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. I have organized the fair for nine of the thirteen years it has been held. In 2005, I introduced the Graduate Certificate in Medical Interpreting through a new connection with MUSC. This relationship led to an initial $20,000 Duke Endowment Grant for the College of Charleston to develop the certificate program. Dr. Rodriguez Sabater and I worked on successfully securing this grant and with a team of
other faculty (Marianne Verlinden, Claudia Moran, and others no longer at the College), we established the curriculum. Although this program was cancelled in 2010, it served as a model for other institutions nationwide. My most recent efforts to promote innovative programs for our ever-changing student population was a proposal for a Spanish for the Professions minor organized with two of my colleagues, Félix Vásquez and Mary Ann Blitt.

My years at the College have included teaching and creating numerous courses at different levels and for different programs. I was instrumental in creating the courses for the Graduate Certificate in Medical Interpreting. I also created LING 125: Introduction to Linguistics, LING 290: Dialects of American English, HONS 391: Language Variation of American English, SPAN 316: Medical Spanish, SPAN 344: Advanced Grammar and Lexicon, SPAN 443: Spanish Morphology and Syntax, SPAN 447: Spanish Dialectology, SPAN 590: Advanced Grammar, and LALE 690: Language Variation in American English. I have directed numerous Bachelors Essays, Directed Reading, Independent Studies and Internships over the years under LING, HISP and SPAN. In 2012, I was presented with an award for Excellence in Collegiate Education and Leadership (ExCEL Award).

My research agenda started with my book on Morpho-Syntactic Erosion between Two Generational Groups of Spanish Speakers in the United States (1993) and over the years I have published (and continue to publish) numerous articles in peer reviewed journals. In addition, I have book chapters in two editions of The Five Minute Linguist (“What is Gullah?”), a translation for an assessment instrument for patients and healthcare providers, book reviews, and various presentations at many conferences. My areas of interest have varied over the years. My current interests include Spanish in the U.S. and linguistic landscape. Some of my research was funded through grants awarded by the College of Charleston, the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, the Honors College and Duke Endowment.

My service record includes mentoring several junior faculty and many students. I served on and chaired many curriculum, search, and steering committees for the Department and the College. My duties as director of two different programs were varied and interesting. My favorite has always been the Faculty Senate. I always viewed it as a way to understand the College and to observe people’s behaviors. In addition to my service to the Department and the College, I am a volunteer Interpreter at MUSC. This is my eleventh year and I became a Nationally Certified Medical interpreter almost five years ago.
My accomplishments at the College have been many over the last twenty-five years and writing this piece has given me the opportunity to look back and be grateful for the opportunities I have had, the people I have met, the students I have been able to teach and inspire, and the life lessons I have learned. For all of this, I am truly blessed and I hope to be able to continue this mission for years to come.
Can you tell us about your background and how you became interested in cultural studies in general, and in the study of theater in particular?

I’ve always loved to read, so much so that when I was a child my parents sometimes had to limit my reading time the way we talk now about limiting children’s screen time. But it wasn’t until I started my B.A. at University of Alabama, Birmingham, that I began to develop my critical thinking skills through the study of literature and culture as a double major in Spanish and English. When my professors introduced me to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, they also expanded my entire way of thinking. Thanks to some truly fantastic professors who mentored me as I continued to study my M.A. at UNC-Chapel Hill and my Ph.D. at UCLA, I was able to visit Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina as well as immerse myself in Latin America’s past and present through its literature and culture. It was in a class on modernismo, where we studied literature alongside other cultural expressions like paintings, architecture, museums, fashion, advertising, early film, and popular media, that I really started to discover how important it is to study the modes of production, consumption, and circulation of cultural commodities for a more comprehensive understanding.

As for theater, it was almost by chance that I stumbled upon Argentine popular theater as part of my research on cultural responses from everyday people to the late-nineteenth-century discourses of social control. There has been a lot of attention on the symbolic practices of the elites to shore up their power as they consolidated the modern State, but less consideration of how these practices were contested in everyday culture. I found in popular theater a wealth of critical perspectives, voices, and embodied performances through which everyday people made sense of the changes brought by modernization and made visible new social configurations and identities, mostly apart from the State.
What is it that you enjoy the most about teaching at the College? And the biggest challenge?

What I have enjoyed most so far is the students’ desire to learn. I’ve had some wonderful groups of students who have been driven to study Latin American cultural production in remarkable depth. It is extremely rewarding to lead such motivated students to sharpen their analytical skills and deepen their knowledge as they try out and debate different ideas in the classroom. I’ve been thoroughly impressed by their willingness and ability to delve into challenging topics and relate seemingly distant topics to their own lives and futures.

The biggest challenge has been conveying to students in our Basic Language Program the range of things they can do and learn about with Spanish. Languages open doors to communities, perspectives, and opportunities for work, travel, and personal growth. I’m constantly trying to find ways to impress upon students how Spanish, even at the language requirement level, can enrich their lives and connect to their interests.

What are your current research projects?

My research projects almost always grow out of classes I teach, and I’m always working on several things at once. Lately I’ve been considering the ethical dimensions of the way bodies—particularly disabled ones—are represented in Latin American films like Amores perros, El violín, and La teta asustada. I developed some of the questions about those films in Spanish 333: Contemporary Spanish American Cinema. Now I’m turning my attention to similar questions in the Mexican film Güeros, but focusing more specifically on the representation of youth and trauma. I’m also working through how Argentine popular theater grappled with the implications of modernization for ever-changing conceptions of gender and nation—a topic explored in depth in Spanish 492: Performance y cultura popular en América Latina.

Can you please share with us something that the readers might not know about you?

Before moving to Charleston, I led students on a study abroad program in Oaxaca, Mexico, a region known for its preservation of many cultural traditions like elaborate dishes, weaving, and pottery. So we took an intensive, hands-on cooking class and learned how to make several traditional Oaxacan dishes. I’ve been making my own tortillas, salsas, and mole colorado sauce ever since! Now that my daughter is two years old, and I’m passing the torch, we make tortillas together once a week for taco night.
Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you became interested in Latin American Studies?

As a child growing up in a working-class African-American neighborhood in Detroit, English was my first language. I first studied Spanish in high school due to a nagging interest I had in exploring the cultural and political experiences between Latin Americans and African-Americans. But my interest in Spanish grew exponentially when I traveled to Mexico in 1996, for the first time, to study at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). After learning Spanish in Mexico, I continued my studies. In my final year of college, I was introduced to the Black Cuban poetry of Nicolás Guillén. Guillén’s brilliant representation of African-inspired Cuban religious culture left an indelible mark on my sensibilities and I decided to pursue Latin American literary and cultural studies in a graduate program at Michigan State University.

How did you come to work at the College of Charleston?

I am a scholar of Afro-Latin America whose work embraces multidisciplinarity and bridges theoretical and methodological approaches from the social sciences and the humanities. I applied for the postdoctoral fellowship in the School Languages, Cultures and World Affairs and the visiting position in Hispanic Studies, because I believed the College of Charleston would provide me space to do innovative multidisciplinary work. I have not been disappointed.

What do you enjoy the most about your work?

My greatest pleasure is bearing witness to how a student who is struggling with the material not only comes to master it, but also acquires a greater sense of confidence in the learning process.
What do you think is the greatest achievement in your career? What are you the most proud of?

It is hard to name any one achievement, because there are so many things I am proud of. But I must say, I was pleased to have my article “The Altar, the Oath, and the Body of Christ: Ritual Poetics and the Cuban Racial Politics of 1844” published as the inaugural chapter of Jerome Branche’s edited volume *Black Writing, Culture and the State in Latin America*.

And finally, a question that is a tradition in our newsletter: could you please share with us something about you that our readers might not know?

My favorite musical in the entire world is *The Wiz*.
Adjunct Faculty Spotlight
Prof. Berenice Marquina

Professor Berenice Marquina Castillo is an Adjunct Professor who has been teaching Spanish at the College of Charleston since 2009. Let’s get to know more about her!

Can you tell us about your background?
I was born in Colima, Mexico, a small state near the Pacific Ocean, but I spent all my formative years in Mexico City. There, I studied Hispanic Language and Literature at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Later, when I moved to South Carolina, I completed my M.Ed. in Languages at the College of Charleston.

How did you become interested in teaching Spanish?
Spanish is my first language, and I have always been in love with words. I love literature and poetry! When people enjoy what they do, they want to share it with everyone. I started tutoring during my first years at the College, and in my last two years I joined a peer teaching program. The program was aimed at teaching Spanish composition to accounting students in their first year at the College. They were big classes (35 to 45 students, sometimes more), and I taught in an auditorium-like classroom to students who didn't have a real interest in Spanish. During that time, I learned a lot about pedagogy, organization, and Spanish. And, I fell in love with teaching. I haven’t stopped since. In one way or another, I have been teaching most of my adult life.

Can you tell our readers about your work here at the College of Charleston?
In 2009 I had the opportunity to join the Basic Spanish Language Program as an adjunct, and I have been teaching here ever since. I have taught all basic and intermediate level courses in the Basic
Language Program. I enjoy being part of the College of Charleston, I am a mentor for the SPECTRA program and I participate as much as I can in the Hispanic Department’s activities.

**What aspects of teaching do you enjoy the most?**

I enjoy all aspects of teaching, from modeling vocabulary and pronunciation, to teaching grammar and composition. I enjoy them all! While I look forward to classroom interactions, my favorite part of teaching is when former students speak to me in Spanish. I love those interactions: when students decide to use Spanish even when they don't need or they don't have to, but feel that they can do it. I feel rewarded and proud!

**Could you share with us a memorable experience with your students in class?**

All my classes are memorable! Truthfully, there is always something special or memorable going on in class. From good news, a silly joke or just funny or interesting interactions, I always feel happy and energized after class. I guess I always get the best students!

**What do you like to do when you are not teaching?**

When I'm not teaching I like reading and swimming, and spending time with my kids.
Ten students from the College of Charleston participated in the spring semester study abroad program to Havana, Cuba. Dr. Sarah Owens directed the program and taught two Express Courses: Span 328 and LACS 101. Students also took three classes in English with Cuban Professors: LACS 103, POLI 340, and POLI 245. All students lived and dined with Cuban families in the neighborhood of Vedado. Throughout the semester students walked the cobblestoned streets of Havana, they visited culture sites such as the Revolutionary Museum, and they listened to local music at the Fábrica del Arte. Everyone loved the day trip to the eco-community of Las Terrazas. It was an opportunity to breathe fresh mountain air, swim in a pristine waterfall, and dine at a former coffee plantation. The highlight of the semester was a four-day excursion to the historic cities of Trinidad and Cienfuegos. Additionally students took advantage of the weekends to visit local beaches and to travel to beautiful nearby cities and towns.
Dr. Owens (fourth from the right) with her students in Cuba.
Professor Raúl Carrillo-Arciniega directed the Study Abroad Program of the College of Charleston in Trujillo, Spain, in Spring of 2017. Trujillo is an old town situated at the western edge of Spain, and it has preserved over the centuries its Medieval and Renaissance architecture. Eight students participated in the spring semester program to get a full immersion into the Spanish culture and language. They lived with host families and took classes with professors from the Universidad of Extremadura and with Professor Carrillo-Arciniega. Classes were held in a 15th-century convent called La Coria. Students not only completed their courses but also had a field-work project within the town of Trujillo to learn about its historical, artistic and architectural treasures. They participated in organized cultural visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the Roman city of Mérida, the Moorish cities of Córdoba, Granada and Sevilla, and the medieval town of Toledo. They travelled to Madrid, the capital of Spain, where they visited the renowned Museo del Prado, the Spanish national art museum, with one of the world's finest collections of European art. Participating in the Trujillo Study Abroad program allowed students to achieve fluency in the language, and enriched their cultural and social understanding of Spain through a combination of academic learning and real-life experiences.
In May four students studied abroad in Brazil under the direction of Professors Luci and José Moreira. They stopped in São Paulo, visited Minas Gerais, Salvador, and Rio de Janeiro for three weeks and six credits!

In São Paulo, students experienced an interesting political event: President Rousseff had just been impeached and there were street manifestations pro and contra!

In Salvador they visited baroque churches, Candomblés, and went to the Day of the Blessing. And their classes were near the beach! Belo Horizonte is beautiful and very alive. The historic cities are perfectly maintained and they are monument of humanity. Rio remains beautiful with astonishing beaches …O Rio continua lindo….Brazil is a country with diversity in its culture as reflected in the faces of its citizens.
Before I left for Cuba I did not think I could ever love a city more than I love Charleston, but upon arriving to Havana I quickly realized it has similar charm and character to Charleston. I soon knew I would feel right at home there.

One of the biggest reasons for wanting to come on this trip was because I saw the opportunity, thanks to recent political changes, to experience a country that had been closed off to Americans for so long. Not many Americans can say they have lived and studied in Cuba for a long period of time, and I knew this unique opportunity fit my desire to see a world less traveled.

Havana will always have a special place in my heart because it forced me to face many fears, know myself better, and most importantly to grow as a young adult. From the many last-minute trips we planned, to the stress that comes with not knowing what tomorrow brings, I certainly feel that I am a more laid back, mature person now. I’ve come a long way from the girl that had to have every second of every day planned in order to feel productive.
One of the hardest days on this trip for me was our first day of class. Our professor was a 70-year-old Cuban lady, very educated in world history, whom we quickly realized was about to change any preconceived ideas we had about Cuba in order to build us up to believe the history of Cuba from the Cuban’s perspective. Those days in class when I realized my opinion was in the minority of the class, or that I had been raised to believe in something completely opposite of what the persons sitting next to me believed were the days my mind was opened the most and the days I grew to see the world in a new light. Although they were hard and often left me feeling uncomfortable, or on the verge of tears, I’m so thankful for them today because they have shaped me into a stronger, more open minded person than before.

I will forever be grateful for the process that allowed me to be broken down and built back up into a stronger, more mature, and confident person. I will forever be grateful for the group I traveled with because they helped me through the hard times by keeping me busy to keep my mind off of home or helped me through whatever struggle that day brought. They also put up with my general ignorance of politics and how corrupt our world can be, for their inability to judge me for that I am so thankful. I hope to have the opportunity to return to Cuba one day to find that the charm and character of what makes that country so unique is still there.
Our Students
Le’ah Griggs

Studying abroad in Trujillo, Spain was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I was hesitant at first because I’ve always learned Latin American Spanish, and Latin America in general has just always captured more of my interest. However, the fact that the Trujillo program coincided better with my schedule, as well as the fact that traveling throughout Europe is ten times easier than traveling throughout South America, convinced me to take a chance on Spain. I couldn’t be happier that I did. The memories and friendships I’ve made here will last me a lifetime.

From day one, I knew this experience abroad would be an experience I’d forever cherish. Upon arrival, I met my amazing host family and got a tour of the charming village where I’d live for the next three and a half months. My host mom, Cristina, is a kind and caring woman. Whenever I felt down, she would always cheer me up. Together we’d take walks, watch movies, and talk about life. She was always patient with me as I spoke Spanish and would correct any errors I made, which was a great help. My host siblings, Marcos who is 12, and Sofía, who is 8, are also very kind, and have always treated me as their real sister…especially Sofía. She didn’t hesitate to make my cellphone and laptop her own by downloading games and watching Netflix 24/7. I’ve never had younger siblings so we played together a lot and developed a great relationship. Speaking Spanish with kids is one of the best ways to learn. They’re a lot more patient than most and will literally talk to you about anything. Trujillo is full of rich history. It’s got a beautiful countryside, an impressive ancient castle, and was home to many Spanish conquistadors. You may be surprised to know that much of the series, Game
of Thrones, was shot here. It’s a precious little town. However, I will stress the little, and warn that everyone knows everyone, and word spreads fast here. The other students and I were shocked at first and a bit put off by the amount of gossip and stares we received from the Trujillanos. After a while though, I came to realize that the stares were truly just out of curiosity. As the town is so small, foreigners are easily recognizable. At the end of the day, the people just want to know who you are. Once they do, they are so very hospitable. I’ve met many friends here and spent many evenings having coffee and great conversations. I’d say that’s one important advantage of studying abroad in a small town, the fact that you can easily meet people with whom you can practice.

As a group, we went on 2 excursions (our final is in Madrid before returning to the states). Our first was to Mérida, a city, also located in Extremadura that was founded as a Roman colony in the first century. It’s a beautiful city that is full of history! Our second excursion was to Andalucía, where we visited Córdoba, Granada, and Sevilla. Southern Spain is breathtaking! I couldn’t say which of the three cities I loved more because they were all so amazing. Great food, beautiful architecture, Flamenco, what’s not to love?? Outside of our course-included excursions, we students organized many of our own trips as well! I visited Lisbon, Madrid, Cáceres, Monfragüe, and Amsterdam. Many students traveled even more than I did! I however found that I could have just as much fun staying in Spain. There have been so many festivals during our time here: Carnaval, La Feria de Cerveza, La Feria de Los Libros, procesiones de Semana Santa, Chiviri, you name it!

As my time here comes to a close, I’m filled with nothing but bittersweet emotions. I want to stay in Spain, but I also miss my family and friends. I don’t want this experience to end, but I’m also grateful for having had the chance for it to begin. A thousand times I’d recommend studying abroad in Trujillo. It is a unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will forever hold dear to my heart.
Maya Novák-Cogdell is a student at the College of Charleston, who graduated in May 2017 with a major in Spanish and minors in Linguistics and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Hola Maya, thank you for being here today. It is a pleasure to talk to you. Could you tell our readers a little about you? Where you are from, why you chose the College of Charleston, and why you decided to major in Spanish?

I spent most of my life here in Charleston. I initially was not going to come to the College of Charleston, but I’m glad I did. I’ve had many great experiences here and have been offered opportunities that I wouldn’t have had anywhere else. Initially I was a Spanish minor but as I became more involved and started taking more courses, I realized how much I liked it and decided to major in Spanish. I also started taking linguistics courses which consolidated this decision.

You have presented papers at different conferences. Could you tell us more about that?

I did a research project about gender-neutral terminology in Spanish which I presented in different
conferences according to the different disciplines. I did a survey which had 40 responses from native and heritage speakers in the United States, which allowed me to draw conclusions of acceptability and felicity of the different terms and ideas.

You are also a Spanish Peer Teacher for the Conversation classes. What was that experience like for you?

It was an interesting experience. I am very shy and the first day was rough. It turned out to be a good experience considering that I will be teaching in the future. I was worried that I was not going to be a good teacher, or have all the answers to the students’ questions, but that turned out to be not as important as being encouraging to students and making them feel comfortable in the class. I also work in the tutoring lab which helped me realize that it’s not only about the students’ Spanish skills as much as it is about making them feel comfortable with their skills in order to be able to communicate in Spanish. I wish I had started doing this before my senior year!

What would you say to a student at CofC who is interested in becoming a Peer Teacher?

Definitely, definitely do it. You might not know the answer to everything, but ultimately that is not what is important. It is a great experience, and fun to have the interaction with other students.

Have you been involved in any special projects?

I was lucky enough to be asked to be part of a project with the College of Charleston’s Women’s Health Research Team. Their project involves oral history of reproductive health of women in the Lowcountry. My job was to transcribe and translate the responses from the Spanish-speaking women. Having taken SPAN 316 with Dr. Verlinden, one of the best classes I have ever taken, helped me a great deal with this project. I learned a lot about the different health systems, and how not speaking English in the United States is basis for discrimination against people.

You are graduating in May, 2017. What are your plans for the future?

I’m going to graduate school for my master’s degree in Hispanic linguistics. I’ve been accepted at North Carolina State University for their master’s program. It will be either that, or a program with the University of Texas, since I am first on the waiting list for a program there. I’m very interested in working with indigenous languages of Mexico, and working as an interpreter in the future.

Thank you, Maya, and congratulations on all your accomplishments. We wish you the best, and please keep in touch!
Students in SPAN 400 Service Learning: Latinos in the US served the Hispanic and Latino community of recently arrived immigrants to the greater Charleston area. Students participated in the community by serving in an organization that assists recently arrived immigrants who do not speak English. This Spring 2017 our students were placed in ABRAZOS, where they assisted Hispanic mothers with nutrition and information, as well as English as a Second Language courses; clinics such as Angel Oak Family Medicine, Barrier Island Free Clinic, and Pelican Pediatrics, where they assisted in a variety of tasks in Spanish; the Common Heritage Program where they translated oral histories to upload them to digital archives; PASOS, where they helped women with health issues and English speaking skills; Pinehurst Elementary School where they assisted the ESOL teacher and students one to one; Our Lady of Mercy Outreach Center, where they assisted with the ESOL program; Catholic Charities Immigration Services, where they worked with lawyers doing administrative work and answering the phone in Spanish; St. Matthews, where they assisted with ESL courses, and the National Crime Victims Center, where they assisted in the program of violence against Hispanic women. This year the course was nominated to represent the College of Charleston at the Commission on Higher Education Service Learning Competition.
The Hispanic Latino Graduation Ceremony celebrated the academic achievements and accomplishments of the 2017 Graduating Hispanic and Latino Students at the College of Charleston. This event was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Students Programs and Services, and the Department of Hispanic Studies.
Focus on the Faculty

Dr. Nadia Avendaño

Nadia Avendaño presented a paper titled “Remembering the Vietnam War in Let Their Spirits Dance” at the Annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in Lima, Peru in April, 2017. She will be co-directing a Summer Abroad Program in Costa Rica in July 2017.

Dr. Emily Beck

Emily Beck presented two conference presentations this year, “Projecting the Queen: Revisiting Hagiography in Isabel (RTVE)” at the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Chicago, as part of a panel that examined 21st-century representations of Early Modern Women. She also participated in a roundtable discussion on new approaches to Early Modern Hispanic pedagogy at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI. She continues in her role as a co-founder of the South Carolina Medievalists Group (http://blogs.cofc.edu/scmedievalists).

Dr. Edward Chauca

Edward Chauca’s article “Fanatismo en tiempos de guerra y neoliberalismo: Poeta ciego de Mario Bellatin y Un ejército de locos de José B. Adolph” was published in the journal Hispanófila. He received a Faculty Research and Development grant to study connections between mental health sciences and literature in Peru this summer, and an Innovative Teaching and Learning in the Liberal Arts and Sciences small grant to support the translation of testimonies about Latin America’s recent years of dictatorships and armed conflicts. He also presented a paper titled “Writing the archive: Mental health, fiction, and non-Western medicine” at the Science and Culture in Theory and History: Latin America, France, and the Anglophone World symposium, at the University of Cambridge, UK (July 2-3, 2016).
Dr. Mark P. Del Mastro

Mark P. Del Mastro organized and directed the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society’s Triennial Convention at the 98th Annual AATSP Conference in Miami, Florida on July 8, 2016. He also organized, chaired and presented in the panel “The State of Publishing Today” at the 66th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference at James Madison University on October 15, 2016, and on February 12-14, 2017 he served as an invited external reviewer of the M.A. in Spanish program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Also in February 2017, he participated in the Annual Council Meeting of the Association of College Honor Societies in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Lola Colomina-Garrigós

Lola Colomina-Garrigós was promoted to the rank of Professor in August, 2016. She had her article “Urbana (2003) de Fogwill, o cómo revertir prácticas discursivas de la literatura de consumo” published in Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos and she also delivered a talk from the same study at the XVIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in San Sebastián, Spain, on July 7, 2016. As director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program, one of her main tasks in 2016 was the launching of the new Study Abroad Program in Havana, Cuba, and she was also part of the conversations with the Universidad de Santiago de Chile to create an agreement for faculty and student exchange between the College of Charleston and the Chilean institution.

Dr. Victoria Garrett

Vicki Garrett presented her paper “Unofficial Memory and Politics in Late 19th-Century Argentine Popular Theater” on a panel on theater at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association annual conference. The conference, held in Charleston, South Carolina on February 2-4, 2017, was themed “Memory and Commemoration.” She has also been preparing two papers that she will present in conferences in Lima, Peru, and Utrecht, Netherlands, over the summer. In Spring 2017 Dr. Garrett developed a special topics seminar for the Spanish major on performance and popular culture in Latin America, which focused on Argentina and Mexico.
Dr. Carmen Grace

Carmen Grace’s article entitled “Sobre la predicación culta en el Siglo de Oro: polémicas y retóricas cristianas,” was published in Bulletin of Hispanic Studies. And she submitted another article, “El púlpito barroco: devoción espectacular” to the proceedings of the International Conference “XXXV Congreso Internacional de ALDEEU” where she delivered a paper in Segovia (Spain).

Prof. Devon Hanahan

This past year Devon Hanahan taught her third installment of an FYE class called “La geografía y la cultura de España.” In the spring she taught for the first time an FYET class called “Art, Architecture, and Cuisine of Spain,” and she traveled with those 16 students to Barcelona and Madrid over spring break. The trip included day trips to Figueres and Girona and Toledo. She also did a presentation on Learner-Centered Teaching Practices in the Language Classroom at the SCOLT conference in Orlando on March 17, where she was afterwards asked to be the keynote speaker in November for AAT-SP-SC. This is also her first year as faculty marshall, so learning about graduation and all that goes into it has been interesting!

Dr. Sarah E. Owens

Sarah E. Owens published a co-authored article titled “The First Nunnery in Manila: The Role of Hernando de los Ríos Coronel” in The Catholic Historical Review (Summer 2016). She presented her original research at three international conferences during 2016. At the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in Belgium in August 2016 she received an award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women for the best article in women and gender for 2015. She was invited by one of our former Spanish majors, Dr. Tony Cella, now an Assistant Professor at Benedictine University at Mesa, AZ, to give a guest lecture in October 2016. She served as the director of the semester study abroad program to Havana, Cuba during spring 2017.
Dr. Antonio Pérez-Núñez

Antonio Pérez-Núñez presented his research work entitled “Students’ Perception of the Efficacy of Written Corrective Feedback” at the Spanish Linguistics in North Carolina Conference (SLINKI). This research work was later published in the *MIFLC Review* journal. He was also invited to the colloquium on heritage language teaching and learning as part of the 2016 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium at Georgetown University. More recently, CofC Spanish major Bethany Blamphin, who is working on a joint research project under the direction of Dr. Pérez-Núñez entitled “Intercultural Competence in the Language Classroom: Practices and Beliefs of Foreign Language Teachers in the U.S.,” was one of the ten CofC students who were selected to present at the CAA undergraduate research conference at Elon University in April 2017.

Dr. Silvia Rodriguez Sabater

Silvia Rodriguez Sabater attended the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics, the 2017 Language Teacher Symposium (University of Arizona), and participated in webinars on language assessment and technology applied to language teaching and learning. As Director of the M.Ed. in Languages for the second year, she also taught graduate courses in Applied Linguistics, and Spanish Linguistics for Language Teachers. In addition to many service and administrative activities, she co-organized three talks for the Hispanic Studies teaching discussion series Innovations and Challenges in Second Language Teaching. She is interested in Distance Education and hybrid teaching. Her and Sarah Owens’ SPAN 400 Service Learning course was nominated for the Service Learning Award at the Commission on Higher Education Service Learning Competition in February 2017.
Dr. Ricard Viñas de Puig

Ricard Viñas-de-Puig’s continued research on expletive negation in Spanish and Catalan resulted in the acceptance of a paper for presentation at the 2016 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium hosted by Georgetown University. This research project also led to the submission of two manuscripts on the acceptability and the syntactic properties of expletive negation constructions, respectively.

Also, Dr. Viñas-de-Puig’s paper entitled “Psych predicates, light verbs, and Phase Theory: On the implications of Case assignment to the Experiencer in non-leísta experience predicates” is currently under print as a chapter of the edited volume Contemporary Advances in Theoretical and Applied Spanish Linguistic Variation, which will come out in July 2017.

Finally, in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Martínez-Gibson, Dr. Viñas-de-Puig served as the organizer of the 84th Meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics, hosted by the College of Charleston in March 2017.

Dr. Carl Wise

Carl Wise’s latest research project investigates the representation of piracy and maritime culture in early modern Spanish theater and epics, and he presented the paper “Pirates, Empire, and National Identity in Lope de Vega’s La Dragontea” at the 2017 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. He also represented the College of Charleston’s academic journal Hispanic Studies Review at a special panel about academic publishing in Lexington, Kentucky.
Focus on the Faculty: Faculty Lectures

Innovations and Challenges in Second Language Teaching

Kathy Kaufmann
College of Charleston Department of French, Francophone, and Italian Studies

Virtually Abroad
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
4:00 pm
Maybank 115, 165 Calhoun Street, College of Charleston

Language and culture are inherently intertwined, so why not introduce more meaningful cultural study into our foreign language classes? To no paper students' interest in international connections early on, their motivation to continue the language may increase. In this session, we will explore several approaches to bringing the world into our classrooms by integrating meaningful cultural exploration through technological resources that are readily available to us.

Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in English

The College of Charleston Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and Department of Hispanic Studies present a lecture by

Matthew Pettway
Postdoctoral Fellow with the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs

In Search of My Brother: The Ghosts of Slavery in Black Colonial Cuba

Join Francesco Mammì (1797-1851) on a popular walk Cuba, a nation who achieved freedom from slavery. Shortly before his successful attempt to free the slave from slavery, Mammì’s brother had turned him to serve as aailer on an Italian sugar plantation. Francesco, onwards, and Maria del Rosario, but fourteen years later, his brother Francesco returned to the plantation as a planter. Francesco’s wife, Maria del Rosario, was allowed to remain with her son, Adolfo. In 1836, he published a poem to share his interest in his brother’s fate. And he focused on the power of African spirituality and the memory of his deceased parent as a tool of control to the planter. However, in his letters, his letters and his stories of Mammì’s poems, “In Search of My Brother: The Ghosts of Slavery in Black Colonial Cuba” explores the legacy of the Catholic faith and the power of African spirituality in the context of the plantation system.

Thursday, March 30, 2017
5:00 – 6:00 pm
Education Center Room 118
25 St. Philip Street
Free and open to the public

For more information, please contact Dr. Lee Colonias-Gonzalez, Program Director, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, at 843.953.7128 or ColoniasGonzalez@coastal.edu

The Legacy of Chiquinhos Gonzaga, a Woman Ahead of Her Time

Celeste Mann

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
4:00 pm
Simone Center for the Arts, Room 316, 54 St. Philip Street

Celeste Mann is a native speaker with an engaging stage presence and a commitment to “open the theatre” in her talks. She finds the role of the speaker essential in her work and connects. She prefers Brazilian art songs in Portuguese and lectures on Penn’s “Chiquinhos Gonzaga, Brazil’s first woman conductor and mentor of Brazilian popular music.

Free and open to the public

The Nu Zea Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi
National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society

Sigma Delta Pi Lecture Series

Dr. Edward Chauca, Assistant Professor
Department of Hispanic Studies, College of Charleston

How do we see?
Human Rights and Visibility in Latin American Cinema

Thursday, March 16, 2017
5:00 pm
Addison Library, Room 227

Latin American cinema has explored the possibilities of cinema to make sense of and offer new insights about the documents, novel, or film, and factual engagement that affairs the region during the second part of the twentieth century. Beyond a look at the regional cinema, filmmakers have contributed to the world from Brazil, exploring ways of seeing that transform or reproduce political imaginaries. This talk traces the rise of a new wave in Latin American cinema on human rights and its connections with a culture of survival promulgated by authoritarian and neoliberal regimes.

Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in English

For more information, please contact Mark P. Del Moral, Chair, Hispanic Studies, 843.953.4748, melodm@cst.edu. spanish@coastal.edu
Please join us for the fifth lecture in the Hispanic Studies Teaching Discussion Series

Innovations and Challenges in Second Language Teaching

Mary Ann Blitt
College of Charleston Department of Hispanic Studies

Authentic Materials as a Springboard for Performance Assessment

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
4:00 pm
JC Long 336, 9 Liberty Street, College of Charleston

Bringing authentic materials into the language classroom can provide a real-world context for students and promote communication. Thanks to the Internet, we have a plethora of resources, but how do we make the best use of them? We will look at strategies on how to incorporate authentic materials and to design performance tasks for real-world purposes.

Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in English

Please join us for the fifth session of the Hispanic Studies Distinguished Lecture Series ~

Dr. Roxana Orrego Ramírez
Professor and Director of the Department of Linguistics and Literature at Universidad de Santiago de Chile

Learners and teachers’ beliefs about learning complex English grammar structures

Tuesday, January 31, 2017
5:00 – 6:00 pm
Wells Fargo Auditorium
5 Liberty Street, Beatty Center 115
College of Charleston
Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in English

Presented by the Department of Hispanic Studies, Linguistics Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Please join us for the sixth session of the Hispanic Studies Distinguished Lecture Series ~

Dr. Manuel Rubio Manriquez
Director of the Masters Program in Linguistics and Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Literature at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile

Texts Written by Elementary School Students: A Grammatical Description

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
5:00 – 6:00 pm
Wells Fargo Auditorium
5 Liberty Street, Beatty Center 115
College of Charleston
Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in Spanish with presentation slides in English

Presented by the Department of Hispanic Studies, Linguistics Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

DIÁ DE LOS MUERTOS
(DAY OF THE DEAD)

TUESDAY, NOV. 1 @ 5:00 PM
ALUMNI CENTER, 86 WENTWORTH STREET

Professor Mary Ann Blitt will share the history of the Hispanic celebration Día de los Muertos, along with some of the traditions associated with it. There will be a demonstration of how to prepare an ofrenda (altar) to honor loved ones that have passed on as well as a face painting activity. Refreshments will be provided.
Please join us for the fourth session of the Hispanic Studies ~ Distinguished Lecture Series ~

Thursday, September 15, 2016
4:00 – 5:00 pm

Dr. Ruben A. Marx
Director, School of Graduate Studies, U.N.M, Argentina
Assistant Coordinator, Master in International Economic Policy, U.R., Argentina
Assistant Director, Argentine Program for the College of Charleston.

_Federico García Lorca y Manuel de Falla: su amistad en el exilio argentino_

_Wells Fargo Auditorium
5 Liberty Street, Beatty Center 115
College of Charleston_

_Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in Spanish

For more information, please contact Dr. Mark P. Carl Martin, Professor and Chair, Hispanic Studies
843.953.6748 - dmartincmp@cs.cofc.edu - spanish.cofc.edu

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Please join us for the fourth lecture in the Hispanic Studies Teaching Discussion Series
Innovations and Challenges in Second-Language Teaching

_Profs. Carmen Grace and Carl Wise_
College of Charleston Department of Hispanic Studies

_**Introduction to teaching literature:**
Spanish ballads_

_Wednesday, November 9, 2016
3:15 pm
JC Long 336, 9 Liberty Street, College of Charleston_

_Students’ first encounter with poetry in Spanish is often the medieval romanesco visio, an eight-syllable ballad popular in Spain from the Middle Ages through the sixteenth century. Romances are notorious for their lack of resolution and for their unclear or even absurd endings, and this ambiguity can challenge students accustomed to the notion of a “correct answer.” In this talk, Drs. Grace and Wise will discuss strategies for using literary analysis to encourage classroom dialogue and critical thinking._

_Free and open to the public - Lecture will be in English_

Teaching Discussion Series Organizers
Mitzi Rodriguez Colunga
mrcolunga@cs.cofc.edu - 843.953.5942
Carmen Grace
margarita@cs.cofc.edu - 843.953.1621
The Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) had its 84th meeting at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, on March 8-11, 2017. The theme for the conference was “Underrepresented and minorized linguistic varieties in the Lowcountry and beyond.”

The Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) is dedicated to the advancement of the study of language in all its aspects. The annual spring conference provides a venue for SECOL members to read and discuss scholarly papers. The Southern Journal of Linguistics (SJL) publishes book reviews and peer-reviewed articles.
Several members of Hispanic Studies were nominated for the Excellence in Collegiate Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Awards at the ceremony held on April 5, 2017: Emily Beck, Lola Colomina-Garrigos, Mark Del Mastro, Lauren Hetrovicz, Berenice Marquina Castillo, and Luci Moreira. Spanish major Bethany Blamphin received the award for LCWA Outstanding Student of the Year.
Hispanic Studies Review (HSR) is an international refereed journal published twice a year by the Department of Hispanic Studies at the College of Charleston. The journal welcomes submissions on cultural studies, applied and theoretical linguistics, and the literatures of the Spanish-speaking worlds and their contact zones. HSR particularly invites scholarship with approaches that are interdisciplinary and/or engage innovative dialogues. HSR only accepts electronic submissions at [hsr@cofc.edu], and each manuscript will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review. Previously published material and work under consideration elsewhere will not be considered. HSR is not responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors. The journal’s editorial team will respond to contributors in a timely manner.

http://hispanicstudiesreview.cofc.edu

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Editor: Raúl Carrillo Arciniega, College of Charleston
Managing Editor, Peninsular: Susan Divine, College of Charleston
Managing Editor, Spanish America: Edward Chauca, College of Charleston
Managing Editor, Transatlantic: Carl Wise, College of Charleston
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Art Editor and Webmaster: Daniel Delgado Díaz, College of Charleston
Advising Editors: Mark P. Del Mastro & Michael Gómez, College of Charleston

Copy Editors

Jorge Avilés-Díz, University of North Texas
Carmen Grace, College of Charleston
Daniel Jones, College of Charleston
Hispanic Studies Review editorial team celebrating the inaugural launch.

The inaugural panel of the College of Charleston's journal Hispanic Studies Review at the 70th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.
Throughout the fall and spring semesters the members of the Portuguese Club met several times for Bate-Papo, Conversation Table in the Stern Center Food Court area, and in the gardens for those times when they could enjoy the beautiful Charleston weather. Refreshments were provided by the Portuguese Club with typical soft drinks, (guaraná), Brazilian chocolate, cookies, nuts, juices and more. Also in the fall semester, there was a Brazilian Night celebration, where attendees enjoyed typical food from Brazil like feijoada, lively conversation, and live music. These events were sponsored by the Portuguese Club.

The Portuguese Program was also very active. In the fall there was a presentation of the film *Que horas ela volta?*, directed by Anna Muylaert. In March there was a musical event with a concert of Brazilian music: Celebrating Bossa Nova and Tom Jobim! With Richard Miller (New York), Vanessa Falabella (New York), Kevin Hamilton (Charleston) and Quentin Baxter (Charleston). Members of the community were able to enjoy this free concert of Brazilian music to celebrate Tom Jobim, one of the greatest Bossa Nova musicians of Brazil. This was an event organized by the Portuguese Program, with support of the Department of Hispanic Studies, Portuguese Club, the Department of Music, the Office of First Year Students, the International Studies Program, and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. A celebration of the 160th birthday of Chiquinha Gonzaga was held with a lecture: “The legacy of Chiquinha Gonzaga, a woman ahead of her time”. She was a pianist, composer, first woman orchestra conductor in Brazil, and human rights activist, considered the “mother” of Samba, author of first Carnaval march, still today the first block of Carnaval in Rio. More activities were organized during the month of March, with a viewing of the film: *Rio*, a beautiful and exuberant comedy adventure about taking a walk on the wild side during Carnaval in Rio! In February instructor Linda Colón offered a Samba class. The Portuguese Program also participated in the LCWA World Cultures Fair where they displayed a table and served Brazilian food.

The Department of Hispanic Studies is proud to announce the new Minor in Brazilian and Portuguese Studies, starting in the fall of 2017! Congratulations to all who have worked on the Portuguese Steering Committee, comprised of Mark Del Mastro, Michael Gómez, Elizabeth Martínez and Luci Moreira.
About to enjoy a Feijoada.

Portuguese Club Bate-Papo.

Celebrating Bossa Nova and Tom Jobim! With Quentin Baxter (Charleston), Vanessa Falabella (New York), Kevin Hamilton (Charleston), and Richard Miller (New York).

Portuguese Club Bate-Papo.

Dr. Celeste Mann, Dr. Michael O’Brien, and Dr. Luci Moreira.

James Riggs, outstanding Portuguese student, with Professors José and Luci Moreira.
Hispanic Latino Club

With the support of its faculty advisor, Dr. Carl Wise, the Hispanic Latino Club kicked off 2016-2017 by celebrating Día de los muertos with face-painting, a traditional altar, and a presentation by Prof. Mary Ann Blitt about the origins of the Mexican holiday. In November, club members hosted the Vida Latina celebration featuring Latin-American food and dance. In the spring semester, the club hosted a special film screening of the award-winning documentary Being N and the film’s director, Denise Soler Cox, joined the club members for lunch at the historic Blacklock House before the screening. Soler was very impressed with Hispanic Latino Club and wrote in her nationally-read blog, “My experience at the College of Charleston has been exceptional. I’m so moved by the students and faculty here. The quality of conversation has been phenomenal.” This year’s officers were: Carmen BensVega, President, and Jasmin Graham, Vice President.
The Spanish Club had another year of exciting cultural activities for students, during Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. Together with the residents of the Spanish House, the members of the Spanish Club attended the Latin American Festival in North Charleston. At the end of fall semester, they enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the restaurant Barsa. In spring semester, once again they partnered with the residents of the Spanish House and organized a Spanish immersion day, an event held at the Spanish House in which students practiced their Spanish and enjoyed food, games and dancing! In addition to these events, they got together for dinner to close the spring semester.

The Spanish Club enjoying Spanish food at Barsa.

Professor Blitt (second from the left) with the Spanish Club members at the Latin-American Festival.
The Spanish Club of the College of Charleston celebrating the Spanish tertulia with students, professors, and members of the community.
Congratulations to The College of Charleston's Nu Zeta Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, for winning the prestigious Octavio Paz Award, having been recognized for the sixth consecutive year as a Chapter of Honor and Merit. 2016-2017 was a very active year. Along with other campus groups, they celebrated the World Cultures Fair, while handing out information about Sigma Delta Pi. The officials (Maya Nóvak-Cogdell, President, Taylor Donovan, Vice-president, and Torrie Buchanan, Secretary) and several professors participated in a marathon reading of the Quijote in the Cistern. Twice they organized a "Noche de Poesía" where professors and students read poems or selections from across the Hispanic world. Several professors from College of Charleston and The Citadel read their original compositions as well. They hosted the South Carolina Spanish Teacher of the Year Award. Mark Del Mastro, Executive Director of Sigma Delta Pi, presented the award to Stephanie Schneck of Clover High School. The president, Maya Nóvak-Cogdell, will present original socio-linguistic research at Sigma Delta Pi’s session on “Best Practices” at the 99th Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Fifteen new members were added, and the year culminated with an honor cords ceremony for graduating seniors in May.

Un Maratón del Quijote

September 29, 2016
10:00am-2:00pm
Cistern Yard

Free and open to the public – We will read from the Quijote in Spanish
Come celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Cervantes by participating in a marathon reading of the most famous novel in the world, Don Quijote de la Mancha with faculty and students from the Department of Hispanic Studies!
Anyone is welcome to read a passage—or simply to come and listen.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Carmen Green, Nu Zeta Chapter Co-Academic, greenmc@cofc.edu 843.953.7784
Dr. Susan Divine, Nu Zeta Chapter Co-Academic, divinesm@cofc.edu 843.953.5762
Maya Nóvak-Cogdell, Nu Zeta Chapter President, novakcogdellmm@g.cofc.edu 843.723.7327

Noche de Poesía

Monday, October 31, 2016
4:30 – 6:30 pm

Featured Poets:
Raúl Carrillo Arciniega, Ángel Díaz, and Eloy Urroz

Blacklock House, 18 Bull Street
Free and open to the public – Poems will be read in Spanish
Celebrate Hispanic poetry with faculty and students from the Hispanic Studies Department!
Anyone is welcome to read or recite a poem in Spanish or simply come and listen.

Light refreshments provided.

If you are interested in presenting a poem, please email
sigmadeltapicofc@gmail.com with your name and the title of the poem
by Tuesday, October 25.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Carmen Green, Nu Zeta Chapter Co-Academic, greenmc@cofc.edu 843.953.7784
Dr. Susan Divine, Nu Zeta Chapter Co-Academic, divinesm@cofc.edu 843.953.5762
Maya Nóvak-Cogdell, Nu Zeta Chapter President, novakcogdellmm@g.cofc.edu 843.723.7327
Dr. Divine (left), Dr. Del Mastro (second from the right), and Dean Timothy Johnson (right) with the officers of the Nu Zeta Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi.

South Carolina Spanish Teacher of the Year Awards.

New Sigma Delta Pi members.

Initiation Ceremony.

Poetry night.
The residents of the Spanish House organized several activities and participated in events during fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters. They organized a Spanish movie night, where they showed the movie *Book of Life*. Together with the Spanish Club, the residents attended the Latin American Festival in North Charleston. In March, they participated in the World Cultures Fair where they set up a table with information about the House, and talked to visitors. They also hosted an Open House, where students had the opportunity to tour the house, and to speak to the residents. In addition, and together with the Spanish Club, they hosted a Spanish Immersion fiesta. This was a great opportunity for students to practice their Spanish while enjoying food, games and dancing!
Alumni Corner

Elise Lasko '11
Spanish and International Business
Training Specialist, Estrellita, Denver, CO

My CofC studies, along with my 4 years of Spanish immersion while living and working in Honduras and Guatemala in health and development, education, and marketing, have prepared me for my current job working for the Spanish beginning reading program Estrellita. My job combines everything I love to do: account and client management, travel, speaking Spanish, and working with teachers to help make their students more successful in Spanish reading. Every day I have the opportunity to interact with people from Spanish-speaking countries where we share our cultural backgrounds, regional differences in Spanish, and ways to inspire students through the Spanish language. Bilingual education is spreading throughout the U.S., and I am truly proud to be a part of a movement that is working towards creating a more bilingual and global society.
Since graduating from CofC, I have served in the Peace Corps in Peru (2010-2012), earned an M.S. in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University and am now working in Silver Spring, MD for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a Knauss Marine Policy Fellow. There my work focuses on supporting protected-species science. Our nation’s protected species - sea turtles, marine mammals - are called ocean ambassadors because they cross international boundaries in their migrations. As a result, when we study and manage these species, we must cross international boundaries as well. I tap my Spanish occasionally for this coordination, but more often, I draw from the cultural sensitivity we learned in Hispanic Studies, seeking to understand a way of life that is different from our own.
We would like to know what you have been up to lately! Tell us about your new job, promotion, move to a new city, marriage, addition(s) to the family, special honors received, or anything else you wish to share. Join our Facebook group CofCAlumniHispanicStudies and share your story with us!

HispaNews is produced as a service to alumni and friends of the Department of Hispanic Studies

Contact us: hispanicnews@cofc.edu

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¡Muchas gracias por su generosidad y apoyo!
Muito obrigado por sua generosidade e apoio