



JAVIER ÁVILA
ONE-MAN SHOW

THE TROUBLE
with
My Name

Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Ávila is a professor, author and renowned speaker.
Monday, April 5th
4PM

Scan to join



Hispanic Studies Newsletter

2020 - 2021



¡Felicidades clase de 2021!



Morgan Anderson '21
Hispanic Studies &
Business



Jaeden Danko '21
Hispanic Studies &
Health Promo & Fu
Mgmt.



Megan Frederick '21
Hispanic Studies &
Biology



Margarita Patino '21
Hispanic Studies &
Anthropology



Ryan Gibbs '21
Hispanic Studies &
International Business



Prof. Jessie Dixon-Montgomery



Prof. Carmela Ferradans



Tameka Myers
Administrative Assistant



Prof. Carolyn Nadeau
Byron S. Tucci Professor of
Spanish and Chair of WLLC



Prof. Cesar Valverde



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

MAJORS

Megan Frederick

Megan Frederick will be attending medical school in Arkansas this fall.

Ryan Gibbs

Ryan Gibbs will begin a career in sales with Total Quality Logistics. He says, "I would've loved to go back abroad and begin working there [Spain] but it will come with time after the pandemic!"

Morgan Anderson

Morgan is currently interviewing for both recruiter and management positions. We're excited to hear where she starts her professional journey!

Jaeden Danko

My plan is to go to Loyola Marymount University to take a couple of remaining classes for medical school. Then on to taking the MCAT and applying to medical school.

Margarita Patino

MINORS

Ely Cortez

Ely Cortez will begin her nursing career in the Chicago area. She is focusing on jobs in either women's health or pediatrics.

Emma Cottrell

Hannah Heraty

Kenny Johnson

Christian Marino

Anna Peters

Bobby Reichert

Jennipher Sanchez

Tania Silva Vivas

Toni Tortorella

Julianne Yoo

Jehan Dib

NEW CURRICULUM

Hispanic Studies has a new curriculum! This spring faculty received a group curriculum development grant, "Revision of Hispanic Studies Core Curriculum" "as part of the curricular transformation of our major and minors.

Beginning in 2021, students will take classes in three curricular areas: (1) Communities, Communication and Language; (2) Cultures and Identities; and (3) Texts and Con(texts). Included in the new major and minors are new courses on Muslim Spain, Pre-columbian and Colonial Latin America, The New Spanish Citizen, Underground Hip Hop in the Latino/x World, Latino/a/x Identity and Alterity, Afro-Latino/x Literature, and Visual Cultures of Modern Spain.

And a new space!

Over the summer WLLC and the Language Resource Center will be moving across the quad to the Center for Liberal Arts. Come visit us in our new space on the third floor of the CLA. We will be moving next to the International Office and the Educational Studies department. Buck Memorial Library has been the home of the language programs since its renovation in the 1980s! We will always hold very fond memories of the space. If you'd like to write us about your favorite memories of the Buck building, please send them to cnadeau@iwu.edu with the subject "Memories of Buck" and we'll post them to our blog, ¿Qué pasa? as part of our "Farewell to Buck" article.

EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

August

As the year got off to a start, the department said goodbye to our beloved administrative assistant, Suzie Smeeton, who started a new job in the local school district. We met in the outdoor classroom for a farewell party.



September

The student group SALSA organized virtual salsa lessons. Faculty and students had fun dancing while socially distanced via zoom. In this photo adjunct professor, Cristina Almeida demonstrates how to dance.



October

Covid assistance. Colleen Palczynski ('22) and Profe Ferradáns lended a hand with filling out forms for covid relief assistance through an initiative that the Immigration Project and Western Avenue Community Center sponsored.



This year the Spanish honor society, Sigma Delta Pi, welcomed four new members: Kaylee Bowers '22, Brianna Fogo '21, Amanda Smith '22 and Eryka Turner-Figueroa '22, when it held its initiation virtually in fall 2020. Congratulations to all!



From up left corner: Megan Frederick '21 Chapter Vice-President; Hannah Folley '21 Chapter Secretary; Julianne Yoo '21, Chapter President; Professor Carolyn Jarvis; Prof. Dixon-Montgomery; Prof. Carolyn Nadeau; Amanda Smith '22, Prof. Carmela Ferradáns, Kaylee Bowers '22; Erika Turner-Figueroa '22; Brianna Fogo '21; Amy Gourley Dec. '20; and Prof. Cecilia Sánchez.

November

SALSA and the Spanish club joined forces this year to create another fantastic altar to celebrate "Día de Muertos" in early November.



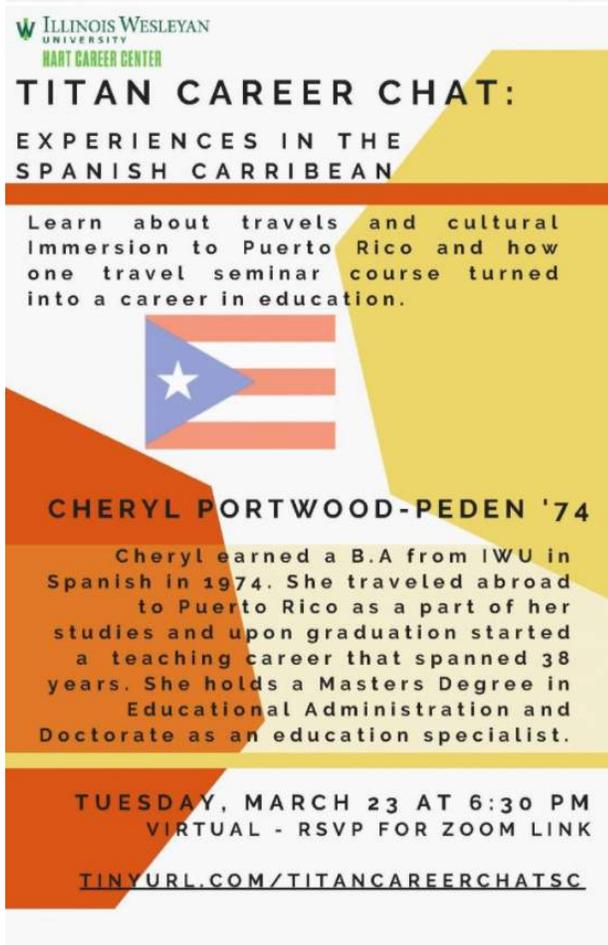
March

We celebrated World Poetry Day on March 21st at the Global Library in Buck. Students, alumni, and faculty shared poems and songs written in languages other than English. Among those who contributed were major Megan Frederick ('21) and Carlo Chávez Linares ('22) who sang a popular song by Argentinian singer-songwriter Facundo Cabral.



April

Alumna Cheryl Portwood-Peden ('74) returned to campus, virtually of course, and shared with students, staff and faculty how her January-term travel course to Puerto Rico transformed her life and influenced her amazing teaching career.



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
HART CAREER CENTER

TITAN CAREER CHAT:

EXPERIENCES IN THE SPANISH CARRIBEAN

Learn about travels and cultural immersion to Puerto Rico and how one travel seminar course turned into a career in education.



CHERYL PORTWOOD-PEDEN '74

Cheryl earned a B.A from IWU in Spanish in 1974. She traveled abroad to Puerto Rico as a part of her studies and upon graduation started a teaching career that spanned 38 years. She holds a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and Doctorate as an education specialist.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 AT 6:30 PM
VIRTUAL - RSVP FOR ZOOM LINK

[TINYURL.COM/TITANCAREERCHATSC](http://tinyurl.com/titancareerchatSC)

Guest speaker Javier Ávila delivered a talk, "The Trouble with My Name", on what it means to be Puerto Rican in the US today.



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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

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

FACULTY ACTIVITY

Jessie Dixon-Montgomery

During her second year at IWU, Prof. Dixon-Montgomery taught courses online like many of her colleagues on campus.

She brought language, literature and culture of Spanish-speaking countries to her students with a diverse array of activities adapted to online learning, including oral presentations, singing, dancing and quiz-games.



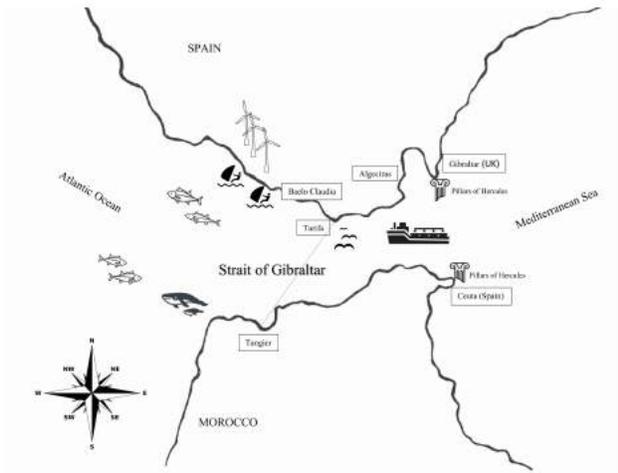
Prof. Dixon-Montgomery presented at the *Congresos Internacionales de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos (XXVII CILH)* March 4-6, 2021. The title of her presentation was "To the Beat of African Drums: Afro-Venezuelan Music and Identity through Parrandas."



VENEZUELANAS HAVE 'PARRANDA' IN NYC WITH SINGER BETSAYDA MACHADO

Carmela Ferradans

Prof. Carmela Ferradans received a series of Artistic/Scholarly grants and a Sabbatical Leave (spring 2020) in support of her translation work of the short story collection *Por la va de Tarifa/By Way of Tarifa* (2000) by Spanish writer and human rights activist Nieves Garca Benito.



The stories are a document of the migration crisis around the Straits of Gibraltar, the point where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic, and Africa and Europe are the closest, a mere nine miles away from each other. The English translation of Cailcedrat is forthcoming on the Fall 2021 issue of *The Arkansas International*, and the story titled Al-Jazira will be published in the next issue of *The Black Horse Review*.

Carolyn Nadeau

Article: "Don Quixote and the American Culinary Arts," *Millennial Cervantes. New Currents in Cervantes Studies*. Ed. Bruce R. Burningham, University of Nebraska Press, 2020, pp. 167-202.

Invited lectures

"Food Matters: Reading 'Don Quixote de la Mancha' Through Culinary Motifs." Center for the Humanities, Temple University, 2021 (virtual).

"European Perspectives on the Olla podrida and other Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Fare." Center for Medieval Studies at University Minnesota and the Spanish department at University Kansas, 2021 (virtual).

"It's All in the Salsa: Mexican Stories of McLean County," McLean County Museum of History, Breaking Bread Series, Bloomington, IL 2021 (virtual).

"The Legacy of the Early Modern Spanish Cookbook," Food and the Book, Newbery Library, roundtable discussion, 2020 (virtual).



Conference presentation

"El coloquio de los perros' a portrait of food insecurity, corruption, and violence in early modern Seville," Renaissance Society of America (RSA), virtual, 2021.

ALUMNI NEWS

Cheryl Portwood-Peden ('74) gave a Titan Career Talk on her January term travel course to Puerto Rico and how it transformed her life. Cheryl taught Spanish in the Chicago Public School system for 37 years at the primary and secondary levels. It was such a treat to have her share her IWU experiences with today's students, staff and faculty. ¡Muchas gracias, Cheryl!

Karen Petersen ('07) returned to campus this fall to give a virtual talk "Tackling Climate Change." After graduating, Karen spent four years living in Latin America and is now the Climate Change Project Manager for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Veena Hamill ('18) began med school at Loyola University in Chicago and was invited to teach a section of the Medical Spanish elective to her fellow medical, nursing, and graduate students at Loyola. After taking the Medical Spanish and Cultural Competency for Health Care course here at IWU, she has been volunteering at CommunityHealth on Chicago's West Side as a Spanish interpreter. Veena wrote that she feels "lucky that this has now turned into an opportunity to teach my peers and to really emphasize to them (America's future healthcare providers) the importance of language access for their patients."

Lindsey Peters ('19) continues as the Volunteer Coordinator at The Gabriel Foundation in Colorado. She writes, "TGF está muy muy conectada con el mundo del bienestar de animales y pericos. Lindsey welcomes visitors to the center so if you're traveling to Colorado, feel free to visit the foundation in Elizabeth, CO."



Yesenia Martínez Calderón ('20) is finishing her first year as teacher in the Chicago Public School system and also coaching the girls' and boys' volleyball teams at her school.

Maddie Gibson ('20) continues to work hard in med school where she's involved in a wide variety of course work and internships related to such topics as neuroscience, breast cancer and public health. Maddie is also continuing to serve as interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients at a free clinic in Indianapolis.

COMMENCEMENT 2021



Megan Frederick ('21) holds her diploma after the ceremony with Profe. Ferradans.



Brianna Fogo ('21) and Megan Frederick ('21) with Profe. Ferradans.



Julianne Yoo '21, President of Sigma Delta Pi, chapter Upsilon Rho with Profe. Ferradans.



Grainne Kelly ('19, right) returned to support her fellow lacrosse teammate, Hannah Foley ('21, center), who is also a member of the Spanish honor society, Sigma Delta Pi.



IWU Language School for Kids hosts summer camps in French and Spanish

Children from pre-K to fifth grade have the opportunity to learn French and Spanish language and culture this summer through the Illinois Wesleyan University Language School for Kids (LSK).

LSK classes will meet in the Buck Memorial Library or on IWU's quad, when weather permits, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., from June 14 - June 24. 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. All LSK students and families must adhere to COVID-19 protocols in accordance with Illinois Wesleyan's Titan Pledge.

Made possible by a 2014 IWU Donnocker Program Innovation Grant and the continuous support of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF), the Language School for Kids fulfills IWU's foundational mission to educate students to be active, responsible, and empathetic global citizens.

For more information visit: www.iwu.edu/lsk
Questions? Contact us:
languageschool@iwu.edu



Hispanic Studies is rolling out two summer courses for introduction to Spanish. Both classes filled up immediately and we hope to expand offerings for the future.

Summer Session I

Spanish 101: Elementary Spanish (online)

Instructors: Carmela Ferradáns and Rocío Morales

An introduction to Spanish language and culture that emphasizes the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Primary emphasis is placed on interpersonal and presentational oral skills and on functioning in real-life situations in a Spanish-language cultural context. Taught in Spanish.

Summer Session II

Spanish 102: Elementary Spanish II (online)

Instructors: Cristina Almeida and Jackie Frisvold

A continuation of basic language skills developed in 101, with exposure to more complicated structural forms as well as cultural issues. Primary emphasis is placed on interpersonal and presentational oral skills and on functioning in real-life situations in a Spanish-language cultural context. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: Spanish 101 or equivalent.

We hope you've enjoyed this year's newsletter. Our aim is to keep alumni up to date on activities and achievements in Hispanic Studies and we encourage you to contact us with any news that you would like to share. Please email us at cnadeau@iwu.edu. We'd like to extend a special thanks to our student assistant, Zoe Saputra ('22) who was instrumental in putting the newsletter together. ¡Muchas gracias, Zoe!