Note from the Chair

Our first newsletter in Spanish & Italian (SPI) makes me think about beginnings. Here’s a confession to begin my chair’s note: I first studied Spanish in middle school because French wouldn’t fit in my schedule! But after that happy accident, I quickly fell in love with the sounds of the language and the history of Spain (although it took me years to learn to trill my “rrr”!). By the time I made my first trip to Spain at 16, I was hooked on languages, and that first moment of seeing the places I had read about and speaking with Spanish people was amazing. (As a girl from Texas, I actually had more trouble with the New York-accented English I heard in JFK Airport than with the Spanish when I landed in Barajas Airport, Madrid). Many years later, I am still enthralled by the language of Don Quixote and the vision of Spain and its history as represented in films by Pedro Almodóvar and Carlos Saura. That’s the start of my story—what’s the beginning of your journey with languages and cultures and how has it continued here at SPI?

Likely you’ve seen that WFU has been exploring different perspectives on community all year in the Re-Thinking Community theme. This theme holds special resonance for us in Spanish & Italian as we mark our own beginning as a new department and a new community. Today’s inaugural newsletter features the achievements and experiences of our community of students, alumni, staff, and faculty. As you’ll see in their stories, we are connected through a fascination with how language works, what culture means, and why foreign languages are essential in today’s world (and also just plain fun!). Here we also shine in our individuality, the unique perspectives and background, special skills or knowledge that enrich our success together. I hope this newsletter will inspire you to reach out to your classmates and colleagues, your professors or your students to hear their stories and tell your own.

-Anne Hardcastle
Chair

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Corey Cantaluppi (Administrative Assistant)
Corey received a BA in Media Studies from the UNC at Greensboro in 2013. He worked in the cinema industry as well as in the advancement field at his alma mater before becoming the new Administrative Assistant for the Departments of Spanish & Italian and French Studies at Wake Forest University in late 2017.

Suzanne Thompson (IT Specialist)
Suzanne received an MA in English from NC State University and a BA in English and French from Meredith College. She is a web designer, graduate of the Chair Academy leadership program, and a certified Quality Matters Peer Reviewer. She has taught college English and multimedia courses online and in the classroom.

CONTACT US
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & ITALIAN
GREENE HALL 324
PO BOX 7566
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27109
P: 336-758-5487
F: 336-758-4432
spanishitalian@wfu.edu

Editor: Bruce Cole, colebm@wfu.edu
Jerid Francom (Spanish) was announced recipient of a recent grant from National Science Foundation for $250K. Jerid is the Co-Principal Investigator of “Improving Scientific Writing In Undergraduate STEM Classrooms: A Training Program for Students and Teaching Assistants Aided By Information Extraction Technology.” According to its abstract, “the project will test whether students’ writing skills development can be accelerated by combining reading and text annotation exercises, automated feedback using text analysis technology, and holistic feedback from instructors.”

Silvia Tiboni-Craft (Italian) was announced as this year’s recipient of the Kulynych Family Omicron Delta Kappa Award. This award recognizes an outstanding faculty member who bridges the gap between classroom and student life. Within the past five years, she has mentored students to receive a Richter Research Scholarship, an ACC-IAC Research Fellowship and two awards from the National Italian-American Foundation. She provides opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom, including Italian cooking nights, programs at local elementary schools, and off-campus service opportunities.
On Saturday, February 10th, Dr. González and Dr. Judy (Spanish), along with the support of the Department of Spanish & Italian, the Linguistics Program and the Interpreting & Translation Studies program, hosted the 8th installment of Spanish Linguistics in North Carolina SLINKI. SLINKI is a regional conference that brings together research on Spanish in the Southeast or research by students and professors from the Southeast. The conference was well-attended by students and professors, and truly put Wake Forest on the linguistics map!

Dr. Alison Atkins (Spanish) co-organized (along with colleagues Nina Namaste at Elon University and Claudia Femenias at High Point University) the March 26-28, 2018 conference “The Meaning of Food: Interdisciplinary Conference on Representations of Food in the Arts & Humanities,” which included presentations from a variety of disciplines as well as roundtable discussions and workshops on pedagogical approaches to teaching food in the foreign language classroom and in the fields of literature, history, and philosophy. Through its stated ethos, this conference seeks to build an engaged community of meaningful dialogue through presentations rather than read papers. Students in Alison’s Spring 2018 FYS class "Are You What You Eat?: Defining Ourselves Through Food in a Globalized World" attended some components of the conference.

¡Gracias!

We would like to thank the following students for their help in making SLINKI a success.

Taylor Brockman
Andrew Enzor
Ludan Gbaye
Anna Grace Guercio
Ja'el Knott
Rachel Schwam
Spencer Sullivan
Mariana Trabanino
Katie Von Bargen
Maddie Arnel (Sociology; Italian minor) was awarded the ACC-IAC Creativity and Innovation Fellowship funds to do a research project titled "History That She Wrote: How Objects Portray the Emancipation of Italian American Women."

Will Coleburn (Spanish & Studio Art) will receive this year's Ruth Foster Campbell Award for Excellence in Spanish. This award recognizes the outstanding achievement of a graduating Spanish major each year.

Rose O'Brien (Politics & Int'l Affairs; Italian minor), recipient of the 2017 MLK Building the Dream Award, gave a talk on January 25th at the ZSR library on her work with political refugees in Italy and in Winston-Salem. She has been selected by the prestigious Site Program, and she will be teaching in Northern Italy in 2018-2019.

Mary Taormina (Italian minor), President of the Italian Club, was the recipient this year of a campus fellowship from the National Italian-American Association. The award goes to promote Italian culture, and it was used to sponsor Gelato 101 and the Festa di Primavera organized by Mary and the Italian Club.

Tori Taylor (Spanish; Politics & Int'l Affairs) won the award for Imágenes reflejadas in this semester's edition of Reflejos for her picture "Catedral de Barcelona."

Melissa Yuce (Spanish) won the award for Reflejos de excelencia in Reflejos for her "Proteínas en vez de palabras: el concepto de la traducción."
Alicia Gonzalez (Psychology & Spanish ‘19)

Why did you choose to study abroad?
I knew that my Spanish would not improve if I did not do a full-immersion study abroad program. The absolute best way to learn a language is to live it and be forced to use it.

How would you describe your host country?
Spain is incredible. To me, Spain is a country that lives outside. In Salamanca specifically, most of the day is spent outside whether that is walking to a local market, shopping, eating tapas in the Plaza Mayor, or admiring all the beautiful architecture; the city basically lives outside. It is very different than the U.S.

What culture differences have stood out most to you? How was your adjustment period?
To me, the biggest cultural difference is that the idea of political correctness does not exist here. If someone has a thought in their mind, they say it whether it may be offensive or not. Spanish people, in general, are very direct. However, this became something that I appreciated greatly. You never have to wonder about what someone is thinking! I got used to it very quickly.

How has studying abroad shaped your academic and personal development?
Studying abroad has helped a lot with my language skills primarily, but also with time management. We have a lot of free time to travel and to explore, but we also have to stay attentive to our studies. It is very much like being on campus, but different because you want to get out and see your surroundings. It’s not everyday you get to be in Spain!

Taylor Manthey (HES ‘20)

Tell us about your most memorable moment while abroad.
There are people who stand out on the street asking for donations for UNICEF in the main shopping district of Salamanca. They usually only stop and talk to Spaniards who are walking alone. One day, probably six or so weeks into the program, one stopped to me and was genuinely surprised when I said I was from the U.S. I loved that because it proved that my Spanish had really improved, especially since he couldn’t tell I was American while I was talking!

Would you like to share any interesting or funny stories (language/cultural bloopers, anecdotes, etc.)?
Once, I accidentally told my host family that my boyfriend is boring, instead of bored. And they didn't correct me! They just laughed and apparently thought that was totally fine!
In Prof. Ewalt's (Spanish) Travel Literature seminar, the day after reading/discussing Alí Bey's pilgrimage to Mecca and the day before Good Friday, students walked together over the river and through the woods to Reynolda House, where recent WFU graduate Andrés González lead them through the "Frederic Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage" exhibit in Spanish.

More photos from Dr. Ewalt’s seminar.

The photos below are from Prof. Nicholas Wolters' (Spanish) special topics seminar on representations of the body, dress, and fashion in 18th and 19th-century Spain. During their visit to the costume shop at SCALES Fine Arts Center, seminar students examined reproductions of 18th-century costumes with the help of costuming expert Mary Wayne-Thomas. The visit gave students hands-on experience with the types of clothing and dress they later studied in the works of artists like Francisco de Goya.

More photos from Dr. Wolter’s special topics seminar!

Prof. Silvia Tiboni-Craft's (Italian) Introduction to Italian Literature class is pictured working on creating a virtual reality map on Marco Polo's journey along the Silk Road.

6
Mary Kathryn Ball (Spanish ‘17) discusses her experience studying Spanish and some of its most memorable and rewarding moments.

My junior year of college, I returned from abroad, and I had to take Spanish grammar. Despite having studied Spanish since the age of five, I was worried. Spanish 309 has a reputation for being a difficult class. Luckily, Professor Gonzalez is interested in linguistics, and because of this, he has researched different ways of understanding grammar, and thus different ways of teaching. Professor Gonzalez’s “verber, verbed, ver-bee” approach certainly provided a more intuitive way of understanding sentence structure.

While I definitely learned a lot, I also had a lot of questions, sometimes challenging the explanations provided. I think that because of this Professor Gonzalez invited me to join the “Sweet Team,” a group of students to assist in his linguistics research. While linguistics as a subject confuses me, I found that Professor Gonzalez used it as a tool to simplify language. This was so true, that I felt comfortable presenting at a linguistics conference, and with confidence, I could say that this approach to Spanish Grammar gave me a schema for understanding grammar in a way that I hadn’t before in my 16 years of study. The beauty of linguistics lies in its goal of facilitating language learning, to making language more accessible to all.

David Inczauskis, S.J. (Spanish ‘14)

Why did you choose to study Spanish at WFU?

I arrived at Wake Forest with 300-level Spanish. I wanted to continue to study Spanish in order to maintain and improve my fluency, so my advisor suggested that I take a class with Dr. Candelas Gala. Dr. Gala was very demanding...in the best way. She challenged me, but she also had faith in me. By the middle of the semester, I had seen significant improvements in my language abilities. I asked Dr. Gala about study abroad possibilities. She recommended that I go with her to Spain the following semester, the spring of my freshman year. I did go, and that experience in Salamanca, Spain, led me to declare a Spanish major.

How has studying Spanish at WFU contributed to your professional or personal goals/accomplishments?

Studying Spanish at WFU has had numerous effects on my current professional and personal life. Professionally, I am currently working on a book called "Teatro la Fragua: Central America's Jesuit Theater," which will be published in 2019 by the Universidad Centroamericana in El Salvador. Now, I am a Jesuit scholastic, a priest in formation for the Catholic Church. Because of the Spanish skills that Wake helped me develop, I am able to use Spanish in my ministry. I am an interfaith chaplain for unaccompanied immigrant children in detention in Chicago. Some of the kids come from Central America, and I can serve them in their native language, which puts them at ease and conveys a sense of welcome to the country (even though our country has turned its back on them in many ways).

Continued on next page
I also teach religion at a bilingual school in Pilsen on the southwest side of Chicago. Additionally, this summer I'll be accompanying a group of students studying abroad in Córdoba. It will be nice to assist them in the fashion that Dr. Gala and Wake assisted me. Of course, I use Spanish in religious situations, as well.

**Are there any faculty members who have had a positive influence on you?**

Of course! In particular, I can mention Jane Albrecht, who directed my honors thesis, and Candelas Gala, who was my advisor in the department. Dr. Albrecht and I worked on a play script together, and my work with her has served as a great foundation for my studies in theater now. I fondly remember Dr. Linda Howe, Dr. Olgierda Furmanek, and Dr. Mary Friedman, as well.

**What advice would you give to current students studying in the Spanish & Italian department at WFU?**

In my graduate-level work, I have come to be extremely grateful for the education I received from the Spanish professors at Wake. It is easy to see how Wake has formed me well as a writer and researcher. I would invite current students to take advantage of Wake’s incredible resources for writing and research development. Present at conferences. Write and re-write papers. Visit your professors. Learn things. Don't study for tests: study to know. Go abroad. Go abroad again. Immerse yourself in the language and the literature. Own your Spanish (or other language) major. Let it become a part of who you are. Let it penetrate your mind and your heart. Be proud to be a language major at Wake Forest.

**What are your future plans?**

In 2019, I will graduate from Loyola Chicago with an MA in Social Philosophy and an MA in Spanish. After that, my Jesuit superior and I will discern the next step. I feel a particular call to academic, artistic, and social justice ministries.

**Betty J. Ogburn (Spanish ‘14)**

**How has studying Spanish or Italian at WFU contributed to your professional or personal goals/ accomplishments?**

Well, I moved to Spain in September 2014, and I’ve been living here every academic year since: My level of Spanish was pretty good before, but studying the language formally, both on campus and abroad at The University of Salamanca, definitely helped improve my communication skills in the language. Obviously, the more you know the language of your host country, the easier it is to adapt.

**Which were some of your most memorable professors or classes? Why?**

Dr. León-Tavora, who left Wake after my freshman year, taught me how to read and analyze texts; it was in Dr. José Venegas’ 317 class that I realized that I loved Spanish history and literature, and Dr. Mayer’s 318 opened my eyes to the richness and variety of Latin American literature; Dr. González was like the Colombian father I never had, and he anesthetized the agony of the subjunctive; if you like theatre, definitely take Dr. Sanhueza’s class; and Dr. Friedman got my speaking in shape just before I left for Salamanca. Así que, guardo buenos recuerdos y sentimientos de todos vosotros!
## Welcome New Majors & Minors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anderson, Abigail</th>
<th>Enzor, Andrew</th>
<th>McCauley, Emma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banas, John</td>
<td>Firestone, Grace</td>
<td>Merlin, Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barringer, John</td>
<td>Foland, Peyton</td>
<td>Moss, Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barros, Marcela</td>
<td>Foley, Michael J. (ITA)</td>
<td>Needham, McKenzie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bashur, Kathleen</td>
<td>Freeman, Brandon</td>
<td>Newman, Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastone, Alexa (ITA)</td>
<td>French, Gregory</td>
<td>Parent, Natalie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beshears, Katherine</td>
<td>Gbaye, Ludan</td>
<td>Perrone, Olivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop, James</td>
<td>Gentile, Francesca</td>
<td>Porter, Lucy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, Mara</td>
<td>Gerhardt, Richard</td>
<td>Robertson, Katharine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazier, Callum</td>
<td>Gibens, Emma</td>
<td>Roby, Jasmine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantone, Danielle (ITA)</td>
<td>Graylin, Sibella (ITA)</td>
<td>Rodriguez, Monnica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caponiti, Isabella</td>
<td>Grund, Meaghan</td>
<td>Rogers, Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caporella, Caroline</td>
<td>Hammond, Hayley</td>
<td>Rogers, Zoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassidy Spetnagel</td>
<td>Hammond, Madison</td>
<td>Schinzel, Clara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chang, Annika</td>
<td>Hayes, Sally</td>
<td>Sharpe, Jacquelyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins, Meghan</td>
<td>Heaney, Katherine</td>
<td>Sheehan, Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafton, Christopher</td>
<td>Johnson, Drew (SPA; ITA)</td>
<td>Shultz, Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davern, Michael</td>
<td>Keller, Ryan</td>
<td>Smith, Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilmaghani, Tara</td>
<td>Kennedy, Maia</td>
<td>Stevanovski, Aspen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutton, Emily</td>
<td>Kratochwill, Alexandra</td>
<td>Strelzer, Samantha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwood, Megan</td>
<td>Lampson, Ilaria (ITA)</td>
<td>Wagoner, Emma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England, Michael</td>
<td>Leiter, Emily</td>
<td>Wilson, Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wolff, David</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Professors Nicholas Wolters and César Gutiérrez with student Michael Davern at this year’s receptions for new majors & minors.
On Tuesday January 30, Suzanne Thompson presented the workshop “How-To Workshop for Using VoiceThread in Oral Assessments” as a part of the Immediate Pedagogy and Creative Technology (ImPACT) series. In case you missed it, click on the tutorial (to the left) where Suzanne explains how to setup a practice course to use VoiceThread.

On Thursday, March 22, the Spanish & Italian Department held a reception for our Salamanca Program with Javier García Garrido and Professor Juan Carlos Arévalo Martín (University of Salamanca). The event celebrated a new collaboration for WFU Salamanca with the Neuroscience Institute at the University of Salamanca in a new study abroad program.

On March 23rd, the Italian Club, supported by the NIAF, organized Festa di Primavera for WFU students. The event featured Italian food, granitas, and a bocce ball demonstration, despite unseasonably chilly temps!

On April 4th, Professor Samanta Ordóñez (Spanish) conducted a tertulia "Sounds of Mexico: Son jarocho" for students studying Spanish at WFU. Son Jarocho is a musical tradition that originated in Veracruz, a state on Mexico's gulf coast. The rhythms, dances, and instrumentation derive from Spanish, African, and indigenous roots, and the often improvised lyrical themes traditionally reflected the specific cultural sensibilities of rural communities in Veracruz.
The Media Outreach Team (MOT) will present the second issue of the Spanish & Italian newsletter for the 2018-2019 academic year on December 7, 2018.

Please submit news items here or contact Bruce Cole (colebm@wfu.edu). The deadline for submission of news items is 5 p.m. on Friday, November 2.