

WCU SPANISH newsletter

The Department of World Languages presents...

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS OF LIVING AND DYING

October 31 and November 3, 2016

Garrett Fisher, a WCUSpanish faculty member, has coordinated a multidisciplinary event to coincide with the traditional observation of the Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos. ["Global Celebrations of Living and Dying"](#) will take place on Monday, October 31 and Thursday, November 3, and it will provide varied perspectives on life, death, and the transition between the two. We hope to see you at as many of these events as your schedule will allow!

Monday, October 31

UC Theater 6:00 pm

- **"Life, Death, and Metamorphosis on a Little Known Planet,"** by Dr. Kefyn Catley (Biology) and screening of Flight of the Butterflies

Thursday, November 3

Illusions - Sessions on Living and Dying

- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm **"Death Café"** with Harris LifePath Palliative Care and Hospice
- 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm **"Representations of Death in Spanish Literature and Art"** with Dr. Santiago García-Castañón (World Languages). This presentation will be in Spanish.
- 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm **"Day of the Dead"** with Garrett Fisher (World Languages)
- 8:00 pm - 8:30 pm **"Buddhist Perspectives on Living and Dying"** with Dr. Michelle Sorenson (Philosophy and Religion)
- 8:30 pm - 9:00 pm **"Faith, Even in Death: Muslim Traditions at the End of Life"** with Dr. Colin Shaw, Hospice Chaplain

This event was made possible by a very generous donation from Harris LifePath Palliative Care and Hospice in Sylva, as well as support from the Departments of World Languages, Biology, and Philosophy and Religion.



Humanities
at WCU

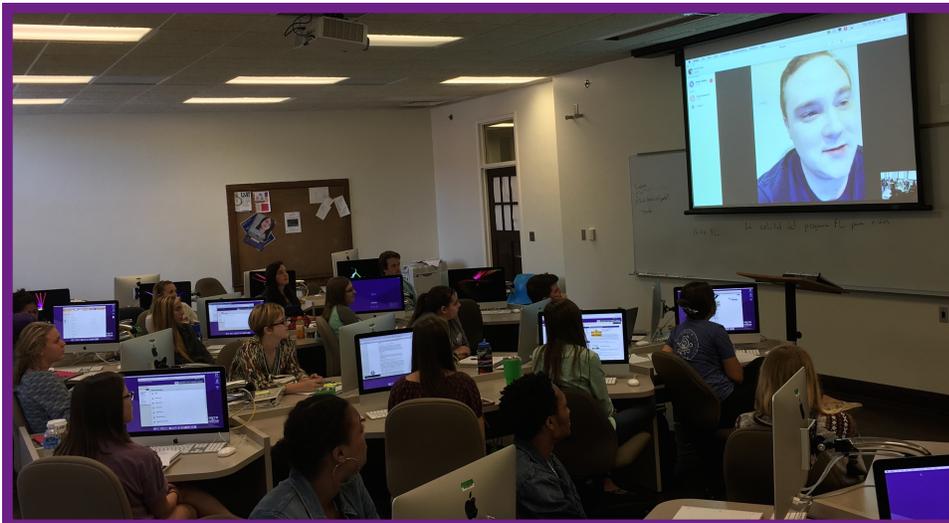
Advising Day is on **Tuesday, November 1st** this year.

WCUSpanish will be offering seven upper-level courses in Fall 2017 (more than ever!), thanks to the rapidly expanding lists of Spanish majors and minors:

- SPAN 302 - Spanish Conversation and Composition** (Couture)
- SPAN 322 - Hispanic Cultures** (García-Castañón)
- SPAN 401 - Contrastive Features in Spanish and English** (Centeno-Pulido)
- SPAN 431 - Literature from Spain** (García-Castañón)
- SPAN 433 - South American Literature** (Oxford)
- SPAN 452 - Advanced Oral Communication** (Centeno-Pulido)
- SPAN 493 - Special Topics-TBA** (García-Castañón)

All of these courses have a prerequisite of SPAN 232 or 240. It is possible that students encounter an error message even if they have met the prerequisite, as the course catalog and the updated Spanish curriculum don't always line up. If you can't register for one of these courses, but you know that you have met the prerequisite, please contact [Dr. Lori Oxford](#) in McKee 128B.

The SPAN 471 (Translation) course recently had a virtual visit from Brian Bubach, a court translator for the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County in Phoenix, Arizona. Bubach interacted in Spanish and English with the SPAN 471 students, providing a peek into what it is like to be a court translator. Bubach translates birth and death certificates, home studies, work verification letters, jail mail, and text messages. He also assists with transcriptions of interviews, 911 calls, body cam recordings, and forensic examinations.



at left:
Fisher's SPAN 471
students interact with
Bubach.

Dr. Santiago García-Castañón

Since 2016 is the 400th anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616), there have been various events worldwide commemorating the author of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*. On September 13, Santiago García-Castañón, Professor of Spanish, who specializes in Early Modern Spanish Literature, gave a presentation at an international conference on Cervantes, organized by the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, in Santander, Spain. His presentation was on “El legado cervantino en las artes: ilustraciones fantásticas de Don Quijote.” He was also a guest speaker at the Aula de Cultura in Avilés, Spain, where gave a lecture on the topic “Las imágenes de Don Quijote a través del tiempo” on September 15.

In October, García Castañón signed a contract with Ediciones Camelot to publish his eighth poetry collection (and fifteenth book overall), *Objetos desechables / Disposable Objects*, a bilingual book scheduled to be released simultaneously in Spain and the US in the spring of 2017.



Dr. García-Castañón delivers his lecture on images in *Don Quijote* in Avilés.



Garrett Fisher recently gave a presentation on “Audiovisual Translation” at a conference in recognition of [International Translation Day](#) (September 30th) at UNC-Charlotte.

at left:
Fisher (third from right) with fellow presenters at the conference on translation.

WCUSpanish Alumni Spotlight

TISHA (CARVER) MENTNECH

B.A. in Spanish & B.A. in History, 2015

Tisha will graduate in May from [Simmons College](#) in Boston, Massachusetts with a M.S. in Library and Information Science. She was married to Todd Mentnech, another alumnus of WCU (Music Education, 2014) in November of last year, and they are planning a getaway vacation after her graduation, before “life after student life” begins. She is looking for jobs abroad in libraries or information sciences along with some fellowships in librarianship.



Tisha is currently doing research that is based on some of her work as an undergrad at WCU on sex workers in Cuba in the 21st century. She says this prompted her to dig deeper into Cuban history, back to the 1800s, and that the newspapers and documents she’s read have kept her Spanish at the forefront. An unexpected find for her was a newspaper (digitized and archived thanks to the University of Miami and the Archives of the Caribbean) published in Havana in September 1888, titled *La cebolla*.

Interested in working as a translator or interpreter someday? Check out some interesting facts from the *Translation and Interpreting Services Survey* conducted by the [American Translators’ Association](#):

- Nearly 97% of translators and interpreters have at least one postsecondary degree. Over 32% have earned a bachelor’s degree, while 46% go on to complete a master’s degree.
- Over 70% of translators and interpreters are female.
- The average salary for a full-time private sector employee in the industry of translation and interpretation is \$55, 547.

Do you think a career in translation or interpretation is right for you? Talk to [Garrett Fisher](#) in McKee 132B to learn more about the possibilities.

García-Castañón reads poems at Furman University

On September 27, Santiago García-Castañón participated in a literary event at the McEarchen Auditorium of Furman University along with six other authors, all by special invitation of the Greenville-area group "Spanish Writers". He read some of his poems and [was later interviewed](#) by the Spanish language newspaper *La Nación Hispana* (at left: you can see him in the bottom row of photos in that journal's piece about the event).



Cuban scholar visits WCU



On October 10, Dr. Santiago García-Castañón hosted a visit to WCU campus from Cuban-born poet and scholar Víctor Puertodán, who gave a talk on the topic "Alfonso Camín, poeta de Asturias y padre de la poesía afrocubana."

¡Feliz Día de los Muertos!

The Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in Mexico, especially southern and central parts of the country, where the indigenous traditions were blended with the European (Catholic) holidays of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2). It is a celebration for the whole family, a time to remember and honor loved ones who are deceased.

Interested in learning more? Don't miss Garrett Fisher's presentation about Día de los Muertos during the [Global Celebrations of Living and Dying](#) on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7:30pm in Illusions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

COME JOIN THE FUN AND PRACTICE AT *TERTULIA*

Anyone in the WCU community is welcome to come practice speaking Spanish with us at our weekly conversation hour at Tuck's Tap & Grille, at 5pm every week:

- **Thurs. Nov. 3**
- **Mon. Nov. 7**
- **Tues. Nov. 15**
- **Mon. Nov. 21**
- **Thurs. Dec. 1**
- **Mon. Dec. 5**



FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD OFFERINGS:

- **Buenos Aires, Argentina in May 2017:** Medical Spanish **OR** Argentinean History and Culture (the two programs cannot be combined). Each program will allow students to earn three credit hours in Spanish. The Medical Spanish program also includes 20 hours of shadowing medical professionals with distinct specialties. Contact [Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido](#).
- **Cartago, Costa Rica in summer 2017:** Six credit hours for SPAN 240, Accelerated Intermediate Spanish. Contact [Garrett Fisher](#).
- **Valencia, Spain in summer 2017:** Six credit hours for SPAN 394, Advanced Grammar and Valencian History and Culture. Contact [Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido](#) or [Dr. Lori Oxford](#).

Do you know a student in the Spanish program or an alumna or alumnus with an interesting story? Is there an event of interest to Spanish study that we should announce here? Let us know! Contact the [Spanish Program coordinator](#) with your news.

“Like” us on facebook: [WCU Spanish](#)

Follow us on twitter: [@SpanishWCU](#)

Come by and talk to us in McKee or check us out on the [WCU Spanish program's webpage](#).

¡Muchas gracias!