

WCU SPANISH

18 de noviembre de 2013

Eight students in SPAN 493 traveled to Havana, Cuba over Fall Break. Left to right: Natalie Hylton, Tisha Carver, Jessica McLamb, Leo Gamez, Miranda Welgos, Eric Wright, Angelette Stevens, and Trevor McKernie.



Students in SPAN 493 travel to Cuba

Most of them never thought travel to Cuba would be possible until they registered last spring for SPAN 493 (Cuban Culture), but during Fall Break eight WCU students traveled to Cuba to visit historical sites, meet everyday Cubans, and take classes—16 hours!—at a cultural research center.

Although the trip included sightseeing, a beach excursion, and lots of ice cream, it certainly wasn't a luxury tour: the students were housed in austere lodgings for priests, dined on budget food, and

walked nearly everywhere they went within Havana.

Even so, the consensus among the travelers was a positive one, despite delays due to transportation difficulties, unexpected site closings blamed on mosquito fumigation, and the occasional currency exchange mistake.

While in Havana, the students attended four days of classes on culture, history, and race relations with professors Juan Nicolás Padrón and Rodrigo Espina and interacted with a dozen members of

[Proyecto Comunitario Espiral](#), a non-profit community outreach group with elementary schools and homes for the elderly.

All SPAN 493 students will present findings of Cuba-related research at a symposium open to the public at the end of Fall semester. (And yes, the presentations will be in English, so if you can read this you can attend!) For more information regarding when and where the Cuba presentations will take place, contact Dr. Lori Oxford in her office (McKee 128B) or at lfoxford@email.wcu.edu.

Language t-shirt design winners announced

This Fall marked the 2nd Annual Foreign Language T-Shirt Contest, and all five languages had some stiff competition. Students in language classes submitted designs, which were chosen by general votes in classes.

The winners of the design contest will get to see their designs on shirts worn all over the country, since t-shirt orders have come in from all across the country.

The winners are as follows:

- Cherokee - Kristen Saugee-Beaudry
- French - Angel Martinez
- German - Leela Livis
- Japanese - Taylor Speagle, Leela Livis
- Spanish - Angel Martinez

Congratulations to the design winners, and many thanks to all students who participated in the contest!



WCUSPANISH STUDENT PROFILES NOEL COLLINS

Where do you call home?

I was born in San Francisco, but I lived there for only a year. After that, I lived in Portland, Oregon, and I lived there for eight years. Then I moved to Italy when I was nine, and I lived there for six years. My family had to move back due to the economy, but I stayed back for around six months in order to finish my freshman year at the culinary high school I went to. Once I finished that, I moved back to San Francisco with my family, but I only lived there for a few months and then my family and I moved to North Carolina, where I lived for three years. Now I live at WCU.

What languages do you speak?

I can fluently speak two languages, English and Italian, and I'm currently learning Spanish. While I was in Italy, I also studied French.

You've traveled quite a lot. What is the most interesting place you've visited?

I have been to many different countries in Europe and several different countries in Africa, but my favorite country that I visited was Turkey.

You're double majoring in Entrepreneurship and Spanish. How do you plan to combine those fields?

When I first came to WCU, I wanted to own my own Italian restaurant, but now I think I want to go into foreign business.

Do you get to use your Spanish?

I don't get to practice it as much as I would like, but when I'm in Charlotte I get to practice a lot because I have a neighbor who speaks Spanish.

Noel Collins

freshman, Entrepreneurship and Spanish

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

Upper level offerings in Spanish for Spring 2014:

- SPAN 301** - Conversation and Composition
- SPAN 332** - North American and Caribbean Literature
- SPAN 401** - Contrastive Features in Spanish and English
- SPAN 441** - Laughter and Tears in Hispanic Literature
- SPAN 461** - Spanish Phonetics, Morphology, and Syntax

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES

Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 in McKee 121

At least once per semester, faculty members of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages present their research interests, creative writings, or other non-classroom activities to interested students. Spring 2013's Intercultural Dialogue, presented by Mark Couture and Lori Oxford, centered on Latin American popular music. The presentations for Fall 2013 will be given by [Santiago García-Castañón](#) (poetry reading) and [Lori Oxford](#) (research presentation).

¡TERTULIA!

Thurs. 11/21 at 3:30 downstairs dining hall

Mon. 11/25 at 5:30 in Mad Batter

Thurs. Dec 5 at 2:00 downstairs dining hall

Come practice your Spanish with us! The weekly *tertulia*, or Spanish conversation hour, will allow you to practice speaking or just listen. All Spanish professors offer extra credit for attending, and this

can be one more step in your path to proficiency. Talk to your Spanish professor for more information.

INFORMATION SESSION: STUDY ABROAD IN COSTA RICA

Wednesday, November 20 at 11:00 in UC Catamount Room

John Schweikart, WCU Study Abroad Advisor, will give a presentation on student opportunities for Spanish language study, internships, and service learning in Costa Rica as part of International Education Week. For more information, contact jschweikart@wcu.edu.

SYMPOSIUM ON CUBAN CULTURE

**Last week of classes and week of finals
in McKee 116**

Lori Oxford's SPAN 493 (Cuban culture) class will share their final projects at a symposium open to the public. Topics include: the Cuban economy and black market, relations between Cuba and the U.S., Afro-Cuban syncretic religions, Cuban women's roles in society and the workforce, Cuban healthcare, and Cuba's response to the AIDS crisis. All presentations will be in English, so visitors from all programs are welcome.



Do you know a student in the Spanish program with an interesting story? Is there an event of interest to Spanish study that we should announce here? Let us know! Contact Lori Oxford at

lfoxford@wcu.edu.



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Come by and talk to us in McKee.

¡Muchas gracias!