

WCU SPANISH

15 de febrero de 2014



left: Angelette Stevens speaking about Cuban healthcare.

below: Interacting with SCC students.



WCU SPANISH student invited to speak to SCC nursing students about Cuba

Angelette Stevens, a student in the Spanish B.S. Ed. program, was invited recently to give a talk to nursing students at Southwestern Community College about healthcare in Cuba. Angelette traveled to Havana with *WCU en Cuba* in October 2013 and conducted research on the Cuban healthcare system and its response to the AIDS epidemic.

Why did you speak there?

I am fascinated with Cuba and realize that there is much to be valued within Cuban culture, from which we as American students don't typically get to benefit. I wanted to share part of the reason Cuba is so special to me.

How did the students' react?

At first, the students knew nothing about Cuba other than that they have great cigars! Once I introduced info on Cuban healthcare, many of them were shocked by the success stories, especially concerning AIDS. They were shaking their heads in disbelief when I showed them statistics on GDP expenditures and efforts toward preventative healthcare.

They said they were shocked that a country with so little could do so much for patient healthcare.

I showed them [a clip from an interview with Dr. Aleida Guevara](#), a physician in Cuba (and daughter of Che Guevara), in which she speaks of the consultorios in Cuba, the close relationship between patients and their physicians, and the community-oriented primary care. They told me that here most doctors spend less than 10 minutes with each patient. Some students said they wouldn't trust outdated equipment in Cuba, while others argued that it apparently still does the job, and most of them agreed that the U.S. needs more focus on preventative care vs. expensive treatments after the fact.

What were the most important points you wanted to share?

I wanted them to see a side of healthcare that we don't hear about in the U.S. We need a diverse knowledge of what works so we can model success stories here and perhaps change our mindsets on how we view our own system.

What did you take away from the experience?

I continue to be amazed by how little access we have in our education to experience opinions that directly contradict our own. It is our responsibility to make our country and ourselves as individuals the best that we can be, even if that means learning from our (so-called) enemies.

Did you know?

- Life expectancy in the U.S. and Cuba is about the same, but Cuba spends only about 8% (\$672) of what the U.S. spends (\$8362) per person every year on [healthcare](#).
- Infant and child mortality rates are equal to or better than those in the U.S., despite lower spending.
- Cuban HIV/AIDS prevalence is nearly the lowest in the world.

WCUSPANISH STUDENT PROFILES COLA WILLIAMSON



Where are you from?

I was born in Sylva and raised in Bryson City. I lived in Los Angeles for two years after high school while pursuing musical endeavors.

Where have you traveled?

Mexico, Haiti, and Jamaica. This summer I am planning to study in Valencia, Spain.

What is your major, and why?

I am a Spanish Education major. I decided on this major because I believe that future generations will find that learning Spanish is imperative to success in an ever-changing workforce and that language education is the foundation of a prospering civilization. I wish to make my students intellectually, culturally, and socially aware members of society.

How do you spend your time away from WCU?

When I'm not studying, I am usually making music with my wife, Ashley. We have a band called Somebody's Child, and we perform all over western NC. We are inspired by the privilege of writing, learning, and living music together.

You are a non-traditional student. How do you keep a balance that reflects your priorities?

I am constantly juggling my time. My daughter and wife are the most important components of my life; however, sometimes I must sacrifice time with them to complete school work. At times it is difficult to reconcile all this, but I know that by getting my degree I will be bettering the future of my child and my family. I am grateful for their enduring support.

How do you use your Spanish?

I use Spanish at my workplace while waiting tables for the Nantahala Outdoor Center. I also skype with a friend from Colombia and attempt to practice with any person who is willing. I plan to use Spanish in the future through language education, and I hope to become a translator for hospitals, courthouses, and prisons.

What else?

I would like to establish a non-profit organization that aids Spanish-speaking immigrants in learning English and obtaining citizenship or residency as quickly as possible. In doing so, I hope the agency can provide housing, jobs, education, and sustainability to these individuals. I want to make this work!



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

Upper level offerings in Spanish for Fall 2014:

SPAN 301 - Conversation and Composition

SPAN 321 - Hispanic Cultures

SPAN 333 - South American Literature and Culture

SPAN 452 - Advanced Spanish Conversation

SPAN 493 - *Cien años de soledad* (Special Topics)

SPAN 240 TO BE REVIVED IN FALL 2014

WCU Spanish will revive a course that hasn't been offered in years, starting Fall 2014. SPAN 240 is a six-hour course and is the equivalent of SPAN 231 and 232 in one semester, both in content and for degree audit purposes. Do you know motivated students who are just getting started with their Spanish study? Be sure to recommend 240 to them! (Contact [Lori Oxford](#) for more info.)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONTEST

Tuesday, March 18 in Ramsey Center

The [32nd annual Foreign Language Contest](#) for high school students will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at Ramsey Center. The Department of MFL sponsors this competition for regional high school students. The contest involves events in contemporaneous speaking, poetry recital, musical performance, and even a quiz bowl. WCU students and faculty serve as judges in this competition. If you would like to serve as

a judge, please let your Spanish professor (or [Melissa Allen](#) in MK 118) know.

¡TERTULIA!

Tues., Feb. 18 at 5:30 & Thurs., Feb. 27 at 5:30

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. The *tertulias* this semester will take place at Tuck's Tap & Grille.

WCUSPANISH STUDENT TO PRESENT AT NCUR

Jessica McLamb, a Spanish minor, will present her work ("El sistema nacional de salud de España: A Look into Spain's Health Care System") at [NCUR 2014](#) at the University of Kentucky.

WaLC TUTORING AVAILABLE

The [Writing and Learning Commons](#), or WaLC, is offering tutoring for this semester in Spanish with four student tutors. If you think you'll need help in any of these classes, call 227-2274 or go online to make an appointment. If you're interested in becoming a tutor, talk to the faculty member teaching the class with which you'd like to work.



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.



¡Muchas gracias!