

Fisher's SPAN 471 Students Speak With Interpreting Professional

WCUSpanish students in [Mr. Garrett Fisher's](#) SPAN 471 course (Translation and Interpretation) had the opportunity to speak via Skype with Megan Meyers, the East Coast Administrative Coordinator for [Interpreters Unlimited Charlotte](#). She spoke with the students about important organizations and registries in the translation/interpretation field and took students' questions about actual jobs around the United States.



above: Quentin Walton (Spanish/International Studies) speaks with Ms. Meyers.

DID YOU KNOW...

WCUSpanish prof Dr. Mark Couture hosts a regular Sunday morning radio show on WWCU. He told us a little about "Catamount Community Radio."

How did the radio show start?

It started in 1999, back when the station was in the basement of Moore Hall. The show is called "Catamount Community Radio," but I simply inherited the title. Originally I would share with other faculty members. We would take turns on Sunday mornings. The idea was to bring in different people from around campus who would share and talk about the music they liked. With time I realized that I much preferred doing the show by myself. (Once a guy I was supposedly doing a show with referred to me as his "technician" over the air!).

How do you set up the shows?

I usually spend about two hours on Saturday afternoon creating a playlist, burning CDs, and researching the music. This varies a lot. Some shows have a theme from beginning to end, others have themes but they don't use the whole two hours. I consider the show to be "free form" radio, meaning that I play whatever I feel like playing. I think that one of the reasons commercial radio is not as interesting as it once was is that set lists and formats are decided at corporate headquarters rather than by the DJs themselves. If I couldn't pick the songs I play, I wouldn't do radio.

I mix it up. It is not unusual to play jazz, hip-hop, country, gospel and pop during the same show. You might hear anything ... but you're unlikely to hear classic rock, which is the only thing you'll hear on Power 90.5 from Monday through Friday during the daytime. I always have a playlist ready, usually about 40 tunes, of which 25 or so make it onto the air.

I've done shows on numbers, animals, food, rain, Moondog and Sun Ra, Jelly Roll Morton, trains and trucks, etc. If some musical great dies, I'll often play his or her music. Sometimes I research the music, sometimes I just talk about it from personal knowledge. Almost every week I have a cover contest. I play covers of songs and people can email me, telling me who the original artists are and what are the titles. It's usually the same people who enter every week: Jim Dandy up in Maine, Mary Ellen in Cashiers, Nick and Gaby in New York City, and sometimes Susan from my hometown in Michigan. My friends in Spain also tune into the show sometimes, in Granada and Cáceres, which leads to one of my stock phrases: "heard from Maine to Spain streaming on the internet at wwcufm.com."

What guests have you had on the show?

Over the years I've had many guests, two of the most recent are poet Thomas Rain Crowe and sociologist Peter Nieckarz, but as I said before, I prefer doing the show solo. This being said, I recognize the magic of great pairings on the radio. Every Sunday I listen to the Glen Jones Radio Programme featuring X-Ray Burns on WFMU out of Jersey City, New Jersey. The show has a special magic that is not there when one of the two is not there.

What are your plans for the show in the future?

Just to keep it up as for as long as it is fun. If I had more time, I would get into voice tracking, which is prerecording things to use on the show. I would still do the show live, but I would include pre-recorded segments which would enable me to layer tracks. But I am a fan of live radio, even with its inherent risks. Flawed live radio is better than flawless canned radio, in my opinion, although there is some pretty good pre-recorded stuff out there.

What kind of reception has the show had?

It's hard to say, because I really don't know who is listening, or how many



listeners there are. I always imagine I am talking to one person. We're sitting around playing records and talking about them.

People often tell me, "I heard you on the radio," but normally what they mean is that they heard my promo, not that they listened to the show on a Sunday morning. I know I have some loyal listeners, which I very much appreciate.

How has it changed over the years?

I think I've become more skillful at running the board, I've learned to project my voice a little better. (Earlier Jim Dandy would encourage me to "whisper a little bit louder.") I've learned how to mix up-tempo with laid-back tunes, songs with vocals vs. instrumentals, jazz vs. pop, etc. I've learned about how long I should talk between one song and another (people like music but they also appreciate a little chit chat, especially if it's funny or smart). I'm always conscious of these things. I think the show is essentially the same as it has always been, it's simply improving with age, in my not-so-humble opinion.

Anything else you'd like to include?

I've also done Spanish-language radio. For two years in the aughts a Panamanian colleague and I did "La bora latina" on Sunday afternoons on WWCU, but after she left for warmer pastures, it was too much for me to continue by myself. We had a good following among local Spanish speakers.

Spanish upper-level courses set for Fall 2015:

• SPAN 302 - Conversation and Composition II.

This course focuses on production-based skills like speaking and writing, based on topics relevant to the Spanish-speaking world. (It is not necessary to have taken 301 to take this course — they are complementary but not sequential!)

• SPAN 321 - Hispanic Cultures I.

This course explores the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, including geography, history, gastronomy, art, music, politics, and economics, among other related topics.

• SPAN 461 - Spanish phonology and phonetics.

This course covers the sounds of Spanish.

• SPAN 493 - Cuban Culture.

This course examines Cuban history and cultural production, with a focus on the revolutionary period (1959-present). **(This course will include the opportunity to travel to Havana over Fall Break.)**

Any questions? Talk to your advisor or to [Dr. Lori Oxford](#) about what Spanish courses are best for you in Fall 2015.

WCUSpanish Prof. Santiago García-Castañón has been busy...

Last year, [Dr. García-Castañón](#) was awarded a Research Leave for Fall 2014. During this time he worked on the transcription and edition of *Relación de las Islas Filipinas*, an unpublished manuscript from 1582, which Dr. García-Castañón located in the *Archivo de Indias* in Seville. Dr. García-Castañón's annotated edition will be published—the first edition of this previously unknown text—early 2016.

On December 17, 2014 he gave a lecture at the Centro de Servicios Universitarios de Avilés on the topic “**Francisco Bances Candamo, dramaturgo de cámara de Carlos II.**” This lecture was part of a cycle organized by the Universidad de Oviedo on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Juan Carreño de Miranda, court painter to King Charles II of Spain.

Several of his poems have been included in the anthology *Lluvia de palabras*. On December 22 he participated in a collective poetry reading of the poems in this anthology.

His brochure “**A Walk Through Avilés, the Birthplace of Pedro Menéndez**” was published by the City of Avilés, Spain. The brochure includes a literary synopsis of the most relevant historical and cultural facts about Avilés and was commissioned by the City Council. It will be available in St. Augustine, Florida, a sister city of Avilés, and will be part of the official publicity campaign celebrating the 450th anniversary of the foundation of St. Augustine by Menéndez in 1565.

He was invited to participate with a poetry reading at the **7th Puerto Rico International Poetry Festival** (March 16-21), one of seventeen poets from all over the world to be invited this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

WaLC TUTORING AVAILABLE

The [Writing and Learning Commons](#), or WaLC, is offering tutoring for this semester in most Spanish classes with qualified student tutors. If you think you'll need help with your reading comprehension, speaking and writing skills, or grammar usage, call 227-2274 or click on the link above to make an appointment. If you're interested in becoming a tutor, talk to the faculty member who teaches the class with which you'd like to work.

¡TERTULIA!

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.

Upcoming *tertulia* dates include:

- Tuesday, Feb. 10, 5:00-6:00 at Tuck's
- Tuesday, Feb. 17, 4:00-5:00 at Tuck's
- Monday, Feb. 23, 5:00-6:00 at Tuck's
- Thursday, Mar. 5, 5:30-6:30 at Sazón

“ROMANTIC” LANGUAGE POETRY READING

Looking for a romantic way to impress your significant other? Do you love languages? Come share a poem with us in a Romance Language, or simply come listen to other people read poems they've chosen. It can be an original work or a poem written centuries ago. Contact [Mr. Garrett Fisher](#) if you'd like to read a poem, but even if you just want to come listen, you are welcome to come, anyway.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6:00 in Illusions
(Wear red, white, or black.)



Do you know a student in the Spanish program or an alumnus/alumna 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 or check us out
on the [WCU Spanish program's webpage](#).

¡Muchas gracias!