Six WCU students just finished their degrees in Spanish and ten more are graduating with a Spanish minor! See some of their profiles below:

**SPANISH B.A. and B.S.Ed.**

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**KELSEY ANGELETTE STEVENS**

**What degree have you earned?**
I have a B.S.Ed. in Spanish.

**Where do you call home?**
Franklin, NC (Cowee Mountain).

**What are your plans after graduation?**
Travel to Guatemala in June with HOPE for Guatemala mission trip, as well as serve as a summer camp guide at Whisper Mountain Summer Camp. After that… hopefully a job teaching Spanish!

**How do you plan to use Spanish?**
I plan to teach Spanish and spend my summers on mission trips in Central and South America. I want to use my Spanish to spread the Gospel of Christ, as well as help to reverse the effects of poverty by targeting it at its source.

**What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?**
The most meaningful experience thus far was my trip to Cuba with Lori Oxford in Fall 2014. Experiencing a communist/socialist culture after spending an entire semester studying it was beyond a learning experience: it opened my eyes to a new perspective and way of life. Cuba will forever be a part of my heart, and I can’t wait to go back.

**Anything else?**
I am looking forward to many more travel adventures, and cultural experiences. It definitely doesn’t stop with WCU!

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**DENISE CROWDER**

**What degree have you earned?**
I have a Spanish major and a Social Work minor.

**Where do you call home?**
Charlotte.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**
I plan to go to graduate school for a Social Work degree.

**How do you plan to use Spanish?**
I plan to work with children and families in D.S.S.
VICTOR UBALDO

What exactly are your majors/minors?
My majors are International Studies and Spanish; I also have a minor in Political Science.

Where do you call home?
I call home in a city called Albemarle, which is in Stanly County, NC. Also, Albemarle is about 45 minutes from Charlotte, NC.

What are your plans for right after graduation?
I plan to prepare for my Masters in Foreign Languages and Literatures at NC State University, starting in the fall of 2015.

How do you plan to use Spanish?
I plan on using my Spanish in a professional setting. I plan on using it to study more in-depth Spanish from across the Spanish-speaking world and to learn more about the characteristics of the Spanish language.

How do you use it now?
I use Spanish to communicate with my parents at home. I also use it to communicate with my extended family in Mexico.

What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?
The most meaningful Spanish-related moment was visiting Costa Rica when I was 18 years old. During the trip I got to visit many exciting features of the Central American country, including the famous rainforests, to zipline across the rainforest, and to visit the national stadium. However, the single most meaningful story was visiting a village that was established on an island. Many of the children there, as well as the adults, had never left the island, even with the bay just 500 yards away. On the village, many of the locals did not possess many material things except for a school, where the children went everyday to learn how to read and write. This event has made me rethink my values and how fortunate I am to live in the United States. I also have a seashell at home from when a little girl from the island handpicked one for me. This story has affected me so much that I would like to return in the future and do more for the locals than just watch.

What degrees have you earned?
I will be graduating this semester with a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Spanish. I plan on continuing my education further by obtaining an M.B.A. in two years after I have gained experience in the field.

What job do you have lined up?
I have accepted the position of Sales Associate at Navajo Express, Inc. It is a logistics company based out of Denver, Colorado that transports intermodal, refrigerated, and dry van freight all across the country. I’m very excited for the opportunity and hope to accomplish as much as I can for the company.

How will you use Spanish in your new job?
The main focus of my job is to keep our clients as satisfied as possible and handling any new business they wish to conduct while also promoting and offering our services to other companies that require our superior skill in transportation. With an ability to speak Spanish, I hope to also work within the company as a translator and interpreter for our employees and clients. Aside from internal affairs, some long term goals of mine would be to extend the company’s range of operations into Mexico and possibly the Caribbean Islands.
MIRANDA WELGOS

What degrees have you earned?
I double majored in Spanish and Business Administration.

Where do you call home?
Wake Forest, NC.

What are your plans after graduation?
I start my job as an Account Manager at Lab Support in Raleigh in June. Before that, I’m visiting friends and my host family in Chile for a month!

How do you plan to use Spanish?
As an Account Manager, I deal with many different businesses as my clients. I’m hoping I’ll have the opportunity to use my Spanish to communicate with businesses that otherwise wouldn’t be looked at. Also, Raleigh has a relatively large Hispanic population, so when I’m in the area I sometimes get the chance to communicate with different people.

How do you use it now?
I have a lot of friends on campus that I communicate with in Spanish so I can keep practicing. Also, I keep in touch with friends in Chile.

What is the single most meaningful Spanish-related story in your life?
This is a hard question for me to answer because, for me, everything that I’ve learned related to Spanish in my life has been meaningful. Even the small things have been steps towards the big stories in my Spanish-related life. All of my stories have gotten me to where I am today. These moments have helped me travel to five different countries in my four years, and they have all helped me learn a lot about myself. I may not have realized in the past that every moment was important, but looking back on it, I know that every second of anything Spanish-related made me who I am today, and I couldn’t be more proud of that.

Anything else?
I just want to say how thankful I am to have been a part of the Spanish program at WCU. I’m so proud that as a department we overcame the cutting of the Spanish program and that we continue to grow! I can’t wait for incoming WCU students to have all the amazing opportunities I did.

THOMAS ALLISON

What degree have you earned?
I have a B.A. in English (Professional Writing concentration) with a minor in Spanish.

Where do you call home?
I’m a good ol’ Sylva boy, born and raised.

What are your plans after graduation?
After graduation I will be moving to Durham, NC, where I will hopefully find a job with a non-profit in the Triangle and continue advocating for our state’s farmworkers.

WCU SPANISH mayo 2015

MINOR IN SPANISH

What degree have you earned?
I have a B.A. in English (Professional Writing concentration) with a minor in Spanish.

Where do you call home?
I’m a good ol’ Sylva boy, born and raised.

What are your plans after graduation?
After graduation I will be moving to Durham, NC, where I will hopefully find a job with a non-profit in the Triangle and continue advocating for our state’s farmworkers.
How do you plan to use Spanish?
If I can continue the type of work I did here with Vecinos for an organization in my new location, I imagine I will use my Spanish a good bit. Additionally, the neighborhood I am moving into is largely native speakers, so I hope I can use the Spanish I've learned around my home as well.

How do you use it now?
Right now I use Spanish mostly in classes or at my internship with Vecinos -- Occasionally, I speak it around my family and English-speaking friends to confuse them.

What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?
I can't really condense this into a single story, and I hate to keep harping on my internship experience, but what I've seen while working for Vecinos has been extremely meaningful to me. The care that Vecinos provides farmworkers and their families is definitely a wonderful thing, but more than that, it has been incredible to see how grateful patients are just to have a network of people who can understand and respond to their problems in a shared language.

Anything else?
I could not be more thankful for my time at WCU, which wouldn't have been nearly as educational nor as entertaining without the spectacular Spanish professors we have here.

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ANNA HARRIS

What programs did you complete here at WCU?
My major is Hospitality and Tourism Management and my minor is in Spanish.

Where do you call home?
I am originally from Mt. Airy but I currently live and work in Franklin.

What are your plans after graduation?
I am currently working in a local animal hospital. I intend to work there full time after graduation. In addition, I hope to go on cool trips with my two pit bulls. They love to travel, as do I.

How do you plan to use Spanish, and how do you use it now?
I will be using Spanish when I travel (which will hopefully be much more than what's occurred in the past 4 years) and in my job. I am a veterinary technician and sometimes we have non-English speaking clients come in. Often they have to use their young children to translate, and I hope to eliminate that barrier in my work. Unfortunately, at the moment, I don't really have many opportunities to use Spanish outside of work unless I'm eavesdropping on Spanish conversations. Hopefully when I start working full-time, I'll have more opportunities to utilize my acquired knowledge.

What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?
I don't necessarily have any Spanish stories per se, my mother spoke Spanish fluently and used it in her job many years ago when she worked at a textile mill, and I feel that I should continue learning as she was able to help and connect with many people that she may not have otherwise been able to connect with.

Anything else?
If you have pets, be sure to come see me at Noah's Ark Companion Animal Hospital in Franklin. If you don't have pets, get one. It'll be fun. My dogs have helped me keep my sanity over the past 4 years. They are indeed therapeutic.

The students profiled here are not the only WCUSpanish grads who finished up this semester! Joanna Dages is graduating with a Spanish B.A., and Justin Cummings, Karrington Garrett-Reaves, Samantha Green, Amanda Haile, Kelly Kinnear, Jessica McLamb, Mackensie Schrone, and Jessica Wright are also graduating with a minor in Spanish in Spring 2015. The faculty and staff of the WCUSpanish program are immensely proud of all of these accomplished graduates!
The last *TERTULIA* of the semester

Spring 2015 saw a sharp increase in *TERTULIA* attendance: nearly 100 students came to practice Spanish outside of class with WCU Spanish professors as well as other Spanish speakers in the WCU community.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE SPARKS CONVERSATION

On April 13, two WCU Spanish profs spoke with students about their work outside of class. Dr. Lori Oxford presented her findings on Latin American musicians’ responses to the September 2014 student massacre in Mexico in “#AyotzinapaSomosTodos: Responses to a Mexican Tragedy.” Dr. Santiago García-Castañón then treated the audience to a reading of his own poems, along with explanations of the circumstances that inspired them, in “Time to Reload: *la poesía como arma contra la injusticia.*

Questions about the Spanish programs at WCU? Ideas about student achievements to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Contact Dr. Lori Oxford.

¡Muchas gracias! ¡Hasta agosto!