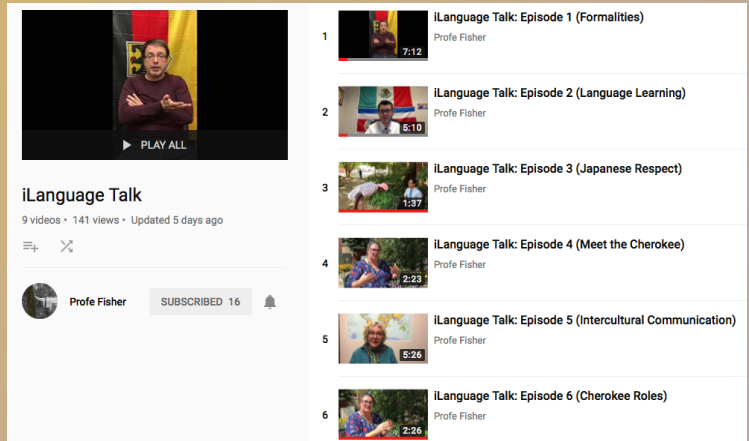


WCUSPANISH newsletter

World Language Department hosts *iLanguage Talks* on youtube

[Garrett Fisher](#), aka *Profe Fisher*, of WCUSpanish has created a [series of videocasts](#) on youtube showing how language and culture intersect. The first eight episodes feature faculty from the World Languages Department and the Intensive English Program, and they focus on aspects

such as non-verbal communication, Hispanic last name traditions, formalities and respect, societal organization within cultural groups, and other issues of language and culture. Are you interested in participating in an *iLanguage Talk*? There are plans to feature students in upcoming episodes, so if you have a suggestion or would like to appear, contact him with your idea. Be sure to subscribe to get notifications when new episodes are released.



Intercultural Dialogue coming up

Intercultural Dialogues are events in which faculty in the World Language Department share their research with the university community, especially with students interested in language, language learning, or culture. On Wednesday, November 8 at 4:00 in McKee 121, [Garrett Fisher](#) will give a talk titled “**Tricky Translation: Making Sense of the ST**”, in which he plans to discuss difficulties encountered when replacing one word in the source language with another word or term in the target language, particularly when there are multiple meanings represented by either word.



García-Castañón’s students interact with writer/editor/translator

In September, students of [Santiago García-Castañón](#) enjoyed a generous surprise visit from [Valerie Miles](#), an eminent figure in the publishing world, who is known not only for her editing and translating work, but also for her own writing. Miles spoke with students about having moved as a young woman to Spain from the United States and about actively pursuing a career while using one’s second language. WCUSpanish hopes that Miles’s busy schedule will allow for another visit to our campus soon!

Find out more about Valerie Miles and her work here:

- [her interview with Don Gonyea on NPR’s “Morning Edition”](#)
- [her contributions to Words Without Borders, an online international literary magazine](#)
- [follow her on twitter](#)

WCU alum returns to speak on “Art and the Immigrant Experience”



Byron Tenesaca, an alumnus of WCU who graduated in 2015 with degrees in Spanish and in Photography and Painting, recently returned to campus at the invitation of the Department of World Languages. Tenesaca spoke about having left Ecuador at age 11 to come to North Carolina, where he didn't know anyone (not even the family members with whom he lived) and didn't speak the language. Even the other Hispanic students at his new school spoke a different variety of Spanish, and fitting in was not easy. He mitigated the social, economic, and personal difficulties that he faced by immersing himself in wrestling and in art. Tenesaca has established a reputation for himself as a thoughtful artist and photographer, and he recently finished a stint as Photography Artist in Residence at The Bascom in Highlands, NC. See [his webpage](#) for more information about him and to check out more of his compelling work, and consider supporting this local artist by purchasing some of his work [here](#).

¡Te queremos, Byron, y los de WCUSpanish estamos muy orgullosos de todo lo que estás logrando!



WCUSpanish Student Profiles: TREVOR FENDER



Where are you from? Where have you lived?

I am from Asheville. I have lived in Cullowhee while attending WCU, and [Heredia, Costa Rica](#) while attending [Universidad Latina de Costa Rica](#).

What are some other places you have traveled?

I have been all over Costa Rica, and I spent a few days in both Nicaragua and Panama. I was in Costa Rica for a semester. On the weekends, I would travel to different parts of the country and stay by the beach or in Nicaragua and Panama. ¡Pura Vida!

You are majoring in Criminal Justice and Spanish. Why did you choose these, particularly in this combination?

I have always wanted to be a police officer. My plan coming to WCU was to study Criminal Justice all along, but I hadn't given any thought to a minor, much less a second major. Once I got here, I knew I had to start thinking about a minor. I absolutely loved Spanish in high school so I decided to look into the possibility of a Spanish minor. To my surprise, after making an eight semester plan I found out I could add Spanish as a second major and still graduate on time, even a semester early. I remember the excitement I felt when I figured that out, and I never looked back.

What have you learned lately that really spurred you to think?

In one of my Criminal Justice classes, Drugs & Society, we are currently discussing the [Iran-Contra affair](#). Basically, under the Reagan Administration, the federal government allowed anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua (the Contras) to sell large amounts of drugs to people in the inner cities of the United States in order to fund their war against the communist regime. U.S. military cargo planes were used to ship these drugs from Nicaragua to the U.S. One of these planes was shot down and destroyed, and another one wound up as a restaurant/bar in Costa Rica. It's called [El Avión](#), and I visited it in Manuel Antonio in Costa Rica. Look it up! This spurs me to think because we really don't know what is happening behind closed doors.

What defines you?

I hope to be defined by how I treat people. I hope people have positive thoughts and memories when they think of me and interactions I've had with them. I hope to be defined by relationships I make. Spanish can help with that. If I am able to relate with someone on a deeper level because of the fact that I can speak their native language, that makes me feel good.

Tell me about your motivation to study Spanish.

I have had a passion for the Spanish language ever since I started studying it. It's always been fun for me. I always looked forward to the day that I would feel comfortable and confident having a conversation in Spanish about almost any topic. The anticipation of that day is what kept me going. Now that I have achieved that goal, I want more. I plan to continue learning and practicing Spanish for the rest of my life, as there will always be room for improvement.

How do you foresee using Spanish in the future?

I am in the process of trying to become a police officer, and the agency I'm working with actually pays extra for people who speak a second language.* I hope to be able to use Spanish every day as I help people on the streets who may not speak English so well, and be the person someone calls when they need a Spanish speaker.

Anything else?

Send students my way if they have any interest or doubts about doing a Spanish immersion program. I could talk forever about my positive experiences with that.

* WCUSpanish would like to point out that research shows that proficiency in an additional language can pay off in a number of professions, not just law enforcement. See [this 2014 article](#) from The Economist for more details.

Significant Hispanic population increases at WCU

According to [Melissa Birkhofer](#) in the [English Department](#):

- in 2009, 1.6% of WCU's incoming students identified as Hispanic of any race
- in 2016, 7.1% of the incoming students did

This represents a 448% increase in WCU's Hispanic student community from 2009-2016!

These figures are not surprising, considering that between 1990 and 2006, when the vast majority of these students would have been born, North Carolina experienced an increase of 678% in the state's Hispanic population.

Keep in mind, too, that most recent estimates of the Spanish-speaking population in the USA hover around 50 million, even more than the entire population of Spain.

How are *your* Spanish skills? Do you need to brush up on what you've forgotten from high school? Do you have a volunteer trip or mission trip coming up? Do you have a hard time communicating with your Spanish-speaking family members? Do you need to improve your proficiency to better communicate with your neighbors, your co-workers, your clients, or their families? Contact [any Spanish professor](#) to figure out which Spanish class is best for you!

Don't miss your chance to practice at #tertulia!

WCUSpanish holds a weekly Spanish conversation hour at Tuck's Tap & Grille for students, faculty, and anyone else in the university community who wants to use their Spanish. Come practice with us!

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Thursday, Oct. 26

Monday, Nov. 20

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Monday, Nov. 6

Tuesday, Dec. 5

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!