

# WCU SPANISH GRADUATION PROFILES

**SIXTEEN** WCU students just finished their degrees in Spanish (yes, you read that right!). See the profiles for two of these students below:

## ASHLEIGH GAY

### What are your majors?

I earned degrees in Spanish and Psychology.

### Where do you call home?

Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

### What are your plans after graduation?

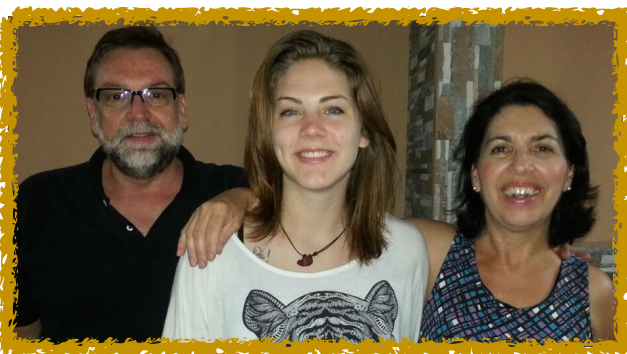
I plan to intern/volunteer with organizations in NC that advocate and protect Farmworker's rights, especially Latin American immigrant rights in the USA. I also plan to teach English in Spain for a year and then apply to grad school. Hopefully I'll really know what I want to do then. I also plan to learn Portuguese, French, and maybe more languages.

### How do you plan to use Spanish?

I am open to all opportunities when it comes to Spanish. From translating and interpreting to teaching and tutoring. I have become extremely passionate about Latin American rights in the USA and want to work as an activist. I want to work directly with native speakers. I also plan to use it in travel.

### How do you use it now?

I tutor at the Writing and Learning Commons and have done so for one year. I also use Spanish at my restaurant job to communicate more comfortably with Spanish speaking customers. I also communicate regularly with my friends from Costa Rica.



above: Ashleigh with her Costa Rican host family.

### What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?

I have had two large 'Spanish' impacts in my life, the first being my tutor Miranda Welgos who helped me and encouraged me to take part in my other impact which was study abroad in Costa Rica. I studied for a semester there. I lived with a host family and only took Spanish courses. I was fully immersed in the culture and fell absolutely in love with it and the language. No words are sufficient enough to describe just how much this semester abroad impacted my life. Not only did my Spanish improve tremendously, I

(Graduation Profiles continued from page 1)

was not able to speak/understand upon arrival and although I am not fluent, my ideas about the world and who I am also changed dramatically. (*WCU Spanish disagrees with Ashleigh's modest assessment of her proficiency!*) I highly recommend this to any student no matter what they are studying because the best way to understand your roots and further develop your ideas about the world is to take an uncomfortable step into a new world. A world where you are the 'American' in another culture but the visitor observing, living, and embracing a lifestyle completely different from your own.

### Anything else?

Just that I loved my four years at WCU and I love all the professors in the Spanish department. I'm thankful to each of them for being there and always providing advice where it is needed and praise. I encourage everyone student to develop relationships with the professors and to practice Spanish every day!!! :D

## DEVON YOUMANS

### What degrees have you earned?

I am a double major in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Spanish.

### Where do you call home?

I am from Webster, North Carolina.

### What are your plans for right after graduation?

I am getting married at the end of May, and then I will be attending graduate school here at Western for my masters in Speech-Language Pathology.

### How do you plan to use Spanish?

I plan to use Spanish in my workplace, to be able to better assist the Hispanic population with speech and language disorders, and to continue to travel.

### How do you use it now?

Right now I use it to talk to friends I have in Nicaragua, to help out in the speech clinic at Western, and for short term missions.

### What is your most meaningful Spanish-related story?

When I studied abroad in San José, Costa Rica one summer, I discovered the incredible joy of being immersed in a culture different than mine. From staying up late at night talking to my host mom about anything and everything, to learning how to cook meals from her I realized how small my view on the world was. This little taste of studying abroad immensely opened my eyes to a world that I cannot wait to continue to explore. I highly encourage people to study abroad!

### Anything else?

I am incredibly thankful for the Spanish program at WCU, and all the professors who push you to do and try your best. I loved all of the wide variety of classes, from history, reading full books in Spanish, to the translation/interpretation course. I not only learned a language, I also learned its history, and many more aspects about it.



The students profiled here are not the only WCUSpanish grads who finished up this semester! The WCUSpanish program wants to recognize all students who finished a Spanish B.A. this semester:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>John Bentley</b>     | <b>Laurissa Laudenslager</b> |
| <b>Sara Clark</b>       | <b>Bri Mack</b>              |
| <b>Laura Dowell</b>     | <b>Karina Melendez</b>       |
| <b>Caroline Duffy</b>   | <b>Laura Robinson</b>        |
| <b>Kaila Gant</b>       | <b>Casey Trejo</b>           |
| <b>Jessica Gonzalez</b> | <b>Chelsea White</b>         |
| <b>Ian Jeffreys</b>     | <b>Angelica Yanez</b>        |

The faculty and staff of the WCUSpanish program are immensely proud of all of these accomplished graduates!

*¡Enhorabuena!*

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!***