

WCU SPANISH GRADUATION PROFILES

Four students, all of whom are profiled here, will be graduating this December with degrees in Spanish. Be sure to congratulate them if you see them in McKee before they leave!

CAROLINE MARTIN



What degree(s) have you earned?

I have three majors: Philosophy and Religion with a concentration in Religion, International Studies, and, of course, Spanish.

Where do you call home?

I am from Bessemer City, NC (near Charlotte).

What are your plans for after graduation?

I am applying for the [Z. Smith Reynolds Fellowship](#), which is a two-year fellowship that will (hopefully!) allow me the opportunity to work in the non-profit sector after graduation as a liaison between the Z. Smith Reynolds trust foundation and representatives of non-profit organizations in North Carolina, to help in the grant-offering process.

How do you plan to use Spanish in your life?

I plan on utilizing my Spanish while doing a lot of world travel (especially South America), as well as helping out with non-profit organizations that

specialize in the rights of local immigrants.

How do you use it now?

I use Spanish on a daily basis (all of my classes are in Spanish) and in communication with Spanish-speaking customers at my job, as well as in personal correspondence with Spanish-speaking friends. I always jump at the chance to watch any movie or broadcast in Spanish, just to gain more practice, and I love listening to reggaeton and other genres of Spanish language music.

What is the single most meaningful Spanish-related story in your life?

Our time in Spain for summer classes this past May has literally been one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life. I am thoroughly grateful that I got to be a part of that amazing group, in that fantastic country, with such an awesome pair of professors! NEVER will I be able to forget that trip!

Anything else?

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to live and study at Western Carolina University and for the amazing professors, friends, and connections I have met in my time here. Never would I have thought, as an incoming chem major in the pre-dent program with aspirations of becoming an orthodontist, that I would end up with three of the most liberal degrees possibly attainable and that my worldview could change so drastically over the course of 4.5 years! But I would NEVER wish to change that in the least! I've enjoyed the entire journey, and as ready as I am to graduate, I know for a fact that I will miss this area, institution, and people, and always will I cherish the time I spent here.



KAREN COLLINS



What degree(s) have you earned?

I'm majoring in International Studies and Spanish, with a minor in Political Science.

Where do you call home?

Greensboro.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I am returning home to work and volunteer with World Relief as I consider teaching English overseas for the next school year.

How do you plan to use Spanish in your life?

I plan to use Spanish in my friendships with my coworkers back home. I would love to live in a Spanish-speaking country in the future.

How do you use it now?

Right now, I use Spanish at my job back home at McDonald's. I have worked there since high school on vacations and love that I have the opportunity to get to know my coworkers who speak Spanish. I have close family friends who live in Peru and whenever I have the opportunity I love to go with my church and help translate on medical mission trips.

(Graduation Profiles continued on page 2)

(Graduation Profiles
continued from page 1)

What is the single most meaningful Spanish-related story in your life?

I love the opportunity Spanish has given me to gain a richer understanding of a different culture. My coworkers are always so encouraging and willing to help me practice Spanish and have practically included me in their family. They are always bringing food to work or inviting me to go to a party or a nephew's cousin's baby shower just so that I can meet more people. I think Spanish has allowed me to develop deeper relationships and hear stories of family who still live outside the U.S.



CASSANDRA PHIPPS

What degree(s) have you earned?

I'm majoring in Spanish and International Studies with a minor in Political Science.

Where do you call home?

Hendersonville.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I'm going home to apply for every job I qualify for!

How do you plan to use Spanish in your life?

I am applying for jobs with immigration services and to teach English in Spain. I am also applying to work with migrant farm workers in North Carolina with [Vecinos](#).

How do you use it now?

I am currently a translator for Cracker Barrel, translating training material to new and current employees who do not speak or read English.

What is the single most meaningful Spanish-related story in your life?

That would have to be my study abroad experience, especially the time I spent

with my host mom. We watched TV, read García Lorca, chatted and shopped just like I would with my real mom. Also, being able to see first-hand the importance of things I have studied in the Spanish program at Western (going to El Museo del Prado, El Museo Reina Sofia, seeing the memorials and importance of the poets of the Generation of '27, the Civil War, and current political issues.

(WCU Spanish would like to note that Cassandra received a [Gilman Scholarship](#) for her studies in Granada, Spain.)



BRITTANY MASTROMATTEO



What degree(s) have you earned?

I have a B.S.Ed. in Spanish with a minor in Dance.

Where do you call home?

Originally New York, but now Wake Forest.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Continue to work at my two jobs (supervisor at McAlister's and guard instructor at Smoky Mountain High).

How do you plan to use Spanish in your life?

I hope to acquire a job as a Spanish teacher within the next two years. I will have a K-12 licensure.

How do you use it now?

I use Spanish quite often! I student-taught this semester and utilized a flipped classroom, so I used Spanish every day.

What is the single most meaningful Spanish-related story in your life?

That would definitely have to be the Valencia trip we took this summer. I learned so much about the language, the culture, about myself, and how important Spanish is to my life. I discovered that who I would come to call my dearest friend had been sitting right next to me in my Spanish classes for the last three years. Honestly, out of every friendship I have had in my college career, I can say that this one will last, and it was because of that trip. I also developed a deeper passion and love for the language and the culture. It was during this time that the Spanish program was going under Program Prioritization. I have never seen a group of individuals more dedicated to fight to keep something alive and running. Spanish is more than just a language. To us, it is a passion... something worth living for and something worth fighting for. I think studying abroad should be a requirement for all language programs.

Anything else?

I have had a wonderful experience here at WCU. I am so thankful that Chancellor Belcher decided to keep this program. I hope everyone can see the importance and value of this program not only to the university but to the students. One cannot truly receive an education without being cultured by another language. I am so honored to have received the Spanish portion of my education from the amazing Spanish professors here at WCU. My time with each professor has been unforgettable. This has truly been the experience of a lifetime. *¡Gracias a todos por su amor y apoyo durante mis años en WCU!*



The faculty and staff of the WCU Spanish program are immensely proud of all four of these accomplished graduates!

¡Enhorabuena!



SYMPOSIUM: CUBAN CULTURE

Lori Oxford's **SPAN 493 (Cuban culture)** class will share their final projects at a symposium open to the public. Topics include: the Cuban economy and black market, relations between Cuba and the U.S., Afro-Cuban syncretic religions, Cuban women's roles in society and the workforce, Cuban healthcare, and Cuba's response to the AIDS crisis. All presentations will be in English, so visitors from all programs are welcome. See schedule below to plan the presentations you'll attend!

Date	Time	Presenter / Topic		Place
Thursday, December 5, 2013	2:00-2:30	Margaret Horine	The Cuban Embargo: Politics and Economy	MK 116
	2:30-3:00	Sara Furr	Women and Prostitution	MK 116
Monday, December 9, 2013	9:00-9:30	Sarah Sheehan	Women in Cuba	MK 116
	9:30-10:00	Leo Gamez	The Black Market	MK 116
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	11:00-11:30	Natalie Hylton	Tourism's Effects on Society and Economy	MK 116
	11:30-12:00	Trevor McKernie	Politics and Relations with the USA and the USSR	MK 116
	12:00-12:30	Eric Wright	Cuban Missile Crisis	MK 116
	12:30-1:00	Jessica McLamb	Cuba's National Healthcare System	MK 116
	1:00-1:30	Angelette Stevens	Cuban Response to AIDS	MK 116
	1:30-2:00	Miranda Welgos	Duality in Cuban Life	MK 116
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	2:30-3:00	Tisha Carver	Afro-Cuban Religions	MK 121
	3:00-3:30	Jessica Wright	Urban Agriculture	MK 121
	3:30-4:00	Caroline Martin	Social Views of Homosexuality	MK 121
	4:00-4:30	Cleis Bonham	The Black Market: The Key to Cuban Survival	MK 121
Tuesday, December 10, 2013	10:30-11:00	Cara Allison	Women in Cuba Before and After the Revolution	MK 121
	11:00-11:30	Luis Gamez	Bay of Pigs	MK 121

On Friday, November 8, Santiago García-Castañón gave a reading of his poetry at Florida Atlantic University. Later that day, he gave a lecture at Florida International University on the topic “El expansionismo español del siglo XVI en el Lejano Oriente y su representación literaria.”

right:
Prof. García-Castañón is pictured reading one of his poems.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCU SPANISH

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES

Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 in McKee 121

At least once per semester, faculty members of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages present their research interests, creative writings, or other non-classroom activities to interested students. Spring 2013's Intercultural Dialogue, presented by Mark Couture and Lori Oxford, centered on Latin American popular music. The presentations for Fall 2013 will be given by [Santiago García-Castañón](#) (poetry reading) and [Lori Oxford](#) (research presentation).

SPRING 2014 CLASSES

Upper level offerings in Spanish for Spring 2014:

SPAN 301 - Conversation and Composition

SPAN 332 - North American and Caribbean

Literature(**extra section added to accommodate more students**)

SPAN 401 - Contrastive Features in Spanish and English

SPAN 441 - Laughter and Tears in Hispanic Literature

SPAN 461 - Spanish Phonetics, Morphology, and Syntax



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.



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Come by and talk to us in McKee.

¡Muchas gracias!