

WCU SPANISH

15 de enero de 2014

These eleven WCU students studied in **Valencia, Spain** in May and June 2013. This photo shows them in front of a still-functioning fountain from the 13th century.

Clockwise from top left: Jessica McLamb, Ashley Reber, Natalie Hylton, Nolan Cheap, Darién Hewett, Trevor McKernie, Allen Clark, Jessica Wright, Brittany Mastromatteo, Jill West, Caroline Martin.



WCU en Valencia 2014 program now includes homestays, trip to Madrid

The *WCU en Valencia* weekend in Madrid, plus all the program has taken place in Valencia, Spain every summer since 2010. Dozens of WCU students have studied there, and many have gone back for more, returning to Spain to visit, travel, or even work.

The 2014 program will take place in Valencia from June 10 to July 2 and is now taking applications from students who have completed SPAN 232 or higher and want to take SPAN 481 and 493 in Valencia.

For more info, please contact Dr. Lori Oxford in her office (McKee 128B) or write her at lfoxford@wcu.edu.

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Iglesia de La Seu in Xàtiva, Spain, seen from the belltower.

WCUSPANISH STUDENT PROFILES NATALIE HYLTON

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Greensboro, NC. Now my home is shared between Greensboro and Cullowhee.

You have a long history with Spanish, don't you?

Yes, when I was around four years old and my parents were looking into elementary schools, they chose to send me to Jones Elementary. This is a magnet school that offers a Spanish immersion program. Our program immersed us in the language from kindergarten. All through elementary school all my classes were in Spanish. This program continued through high school. In middle school about half the classes were in Spanish and half were in English, and then in high school we only had Spanish literature classes. I have been studying Spanish for 16 years now and it has been an amazing experience.

What is the most interesting place you've visited?

I've been lucky enough to have great opportunities to travel to a few different countries over the years. My first adventure abroad was while I was in high school and I was able to be a translator for my youth group. I got very close to the family of the church who hosted us and still hear from them every now and again. I've also been to Mexico, Spain, France, and Cuba. The most interesting place by far has been Cuba. I have loved every country I've visited but Cuba holds a special place in my heart. I truly believe that it's a beautiful and misunderstood country. Many have this bad impression of Cuba and that it's scary or

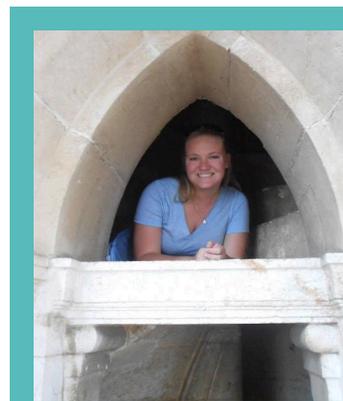
dangerous, but never once was I scared in Cuba. I always felt welcome. Living on "Cuban time" has given me a different perspective on life. I've learned more about Cuba and their government and come to understand more about things such as health care. Cuba has policies in place from which I believe the U.S could learn, from healthcare being a human right to the fact that everyone there has somewhere to live. Don't get me wrong: Cuba isn't perfect, but who is?

Why International Studies and Spanish?

I would love to be able to do something that allows me to travel while learning about other cultures and using my Spanish.

Do you get to use your Spanish regularly?

I have found myself using it a lot when I travel. I work in a sales job and I have had customers sample a product and talk either to their spouse or children in Spanish or even tell me "No English." Sometimes without meaning to, I'll answer something in Spanish. I have found myself doing that more and more, then we carry on a conversation in Spanish for a few minutes. Many customers are surprised when I answer a question for them in Spanish.



Natalie Hylton

sophomore,
International Studies
and Spanish

left: in Iglesia de La Seu,
Xàtiva, Spain

¡Comparte tu historia!

The next WCU Spanish newsletter will include short anecdotes from students about a memorable time when their Spanish came in handy. Please send your story (around 100 words) to Dr. Oxford at lfoxford@wcu.edu.



from left: Dr. Centeno-Pulido in Oviedo, Spain; leading a walking tour in Valencia, Spain; in the Plaza de la Revolución, Havana, Cuba.

WCU Spanish welcomes new professor: Alberto Centeno-Pulido

The Spanish program in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages welcomes a new professor in Spanish and linguistics, [Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido](#).

Dr. Centeno-Pulido was born in [Valencia, Spain](#), where he grew up and completed the Spanish equivalent of a B.A. in English. After living and working for a while in Great Britain, he moved to the USA, where he finished a M.A. in Hispanic Linguistics and a Ph.D. in Linguistics. He comes to us from UNCA, where he has taught classes in language, linguistics, and literature for three years.

Many WCU students already know Dr. Centeno-Pulido from the *WCU en Valencia* program, in which he teaches a class on the culture and history of that region of Spain. For those who don't, though, WCU Spanish asked him a few questions to get to know him better.

What classes will you teach at WCU?

This Spring I will be teaching SPAN 102 and Spanish Phonology, Morphology and Syntax class (SPAN 461), plus supervising the B.S. Ed majors doing their student teaching this semester.

In the future, I would like to continue introducing our students to different disciplines within Linguistics, especially the interaction between Syntax and Discourse, which was a main topic in my doctoral research.

What are your languages?

I was born in eastern Spain, where another Romance language (Catalan, or as we call it, Valencià) is spoken. I grew up in a Spanish/Castilian-speaking household, so that is my mother tongue. I learned Valencià in school, but I did not become

fluent until I went to college, since many of the people I went to classes with were Valencià-speaking. So, I was in the minority and decided to use their language (which I could speak and write) instead of making them switch to mine.

To make a long story short, I speak Spanish, Catalan/Valencià, and English. I have reading knowledge of French. I can understand almost all the standard Italian that is spoken to me. In grad school, I took one semester of Japanese (which I loved, and would like to resume at some point in my life.)

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to play a number of instruments. First and foremost, the Highland Bagpipes. I'm sure at some point I will bring my set to campus and play a few tunes. I also play ukulele and recently started taking classical guitar lessons.

I like to watch TV, a lot. Mostly politics, but also drama and comedy. Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, Firefly, Community, The Big Bang Theory, Game of Thrones, Battlestar Galactica, The IT Crowd, or Band of Brothers are amongst my DVD collection. I also love to watch cartoons with my daughter. We are in the middle of season 2 of Phineas and Ferb.

What's one thing that people probably wouldn't guess about you?

I am a self-taught woodworker. I have been working on making my own set of bagpipes for a while. I find it very relaxing and rewarding. I would like to explore other types of instrument making as well, mostly stringed instruments (guitars, violins, lutes).

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

Upper level offerings in Spanish for Spring 2014:

SPAN 301 - Conversation and Composition

SPAN 332 - North American and Caribbean Literature

SPAN 401 - Contrastive Features in Spanish and English

SPAN 441 - Laughter and Tears in Hispanic Literature

SPAN 461 - Spanish Phonetics, Morphology, and Syntax

WaLC TUTORING AVAILABLE

The [Writing and Learning Commons](#), or WaLC, is currently offering tutoring for this semester in Spanish 102, 231, 232, 301, 331, and 471, with student tutors Marina Bonilla-Conejo, Sara Clark, Freddy Gamez, and Miranda Welgos. If you think you'll need help in any of these classes, call 227-2274 or click on the link 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.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONTEST

Tuesday, March 18 in Ramsey Center

The [32nd annual Foreign Language Contest](#) for high school students will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at Ramsey Center. The Department

of MFL sponsors this competition for regional high school students. The contest involves events in contemporaneous speaking, poetry recital, musical performance, and even a quiz bowl. WCU students and faculty serve as judges in this competition. If you would like to serve as a judge, please let your Spanish professor (or the MFL administrative assistant, Melissa Allen in MK 118) know.

¡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. Talk to your Spanish professor for more information, and watch for flyers to be posted soon with details.

HERR DOKTOR LEHMAN TO TEACH SPANISH

[Dr. Will Lehman](#), a German professor in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages, will begin to teach classes in the Spanish program this semester. *Willkommen*, Dr. Lehman!



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 or check us on the [WCU Spanish program's webpage](#).

¡Muchas gracias!