

Enlaces Culturales

2017 - 2018

Honoring Retiring Faculty

A treasured member of the Wellesley community since 1996, Senior Lecturer **Verónica Darer** is retiring this year. A much-loved professor of Spanish language and culture courses, including Spanish for Heritage Speakers, Verónica has also taught a class on the impact of diversity on educational equity for the Education Department. Verónica's research focuses on analyzing teaching and learning processes to better understand students' opportunities for learning success. She often presents at national conferences to share and learn creative and effective ways to teach and learn languages. The co-author of *Reflejos*, a Spanish language, literature, and culture text, Verónica is an active member of various professional organizations, including the AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) and ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages). In her free time, she likes to spend time with her family, which includes five grandchildren. She also loves to watch independent films, go to the theatre and concerts, and dance salsa and merengue. The Latin dance classes she has hosted at her home have always been a student favorite! Verónica will be teaching the Heritage Learners course one last time during the 2018 fall term. After that, she will remain in the Boston area, and hopes to keep in touch with the Wellesley community. She is looking forward to hearing from former students, and can be reached at vdarer@wellesley.edu.

Jill Syverson-Stork, Senior Lecturer in Spanish, is also retiring after 27 years of teaching and service at Wellesley College. Jill has touched the lives of students and colleagues alike with her service as Faculty Director of Casa Cervantes, her lively annual presentation on Moche ceramic art for intermediate language students at the Davis Museum, and her heartfelt dedication to her students at all levels of the Spanish curriculum. We will all miss the light of her beautiful smile. Below, Jill answers some questions and reflects on her years at the College.

What have you enjoyed about teaching in the Spanish Department?

The Spanish Department at Wellesley has a remarkable history. To serve in the same Department where Pedro Salinas, Jorge Guillén, and Justina Ruiz de Conde gave classes, is a unique privilege. Courses on Spanish poetry or literature of the the post-Civil War period take on a special significance when you are teaching on the campus that gave refuge to those eminent writers and political exiles. Staying true to the Department's spirit of excellence and inclusivity has been a mission I have shared proudly with fine colleagues in the Department, and I am grateful to each for continually challenging and inspiring me. Finally, reading the works of Cervantes with our students has been--hands down--my greatest joy, and perhaps what I will miss the most in retirement. Still so current, so funny, so compassionate, so ironic, and so full of hope, Cervantes' works are perennially engaging and relevant, and I have truly reveled in seeing our students discover and embrace this truth.

Do you have a favorite memory?

How about 5? Teaching in the Davis Museum--linking works in that fabulous collection to the themes of our courses, oftentimes bringing students into the museum for the first time; having lunch with the newly chosen residents of Casa Cervantes each year; celebrating Latinx college employees with Jael Matos and colleagues at our annual event with the Office of Latinx Students; sitting in the audience at two Tanner panels organized by students of my courses: Span 302: Cervantes and the Quijote, and Span 274: Cervantes in Africa--a heart-warming delight!

What are you looking forward to doing in retirement?

Spending more leisure time with my beautiful granddaughters; enjoying old rituals and new endeavors with my husband, Francisco, and our children; taking up a new hobby (painting), and having time for old ones (reading, writing, cooking, gardening, walking); going to the seashore; reconnecting with old friends around the world; and remembering, daily, that in Spanish we call retirement "jubilación" for a reason :-).

This is not goodbye ...

Eileen Mary O'Connor, prolific translator, writer, and teacher, has served as Lecturer in the Spanish Department and the Writing Program since 2014. Eileen's gracious willingness, her buoyant spirit, and incisive mind have enriched the communal and intellectual life of our Department. We thank her also for this Newsletter, which she and Jael Matos have created and edited with such love and dedication for the past 4 years. Eileen embarks upon new adventures in the Fall of 2018.

What have you enjoyed most about teaching in the Spanish Department at Wellesley?

I have been so lucky to come to work every day for the last four years and see the friendly faces of colleagues who have both inspired and encouraged me. I've worked here under the leadership of both Carlos – V and R – and the support they have given me has been incredible. It has meant more to me than I can express. I have also been inspired by the incomparable Jael Matos. She is a rare person who approaches work, and life, with her whole heart. I have learned so much from both working with Jael, and also quietly observing her, which as a writer is one of my favorite things to do. I have also loved teaching my students. When I began to teach here, I thought I liked teaching, but now I know I love it. That is because of all I have learned from teaching Wellesley women.

In addition to teaching Intermediate Spanish at Wellesley, you have also been teaching in the Writing Program. How did this enrich/challenge your own creative writing?

Teaching writing reminds me to be aware of the experience of the reader when I am writing. I have become more conscious of what I am trying to convey, more careful about the weight of every word and whether it adds up—or comes close to adding up – to the vision I have in my mind. Also, reading post-Boom Latin American literature in translation with my writing students has provoked such amazing conversations in class: I often jot down little notes in the margins of my lesson plans with ideas for stories or essays I may want to write myself!

Describe your current writing discipline, and your current creative writing (book) project.

I wish I had more discipline! I write whenever I can. Even when I don't have time to devote hours to writing, I keep a notebook handy to record new ideas. My current project is one I have been working on for years. It is a coming-of-age saga inspired by my grandmother's girlhood in Ireland. At the beginning of the novel, which takes place during the Irish War for Independence in 1920, my protagonist is grappling with her mother's abandonment of the family. Her father explains her mother's sudden departure with this story: her mother was a seal-woman who found her pelt and returned to the sea. The mythology of the selkie has given me a framework with which to explore how a young woman matures amidst both familial and social instability. A key theme of the novel is self-acceptance, how what we perceive as flaws can become our greatest strengths. Another important theme is how courageous young people can change society.

As a writer, where do you most often draw inspiration? How do you re-new your creative energies?

Writing has always been my way to make sense of things. Writing words on a blank page is like taking a deep breath. It's my way to celebrate, to mourn, and everything in between. So, I take my inspiration from everything, everyday. But my greatest inspiration comes from my interactions with people, and spending time in nature. And I've found that we aren't that much different from the birds who become so busy and full of song every year when spring comes to campus. To renew my creative energies, I take long walks. Lake Waban is one of my favorite places to recharge.

Tell us what you will do next?

I have begun work on what might become a memoir. It's the story of my discovery of my second language. Spanish has been my companion through the twists and turns of life since I was in college. The working title is "Spanish: My Love Affair with a Language."

Faculty/Staff Updates

Marjorie Agosín has had a productive academic year. During the fall, she lectured at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on the subject of women's political imagination. She also gave a lecture for young adults at the NY Historical Society on the meaning of creativity. In October, she was invited by the Columbia Global Center in Santiago, Chile to lecture on the Russian poet Anna Akhmatova. During the spring, she was invited by the Chilean embassy in Quito to speak about Gabriela Mistral. She then she traveled to Orvieto, Italy to teach as a part of the Harvard Program on Refugees and Trauma. Marjorie has continued to publish in the field of creative literature. Her *Arbol florido*, a novel for young adults, was published in March by Mis Raices. This book represented Chile at the Bologna children's book fair. Her collection of essays, *Translating the Soul*, was published by Sherman Asher Press in April. Her new collection of poetry, *Braiding Memories*, will be published in the fall.



Her book *Reimagining Anne Frank* will be published in Korean at the end of this summer and a play based on the book will be staged by the Brandeis University Center for Research on Women in the fall. This year, Marjorie organized many cultural activities for the Spanish Department and the College. Together with Thomas Nolden of the German Department, she organized an international conference on Roberto Bolaño. In the spring, together with Adam Weiner, she organized a film and reading about the poet Anna Akhmatova. This April she organized an exhibit on the photographs of Samuel Shats with Jael Matos and Inela Selimovic. This May, Marjorie Agosín receives an honorary doctorate from Washington and Lee University. It is her fourth honorary doctorate.

The translation of **Evelina Gužauskytė's** book, *Christopher Columbus's Naming in the diarios of the Four Voyages (1492-1504): A Discourse of Negotiation*, into Lithuanian was supported by the Huntington Fund at Wellesley College and the Ministry of Education of Lithuania. She presented the book at the Vilnius Book Fair, the largest annual book fair in the Baltic countries that drew over 17,000 listeners. She was also an invited speaker on post-colonial studies at Vilnius University, and on the digital humanities at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was interviewed for the journal *IQ* in Lithuania, and Wellesley College News. In the spring, she spearheaded the organizing of the capstone symposium entitled *Shifting (the) Boundaries: Blended Learning, Digital Humanities, and the Liberal Arts* that marked four years of the Blended Learning Initiative. Under her leadership, the initiative has continued to thrive, including bringing to the community the successful Blended Learning Speaker Series, and supporting over 50 faculty members in the humanities, whose projects have ranged from text mining in a literature course, to producing an original video series for language instruction, to a virtual reality reconstruction of a literary space. In her own teaching, Evelina introduced



students to two new digital humanities tools: StoryMapJS Knight Lab and Scalar. Active in both fields – colonial Latin American literature and the digital humanities – she wrote peer reviews for the journals *Hispanófila* and *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. At home, together with her husband, she continues to be a proud parent of two young girls, Emma and Audrey.

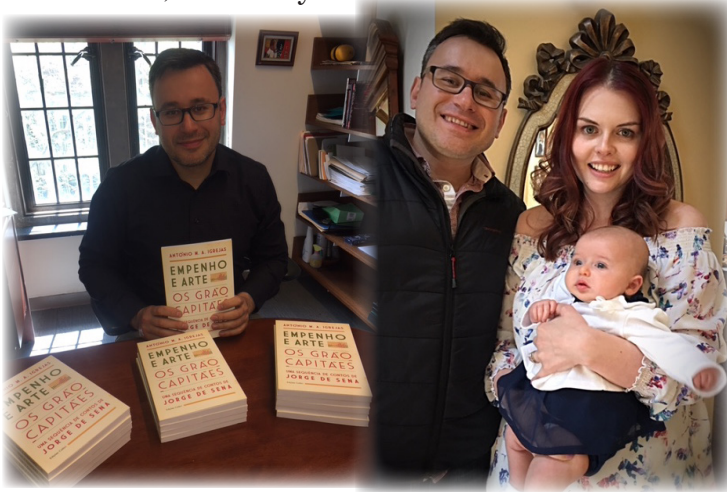


Koichi Hagimoto had a great year, thanks to everyone’s support, especially from his family. Together with Dr. Kim Beauchesne (University of British Columbia) and Dr. Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger (Independent Scholar), he co-edited a special issue on the influence of Asia in Latin American literature for *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana* (forthcoming). During this three-year-project, he collaborated with scholars from many countries, including Cuba, Argentina, Panama, France, Germany, Canada and the United States. In January, Koichi took a group of students to Cuba for his wintersession program. Despite the challenges posed by a deteriorating relationship between Cuba and the United States, the program was extremely successful as students were exposed to a wide range of topics related to Cuban society, such as history, literature, art, religion, education, and healthcare. In Spring 2018, Koichi taught a class with Professor Patrick McEwan from Economics, called “Introduction to Latin American Studies.” While he enjoyed learning about Latin America from a different disciplinary and methodological perspective, the experience has reassured him that economics is definitely not his field! On a more personal note, Koichi and his wife are very excited to share that they are expecting a second baby this summer. Tai-shi already knows he will be a big brother and is looking forward to meeting his little sister.



Nancy Hall continued her scholarly work in the field of contemporary Mexican literature and collaborated with the editorial board of the *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos* as a peer reviewer. At Wellesley she gave a guest lecture on the poetry of Octavio Paz, served as a mentor on the Medical Professional Advisory Committee, spoke as part of the “Diálogos con profesores” series, and was re-elected by her peers to the AC-CFA, a group that helps set policy for faculty appointments. Beyond Wellesley Nancy remained active in bringing affordable housing to the town of Medfield, MA, and supplied the Spanish translations for the placards carried by thousands of demonstrators during the #Marchforourlives rally in Boston.

António M.A. Igrejas taught the course “The Cultures of the Portuguese-Speaking World Through Film, Fiction and Music” for the first time at Wellesley. The course was taught in English and cross-listed with the Africana Studies Department. He also taught Intensive Elementary and Intermediate Portuguese courses, and directed independent studies on Brazilian environmental activism and women-owned businesses in Portugal. He was awarded funds for a Library Summer Technological Project to hire a student assistant and continue his text analytics (text mining) project on the novel *The Land at the End of World*. António’s book entitled *Empenho e Arte – Os Grão-Capitães: uma sequência de contos* de Jorge de Sena was published in the Spring. The book deals with the short story sequence literary genre and the Estado Novo authoritarian regime in Portugal. António and Emily also welcomed their first child, Camilla Irene, in January.



Eileen O’Connor began the academic year as a fiction contributor at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference at Middlebury College in August. Back on campus, she enjoyed teaching beginning and intermediate Spanish, along with her First Year Writing course, “Bestsellers after the Boom: Latin American Literature in Translation.” It was a great year for translation. Eileen’s translations of poetry from the Spanish were published in the journals *Washington Square Review*, *Still Magazine*, and *New Poetry in Translation*, and will appear this autumn in *All Translation*, an anthology of literary translation edited by the Literary Translation Program at the University of Connecticut. This is her last year as a member of the Spanish Department, and she is very grateful for all the wonderful opportunities for learning and growth that she has experienced during these past four years.

Carlos Ramos began the summer at the “12th International Conference on The Arts in Society” at the American University in Paris, where he delivered a paper on the digital reproduction of works of art entitled “Aura and Spectacle.” In July, he hosted Professor Miquel Berga, former Dean of the Humanities at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, as part of our faculty exchange agreement with that institution. In late October, he delivered a paper at an interdisciplinary colloquium (“America as Theater of Spanish Modernity”) organized by Columbia University and Dartmouth College: “Visions of New York. Architects and Writers Imagine Modernity, 1918-1937.” In April, he presented at an international conference on the links between Spain and North America entitled “New Cultural Cartographies.” His paper dealt with digital restitutions of original art pieces, from museums in the U.S. to their original sites in Spain. The conflict in Catalonia has also been on Professor Ramos’ mind this academic year. In the fall, his “Cultures of Spain” class followed developments closely, and in November he organized a talk by professor Jaime Lluç (Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) a specialist on the constitutional and political accommodation of national diversity in multinational democracies. Professor Ramos joined Jaime Lluç and professor Alejandra Osorio from the History Department for a panel after his talk. With the rest of the department, Professor Ramos actively participated in the search committee that resulted in the hiring of our new Assistant Professor: Antonio José Arraiza Rivera. We are all very excited to welcome him to the department!



Eileen in the “cloud forest” of Costa Rica



Joy Renjilian-Burgy (“Alegría”) has enjoyed an active year of participation in regional and national conferences on language and culture. Once again, she organized “Film Day” at Wellesley College in partnership with the AATSP, of which she is MA state president.

The highlight of her year was her Seminar on Hispanic Literature and Culture: Francisco X. Stork, LatinX author of novels for adolescents, gave a powerful workshop on being Latino in the United States, as manifested in his books. At Wellesley, she serves as a Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA. She has continued to participate in an invited seminar at Harvard on Heritage Learners. Alegría is a Trustee on the Board of the National Armenian Museum of America.



Inela Selimovic has had a fruitful academic year, one marked by her participation in several international conferences. She presented “Lucía Puenzo’s *El niño pez* (2009): Nomadic Minors and Homemaking” at the 2017 LASA conference in Lima, Peru in May of 2017. In July of 2017, Inela presented “Sensorial Youths in Lucrecia Martel’s *Rey muerto* (1995)” at the Philosophy-Film conference at Lancaster University, England. In March of 2018, she partook in the XXI Congreso de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos in Quito, Ecuador. These research undertakings continue to enrich Inela’s teaching. She found it rewarding to work with so many motivated, smart, and committed students this year, particularly in her language courses, SPAN 275 The Making of Latin American Cultures, and SPAN 303 Argentine Women Filmmakers.

Inela’s service remained equally dynamic. In April of 2018, she organized a lecture at Wellesley College titled “Placeres en el duelo: Performance y filiaciones no normativas en la posdictadura argentina,” which was delivered by Argentine scholar Cecilia Sosa from CONICET-Universidad Tres de Febrero, Argentina. Inela furthermore concluded her second year of coordinating Intermediate Spanish in May of 2018. Her service on another two committees (Agenda Committee and International Study Committee) will have concluded this May.

In addition to an active service engagement at Wellesley College, Inela published several scholarly pieces. She published three reviews in the peer-reviewed journal, *Chasqui*, on Pablo Trapero’s *El clan* (2015), Marjorie Agosín’s *Las islas blancas* (2017), and Mariana Enríquez’s *Las cosas que perdimos en el fuego* (2017). Responding to an invitation to submit a chapter to *New Visions of Adolescence in Contemporary Latin American Cinema*, edited by Geoffrey Maguire and Rachel Randall (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), she contributed “Sensorial Youths: Gender, Eroticism, and Agency in Lucrecia Martel’s *Rey muerto* (1995).” Inela is pleased to embark on her junior leave during AY 2018-2019 and equally delighted about the publication of her first book, *Affective Moments in the Films of Martel, Carri, and Puenzo* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Carlos Vega has made good use of his current sabbatical (Spring 2018) to work on his on-going research into Hispanic hagiography. Most recently, he has expanded upon his Medieval focus to include representations of sanctity in more contemporary Spanish and Latin American literature and folklore. He is working on the theory that the veneration of apocryphal saints created normally by “popular culture” incorporate societal tensions in terms of gender, sexuality, and political and economic marginalization. He is working on what he calls a “Theology of Frustration” according to which the disenfranchised turn to invented saints that may contradict hegemonic forces. He holds out the fictitious Jesús Malverde (“patron saint” of drug lords and those wishing to cross the US/Mexico border), la Santa Muerte (a female figure of “Holy Death”), Santa Anastasia Escrava (a popular expression of Afro-Brazilian culture) and other figures as embodiments of this current.

He continues to enjoy his “hobby” (some would say obsession) with the creative image. His unusual compositions of found objects, acrylic, antique Bisque doll parts, popular religious images, costume jewelry, and distressed mirrors both surprise the viewer and invite a questioning of graphic perspective, composition, sanctity, and memory. Images can be viewed on his Facebook page, “Carlos Alberto Vega.”

During the fall of 2017, he repeated his now well-known Calderwood/Spanish seminar “Unity and Diversity in the Hispanic World.” Students examined the complex interweaving of identity, language, race, ethnicity and international intrigue represented by such terms as Hispanic, Latino/a, “Raza,” and others. As always, students dissected how concepts of identity could be manipulated, not always for inclusivity and community building, but to justify conquest and colonialism in their various manifestations. He also taught a survey in Medieval and Renaissance literature that highlighted the multi-lingual, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of Spain and how it informed the ways Spain influenced the world.

He very much enjoys keeping in touch with former students and reading about their professional and personal lives through social media and in direct communication, and continues to be involved with our departmental study abroad programs (both PRESHCO in Cordoba and Wellesley/Middlebury in Chile).



*Carlos Vega with current S18
“PRESHQUITAS” in Córdoba on the
staircase of the Círculo de la Amistad*

¡Feliz Quince, Jael!

This year marks Academic Administrator Jael Matos' 15th year as the fearless leader of the Spanish Department! Below, she shares some thoughts about her time here.

What brought you to work at the Spanish Department?

I was initially hired by a temp agency. What got me through the door was the fact I speak Spanish. I was asked to stay on because I was able to work with a culturally diverse group of people. My personality blended well with the department.

What is your favorite thing about working here?

Every new academic year, I get to welcome first-years to Wellesley and the department. During their four years here, I help students, advising them on things like language courses and study abroad. I love seeing them grow up from young ladies into women. Also, the fact that I am in touch with so many alums is special. It feels good when I see where they are and know that I have impacted their lives in some way. Another favorite thing is being part of the college community. It's a beautiful place. Every time I arrive on campus, I tell myself how happy I am to work at Wellesley College and that I love my job. That's something you don't hear everyday.

Do you have a favorite memory?

The opportunities I have been given to travel to our study abroad programs in Spain, Chile, and Mexico. I went to connect with administrators at these programs. It was a chance to get to know the programs and to share this knowledge with students before they go abroad. This makes students feel more confident when choosing a program. I will never forget these trips, and I am very grateful to the department for allowing me to experience travel abroad. It has opened me up to diverse cultures.



On December 13, 2017 Jael received the Staff Recognition Award for being "Agent of Innovation" from President Paula A. Johnson.

If it wasn't for the department, I don't think I would have traveled outside of the U.S.

What has been your greatest challenge?

Planning events is stressful, but it's also my favorite part of my job. For every department event, I set the bar higher for myself. I love worrying about the details and seeing everything through from beginning to end. From the Roberto Bolaño Conference this fall to the Blended Learning Symposium in the spring and everything in between, each event is a reflection of our department, so it has to be perfect. And my challenge is to always outdo myself every time.



Portuguese @ Wellesley

The Portuguese program continues to offer new opportunities to students who study Portuguese and who are majoring in a variety of disciplines. Siena Harlin and Silvia Pera returned from their study abroad, where, according to them: “After three years of studying Portuguese at Wellesley, we decided to test our language skills (and pick up some slang) by playing on a local rugby team while studying abroad in Lisbon, Portugal.” Daniel Black studied in Brazil, and stated, “My year abroad in Brazil was transformative, and I’m grateful for the foundation that Portuguese classes at Wellesley provided.” Cecilia Barreto interned in the summer at Centro de Investigação e Formação em Género e Família (CIGEF) in the Cabo Verde islands. Leilani Stacy attended the “Portuguese Women’s Entrepreneurship Day Conference” in the Fall and will be in Cabo Verde this summer as an intern at CIGEF. Leilani was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to work on her research project in Portugal after graduation: “Understanding Women-Owned Businesses’ Contributions to the Portuguese Economy.”

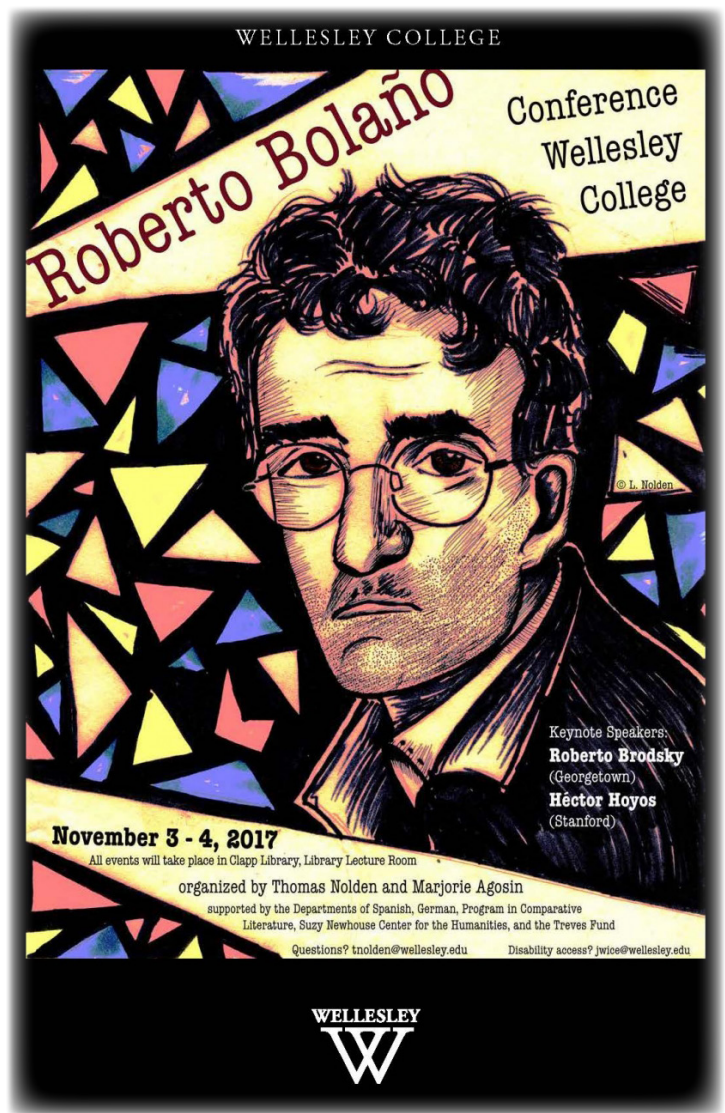
*Right: PORT 256/AFR 256 Class
Below: Leilani Stacy in Lisbon, Portugal*



*Above: Danielle Black in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
Left: Siena Harlin and Silvia Pera*

Eventos Culturales

In a conference organized by **Marjorie Agosin** and **Thomas Nolden** of the German Department, more than a dozen scholars from the U.S. and abroad convened at Wellesley in November to explore the work of Spanish-language poet and novelist Roberto Bolaño. Among the keynote speakers were professor Héctor Hoyos (Stanford) and Roberto Brodsky (Georgetown and Embassy of Chile). Bolaño, born in 1953 in Chile, left behind a fascinating oeuvre informed by European and Latin American traditions of writing when he died in Barcelona in 2003. Bolaño's work is important for anybody who is intrigued by the notions of writing under dictatorship, art and violence, and Latin American culture and global literature. As such, the three-day conference drew a large and diverse crowd of students, scholars and other members of the community from Wellesley and beyond. The conference was co-sponsored by the Department of Spanish and the Department of German, and supported by the Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, the Office of the Dean of the College, the Treves Fund, the Wilson Fund, and the Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature, English, History, Writing, and Jewish Studies. Special thanks goes to Academic Administrators, **Jael Matos**, Spanish and **Katie Sango-Jackson**, Russian/German.



Shifting (the) Boundaries: Blended Learning, Digital Humanities, and the Liberal Arts

April 6 -7, 2018

Pendleton West
Room 201

Margaret Clapp
Library Lecture Room

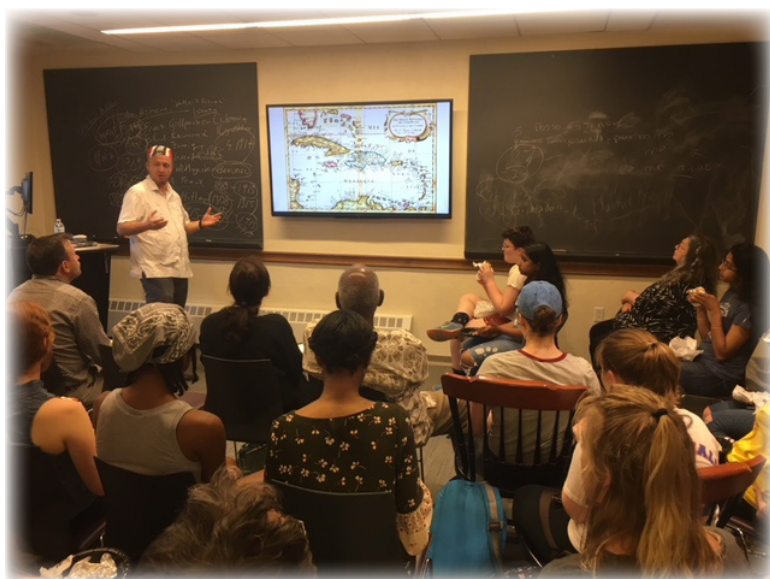


Blended Learning
INITIATIVE

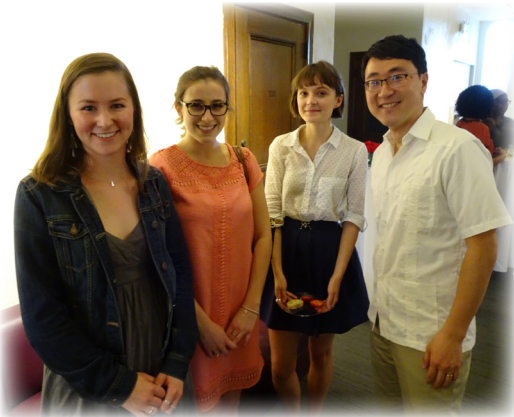
On April 6 and 7, the Wellesley College Blended Learning Initiative marked its fourth year of work with a capstone symposium entitled *Shifting (the) Boundaries: Blended Learning, Digital Humanities, and the Liberal Arts*. The event, which took place at the College under the direction of **Evelina Gužauskytė**, Faculty Director of the Initiative and Associate Professor of Spanish, was made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The symposium, which drew over 100 participants from 25 institutions in the Northeast and beyond, included 30 speakers from Wellesley. Panel discussions detailed a variety of blended learning and digital humanities projects at the College, such as an Italian online course, a virtual reality evolutionary anatomy lab, and a summer course in Iceland that integrated digital tools and field research. Since the Blended Learning Initiative began in 2014, more than 50 Wellesley faculty members, representing 21 academic departments in the humanities and interdisciplinary subjects, have used blended learning to “shift the boundaries” – spatial, disciplinary, and methodological – in humanities scholarship and teaching in the digital age. As Professor Gužauskytė explains, the initiative “reinforces the core goals of humanistic inquiry that are centuries old but also to allow us to situate our teaching and scholarship in today’s fast-paced and networked digital age.”







Honoring our Spanish Majors





Charlando con Beatriz Melgar Campos

Our Language Assistant from the University of Córdoba, Spain, shares her thoughts and experiences during her year at Wellesley College

Was this your first time in the U.S.?

I came to the U.S. for the first time last year, but it was just for ten days, to visit New York. I was amazed by how enormous the city was, but it was too short to really know how it was to live in the U.S. Now after this whole year, I have really lived the full American experience!

Was it hard to get used to life in the U.S. and at Wellesley College?

It was confusing at the beginning because everything was new, and I came here alone, so I had no idea how anything worked. Jael has helped me since my first minute here, so she made the beginning so much easier. I met the other TAs the first week during orientation, and we have been together since that week. It was hard to get used to the schedule and life-



style – it's very different from the Spanish one! The lunch times and the food here were very odd for me, but I got used to that quickly, although I miss Spanish food!

What will you miss most about life here at Wellesley College?

The list of things I will miss is huge! The other TAs and everything we've experienced together, the Spanish students, all the girls from Casa Cervantes... More than just housemates, we are friends, and we do a lot of stuff together. The community here is awesome. I'm also going to miss traveling so much. This year, I have visited places like Washington DC, Niagara Falls, Los Angeles, San Francisco, The Grand Canyon... the number of beautiful places you can visit here is amazing! The only thing I will not miss for sure is the weather!

Any advice for other Language Assistants?

My only advice is to enjoy everything you can and get out of your comfort zone! Time here goes incredibly quickly, and before you realize it, your year is over! You will have the chance to take courses you like, and the courses here are great. Don't be afraid of living new experiences, meeting new people, learning new things and make the most of the year! It's also super important to mingle with the American girls, so don't be shy and share your culture with them.



Alumnae Updates



JoAnn Berger DS '09

I am retired and living in Southern California where I am devoting more quality time to the pursuit of personal interests. This includes my continuing interest in Spanish culture, which was nurtured by my Spanish studies at Wellesley and the incredible semester I spent in Córdoba, Spain in 2004. If you come to Orange County, you may find me dancing flamenco with friends at a local restaurant, or honing my Spanish-language skills at a tertulia sponsored by a local Spanish Book Club. ¡Ole!



Julia M. Meconiates '03

After Wellesley, I went directly to law school. During my last year of law school, I applied to federal clerkships with judges in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico. I figured Puerto Rico would be a great place to be able to use my Spanish. (Little did I know that PRESHCO prepared me well as Puerto Ricans tend to cut off the end of words just like los andaluces). As luck would have it, I was offered the position as a clerk and moved to la Isla del Encanto during the summer of 2006. What was supposed to be a two-year position was cut short due to my judge's early retirement. Luckily, I was able to get a job down here as a federal prosecutor. I have spent the last ten years in the U.S. Attorney's Office and have become an honorary Boricua. I am the proud mother of two Puerto Greekans, who love both bomba and bouzouki. If anyone ever comes down to Puerto Rico, don't hesitate to look me up.



Nia Phillips '12

Nia is an Associate Producer at Good Morning America. This year, the show won its second-consecutive Daytime Emmy for "Outstanding Morning Program." She is also working on a special project called 18for18 as a Digital Campaign Reporter for ABC News, covering the midterm elections in Mississippi. She covers a bunch of topics from politics and pop culture to breaking news. Nia still lives in New York City, and enjoys watching way too many sports including La Liga fútbol (¡Hala Madrid!), going to Broadway shows, and finding new places to eat. She would love to meet up with other Wellesley people when they're in the Big Apple! Let her know when you're here!

Diana DiZoglio '10

It's been a busy legislative session for Massachusetts State Rep. Diana DiZoglio. In her third term serving the 14th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, DiZoglio has passed legislation expanding financial literacy and civic education programs in Massachusetts schools; created public-private partnerships to help disabled veterans obtain employment; and secured funds to address the opioid crisis in the Merrimack Valley. This spring, DiZoglio announced she would run to serve the 1st Essex District in the Massachusetts State.



This Just In!!

The Spanish Department is excited to announce the arrival of our new Assistant Professor of Spanish, **Antonio Arraiza Rivera**, who will begin teaching in Fall 2018. A native of Puerto Rico, Antonio earned his BA at the University of Puerto Rico–Río Piedras, and his PhD at Harvard University. Antonio's research focuses on sixteenth and seventeenth century Spain and Portugal, the period of extraordinary cultural activity known as the Golden Age, and how authors portrayed themselves in their works at a time when their countries had become global powers. His other research and teaching interests include visual culture, Luso-Castilian bilingualism, theories of poetic inspiration, and literature in language teaching. Before coming to Wellesley, Antonio taught classes at MIT, BU, and Harvard. About his teaching, Antonio says, "for me, teaching and research are all about establishing interdisciplinary connections. I think teaching language and literature are mutually complimentary, and I strive to make the classroom a space where students engage with and through language, making texts relevant to their own experiences as readers in an ever more globally connected world." ¡Bienvenido, Antonio!



Summer Internships Abroad - 2018

**Asociación Cordobesa de Parálisis Cerebral
y otras afecciones similares
(ACPACYS), Córdoba, España:**
Aislinn Díaz '19 & Isabel Kim '20

**Observatorio Instituto Cervantes (at Harvard University),
Cambridge, MA:**
Sofía Buitrago '19

**Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (UIMP),
Santander, Spain:**
Julia Simon '19

Upcoming End of the Year Events

Graduation Breakfast, June 1, 2018

8:30am, Green Hall 438

Alumnae Weekend Reception, June 8, 2018

2:30pm, Green Hall 438

If you are an Alum and would like to be featured in the “Alumnae Spotlight” for our 2018-2019 newsletter, please send your stories and experiences along with photos to: jmatos@wellesley.edu.

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