Our beloved colleague, Joy Renjian-Burgy, Associate Professor emerita of Spanish, died on January 14 at the age of 81. Joy retired from the faculty in the summer of 2022 after 43 years of service. Over that long career here, she was one of the College’s leading experts in foreign language and literature pedagogy, a brilliant instructor of Spanish, a mentor, ally, and friend to generations of students and alums, and a tireless advocate for educational equity. Joy was committed body and soul to this community: it often seemed that there was no meeting or lecture she did not attend, no varsity athletic team she did not cheer on, no cultural event or Shakespeare Society play or Ruhlman or Tanner panel she missed. For more than four decades she was a fixture in our collective life.

Joy came to Wellesley in 1979 after doing her graduate work at Harvard and with an A.B. in Spanish from Mount Holyoke College. Her excellence as an instructor was recognized with the award of the Pinanski Prize just four years after her arrival here. She taught the complete sequence of introductory, intermediate, and advanced intermediate language courses in Spanish, and also developed a broad suite of literature courses, ranging from Christians, Jews, and Moors: The Spirit of Spain in Its Literature to Latin American Film, Hispanic Literature in the United States; and Cuban Literature and Culture. She taught a Writing course on Love and Death in Spanish Writers and important Education department courses on World Language Methodology and the Theory and Practice of Teaching English as a Second Language. Her expertise in pedagogy was deployed not just in our classrooms but in the co-creation of Spanish language textbooks, multi-media language programs, and readers, all of which became widely adopted and appeared in multiple editions. Joy’s professional standing was exemplified in the leadership roles she played in numerous organizations: she was president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association, the Spanish Cultural Association of New England, and New England Council on Latin American Studies. Her service here at Wellesley was similarly distinguished: she was chair of the Spanish department, co-director of Latin American Studies, founding and long-serving director of the College’s Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, co-creator and executive director of our study abroad program at the University of Cordoba in Spain, faculty representative to the Wellesley Aid Society, our Faculty Athletic Representative for the NCAA, and the director of a summer bridge program for entering students in the 1980s and 1990s.
Joy grew up in a family of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and she often traced her ethic of service and community to that fact. In addition to all her professional service, she was active in the Armenian community. She was president of the Armenian International Women’s Association, a life trustee of the Armenian Library and Museum of America, and co-editor of several volumes of Armenian literature.

Service to students was at the heart of Joy’s remarkable contribution to Wellesley. One of her students once described her as “hands down the most giving professor I know”. Many recalled the small acts of kindness she so often performed – driving them to the train station before fall or spring break, helping them return books to the library in the pouring rain, lending them jewelry to wear in interviews. Her students noted that she was blessed with a first name that suited her perfectly. I will leave the last word to one of those grateful students: “Joy gives all of herself to her students both as a professor and as a mentor. I remember being amazed at the degree of energy she exhibited at student events after a full day of classes and committee meetings. She was the only professor we knew [who] would be present at our student sponsored poetry readings and lectures. I realize now that Joy is able to access a wealth of resources within herself because she approaches her job with profound love. This love allows Joy to define her job as a professor in a broad and generous manner.”

**Tribute to Joy from Wellesley College Athletics**

Wellesley College Athletics joins the Wellesley College community in mourning the passing of Joy Renjilian-Burgy, Associate Professor Emerita of Spanish and longtime Faculty Athletics Representative. Joy passed away earlier this week in Boulder, Colorado. She was 81 years old.

The 2016 recipient of the Linda K. Vaughan Award for Exceptional Service, Joy was a remarkable champion of our student-athletes. Like Linda Vaughan, Joy exemplified integrity and relentless passion in support of Wellesley’s accomplishments in recreational and competitive athletics.

In 2011, Joy assumed the role of NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), but she performed FAR duties long before that. She always understood the unique demands of being a Wellesley student-athlete, and showed her support for every sport, no matter the weather, no matter the season. She counseled student-athletes on balancing class work and athletic involvement, met with SAAC about their academic concerns, and provided invaluable insight on NCAA legislation and its potential impact on our students.

In 2015, the department’s Inspirational Award, presented at the annual end of year awards ceremony was renamed in Joy’s honor as the Joy Renjilian-Burgy Inspirational Award. Joy took great pride in personally presenting the award to a “varsity student-athlete who had inspired others through athletics. The honor will continue to be presented in Joy’s honor, inspired by her example “to work hard, fight hard and -- despite life’s curveballs -- live each day to the fullest.”

Even while Joy was facing serious health concerns, she still managed to get out and thrive on the excitement of athletics competition. Joy was a role model for us all on how to live life to the fullest, with spirit and courage.
As the Spring Semester wraps up, Antonio J. Arraiza-Rivera looks back on what has been a busy and fruitful academic year. Highlights include his stint as Faculty Director for Casa Cervantes, which involved planning cultural events and setting up interviews for next year’s residents at Casa, teaching a new course devoted to women writers of Early Modern Spain, and being part of an Honors Thesis Committee.

Antonio looks forward to what lies in store for the Fall: among other things, a forthcoming article related to his second book project that will be published by the Bulletin Hispanique, and an invitation to speak about early modern Spain and religious pluralism at a panel in October devoted to the life, music and times of English Renaissance composer William Byrd. Last, but definitely not least, Antonio’s tenure-review is coming up. So, please send your best vibes and wish him luck as he embarks on this next stage of his career.

Maria del Mar Bassa Vanrell’s post for this year’s newsletter is a bit bittersweet as it also implies her farewell from Wellesley College, that is, from her work colleagues that became friends like family and the amazing students she has had the honor to teach, guide, and learn from during her 7 years working at the College.

In the fall, Mar continued to work in her roles of coordinator for the Spanish Intermediate sequence as well as the Spanish placement test. She taught two courses of Spanish as a second language while also advising two students’ senior theses in topics related to the sociolinguistic attitudes towards codeswitching in Puerto Rico, and the semantic features of gestures when speaking over Zoom vs. in person. Additionally, she was able to present her joint work on verbal predicates in Karitiana, a Brazilian Indigenous language, at the tenth conference on Indigenous languages of Latin America (CILLA X) celebrated at the University of Texas at Austin. Her collaborative work was also published in two journal articles: (i) “Factive entailments and clausal complementation in Karitiana” in Languages and (ii) “Temporal interpretations of negation in Karitiana” in Cadernos de Estudos Linguísticos.

In the spring, Mar ventured back to Europe after 17 years on the other side of the Atlantic, as she accepted a tenure-track offer in English and linguistics from her alma matter, the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) in Mallorca (Spain), where she has been teaching and researching since February this year. She misses the College and its people but takes with her all the learnings, mentoring, and advice to share with her hometown community. Taking up this new position was important not only academically but also for being closer to family, having two little ones that enjoy their time with grandma and little cousins.

Rather than a “goodbye”, she hopes for a “see you later” and wants to thank everyone that has contributed, in one way or another, to her professional and personal growth during her time at Wellesley, for which she will be forever grateful. Below are two pictures from a recent last-minute family weekend trip to Venice and Burano, Italy; the whole family is also hoping for more travel adventures like this to continue exploring the marvels of Europe.
Beatriz Dorado Pérez was the Spanish Language Assistant throughout the 2023-2024 Academic Year. She had the opportunity to be part of, not only a small community within the Casa Cervantes, but also the family that comprises the Spanish and Portuguese Department. With the assistance of members of the department, specifically Jael Matos, Koichi Hagimoto and Antonio Aráiza-Rivera, among others, she accomplished to design successful events for students in order to foster their abilities in Spanish. To mention a few of the activities we elaborated, we watched Chico y Rita for Valentine’s Day, they decorated Gingerbread Houses for Christmas, and we had a (fun) Study Break during finals. Moreover, Beatriz hosted the Spanish table every week, as well as host office hours where students could practice informally their speaking skills in Spanish.

During the academic year, Beatriz was given the possibility to develop and practice her skills in lecturing and speaking in front of a (small) audience. She was able to undertake two courses to satiate her interests, which were “Introduction into African Literature” and “Archery”. Apart from the academic aspect of the scholarship, she also enjoyed her time outside the campus, exploring the city of Boston and New York, sunbathing at Puerto Rico’s beaches, and nurturing from the history when visiting Plymouth and Salem. Finally, Beatriz would like to thank the students, professors and colleagues who accompanied her during this remarkable experience, especially Jael and Koichi whom she is thankful for their support during her time at Wellesley.
Christopher Eldrett has had a wonderfully full year, teaching not only second-year Spanish, but also a linguistics class, Spanish in the United States, and for the first time at Wellesley, a writing course on the Political Impact of Walt Whitman. Christopher very much appreciates this opportunity to branch out his teaching experience, and getting to know students from across a range of academic disciplines. The tremendous importance and deep roots of the Spanish language and Latine cultures in the United States is incredible to explore with students, and it is amazing to witness the level of fluidity and knowledge that students achieve by the end of their second year studying Spanish.

Additionally, Christopher had the opportunity to present two papers at the Northeast Modern Language Association’s conference in March: “Federico García Lorca’s Hyper-Masculinization of Walt Whitman,” and “Yessenia Montilla and García Lorca Share anti-racist perspectives of New York.” Christopher is looking forward to spending the summer in Granada, Spain, with his family, enjoying Andalucía and researching Lorca. He will also travel to Donostia/San Sebastián in June to present on “León Felipe’s Spiritual Anarchism in Resistance to Fascism” at the Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos.

Evelina Gužauskytė was awarded a research fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, to work on her book manuscript, with the working title Gender, Fashion, and Society in New Spain / Mexican Visual Culture (1711-1833). During her sabbatical during the spring semester, Gužauskytė traveled to several libraries and museums in Mexico and Spain to gather material for her research. She presented a paper on casta paintings at the XXXV Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos in Oaxaca, Mexico, the title of which is “Sewing Faith: Secular and Religious Elements in José Joaquín Magón’s casta Painting Series.” She was honored to be an invited speaker at Observatorio Cervantes at Harvard University where she delivered a talk entitled “Myth and Its Fabric: Spinning, Weaving, and Other Sacred Arts in New Spain Casta.”
Paintings.” She was also invited to Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, as Vytautas Kovalis Interdisciplinary Professor sponsored by the Dana Gedvilia Fund, where she delivered a series of open lectures on subjects including domesticity and mythology in eighteenth-century New Spain casta paintings, the history of fashion in colonial Latin America, myth in writing by Gabriel García Márquez, as well as the history of the liberal arts and the education for women. She was interviewed by the press, which you can read here and here, as well as national TV, and radio programs, and moderated a conversation with the leading Argentine horror genre writer, Mariana Enríquez. Her article “Gendered Temporalities: The Female Body as an Allegory for the Passage of Time in Calendario de las señoritas meigicanas para el año 1838” is forthcoming in Pacific Coast Philology, vol. 58. no. 1, in Summer 2024.

Koichi Hagimoto has successfully completed his first year as department chair. Despite the steep learning curve, he was committed to supporting his colleagues and all the students taking Spanish and Portuguese. As we prepare to welcome the external visiting committee in the fall, he looks forward to collaborating with everyone to create the next stage of the department.

Since the publication of his book Samurai in the Land of the Gaucho: Transpacific Modernity and Nikkei Literature in Argentina (Vanderbilt University Press, 2023), Koichi has given book talks worldwide, including in New York, Hawai‘i (virtual) and South Korea. He was also interviewed for a podcast series called “Crossing Fronteras,” where he discussed his research and personal/academic trajectory (available on Apple Podcasts). In addition, his co-edited volume (with Ignacio López-Calvo) Más allá del haiku: antología de autores nikkei latinoamericanos (El Fondo Editorial de la Asociación Peruano Japonesa, 2024) was published in Lima, Peru. The book assembled, for the first time, literary texts by writers of Japanese descent from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. In April, Koichi remotely participated in the book presentation, accompanied by acclaimed Nikkei authors such as Doris Moromisato and Juan de la Fuente Umetsu.

As for his teaching, Koichi enjoyed working with his seminar students in SPAN 309 and SPAN 335 and those who took his SPAN 202 section. While his job as chair demanded so much administrative work outside the classroom, he discovered a new appreciation for his students, who reminded him of why he became an educator. In January 2024, Koichi offered the wintersession program in Cuba, the first time he returned to the Caribbean after the pandemic. There were many unforgettable moments, including a literature class by the celebrated poet Nancy Morejón and a conversation with Flora Fong, the 2023 recipient of the National Prize of Visual Arts in Cuba.
Finally, Koichi’s family continues to be the source of inspiration and hope. In March, Taishi (8) participated in the gymnastics competition and became the state champion! Meanwhile, Mina (5) joined a local dance academy and played the role of a hedgehog for “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.” They bring joy and laughter daily, and Koichi is excited to spend time with them over the summer.

António M. Antunes Igrejas taught Intensive Elementary and Intermediate Portuguese, Introduction to Lusophone Studies, The Portuguese-speaking World through Film, Music and Fiction (cross-listed with Africana Studies and Comparative Literary Studies) and served as the Program director for Global Portuguese Studies and Latin American Studies. António also was a visiting instructor at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where he taught courses (asynchronous) on Portuguese language, the Portuguese-Speaking world through its food, and Contemporary Brazil through media.

António continues to conduct research on the Portuguese-speaking world. He wrote a paper on the Cape Verdean poet Corsino Fortes titled “Passando tempo na cabeça calva de deus com Corsino Fortes” to present at Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference in Boston. António’s article “Writing the Father into Textual Existence: The Biographer in Through a Portagee Gate,” was published in Gávea-Brown: A Bilingual Journal of Portuguese-North American Letters and Studies/Revista Bilingue de Letras e Estudos Luso-Norte-Americanos and examines how Charles Reis Felix uses tools of fiction to write “the creative facts” of his father’s biography.
This academic year has been an eventful one for Jael Matos. Not only was it a busy start of the new academic year, but she was just newly engaged! Her fiancé Jason was totally unexpected and little did she know that this new love would change her life forever.

With her mother in recovery and slowly gaining her health and strength, Jael was able to focus not only on a new year at Wellesley but to plan her dream wedding. The date was set for May the 4th! No, they are not Star Wars fans! Jael and Jason actively planned their wedding in just 9 months! With Jael’s 20+ years working at Wellesley and planning events, this was second nature to her. But this was just not any event like at Wellesley, this was her dream wedding and she would plan it out down to the smallest detail. If you know Jael, she is very meticulous when she plans events at the College, so of course their wedding would be nothing short of perfection and it was. It was perfectly perfect. She was thankful that her parents and aunt Raquel were able to make the effort and travel from Puerto Rico to Boston, to be able to celebrate her wedding day.
Carlos Ramos was on leave during the Fall 2024 semester and remained actively engaged in various projects. His sabbatical year provided him with the opportunity to conduct archival research in Madrid, Harvard, and the Wellesley College Archives for a paper delving into the history of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Wellesley College. This paper, titled “Exiliados, creadores y pioneras: Historias de hispanistas en Wellesley College,” was published in both Spanish and English in the Estudios del Observatorio / Observatorio Studies, a publication by the Instituto Cervantes/Harvard University.

Following the completion of this article, he redirected his focus to another long-standing project: an anthology of dawn poetry in Spain. In late summer, the anthology was accepted for publication by a university press in Spain and is scheduled for release later this year.

In October, Professor Ramos had the opportunity to visit the Middlebury Program in Chile, with which Wellesley College has a special agreement. During his visit, he toured universities in Santiago, Valparaíso, Valdivia, and Viña del Mar, and met with Wellesley students in Santiago. He extended his stay in Chile to spend four days hiking in the “Torres del Paine” National Park, in Patagonia.

The sabbatical year also allowed him to seize an exciting professional opportunity: the Faculty Exchange Grant with the Università di Bologna through the Ecco Program. In November 2023, he traveled to Bologna, where he delivered lectures and engaged with colleagues at the “Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Moderne.”

During the leave semester, he lectured at various institutions between July and November 2023: Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo in Santander, Spain; Universitat de Lleida, Spain; Università Ca’ Foscari in Venice, Italy; Università di Bologna, Italy, and MIT. This fall semester, he has also given talks at Dartmouth College and MIT, and in April, he introduced and moderated Fernando Galván’s talk at Observatorio Instituto Cervantes at Harvard (FAS): “Los Premios Cervantes. Algo más que unos premios literarios”.

His two favorite talks of the year involved former students: In February, he was a guest speaker via Zoom at the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Maryland in the Advanced Spanish Class of two former students: Julia Simon ’19 and Ashley Gavidia ’99. “Dos generaciones en El Camino de Santiago. Emma Andrew ‘24 (2019) y Carlos Ramos (2023)” was held at Casa Cervantes this past March. Emma Andrew and he discussed their experiences walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

And finally, this past May brought the happiest occasion of the academic year: celebrating with Jael Matos at her beautiful wedding with Jason Sims. ¡Felicidades, Jael!
With support from the Huntington Fund, in May of this year Emma Romeu published the book of poems “Alas en el Mayab”. This work is inspired by the birds of the Mayan world of the Yucatan Peninsula, in Mexico, and is part of the effort to conserve the endemic birds of this privileged region of the planet. Each poem is accompanied by illustrations that add information about the species mentioned in the poems.

Mayab is the original name of Yucatan Peninsula in Mayan Language.

Inela Selimovic celebrated her 10th anniversary at the College through a number of interesting collaborations, including several international and national conferences, cultural events, and publications.

Prof. Selimovic attended four conferences this academic year. She presented “Espacios afectivos y transformaciones políticas en el cine de Paula Markovitch” at the Norwegian Association of Latin American Studies (NALAS) in Drammen’s Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge (Norway) on June 16th, 2023. In July, she attended a series of talks and book presentations at the 2023 Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas (AIH) Conference in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Prof. Selimovic was equally pleased to present another paper entitled Paula Markovitch’s Armando y Genoveva (2013): Between Voices and Artmaking” at the II International Conference of Hispanic Women Filmmakers at Clark University on October 20th, 2023. Finally, she shared her research on “Intermedial Memories in Paula Markovitch’s Armando y Genoveva (2013)” on November 11th at the 2023 NECLAS conference at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

Concerning cultural contributions in the department, Prof. Selimovic organized several. On November 13th, 2023, Andrea Palmar C’24 shared her story, “Mi historia. En palabras e imágenes,” in Prof. Selimovic’s course (SPAN 251 Youth in Argentine Literature and Film) about her abrupt displacement from Venezuela. On December 4th, 2023, Inela and her students welcomed Argentine writer Andrea Yaryura Clark to the same course. Born in Argentina and based in New York City, Clark joined us to reflect on her fiction writing trajectory and debut novel, On a Night of a Thousand Stars (2022). On February 26th, 2024, Prof. Selimovic opened her class (SPAN 303 Argentine Women Filmmakers) to welcome Assistant Professor Ana Almeyda-Cohen from Colby College. Prof. Almeyda-Cohen’s talk, “Mexico’s Celestinas; Mediating Love, Sex, and Magic in Cultural Productions 1676-1994,” generated an electrifying exchange of ideas, questions, and insights. Argentine filmmaker Paula Markovitch joined virtually to engage with Prof. Selimovic’s seminar students (SPAN 303 Argentine Women Filmmakers) on March 25th, 2024.

In terms of public-facing on-campus events during the 2024 Spring semester, Prof. Selimovic particularly enjoyed partaking in two panels—“Faculty & Student Roundtable Series: Biology and Spanish Roundtable”—with Professor Yui Suzuki, his students, as well as several Spanish majors, Amy Zhang C’24, Sarah Katz C’24, Katie Knight C’25, and Rachel Chubb C’26. The Admission Office sponsored both panels. The participants shared their learning, teaching, and research experiences at the College with over 40 prospective students during the virtual gathering on January 24th, 2024. In addition, there were over 155 students, with approximately 355 guests, at the Alumnae Hall during the in-person panel on April 13th, 2024.

Prof. Selimovic has kept her research vigorous as well. In working toward another spirited decade of teaching and research, she is currently completing her fifth book-length scholarly undertaking tentatively entitled The Cinema of Paula Markovitch: Contested Marginality. She recently co-edited a special issue, “Interrupted Frames: Intermediality and Gender” for Mistral 3. 1 (Fall 2023) and published two peer-reviewed articles: “Foreign Intimacies and Political Pasts in Paula Markovitch’s El actor principal (2019)” was published in the Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies 32. 3 (2023): 487-507, while “Sepulchral Intermediality in Paula Markovitch’s Armando y Genoveva (2013)"
Carlos Vega enjoyed teaching two of his favorite courses during the fall of 2023: Spanish 252 “The Making of Spain” and Spanish 308 “Masculinities in Spanish Medieval and Renaissance Literature.” In 252—which many alumnae may have taken themselves—the class looks at how the convergence of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions shaped much creativity in the Middle Ages and beyond. Students come to know just how advanced the Iberian Peninsula was (vis-à-vis other regions of Europe) was, in great part due to the influx of knowledge and culture from regions east of Spain. But unfortunately, the convergence of cultures was not always peaceful and eventually ended due for the most part infighting between the various groups. Carlos believes strongly in the need for a basic “canon” in terms of significant texts in the trajectory of a Spanish Major, and he is delighted when these fundamental works in Spanish culture (The Cid, Libro de Buen Amor, Celestina, Ibn Hazm, Yahudah Halevi, and other authors and texts) can be set in their cultural context.

In Spanish 308, the class examines “Masculinity Studies” (including theories advanced by Raewyn Connell) in order to inform a more contemporary perspective on some of the greatest works of Spanish literature (The Cid, Libro de Buen Amor and the Latin source for the Doña Endrina episode, Celestina, Lazarillo de Tormes [the first “picaresque novel”], Burlador de Sevilla [the first embodiment of the “Don Juan” myth], Fuenteovejuna, and other material). Emphasis is placed on the role of Classical and Medieval notions of gender and sex, as incorporated in Four Humor Theory and “medical” notions in general, and the use of biological imperatives in the creation and evolution of misogyny.

Starting in the Spring of 2024, Carlos began a three-semester personal leave from the College. He is spending more time in his home in Córdoba in the south of Spain and deciding whether to retire or not. While he enjoys the greater flexibility of not teaching, he truly misses his students. Many former students keep in touch with him, and he is delighted to share in their good and less-good times.
The Global Portuguese Studies Program had wonderful year. Our students studied in Portugal, Brazil, and interned in Cabo Verde at the University of Cabo Verde and CIGEF (Centro de Investigação e Formação em Género e Família). In addition to working at CIGEF. We hosted the Portuguese author Patrícia Portela, and Boston’s Portuguese Consul, Tiago Araújo in the Spring.
Alumnae Updates

Bethany Pasko ’23. ¡Hola a todos! I am excited to share a few updates with you following my graduation from Wellesley this past May. During my time at Wellesley, I was incredibly fortunate to pursue an interdisciplinary course of study, as I majored in English and Spanish and completed the minor coursework for Art History. The multifaceted connections that were made possible by focusing my major coursework on language and literature made my academic experience at Wellesley rewarding, transformative, and intellectually stimulating. The opportunity to study abroad through the PRESHCO program deepened my love for Spanish language and culture, and this experience was pivotal to my final two years of study. During this time, I was able to delve more deeply into comparative literature, poetry, creative writing, art history, and film studies and analysis across both languages, largely because of my international experiences at PRESHCO (and at UCL). I am so grateful to have pursued this path during my undergraduate career, and I am especially fortunate to have studied with exceptional faculty in these areas. I can attest that the Spanish and Portuguese Department faculty tactfully create an equally challenging and nurturing academic environment and learning community, inspiring their students through innovative pedagogy, as well as their own fascinating research across a diverse array of scholarly interests.

I am lucky to have studied with Professor Selimović, Professor Agosín, Professor Ramos, and Professor Renjilian-Burgy during my time as a Spanish major. I had the unique opportunity to work closely with Professor Agosín and Professor Selimović on different research projects, including their own books and journal article publications, experiences which greatly enriched my academic experience at the College. My independent study in Latin American film with Professor Selimović was tremendously influential in enabling me to develop higher level spoken and written abilities in Spanish. I am also so glad I had the chance to collaborate with her on several admissions events and panels to share with prospective students about the cultural programs, study abroad opportunities, courses and curriculum, and faculty and staff that make the Spanish and Portuguese Department truly special.

After graduating from Wellesley this past May, I moved to New York City to begin work at an international information services company, where I had the opportunity to speak Spanish in my role. I am so grateful to have possessed a strong background in Spanish language study, as my written and spoken fluency were undoubtedly useful when performing due diligences on companies based in Spanish-speaking countries. I am proud to have used my language capacities in this role, and I am excited to continue speaking Spanish in the next phase of my career. With my core career interests lying in higher education and business, I introspected over the course of this year and realized that I want to pursue a career in a student and faculty-facing role. With

Camille Osumah ’23. At Wellesley, I double majored in Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences and Spanish. And I am now working as a lab manager for a social cognitive neuroscience lab at MIT. I didn’t go into Wellesley planning on being a Spanish major, I had been learning the language for years and I enjoyed my Spanish classes in high school, but I never envisioned myself as someone who was advanced enough in the language to take such high-level courses. However, from the beginning professors in the Spanish department were incredibly encouraging and supportive. The breadth of coursework I completed in my Spanish classes went beyond the language, and I learned how to engage and think critically about film, music, poetry, and history. As a recent graduate, I still carry the lessons in the arts and humanities that I gained from majoring in Spanish. I now live in Cambridge with one of my closest friends from Wellesley, and I am starting the process of graduate school applications. My majors have entirely shaped not only how I see and interact with the world around me, but also how I choose to do cognitive science. My perspective on the human mind and brain is incredibly culturally and historically conscious, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Camille Osumah, Hazey Do
the help of some of my mentors, including Professor Selimović, I applied to graduate programs this spring. I am looking forward to pursuing my master’s degree in higher education and student affairs this fall, along with a graduate assistantship role to complement my studies. I am thrilled for all that lies ahead as I develop as a professional in this field, and I aim to earn a PhD in this area in the coming years.

On a more personal note, my fiancé, Patrick, and I got engaged in February! We are looking forward to our wedding in Wellesley this August and to celebrating our marriage with our family and friends. I also recently had the opportunity to achieve one of my lifetime goals, as I ran the Boston Marathon in April! It was wonderful to run by campus and through the famed Scream Tunnel; the support of faculty mentors, fellow alums, and current students as I trained for the race, and as I completed the run from Hopkinton to Boston, made all the difference! The race day was particularly meaningful because I ran for Brigham and Women’s Stepping Strong Foundation, an organization which advances trauma care and research for patients in both the Boston area and around the world.

Thank you to everyone in the Spanish and Portuguese Department for their continued encouragement and support. I could not be more fortunate to have found life-changing mentors and to have made lifelong friends over the course of my time at Wellesley. I look forward to staying in touch and to seeing you all soon.

Claire Shea Caraballo ’11 and her husband, Hugo, welcomed their first child in April. Since Hugo is a Spanish teacher, Claire was a Spanish teacher for nine years, and they met at the Spanish School at Middlebury College, they are of course trying their best to raise their son bilingually! Claire has been working remotely on projects in Latin America and in the U.S. at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as a Project Manager for the past three and a half years. This summer, they will be moving to the Princeton, NJ area and are looking forward to making new Wellesley connections in NY/NJ.

After graduation, Sanaa Walker ’22.5 joined UnitedHealth Group as a community health worker in her home state of New Jersey. In this role, she used her Spanish skills to communicate with Spanish speaking people on Medicare or Medicaid to raise their awareness of free community resources, as well as services available to them through their insurance. In August of 2023, her time at United came to an end as she prepared to begin her Master of Public Health at Yale University. At Yale (where she has run into many Wellesley sibs, the beauty of the Wellesley network!), Sanaa is studying and researching health equity, with the hope of one day being able to improve health outcomes for Black and Latinx populations in the US and Latin America. As we get closer to the summer, Sanaa is getting ready to finish the first year of her master’s and preparing for her summer internship at Westat where she will be researching Maternal & Child health outcomes.

Following her internship, Sanaa plans to travel to Belize for a few weeks to work with the ministry of health on improving maternal and child health programs in the country. It has been a dream of Sanaa’s to do public health work internationally, but she was unable to during her time at Wellesley due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

If you are an Alum and would like to be featured in the “Alumnae Updates” for our 2024-2025 newsletter, please send your stories and experiences along with photos to jmatos@wellesley.edu.
Gingerbread House Decorating

Movie Night
Casa Cervantes Presenta

DOS GENERACIONES
EN EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
EMMA ANDREW ‘24 (2019) Y
CARLOS RAMOS (2023)

Jueves 14 de marzo
4:30pm ~ Casa Cervantes
Se servirá cena y refriérgios
Eventos Culturales

Remembrance and Commemoration
Chile Fifty Years after the Coup
1973-2023

September 20th
At The Threshold of Memory
Portraits of Jewish refugees in Chile after the Holocaust
Samuel Shats Photography
4:30pm
FND 300CC - Humanities Link

October 24th
Chile Declassified: Secret U.S. Documents and The Legacy of the U.S. Backed Military Coup After 50 Years
Peter Kornbluh
4:30pm
FND 300CC - Humanities Link

October 31st
Writing Trauma Writing Hope
In search of a home as an imagined landscape
Roberta Mairhofer
University of Graz, Austria
4:30pm - FND 300CC
Humanities Link

November 28th
The Insistence of Distance
Daniela Rivera
4:30pm - FND 300CC
Humanities Link

Image Info: La Inversion de los Andes
Oil and oil on canvas, 84 x 241, 2014

Light refreshments will be served at all events.
Sponsored by: Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Jewish Studies, CLCE

Questions? magosin@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Services: accessibility@wellesley.edu
Chile Declassified: Secret U.S. Documents and the Legacy of the U.S. Backed Military Coup After 50 Years

Peter Kornbluh
Senior Analyst, National Security Archive

Tuesday, October 24th
4:30pm
FND300CC - Humanities Link
Light refreshments will be served

Writing Trauma Writing Hope: A European Perspective on the Americas
Roberta Maierhofer
Professor of American Studies, University of Graz

October 31st - 4:30pm
Humanities Link
FND300CC
Light refreshments will be served
The Insistence of Distance

Daniela Rivera, Professor of Art
Wellesley College

Tuesday, November 28th
4:30pm – FND300CC
Humanities Link

Light refreshments will be provided
An Afternoon with Andrea Yaryura Clark

Monday, December 4th
3:45-5:00pm

Scan QR Code To Join
Via Zoom
Or Directly on Zoom App
Enter Meeting ID:
809 200 0177

Un-Lost in Translation

Open Class
SPAN 257 - Latin American Poetry
October 3, 2023
11:20am - Green Hall 438A
Lunch will be provided

Mujeres en el mundo transatlántico
de los siglos XVI-XVII:
encuentros e intertextualidad
Mesa redonda interdisciplinaria

María Socorro Suárez Lafuente, Universidad de Oviedo
Evelina Gužauskytė, Wellesley College

OPEN CLASS - SPAN 279
13 de octubre 12:45pm - 2pm
Green Hall 428
First Gen Monday!!

Monday, November 6th
1-2pm
Spanish & Portuguese Department
Green Hall 43B

Stop by and grab a Goodie Bag,
Apple Cider and Apple Cider Donuts!!

Questions? mail@welllesley.edu
Accessibility & Disability Resources Accessibility@welllesley.edu

FACULTY SALSA NIGHT!
December 14, 2023
5PM - Alumnae Ballroom
Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Dance Lessons by Tana Ruegamer, Sister International Center
Music by Reynaldo Moya, Music Department

Organized by the Department of Spanish & Portuguese
Special thanks to the Office of the Provost and the Andrew Levine Faculty Community Fund
Mexico’s Celestinas: Mediating Love, Sex, and Magic in Cultural Productions, 1676 - 1994
Ana Almeyda-Cohen, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Wellesley College

Monday, February 26th
4-5pm
Open Class SPAN 303
Scan QR Code to Join Via ZOOM

Sponsored by CILCE and Department of Spanish & Portuguese
Questions: jmcnees@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Services: accessibility@wellesley.edu

David Jiménez Torres (Madrid)
Profesor, articulista y escritor
Dos clases abiertas
Martes 27 de febrero, 2:10 – 3:25, Green Hall 130
SPAN 272. "Cancelaciones españolas: Más allá del Caso Rubiales"

Miércoles, 28 de febrero, 11:00 - 12:10, Green Hall 433A
SPAN 322. Diccionario con el autor sobre su libro El mod dormir y su trabajo periodístico
Seguido de recogida/baile en el Departamento de Español y Portugués
Patrocinado por la Oficina Cultural de la Embajada Española en Washington, el Departamento de Español y Portugués, y Committee on Lectures and Cultural Events.

ALUMNAE SPEAKER SERIES
Diana DiZoglio ‘10
Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Thursday, April 4th
4:30 – 5:30pm
Scan QR Code To Join Via Zoom

Questions: kinzino@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Resources: accessibility@wellesley.edu
OPEN CLASS
SPAN 267 - Writer and Human Rights in Latin America
With guest speaker Ruth Behar

11:30-12:30PM | FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 | SPANISH & PORTUGUESE CONFERENCE ROOM 438A

Ruth Behar is a Cuban-American anthropologist and writer. Her work includes academic studies, as well as poetry, memoir, and literary fiction.

Ingrid Cobos López, Universidad de Córdoba
Narrativa gráfica y traducción/interpretación social para transformar comunidades

Clase abierta por Zoom:
SPAN 322. Seminar: True Stories Reading and Writing Nonfiction in Spanish
Miércoles, 10 de abril
(11:10 - 12:10 EST. Green Hall 438A)

Haga clic aquí para unirse al Zoom

WELLESLEY
SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

Sponsored by: Committee on Lectures and Cultural Events
Questions: ccranos@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Resources: accessibility@wellesley.edu
Honoring Our Spanish Majors

Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society Ceremony
Congratulations To Our Department of Spanish & Portuguese 2024 Prize Winners!

Top Row, left to right: Sara Rodonis, Sarah Garcia, Sarah Katz, Emma Andrew, Koichi Hagimoto, Antonio Igrejas

Bottom Row, left to right: Amy Zhang, Sophie Yates, Charlotte Gebhard

---

*Sara Rodonis*  
Cervantes Prize

*Sarah Katz*  
Gabriela Mistral Prize

*Amy Zhang*  
Justina Ruiz-de-Conde Prize

*Sophie Yates*  
Maria Louisa Bombal Prize

*Charlotte Gebhard*  
Jorge Guillén Prize

*Rachel Carethers*  
The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

*Sarah Garcia & Emma Andrew*  
Global Portuguese Studies
Aisha Paz
Asociación Cordobesa de Parálisis Cerebral y otras afecciones similares (ASPACYS), Córdoba, Spain

Sarahi Lopez
Observatorio Instituto Cervantes, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Amélie Washington
Universidad Internacional Menéndez y Pelayo (UIMP) (Santander, España)