

ENLACES CULTURALES 2021- 2022

In Memoriam



Elena Gascón-Vera. Rarely has a colleague made such a difference in terms of our intellectual life and our calling to educate women.

Elena was born and raised in Madrid, Spain, where she knew first-hand the after effects of the Spanish Civil War. As a free thinker, she needed to escape Franco's repressive society. She first came to the US to teach Spanish in Dubuque, Iowa. There she confirmed her passion for studying literature and culture, as well as teaching. She went on to complete a Ph.D. at Yale. This was her second Ph.D. The first was from the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. Then she came to Wellesley over forty years ago and the rest is history.

During that history she enriched the College not only through her own teaching and research, but also by inviting some of the most prominent emerging figures in the Hispanic world as visiting instructors. She did so both to enrich our own intellectual life and to make sure that the long-standing prominence of Wellesley among Spanish-speaking countries was secured. The College impacted these visiting scholars as well, as witnessed to by the latest book by one of Spain's leading philosophers and

writers, Javier Marías, *El Quijote de Wellesley* (Alfaguara 2016), a compilation of the notes he took in preparation for the class he taught on Cervantes' masterpiece in the fall of 1984.

Part of Elena's ability to identify rising talent was due to her own pivotal role in cultivating the arts in Spain after the restoration of democracy. Elena and her identical twin Paloma were famous for their artistic salons. Pedro Almodóvar, the Oscar winning filmmaker, made some of his first movies in their home on a Super8 camera while he was still working as a telephone operator. Their annual birthday party on December 21 was de-rigueur for the artistic world of Spain: from Almodóvar, to Rafael Moneo (architect of the Davis Museum), to the trail blazing dramatist Agustín Gómez-Arcos, to one of Spain's fundamental feminist novelists and journalists, Rosa Montero, to countless others. And at these gatherings they always served two American Butter-ball Tom turkeys which Elena carried with her in her luggage when she flew home at the end of the fall semester. The turkeys in Spain (tough and scrawny at the time) were just not good enough.

Thanks to Elena, Rosa Montero herself came here twice to teach. Google Rosa Montero and you will get just an inkling of her importance in the Hispanic world. The first time, Rosa went back to Spain and didn't say nice things about us. Instead of being offended, Elena retorted, "Well, she obviously did not learn enough; bring her back." And so Rosa did come back about five years later and taught again. The second time accomplished the task: Rosa went back to Spain again and ended up writing in praise of Wellesley and the importance of women's colleges. The story tells much about Elena: When confronted with an opposing view she did not respond with offence or rancor, but attempted to seek out dialogue and deeper exploration. Elena authored books and over ninety articles on the Spanish Middle Ages, as well as on contemporary film and feminism. What marks her works is the depth of insight and the sheer freedom afforded by a brilliant mind whose only real fear was not taking risks. She was devoted to the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program and was always one to build community. For, in addition to a brilliant mind, Elena had an equally high-voltage heart.

After her retirement in 2016, Elena lived primarily in Madrid, surrounded by her loving family and more loving friends than most of us would acquire in two lifetimes. Her final years were marked by the same enthusiasm for travel that had always been central in her life. Elena once explained: there are three periods in which you live life most intensely: 1. When you are very young; 2. When you are in love; and 3. When you travel. Elena especially enjoyed places that others shunned, and her most recent destinations included Iran, Ethiopia, Senegal, Bora Bora, and Nepal.

In the south of Spain one sings and dances what are called “Sevillanas,” an iconic genre that is instantly recognized throughout the world for its thin slinky men in tight pants and women in bolts and bolts of polka-dotted, ruffled dresses who create a collision of passion and respectability through foot stomping and dramatic poses. Right now, one of the most haunting of Sevillanas comes to mind. It is called “El Adiós,” literally “The Goodbye.” The refrain claims that “Algo se muere en el alma cuando un amigo se va.” (Something dies in the soul when a friend goes away.)

Elena passed away on August 12, 2021 in Madrid after a two-year bout with lung cancer. She was 77. She is survived by her spouse and partner of 25 years Kaaren Parma, her sister Paloma, her niece Beatriz, her nephew Pablo, and their children Matilda, Telmo, Martina, Gonzalo, Carlota and Mikel.



Faculty/Staff Updates

During the complex years of the pandemic, **Marjorie Agosin** worked on a collection of bilingual poems *Detras del tiempo de las palabras, Between the Times of Words* that has been published this spring of 2022 by Sixteen River Press. She also published a children's book about the story of the Chilean *Arpilleras*, tapestries made by the mothers of the disappeared, called *Agujas que hablan* by Editorial Mis Raices published this January of 2022. Inspired by the courses she teaches on Jewish women writers she recently edited a volume for the journal *Nashim* on Jewish women writers and the creative experience, published in January of 2022.

For her sabbatical she is working in Venice, Italy and has received the Jasper Whiting travel fellowship to conduct her research on the caretaker of the Jewish cemetery of the Lido.

This academic year **Mar Bassa Vanrell** has been excited to be back on campus for in-person teaching. It's been wonderful to teach both Spanish and Linguistic courses again. She really missed the personal touch that a screen cannot replace. While at home, she's continued to take care of her two little ones, Duna (3) & Ona (1), unfortunately too young to be vaccinated in this ongoing pandemic. Throughout the year, she's had the opportunity to present her collaborative research at three (online) conferences: (i) 25th Workshop of Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA 25), (ii) 13th (Brazilian) Workshop on Formal Linguistics (13th WFL), and (iii) the 2022 Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA). In her presentations, she discusses several sociolinguistic, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic issues of an Indigenous language of the Karitiana, community of Brazil. This encompasses a wide variety of topics such as how time and space are perceived in the Karitiana language, how negation is expressed, and how that consequently shapes the vision of its native speakers about the world. In addition, her more recent presentation focuses on how the writing system of Karitiana came to life and the sociopolitical battles that derive from endorsing one type of spelling or another associated with different groups in power.

On a more personal level, Mar Bassa has had a very challenging year with the loss of her father among other personal challenges, yet she's found, once again, the love and support in this wonderful Spanish & Portuguese community at Wellesley College to continue with what she enjoys best, teaching.



Sandra Castro Carmona was our Spanish Language Assistant for 21-22 AY. She truly enjoyed living in Casa Cervantes because it gave her the opportunity to talk with students that were really interested in Spanish as a language and as a culture. Every week Sandra was able to hold successful, in person Spanish Tables, which gave students the opportunity to speak Spanish outside of the classroom and in a less formal setting. With the students in Casa Cervantes, she had weekly meetings and some fun events like movie night, gingerbread-house making and game nights.

Although this year was still complicated because of COVID, Sandra had the opportunity to enjoy her time on and off campus. She took advantage of student life and participated in events, fitness classes and even joined the Nordic Ski Team! Sandra also found a close friend in the Italian Language Assistant, Anna Cencherle. They had many adventures together, hiking near Boston and travel to different cities like Toronto, Washington DC and Miami.



Evelina Gužauskytė. I would like to take the space given to me to acknowledge the work, dedication, and intellectual curiosity that our students have invested into their coursework in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese as well as in their study abroad programs, internships, and the Casa Cervantes. Given the ongoing pandemic and the challenges we have faced both domestically and internationally, your continuous commitment and perseverance do not go unnoticed. My warm wishes go to all of you -- our current and former students.

For **Koichi Hagimoto**, this academic year was both productive and rewarding. After two years of remote teaching, he was very excited to return to campus in the fall. He taught SPAN 201 where students happily interacted with each other in person, despite numerous restrictions still in place. He also taught his regular seminar on Asia in Latin America in which students had a chance to talk with the author Anna Kazumi Stahl on Zoom after studying her acclaimed novel, *Flores de un solo día*. In 2021, Koichi's dedication to the teaching of Spanish was recognized by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese on their "Member Spotlight" website.

Koichi has been on sabbatical since January 2022. His first scholarly activity involved active participation in the virtual LASA-ASIA conference in February. Not only did he share his ongoing research about the representation of Japanese immigrants in Argentine literature and



cinema, but he was also invited to a special workshop on academic books about Asia-Latin America relations as one of the pioneers of transpacific studies. Moreover, his co-edited volume, *Geografías caleidoscópicas: América Latina y sus imaginarios intercontinentales* (Iberoamericana/Vervuert), will soon be published in Madrid and Frankfurt.

This volume is a product of a three-year collaboration with scholars from Germany, Argentina, Brazil, and the U.S. Currently, Koichi is revising his second book manuscript, which explores how different literary and cultural approaches to Japan have shaped the concept of modernity in Argentina. He is grateful to have the time to focus on his research and looks forward to revamping his teaching upon returning to Wellesley next year.

On a more personal note, Koichi is using his sabbatical to travel to Japan alongside his family. While he is building a new network with scholars in Japan, his children, Taishi (6) and Mina (3), are experiencing a semester of school in Japan. Even though Koichi is unable to attend commencement with all the seniors, he is sending them best wishes from the land of “Yonaguni.”



In 2021-22, **Nancy Abraham Hall** coordinated Elementary Spanish, taught a section of Spanish 241, and offered her signature course on the Latin American short story. In this last course students to discussed texts by Borges, Rulfo, Lispector and García Márquez, Dirty War narratives by Valenzuela, Benedetti, and Fuguet, and twenty-first century works by Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Alejandro Zambra, Guadalupe Nettel and Liliana Colanzi, among others.

This May, Professor Hall returns to Smith College in Northampton, Mass., where the class of 1972 will mark its 50th reunion year. It was thanks to Smith’s remarkable faculty and in particular, her beloved mentor Joaquina Navarro, that Nancy decided to become a Hispanist. Miss Navarro’s extraordinary presence and elegance, intellectual rigor, and landmark study of the novel of the Mexican Revolution made her the perfect role model for a very organized *ratoncita de biblioteca* raised in the D.F. and shaped by the political ferment of the late sixties. Looking back, Nancy is so grateful to have had Joaquina’s example of how to learn and teach with love and dignity.



Nancy Abraham '72

Hatfield Hall, Smith College

Prof. Joaquina Navarro

Antônio M.A. Igrejas taught Intensive Elementary and Intermediate Portuguese courses, an Introduction to Lusophone Studies course, and directed an Independent Studies on the “Doctrine of Discovery” in Brazil.

To share his research and professional experiences, Antônio attended the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference (Virtual). He participated in the Roundtable: *Toda uma vida: edades e identidades / Toda uma vida: idades e identidades* with a presentation titled “‘Cabelos vão no pente e no dentista os dentes’: de velhices e do grotesco em Jorge de Sena”. Also at NeMLA, in the session “Promoting Lusophony: Developing/Sustaining Programs”, he presented, “The Making of Global Portuguese Studies at Wellesley College.”



Left: Camilla (4) Right: James (2)

For **Carlos Ramos**, this academic year marked the last of a five-year stint as chair of the department. Things feel very different now from that distant Fall 17 semester, when his second shift as chair started. The challenges and difficulties brought about by the pandemic have transformed our teaching, our scholarly activities, and even how our departments run and colleagues interact. While it has not been easy, we have learned and adapted to the new circumstances together with our students. As a result, we have grown as professionals, forced to reevaluate our priorities and to reshape our methods.

A highlight of professor Ramos’ teaching in 21/22 was his seminar, “Don Quijote in the 21st Century: Freedom and Utopia.” Reading *Don Quijote* with a group of ten whip-smart, committed students was a first-rate academic and personal experience. Cervantes’ book still speaks powerfully to us. There is a deep understanding of the human condition in its pages: many adventures, concern for the marginalized, and a frequent pull between what’s real and what’s imagined, and the inspiring drive of the protagonist to pursue his chosen path. On the final day of classes, students shared hilarious memes inspired by the book, as well as a quote they would choose for a tattoo, and five lessons that they took from *Don Quijote*.



His scholarship this year involved exploring the Wellesley Archives and writing an article about Teresa Guillén based on her youthful correspondence with her father, Jorge Guillén, a distinguished professor in the department and one of the most respected poets of 20th century Spain. “Teresa Guillén de Gilman ‘43. A Life in Letters” will appear in the proceedings of the *AATSP 12th Biennial Northeast Regional Conference*. The second article continues a line of research that has occupied him for years. It is titled, “La albada moderna. Notas para una historia cultural,” and will be published by Scriptura, in Spain.

February brought a trip to Córdoba for the celebration of the 40th year anniversary of our study abroad program in Spain, PRESHCO. Aside from participating in the festivities, and spending time with the “equipo” that runs the program, he was able to give an in-person talk at the *10º Encuentro de Universidades Españolas y Norteamericanas* organized by APUNE and hosted by the Universidad de Córdoba. It was a welcomed return to normality after two years of Zoom presentations.



As the academic year neared its end, we were able to bring visitors to the department again. In early May, the new Consul of Spain in New England, Ana Durán de la Colina, and Jesús Fernández González, the Education Counselor for the USA and Canada of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, visited Wellesley and toured our facilities, meeting with some of our students.



Inela Selimovic. As I reflect on the last two semesters, I remain grateful for my students' enthusiasm, focus, and love of learning. We embraced different modes of hybrid pedagogies throughout the year, and their dedication to learning kept me energized. Inspired by the students' engagement, I created two new courses—namely, SPAN 251 Youth in Argentine Literature and Film (taught in Spring 2022) and SPAN 317 Intermedial Pleasures in Latin American Film (Fall 2022).

This academic year was also rewarding in terms of my research. On August 9th, 2021, *La Jornada Zacatecas*, in Mexico, published “La marginación empoderada en *El actor principal* (2019) de Paula Markovitch.” On August 14th, 2021, I conducted an interview with Markovitch about her recently debuted film, *El actor principal*, for the International Film Festival Nowe Horyzonty in Poland. I subsequently presented a paper entitled “Emotional Gestures and Political Pasts in Paula Markovitch’s *El actor principal* (2019)” at the International Conference of Hispanic Women Filmmakers at Clark University on October 9th, 2021.



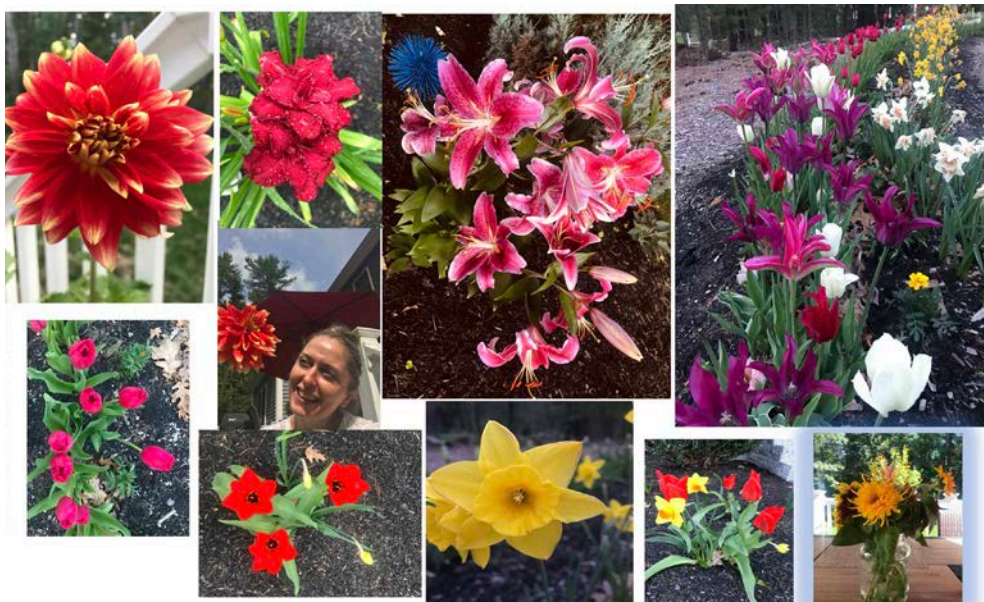
Filmmaker Markovitch visited Professor Selimovic's seminar (Fall 2021)



Bethany Pasko C'23 and Prof. Selimovic (Spring 2022)

In terms of service, several undertakings come to mind. On August 18th, 2021, I joined Professor H  l  ne Bilis (French Studies), June Ofstedal (C'21), and Alice Choe (C'20) in order to participate in a roundtable entitled “Languages Discussion.” The event was sponsored by the Office of Admission and was attended by over 40 prospective students from the United States and abroad. In September 2021, I was invited to serve on the Fulbright Committee at Wellesley College. During the Spring semester, I partook in an ad hoc committee on summer programs at Wellesley. On October 6th, Professor Carlos Vega and I held a roundtable with Lianne Quaynor (C'24), Noa Weinstein (C'18) and Bethany Pasko (C'23) via the Office of Admission. In addition, I hosted two speakers at the Spanish Department. On November 1st, 2021, Professor Stephanie Pridgeon (Bates College) visited via Zoom to speak about her new book, *Revolutionary Visions: Jewish Life and Politics in Latin American Film* (2020). On November 29th, I organized a virtual workshop with filmmaker Markovitch (“Charla con Paula Markovitch: No-guiones, pel  culas, estrenos”) in my seminar, SPAN 303 Argentine Women Filmmakers.

On an even more personal level, I ran a half marathon in April and keep on running my fun Flowers and Contemplation Lab!



Selimovic's Flowers and Contemplation Lab 2019-present

These exciting achievements nonetheless were intermixed with profound loss. Before the academic year began, the Spanish Department had lost a remarkably generous mentor, friend, and colleague in Elena Gascón-Vera (1943-2021). When I joined the Spanish Department in 2012, Elena and I spontaneously generated a collegial ritual. Elena used to stop by my office to engage about her research, Almodóvar, anything that might have fascinated or outraged her that particular week: music, art, life. Every few weeks, additionally, we would drive to a different Asian restaurant to enrich our conversations in gently epicurean ways. Our last gathering took place abroad, in Madrid, during my sabbatical in September 2018, at Café de Oriente Palacio Real. I remember Elena being content, focused, and radiant! Two weeks before she passed on, her frequent text messages ceased to pour in. I miss her mentorship, intelligence, humor, and her unapologetically authentic self.



Professor Gascón-Vera and Professor Selimovic at Madrid's Café de Oriente Palacio Real in 2018

Another passing followed several months later, as the world lost a formidable defender of democracy, Secretary Madeleine Korbelt Albright (1937-2022). This loss was also deeply personal. Secretary Albright devoted numerous years to fostering democracy, justice, and peace in the Balkans, particularly in Bosnia and Kosovo. In 2013, as a Bosnian-American, I finally had an opportunity to thank her in person for her commitment to Bosnia. Secretary Albright will be sorely missed.

Carlos A. Vega. This year marked my first “real” year of teaching in more than three years. It was exciting to be in the classroom again with the same brilliant Wellesley women that I have come to know and love over more than 35 years at the College. 2020-2021 had of course been a year of “Zoom” instruction and in the extremely squeezed “shortened term” format that required one of the sharpest learning curves I had ever gone through. Before that I had been on sabbatical leave for over a year.

Although classes met in the traditional face-to-face format, I have to confess that students (and instructors) in masks do not make for the most propitious of language learning environments. At my age it's sometimes difficult to hear clearly anyway, and the muffling that comes with speaking through a mask does not help. When one adds to it the “word fry” that seems to be creeping up everywhere, listening and comprehending becomes a fully absorbing activity. All the same, it continues to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life to spend time—and in person—with a group of women that are truly devoted to the study of Spanish language and culture.

As I grow older (I'm 68) I realize more and more how much of my identity and self-worth is based on sharing with others not only an appreciation of Spanish, but also the many rich heritages that are unified in one way or another by a language: the most concrete manifestation of culture. I often reflect back on my own childhood in the 1950s, born in Texas and raised in Arizona, when Spanish and Spanish-speakers were not as respected as one hopes is the case today. I remember being asked to not speak in Spanish at certain places back then, feeling singled out when asked on an almost daily basis to “say something in Spanish” as one would ask of an exotic being, and finding ways to negotiate a home in which only Spanish was permitted and a public life at school where everything that was considered worth learning was in English. Perhaps the low point came at the very beginning of second grade when the teacher, a Miss Something Or Other, returned a few lines on paper I had laboriously produced in the block lettering we were studying and to which I had signed Carlos, and informed me that “we do not accept foreign names” and that henceforth I was to be called Charles. That had been in 1961. Sixty-one years later I reflect upon how much has changed and how much that rebuke of what has turned out to be “my” language has inspired me to teach others of the centrality of Spanish, Hispanicity, Hispanism, Latino, Latinx, Lo Nuestro, La Raza ...and whatever term one might prefer next. My gratitude to my students who have travelled this path of cultural self-affirmation with me is without bounds. This past year I have been fortunate in teaching the second iteration (and in person) of my course on “Córdoba: History and Myth.” This year marked the 40th-anniversary of our PRESHCO program in that city and we are all proud of its continuing strength. There have of course been ups and downs (and even more ups to look forward to if we ever get over this pandemic), but we remain one of the longest-running US programs in Spain. In great part due to the tenacity of our Provost Andrew Shennan and our International Study Director Jennifer Thomas-Starck, we were one of the very few programs that did not shut down altogether during the most difficult time of the pandemic. I was honored to have been invited to take part in an

event recognizing these forty years, and to return for this celebration to my second home, Córdoba. Hundreds of Wellesley Women have enriched the life of this city, and Córdoba has certainly left a lasting impression on them.

This past year also witnessed the revival of our participation in the Spanish national honor society Sigma Delta Pi. We welcomed 18 new members, women who through achievements as part of the Spanish Major and their commitment to “spreading the word” about the beauty and significance of the Spanish language, were selected for admission. As many alumnae from previous years will remember, selection adds even greater luster to accomplishment in the major. The society itself is now in its second century, having been founded by an undergraduate woman at the University of California, Berkeley by the name of Ruth H. Barnes who gathered six fellow enthusiasts of Spanish at her home on November 14, 1919.

Global Portuguese Studies



The Portuguese Program continues to grow at the College and beyond with students attending programs in Brazil, Portugal, and Cabo Verde. Emma Andrew was awarded a Luso-American Development Foundation Scholarship to study in the archipelago of the Azores, Portugal, during the summer and Natalie Ayoub received a Madeleine Korbel Albright Anchor Point Summer Internship to intern in Cabo Verde at the University of Cabo Verde and CIGEF (Centro de Investigação e Formação em Género e Família).

As part of the ongoing Portuguese@Wellesley Lecture Series, Nilma Dominique, MIT, gave a virtual talk titled "Identity and Race in Brazil: The Myth of Color Blindness."

Alumnae Spotlight



Paloma Quiroga '21, an Environmental Studies major with a minor in Global Portuguese Studies, is currently working as a Climate Organizer at the Rio Grande International Study Center in her hometown of Laredo, Texas. Engaged with the community to raise awareness cancer-causing emissions in her city, she has a strong interest in legal aid advocacy and hopes to attend law school.

40th Anniversary PRESHCO Program

During the last week in February, our program in Spain (Programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Córdoba) commemorated its first forty years. The celebration coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras at the Universidad de Córdoba. They have been our partners in this ambitious academic endeavor since the very beginning, and it made great sense to celebrate together. During those same days PRESHCO organized with APUNE (Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España) and Universidad de Córdoba. There were delegates from Smith College and also from Wellesley College, that was represented by our Provost Andy Shennan, Professor Carlos Vega, and Carlos Ramos, Professor and Chair of the Department.



Eventos Culturales

In April, through the PRESHCO Faculty Exchange Program, we hosted Ingrid Cobos, a Visiting Professor from the Universidad de Córdoba, whose research centers around Community and multicultural interpreting. At Wellesley she worked on a project on hybrid texts and medical language, and its translation and adaptation for patients through comics or infographics. As part of her visit, she lectured to our students about her new field and the recent findings of her research. It was our first in-person event since February 2020.

**El traductor o intérprete
como puente de comunicación entre culturas:
Medicina Gráfica y ámbito social**

Ingrid Cobos Lopez
*Coordinadora del Grado en Traducción e Interpretación
Universidad de Córdoba. Investigadora Visitante - PRESHCO*



**Tuesday, April 19th
9:55 am
Humanities Link, FND 300CC**

Light refreshments and Cupcakes from Clafin Bakery will be served.

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Questions? jmatos@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Resources? accessibility@wellesley.edu



Casa Cervantes

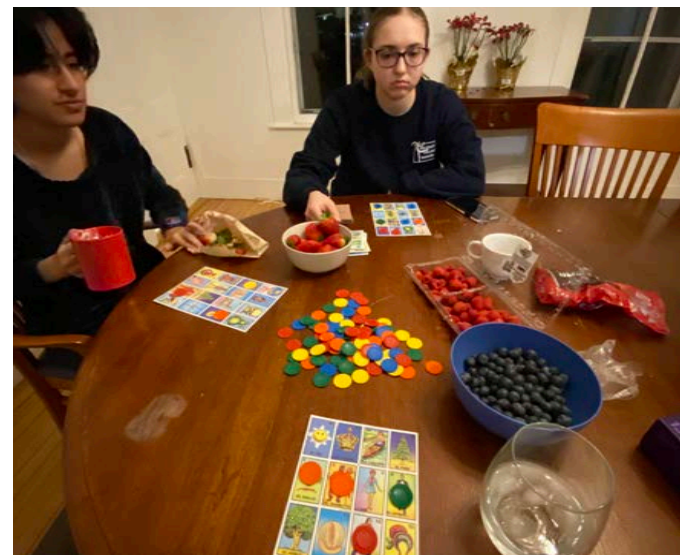
Welcome Brunch Reception



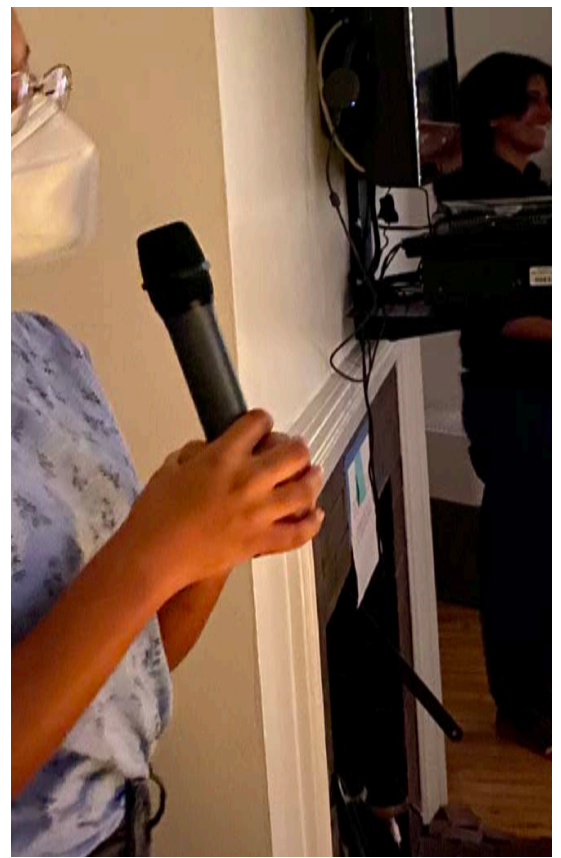
Gingerbread Making



Game Night



Karaoke Night



Honoring Our Spanish Majors

Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society Ceremony



Congratulations To Our Spanish Department Prize Winners!



*Faculty from left to right: António M.A. Igrejas, Evelina Gužauskytė, Carlos Ramos
Students from left to right: Lizzy Jessen, Rebekah Hobbs, Bianca Pio, Paige White, Julia Kim, Mariela Hernández-Flores*



Alumnae Updates



Noa Weinstein '18 - For as long as I can remember, I've dreamt of becoming a bilingual pediatrician. My passions for Spanish and for medicine led me to pursue a unique academic path at Wellesley. My days were filled with a mix of organic chemistry, Argentine film, molecular biology, and avant-garde Spanish architecture, among other topics. I also got to spend an unforgettable semester in Córdoba, Spain in the PRESCHO program. This combination of STEM and Spanish allowed me to grow as a critical thinker and a second-language-learner in ways I still carry with me four years after graduating from Wellesley.

Thanks to the ever-impressive Wellesley alumnae network, I got my first job after college at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC working bilingually as an asthma educator. I worked with a team of pediatricians to provide comprehensive asthma care for children who were repeatedly hospitalized due to poorly controlled asthma.

In this job, I saw the pervasive effects of the social determinants of health affecting kids' lives every single day. I also saw how language can be an immense barrier to receiving healthcare. Using my Spanish to help deliver care to our patients reminded me daily why I chose to major in Spanish and why being fluent in Spanish is crucial in the medical field.

My job at Children's National made me even more eager and determined to pursue my dream of medical school, but I decided to enroll first in a master's program to help prepare me more for the intensity of medical school. After a rigorous and fascinating two years, I'll be graduating soon with a Master's of Science in Medical Sciences from Boston University School of Medicine, and will begin applying to medical school after my graduation.

The Spanish Department was one of the best parts of my four years at Wellesley and, in my entirely unbiased opinion, the best department on campus! I want to give a special thank you to Inela Selimovic, who has been such a wonderful mentor, advocate, cheerleader, and advisor for me since I took my first class with her in 2015.

After graduation, **Alice Choe '20** joined the National Health Corps and put her Spanish skills to use as a patient navigator at a Latino-serving community health center in Philadelphia. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at Drexel University through the prestigious Dornsife Public Health Fellowship. As part of her fellowship, she is conducting research alongside Ana Martinez-Donate, PhD, who has extensive experience in developing and evaluating community-based interventions that benefit Latino immigrants and migrant populations.



Lia James '21. I can't believe it's already been a year since I graduated from Wellesley. After a thrilling graduation and a confusing summer of wondering what was next for me, I packed my bags and moved to Brighton, England to pursue an MA in Anthropology of Development and Social Transformation at the University of Sussex (with the support of the Vida Dutton Scudder Fellowship, a Wellesley College Graduate Fellowship—thanks, Career Ed!). I've learned so much, I've gotten to explore the beautiful south of England, and I just feel so lucky that I ended up where I did.



My first 10K in the South Downs National Park



*Winning my first poker tournament in a local pub!
Community activities like this have been a great way to make friends.*



A picture of Tati and me in front of the Forum in LA, right before the concert.

In the frenzy of our Senior Spring, between applying for jobs and fellowships, trying to finish my thesis, and making sure we were going to graduate, my friend Tatiana and I had bought tickets to see Billie Eilish in Los Angeles. Then, as you now know, I moved to England, and I didn't think the trip to LA was going to happen anymore. But everything worked out magnificently! I got to spend my Spring Break in LA with Tati before flying back across the Atlantic to continue my studies.



A fun post-brunch picture in LA!

I am now preparing to head back home to do my dissertation fieldwork in Kingston, Jamaica this summer. I can't wait to see my family. I miss them all so dearly. At the same time, I know that once I get there, I'll be missing life in Brighton too! I'm not entirely sure what's next for me, but I'm really excited to find out. By the time September comes around and my dissertation is submitted, I hope I'll have the answer!

If you are an Alum and would like to be featured in the "Alumnae Updates" for our 2023-2022 newsletter, please send your stories and experiences along with photos to: jmatos@wellesley.edu.



*On the train, going to London for a job interview.
Wish me luck!*

Summer Internships - 2022

Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (UIMP), Santander, Spain
Bella Adams '23

Observatorio Instituto Cervantes, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
Emma Medrano '25

Asociación Cordobesa de Parálisis Cerebral y otras afecciones similares (ASPACYS), Córdoba, Spain
Emma Roberts '23

Museo de Arte de Ponce, Ponce, Puerto Rico
Regina Gallardo '23

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