June 2023 marks the retirement of Senior Lecturer Nancy Hall, an amazing teacher and valued colleague who for almost three and a half decades has contributed her calm and reasoned voice, consummate organizational skills, and passion for reading and conversation to our community of scholars.

Nancy was born in Boston, and moved to Mexico City at the age of seven. She grew up in Lomas Barrilaco and became bilingual, a gift that would shape her life’s work. When her family relocated to Vermont a decade later, Nancy headed to Smith College, and then to Harvard University, where she earned a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures.

At Harvard Nancy was a Teaching Fellow in Spanish and a Tutor in History and Literature. She won the Travel Study Prize for excellence in teaching, and soon after, the Villasante Award for outstanding work in Comparative Literature. She joined the Wellesley faculty in 1989. At Wellesley Nancy’s signature courses included a survey of the Latin American Short Story and a seminar on the history, literature and politics of modern Mexico. She also took great pleasure in teaching Elementary Spanish, a course for which her innate sense of rhythm, ready laugh, and considerable acting skills were well suited.

Through the years Nancy’s scholarly work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes in the US and abroad. With a focus on intertextuality, she studies how major Latin American writers such as Jorge Luis Borges, Carlos Fuentes, Carmen Boullosa, and Valeria Luiselli, to name a few, have reread works by authors from other times and places. In every instance Nancy’s erudite yet accessible analyses deepen our understanding of Latin American writing within the context of world literature.

Among her many service contributions to the College, Nancy was elected twice to FIPAC, and as its chair, represented the interests of non-tenured faculty at the College. In this capacity she was unfailingly thoughtful, articulate and adept at building community.

An accomplished translator of poetry and literary prose, Nancy has also volunteered for many years as a translator for the Service Employees International labor union, and most recently, for 617 Media Group. From a resource guide for at-risk youth to a professional radio spot supporting universal paid sick leave, she has used her language skills to make a difference in the day-to-day lives of Spanish-speakers in the Boston area and throughout the state.

In retirement Nancy looks forward to reading, dancing, traveling, translating all sorts of texts, playing with her grandchildren, and relaxing with family and friends.

Que te vaya bien, Nancy. Thank you so much for all you have given to generations of Wellesley students, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and the community at large. We wish you a very happy retirement.
After almost fifty years of service to our students, the Department, and the College, Joy Renjilian-Burgy retired on September 1, 2022. A teacher, author, editor and teacher-trainer, Joy was the heart of the Spanish Department.

A previous chair and co-Director of Latin American Studies at Wellesley College, she taught all levels of Spanish language, as well as Chicano Literature, Hispanic Literature of the USA, Caribbean Literature and Culture, and Latin American Film. Throughout her courses she highlighted issues of race and class and how these factors shaped Hispanic literature and reverberated in Hispanic art and film. She also regularly taught in the Education Department and served as University Supervisor for state licensure in foreign language. In addition, her Spanish courses at the Harvard Extension School were widely popular. In 1983 she won the Pinansky Prize for Teaching at Wellesley—an honor that was followed by numerous tributes and accolades throughout her career. One for which she was especially proud was having been named in 2016 to the “Orden de Isabel La Católica” by His Majesty Felipe VI of Spain, in recognition of a life devoted to Hispanic languages and cultures.

Dedicated to educational equity and equality, she served on regional, as well as international, scholarship committees. For more than two decades, she served as co-coordinator for the Mellon Mays Fellowship Program at Wellesley. She was also an avid supporter of all events focusing on greater collaboration with our shared sister schools, Spelman and Morehouse in Atlanta, and was one of the founders of the PRESHCO program in Spain (now in its 41st year).

Co-recipient of a mini-grant from the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation, she spent a lifetime giving presentations and workshops at conferences nationally and abroad, resulting also in leadership roles in the profession beyond Wellesley College: as president of several associations, including the AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese), NECLAS (New England Council for Latin American Studies), MaFLA (Mass. Foreign Language Association), and AIWA (Armenian International Women’s Association). She was also chair of NECTFL (Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the oldest pedagogical conference in the country). An NGO member of ECSOC (Economic and Social Council) at the United Nations, she was also elected Vice-President of UNIFEM USA (United Nations Fund for Women). She also served as lead author of the multi-faceted introductory Spanish language and culture program, *Caminos*, as well as the intermediate Spanish program, *Reflejos*, as well as co-editor of the literary reader, *Álbum*. For decades, she served on the board for the Wellesley Student Aid Society. A fund at the Society was established upon her retirement to fund texts for students of Spanish. Her support for women’s athletics was unflagging.

After leaving the College, she moved with her husband Don to Colorado where she is able to spend more time with her two beloved sons: Lucien and Sarkis. It is difficult to imagine the Department without her, but hope that her legacy will live on through a department she truly inspired. This year the Department established the “Joy Renjilian-Burgy Fund for Spanish Language Study” at the Wellesley Student Aid Society. The fund is intended to help students who wish to study Spanish but who may find the cost of textbooks prohibitive. Contributions in her honor can be made at [Wellesley Students’ Aid Society](#).
Faculty and Staff Updates

Marjorie Agosín. This academic year has been a productive and inspiring one for Marjorie. Her two YA (Young Adult) novels, Vivi en el cerro Mariposa and Los Mapas de la memoria, were published in Spanish by Simon and Schuster and are available for Spanish-speaking youth in the USA. Also this year the University of New Mexico Press reissued A Cross and a Star: Memoir of a Jewish Girl in Chile, first published thirty years ago. The collection The House of Memory was also reissued in 2023 by Solis Press, UK. This October The Guardian of Memory: Aldo Izzo and the Ancient Jewish Cemetery of Venice, will be published by Solis Press, UK, and two new children’s books, Manuelita la tortuga and La bahía de las algas are also forthcoming from Editorial Mis Raíces.

Majorie’s bilingual poetry collection, Beyond the Time of Words/ Más allá del tiempo de las palabras, (2022), translated by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman, received the NECLAS translation award for 2023.

Professor Agosin was fortunate to receive another Fulbright fellowship for this summer to work at the University of Graz in Austria. While there she has been invited to lecture at the Latin American Institute in Vienna and at the Instituto Cervantes in Belgrade.

A recent collaboration with Ignacio López Calvo, an anthology titled Refugees and Human Displacement was published by Anthem Press in 2022. Marjorie also collaborated with the Judy Dworin Dance Company to bring her poetry to the dance stage and provided text for an exhibit muralist Joseph Wardwell’s work at Ogunquit Museum of Art. Together with Jelena Filipovic and Oana Hergenrother, Marjorie Agosín edited a two volume collection for the journal Nashim on Jewish women writers of Latin America (2023).

The images above are from a seasonal series of site-specific performances titled “In the Presence of Trees” that began in July 2022 and were located in various parks in Greater Hartford CT. It was a project of the Justice Dance Performance Project in Hartford and was conceived and directed by Judy Dworin with visual designer Marcela Oteiza. Marjorie wrote original poems for each seasonal piece translated by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman. This spring iteration took place in Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT in which an installation of the poetry on lawn signs was created as a Poetry Walk.

Photo Credit: Marcela Oteiza and Andy Hart.
Currently on junior leave, **Antonio J. Arraiza-Rivera** has had a rewarding year, personally and professionally. As the photo of his daughter Lucía shows, his book *En voz de pluma: poéticas de la escritura en lírica áurea* was published this Spring. Antonio gave a talk in December about “parrandas” at the end of semester celebration hosted by the Latinx Adviser’s Office. As fellow of Wellesley College’s own Newhouse Center for the Humanities, he has been working on several ongoing projects related to early modern literature and cultural production: an article on the love lyric of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and chapters on a manuscript in progress of the life and works of Portuguese bilingual poet António Fonseca Soares. Antonio is eagerly looking forward to joining his colleagues at the department, resume teaching, and working as Faculty Director of Casa Cervantes next Fall.

**Maria del Mar Bassa Vanrell** has had an amazing time designing and teaching a new course on Spanish in the United States (language, sociopolitics, and identity) this spring semester. Students increasing interest in both Spanish and linguistic topics has enriched all the discussions and made the whole experience truly interdisciplinary. Additionally, Mar has continued to coordinate and teach the Spanish intermediate language sequence. She also had the opportunity to introduce and talk about Spanish sociolinguistic issues such as Spanglish and code-switching to a more general public at the showing of *In the Heights* at the Spanish and Portuguese film festival this year. She has loved attending many in-person events at the college, and especially hosted by the Spanish and Portuguese Department, now that things are back to a new normal and we are able to learn together!

With regard to Mar’s research in linguistics, the post-pandemic has seen her return to fieldwork in Brazil to document and analyze semantic and pragmatic aspects of Karitiana, an Indigenous Brazilian language. The continuation of this research has also been financially possible and supported by a Wellesley College Faculty Award. She is excited about various joint projects with other scholars. For example, with Prof. Karin Vivanco from the University of Campinas (Brazil), with whom she has presented part of her new work on factivity and clausal Nominalization in Karitiana at The 26th Workshop of Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA 26) at McGill University, Montreal this past April. In May she was an invited speaker at the University of Campinas and she has also been invited to speak on negation and the behavior of negative particles in Karitiana at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) this coming June.

On a more personal note, Mar is trying really hard to juggle all this while also taking care of and spending quality time with the two most important people in her life, her two little girls, pictured. Duna and Ona, are 4 and 2 years old, respectively, and Mar’s most loyal field-trip and work companions.

**Christopher Eldrett** is thrilled to be back this year teaching at Wellesley College! It has been an eventful first year, most notably punctuated by this Spring’s Spanish & Portuguese Film Festival. To great success, we have featured films from the U.S., Spain, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Portugal, showcasing the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Lusophone world, and presented here on campus by a variety of Professors and students. Additionally, we hosted the award-winning Valencian filmmaker, Miguel Angel Font Bissier, who specializes in inclusive and accessible cinema. Miguel Angel provided us with a conference/workshop focusing on audio-video description. He had the audience not only brainstorm on how to create films for those with sensory impairments, but also imagine the nuanced experience of having less access to sight or hearing.

It was an illuminating program, showing us the limits of language and our own lived experiences. All these events highlight the tremendous cultural offerings of language study, and the opportunities afforded beyond the classroom. Additionally, Christopher struggles to keep up with his two boys; five (almost six!) year-old Diego, and one and a half year-old Leo. He promises to let them visit the classroom now and again in the future.
Evelina Guzauskyte continued working on her research on female sartorial fashions in Latin America during the colonial period and first half of the nineteenth century. She delivered a presentation on that subject as an invited speaker at the Jornadas del Hispanismo organized by the Philology Faculty at Vilnius University, Lithuania.

Evelina introduced two new courses to the department’s curriculum. SPAN 311, a senior seminar on the outstanding Mexican poet, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, was developed in conversation with Prof. Antonio Arraiza-Rivera, in the hopes that Evelina and Antonio may take turns teaching this course in the future. In the fall of 2022, Evelina and her SPAN 311 students were very pleased to welcome back Prof. Nicholas Jones from Yale University to speak about colonial blackness and Sor Juana’s poetic subversions in dialogue with Afrohispanic and indigenous languages and cultures. In addition, Evelina taught a new course, SPAN 247, on the literatures and cultures of the Andean region during the colonial period, which she greatly enjoyed as well.

Prof. Guzauskyte completed her two-year term as the Faculty Director of Casa Cervantes. This year, she worked with the language assistant Carmen María López Herrador to coordinate cultural activities at Casa Cervantes, and interviewed a fresh group of 15 applicants to select the new residents for 2023-24. ¡Bienvenid@s a su Casa!

Koichi Hagimoto had a remarkable academic year and cannot be more grateful. During his sabbatical in Fall 2022, he revised the manuscript for his forthcoming book, *Samurai in the Land of the Gaucho: Transpacific Modernity and Nikkei Literature in Argentina* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2023). In addition, he was invited to teach a micro-seminar at Yale University on Asia-Latin America relations and gave a book talk at the CUNY Graduate Center. While finishing his book, Koichi also started a new project, which is a co-edited anthology of Nikkei authors, or writers of Japanese descent, in Latin America. The volume, called *Más allá del hada: antología de autores nikkei latinoamericanos* (El Fondo Editorial de la Asociación Peruano Japonesa, 2023), includes texts in both Spanish and Portuguese written by 50 writers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. It will be published in Lima this year.

Upon returning to campus in the spring, Koichi was happy to teach his regular seminar (335) and two sections of Intermediate Spanish. As the incoming chair, he is excited to collaborate with all his colleagues in order to build upon the department’s strengths and create a brighter future. Besides teaching, Koichi had the pleasure of serving as the interpreter for the internationally acclaimed author, Haruki Murakami, who was the Mary L. Cornille Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities at Wellesley during Spring 2023. Koichi supported Mr. Murakami during his faculty seminar as well as his public lecture by translating between English and Japanese. It was an unforgettable experience and a great honor to work with a writer he has admired for many years.

As usual, Koichi’s profile would not be complete without mentioning his family. Taishi (7 years old) and Mina (4 years old) continue to thrive at school and give everyone inspiration, positivity, and laughter. After a long day of work, there is no greater joy than seeing a child playing in the mud and saying, “Dad, check this out, I found the longest worm EVER!”
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 served as the Program director for Global Portuguese Studies and Latin American Studies.

To present his research and professional experiences, António participated as a roundtable panellist at the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. In a session on Family and War: Resilience, Affections, and Power in Lusophone Literature and Arts, he discussed a novel by António Lobo Antunes in a paper titled “Que família, que guerra?: De alguns afetos e aflições em Os Cus de Judas/What Family, What War?: Of Affections and Afflictions in The Land at the End of the World.”

António was also invited by the Real Gabinete Português de Leitura in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to give a virtual talk on Lobo Antunes’ novels. The event was transmitted live on the library’s YouTube Official Channel.

Carmen María López Herrador was our Spanish Language Assistant for 22-23. She had a great time living in Casa Cervantes where she developed lasting connections with some of the students thanks to their mutual interest in Spanish, TV shows, travels, and tasty food. Every week Carmen was able to conduct Spanish Table, which gave students the opportunity to improve their oral competences outside the classroom and to gain confidence for an approaching experience abroad. Also, she held office hours where she provided advice and support to Spanish students, assessing them with grammar, oral fluency, and corrections.

She took advantage of the courses offered by the Spanish department and attended “Spanish for Heritage Learners: Learning Language through Culture” and “Masculinities in Medieval and Golden Age Spanish Literature” which, supported by Professor Vega, inspired her to speak at the Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York. Not only did she share her ongoing research on heritage learners, but she also discussed Wellesley’s commitment to being an inclusive environment for multicultural students. Carmen also enjoyed getting to know Boston and traveling to different cities like New York, Toronto, Chicago, and San Juan.
Throughout this past year Jael Matos is grateful to her heavenly father, Jehovah. Her mother, Eugenia, was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2021. Jael’s older siblings Mara and Edwin took some time off from their secular work to go to Puerto Rico during their mother’s chemotherapy treatments, which started in November 2021. After just two extensive chemotherapy treatments, she was admitted to the ICU due to complications. Mara was there during that time and was able to give daily updates to the family on Eugenia’s condition. In January of 2022, it was Jael’s turn to care for her mother. Luckily, she was able to stay in the hospital (after testing negative for COVID) while she recovered. After about 10 days, they were allowed to go home. During the next two months, Jael cared for her mother just like a live-in nurse. It was truly trying time for Jael, but she is thankful to Jehovah, for giving her the strength and energy to be able to care for both her sick mother and elderly disabled father. By the end of Jael’s two months stay, it was her brother, Edwin’s turn. He was just the right person to oversee Eugenia’s physical therapy, as he whipped her into shape and she was walking in no time! Jael is grateful for her siblings’ support during this difficult time, and happy to report that mom has recovered well and completed all her treatments. They are not out of the woods yet, but have faith that she will get to ring the bell at her oncologist’s soon!

Back at Wellesley, the 22-23 Academic year was full of events, as in pre-pandemic days. Both the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and Italian Studies hosted many cultural events from lectures to Film Festivals. (See our events page section for more details and pictures). There was also a well-attended reception to mark Jael’s 20th anniversary at the College.

Folks gathered for a celebration in her honor and to thank Jael for all she does to keep everything on track in the Department she supports and throughout the College.

For the past few years, Jael has become the unofficial curator of the Humanities Link, since before the renovation it used to be offices for the members of the Spanish Department. So, it was important to her to fill the space with all forms of art to be enjoyed by the College community. Last year, Jael has had the privilege to work Eve Zimmerman the Director of The Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, and Kathya Landeros, Professor in the Art Department, to display the latter’s photography in the Newhouse Center and the Humanities Link. Kathya is a Mexican-American photographer who focuses on LatinX communities and their exploration of history, migration, representation and belonging.

In April of 2023, in collaboration with Mared Alicea-Westort, the Advisor to LatinX students, the full support of The Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, she invited Fabiola Méndez to perform during LatinX Month. Fabiola is a Puerto Rican cuatro player, singer, educator, composer and crossover artist who combines folkloric, jazz & Latin rhythms in her original compositions. The first student to graduate from Berklee College of Music with the Cuatro as principal instrument (2018), Fabiola takes her listeners on a journey through her identities and culture, while celebrating the Cuatro puertorriqueño.

For Jael this year has been busy with all sort of fun and exciting developments, including connecting with someone special. Jason was totally unexpected and she was not looking for love. She is also so thankful that her mother is in recovery and just getting back to normalcy. Perhaps this is the happiest Jael has ever been.
While **Carlos Ramos** is currently on sabbatical, this has been a very active year for him. In the fall he presented a paper on Katharine Lee Bates in Spain at Dartmouth College conference devoted to another American pioneer in the field of Hispanism: George Ticknor. He also received an invitation from “Observatorio de la lengua española - Instituto Cervantes at Harvard University” to participate in an event honoring the memory of Spanish writer Javier Marías, just a few weeks after the author’s death in September 2022. Marías had been a visiting professor at Wellesley in the Fall of 1984.

This academic year Carlos directed what was likely to be his last Wintersession class in Barcelona: SPAN 258H, “Barcelona and the Spirit of Modernity: Art, History, and Culture (1859 to the present).” He has taught this course nine times between 2003-2023, and it is unquestionably a highlight of his professional experience, as well as a great immersion opportunity for students. In addition to guest speakers, classes, and cultural visits, students lived with host families, unique component of this Wintersession course that significantly amplified the experience.

Another memorable occasion this year was hosting Spanish author Rosa Montero for a public conversation at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities in March. Rosa is one of the most widely read authors in the Spanish-speaking world, and her work has been translated to 26 languages. Like Javier Marías, Rosa had been a visiting professor at Wellesley, delighting our student during the Spring of 1985 and again in Spring of 1991.
Inela Selimović. This year brimmed with numerous demands but it was also packed with sunflowers, beach time, and renewed energies to stay focused.

It was delightful to engage with my peers at different conferences and professional gatherings this academic year. On July 14th, 2022, I presented on Paula Markovitch’s *El actor principal* (2019) at the III Congreso Internacional: Creadoras en la Educación Literaria e Intercultural (CICELI) in Valencia, Spain. I also attended the 2022 Reykjavík International Film Festival (RIFF) in Iceland during which I was able to harvest several new films from the Spanish-speaking world. During the same semester, my students and I were privileged to welcome Cecilia Barrionuevo to Wellesley College. As one of the most prominent Argentinian film curators, Barrionuevo has most recently served at the art director of the Mar del Plata International Film Festival. She visited my SPAN 241- Culture, Politics, and Creativity on December 1st, 2022. It was magnificently rewarding to watch my students converse with Barrionuevo during her talk entitled “Miradas y recorridos: un abordaje a la programación cinematográfica.”

Several service-focused responsibilities interspersed this academic year. I served on the Agenda Committee (AY 2022-2023), wrote numerous recommendation letters in order to support my current and former students’ study abroad pursuits, graduate and medical school studies, internships, fellowships, and more. These were collaborative moments, which entailed both focus and flexibility, as we met in person and via Zoom, conversed on the phone, exchanged numerous emails, and successfully met our deadlines. On April 21st, I joined Professor Hélène Bilis (French Studies), with several of our French and Spanish majors, to carry out an in-person roundtable at Wellesley’s Weaver House. We engaged with an enthusiastic group of admitted students and their parents. I am grateful to our Spanish majors, especially Bethany Pasko ’23, Camille Osumah ’23, and Charlotte Gebhard ’24, for their invaluable insights during this gathering.

In terms of my research, this was a productive academic year as well. I would not have been able to complete some of my research undertakings without the help from Wellesley College’s Associate Professor Research Grant AY 2020-2022 and the Spanish and Portuguese Department’s Huntington Fund. In September, I published a two-part review-essay in *La jornada Zacatecas* about *Cacerías imaginarias* (2022) and its author’s cinematographic work. I reviewed Ana Forcinito’s book, *Óyeme con los ojos: Cine, mujeres, visiones y voces* (2018) in *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades* 48. 2 (2023): 191-193. My article, “Foreign Intimacies and Political Pasts in Paula Markovitch’s *El actor principal* (2019),” is forthcoming in the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 32. 3 (2023). Finally, after nearly three years of collaborative work during and beyond the pandemic—with some of the most dedicated and thoughtful colleagues from Latin America, Europe, and the United States—I co-edited another collection of scholarly essays (with Professor Jorge González del Pozo), *Encuentros fortuitos. Agencialidad en conflicto y poder en movimiento* (Iberoamericana/Vervuert, forthcoming).

Carlos Vega served as chair this past year (his fourth turn at the position since his arrival at the College in 1987). He found the duties of chair continued to evolve due to the proliferation of digital formats and the immediacy of communication facilitated by the internet. At the same time that the Covid pandemic wrecked havoc on our traditional pedagogies and forced us to rethink instruction in language and culture, it prompted new approaches to learning and community building. Although we have returned to in-person teaching (with masks) we continue to assess the extent of both the pandemic’s disruption and the ways in which it forced us to grow and improve.

In preparation for an external evaluative visiting committee scheduled for the Fall of 2024, the Department has been engaged in reflection upon such topics as the nature of the major, the role of international study in our curriculum, unity and diversity in the Luso-Hispanic world, resources needed to offer students a variety of lectures and cultural events to complement the curriculum, and gathering data that would inform any new directions in our department. We also continue to reflect upon how the Department can address more fully the need for greater diversity and inclusiveness in our offerings and
The Department continues to host a bevy of lectures and cultural events that highlight the centrality of the Luso-Hispanic world to our global cultures. These have included a Flamenco guitar concert by the long-time professor guitar at the PRESHCO program (Guillermo Salinas Ayllón), an extended film series of Spanish and Portuguese works facilitated by an award from the Spanish film club PRAGDA (https://pragda.com/spanish-film-club/), an introduction to inclusive cinema by which sensory-impaired persons can experience films more fully, a conversation with Rosa Montero (one of Spain’s most celebrated novelists and journalists who has taught twice at Wellesley in the past), receptions with Spanish majors at Slater International Center (including our annual Sigma Delta Pi induction ceremony), a workshop in Brazilian Capoeira—as well as numerous other events. In addition, the Spanish and Portuguese Department continues to support—both financially and in terms of audience generation—the many events organized by the Advisor to Latinx Students such as the Día de los Muertos commemoration and activities during Latinx Month (April).

On February 17, 2023, Jael Matos celebrated twenty years with the Spanish Department as Administrative Assistant. Such an achievement is unusual in the extreme and testifies to her exceptional commitment and engagement. Her cheerful yet professional interaction with faculty, students and staff is remarkable, and has made all the difference in numerous occasions. She has also served as a resource for many staff colleagues who have seen her as a teacher and mentor. It was only fitting that we should celebrate with her these past two decades of service—as we did on March 9 with a reception attended not only by members of the Departments of Spanish and Portuguese, and Italian, but also by well-wishers from a host of other College divisions.

We were delighted this year by notification of a bequest made to the Department by one of our most devoted alumnae: Florence Lois Redding Jessup, Spanish Major in the Wellesley Class of 1956. Florence often stated that studying Spanish at Wellesley had changed her life. After receiving her degree (and spending her junior year in Spain), she went on to obtain an M.A. in 1958 in Spanish at Indiana University. She engaged in various activities—including raising a family—and received her Ph.D. in 1975 from Indiana as well. She served as Professor of Spanish at Butler University for over thirty years, as well as Chair. She loved Spain and Spanish culture, and was particularly fond of the work of Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar. It was therefore in order for a small portion of her bequest to be used to sponsor the Spanish and Portuguese film series mentioned above. Florence—who came to know the beauty of Spanish long before it was the norm in the US—was indeed a woman who “made a difference” in something she loved.

This past year Vega taught two courses that are among his favorites. The first was Spanish 243 “Spanish for Heritage Learners” and the second was Spanish 308 “Masculinities in Medieval and Renaissance Spain.” Spanish 243 is an important opportunity, especially for Latinx students, to hone their “textbook” Spanish skills and to reflect upon such shared realities as the role of Spanish in a predominantly English-speaking society, linguistic ideologies in the US and how they impact identity, negotiating formal and informal speech registers, and related topics. In the second, students read some of the basic texts of the traditional Spanish “canon” (El Cid, Libro de Buen Amor, Celestina, Lazarillo de Tormes, El Burlador de Sevilla, Fuenteovejuna and La Vida de san Alejo) through optics informed by contemporary theory in Masculinity Studies. As always, he enjoys welcoming students to his home, as can be seen in the attached group pictures.
Among other projects Vega has worked on this past year, he is most proud of collaborating with the NGO “En Vía” based in Oaxaca, Mexico in the establishment of new internship opportunities for students. “En Vía” offers microloans to women who wish to establish a small business of their own (https://www.envia.org/). In order to receive the first loan, participants must team up with two other women and enter as a unit. All three must repay the initial before any can secure a second one—thus encouraging mutual support. Participants must also undergo an eight-session course on entrepreneurship (including computer use, marketing and merchandising, and accounting). Other than outright donations, funds to support the loans and general functioning of the NGO are generated by touristic excursions that fall under the rubric of “responsible” or “sustainable” tourism. As part of the format, paying guests visit the homes or businesses of selected businesswomen and learn about local initiatives in such areas as weaving, sustainable produce growing, and cultivation of cochineal for the cosmetic industry. Visitors thus get to know rural communities that they would normally not see and meet local residents—primarily Zapotec indigenous families—that would not be possible otherwise.

They also can feel that they are not only visiting an area as a tourist, but are helping to bring about change in these welcoming communities. These tours have received extremely favorable reviews in such important travel resources as Trip Advisor (https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g150801-d1767193-Reviews-Fundacion_En_Via-Oaxaca_Southern_Mexico.html).

This summer, thanks to the support of Wellesley’s Career Education division and in particular the vision of Lorraine Hanley, Director for Wellesley-Funding Internships, three Wellesley students will be taking part in the pilot program at “En Vía.” We hope this option to both improve Spanish skills and make a difference in the lives of Oaxacan women will be attractive to students in such fields as Environmental Studies, Sustainability Studies, Economics, Anthropology, Women and Gender Studies—to name only a few.

Carlos also continues to receive great satisfaction from knowing that the Wellesley internship at ACSPACYS (Asociación Córdoba de Parálisis Cerebral y Otras Afecciones Similares: https://acpacys.org) in Córdoba, Spain is still thriving (after well over ten years of operation since he and then-director of the Center for Work and Service, Joanne Murray established the program). The NGO serves clients with cerebral palsy and related conditions in the city of Córdoba where Wellesley maintains its long-standing study-abroad program PRESHCO (which is at this point one of the oldest in Spain, recently having celebrated it’s 40th Anniversary). Students who participate in the funded summer internship are exposed to various dimensions of therapy and rehabilitation (including speech therapy, occupational therapy, massage, team and individual sports, etc.—and all in Spanish!).

Carlos looks forward to even further internship opportunities for Wellesley students in Spanish-speaking countries and is grateful to Career Education for it’s commitment to preparing our students who—through these programs—already do make a difference in the world.
The Global Portuguese Studies Program finished its first year as part of the new and renamed Department of Spanish and Portuguese. One of our students, Karen Osuna Martinez ’25 is going to study in Portugal at the University of Lisbon in the Fall and another, Jessica Lopes ’26, was awarded 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). In addition to working at CIGEF, Jessica will attend the Humanitarian Action Project Summer School and help with the Design of the Equality Plan of the University of Cabo Verde.

Kate Azar ’21 has been working at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in the Quantum Information and Integrated Nanosystems research group studying superconducting quantum computing. In her free time, she drinks too much coffee, takes naps with her dog Senna, reads fiction, and travels as much as time and money allow. Starting in Fall 2024, she is excited to announce that she will begin a PhD program in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT.

Paloma Quiroga ’21 graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Global Portuguese Studies. She is currently teaching English in Shodoshima, Japan as part of the JET Program and prior to that she worked as a climate advocate in her hometown of Laredo, Texas. She has plans to attend law school in the near future.

Sophia Pechatey ’22 has been living with her family in rural MA and enjoying life in the country. She’s been learning how to care for chickens, bees, and a large garden, as well as a little bit of web design (check us out at easthillfarmma.com!). She has been consulting with paleBLUEdot, an environmental firm that guides cities and counties in the process of designing and implementing climate action plans, and has been excited to learn new softwares in data processing and mapping as part of this work. She’s also been managing social media accounts for The Metta Center for Nonviolence, learning to knit, and of course practicing her Portuguese (tá aprendendo a tocar “É O Amor”, uma musica favorita de PORT 103, no violão)!
AFRO-BRAZILIAN CULTURE
DANCE MOVEMENTS
with Mestra Isaura Oliveira

Thursday, March 16
5:15pm
PNW 101

Light refreshments will be served before event
Welcome Brunch Reception

Casa Cervantes
Taller de cocina con Carlos Ramos
Eventos Culturales

2023 SPANISH/PORTUGUESE FILM FESTIVAL

10 February
In the Heights
Jon M. Chu
United States

2 March
Miriam Miente / Miriam Lies
Natália Cabral, Grixel Estrada
Spain, Dominican Republic

17 February
Carlos mejorada / Drowning Letters
Pauu Puelloos
Spain

17 March
Nuó Mixteco
Junior / Alice Jéron / Gil Baroni
Brazil

24 February
Cabeça de Négo / A Brudha’s Mind
Deo Cardoso
Brazil

All Films will be screened at
Collins Cinema - 5pm

Sponsored by the Department of Spanish & Portuguese,
Florence Redding Jessup ’56 Fund

Questions? ce1019@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Services? Accessibility@wellesley.edu
Inclusive Cinema
Miguel Ángel Font Bisier
Filmmaker, Screenwriter and Researcher

"Culture is a right, not a privilege."

Wednesday, March 15th
5pm
Library Lecture, Rm 138
Conversation and Performance with Fabiola Méndez

April 12, 2023

5pm

Tishman Commons

Light refreshments will be served

Free and Open to the Public

For more information on Fabiola Méndez visit: fabiolamendezmusic.com
Questions? Email fabiolamendezmusic@gmail.com

Accessibility and Disability Resources: accessibility@wellesley.edu
Jael Matos Celebrates 20 Years at Wellesley!
Honoring Our Spanish Majors

Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society Ceremony
Sarah Boehm ’20. Since graduating from Wellesley in 2020, I have used my degree in Spanish throughout my work. After tutoring high school students in Spanish in 2021, I was offered a Spanish teaching position in January 2022 at The Archer School for Girls in Los Angeles, CA. I taught four sections of high-school Spanish, three sections of Spanish II and one section of Spanish I. Through teaching, I was challenged to learn how to structure and execute engaging, dynamic, and culturally-relevant lessons, as well as make students feel safe to take risks in the classroom. As I gained more experience planning lessons and receiving student and faculty feedback, I was able to get more creative with my classes. Among my favorite lessons was teaching students about the diversity of the Spanish speaking world; one assignment asked students to choose a traditional dish from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and produce a short cooking show. Another lesson spoke to intersections of identity; we studied the work of Afro-Catalán painter Montserrat Anguiano and Afro-Nicaraguan poet June Beer. Additionally, we spent a few classes watching ‘Street Food: Latin America’ and learning about the impact of Japanese immigration on Peruvian cuisine and culture. This last experience, specifically, called upon memories of Professor Hagimoto’s Cuban Literature and Culture Seminar; as a class, he took us to ‘El Oriental de Cuba’, a Cuban restaurant in Boston, where we tried various traditional Cuban dishes. The most rewarding and inspiring part of my work as a teacher was seeing students engaging directly in the language and allowing themselves to make mistakes.

While my term as a Spanish teacher had come to an end in the spring of 2022, my passion for education and the Spanish language did not waiver. I continued to tutor students throughout the summer and was offered a Library Assistant position in the fall at the same school. While I have not been working directly in the World Languages department, I have continued to use Spanish in my work. I chat with my coworkers in Spanish, help students with Spanish assignments, and give feedback to Spanish teachers. Additionally, my new position has allowed me to engage with students in a new setting. Akin to teaching, my library work challenges me to engage students through storytelling. Occupying a different role at the school has also permitted me to get to know students in a different way, especially through learning what kinds of books they read and stories they enjoy.

Anissa Kurani ’21. Spanish has most definitely been meaningful during my professional trajectory as well. Learning the language and exploring Latin American cultures have afforded me the opportunity to connect with patients and colleagues, enriching my experience in healthcare. My roles have entailed being a patient advocate, and Spanish has expanded and enhanced the scope of my ability to do so. Given that just a small percentage of doctors in the US are Spanish-speaking and require third-party interpreters to treat Hispanic patients, my connections to the language and culture have helped to humanize these interactions. Moreover, in a hospital setting, I have recognized that the language barrier has implications for patient comfort and experience, and I am committed to recognizing the needs and respecting people of other cultures.

In April of 2023, I was offered and promptly accepted a Fulbright ETA position in Asturias, Spain for the 2023-2024 school year. I am eager to re-enter the classroom and learn about Spanish pedagogy firsthand. I’m also incredibly excited to both integrate my personal and professional experiences into my lessons to teach students about the United States and equally to learn from Spanish students about Spanish traditions and values.
Emily Carey ’19 has been quite busy since she graduated. Emily has spent the last 3.5 years working in an infant/toddler classroom at the Wellesley Community Children’s Center (WCCC) on the edge of campus. However, in March she made the transition from her teaching job at the WCCC to start as the Volunteer Coordinator in the Wellesley College Alumnae Association. In this role Emily works with all alum volunteers. It is quite a change from her old position but she is enjoying working with and helping so many Wellesley alums. She is also thrilled to be back in Green Hall, working only two floors below the best department!

When Emily is not on campus, she is enjoying engaged life! She got engaged to her boyfriend of 5 years, Will, on the front deck of WCCC on November 4th, 2022. He then surprised her with a trip to Aruba to celebrate. Their wedding is scheduled for December 10th, 2023 at Harrington Farm in Princeton, MA (a Christmas-time barn wedding has always been Emily’s dream) and they both couldn’t be more excited! Emily and Will also moved into their first apartment together last fall and have been greatly enjoying the experience of living together.

Emily has most definitely used her Spanish degree since graduation. In her role at the WCCC, she worked with bilingual children and would also work to expose the children in her care to written, spoken, read, and sung Spanish. Sometimes the children would even start to repeat some of the words she said, which was very rewarding and impressive for being so young. Emily has also continued to tutor local children and teens of all ages in Spanish. She wants them to enjoy their Spanish classes and make their learning fun which she does with games, songs, and art. Now that Emily is back on campus she even hopes to audit some Spanish classes!

Emily is proud to have a degree in Spanish from Wellesley and is so thankful for all that the department provided for her both during her time as a student and even now as an alum.

Amy Johnson ’17. After graduating from Wellesley with a dual major in Sociology and Spanish, I started a PhD program in Sociology at Stanford University, which brought me back home to California and my family. Extending the honors thesis I wrote for the Sociology department, I began studying demographic and cultural patterns in mental health outcomes. My second-year qualifying exam on this topic was published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior in 2021. It used the National Health Interview Survey to show that mental health treatment-seeking increased between 1997 and 2017 despite no corresponding rise in population-level psychological distress. After a brief foray into research on social media, and a UX research internship at Meta, I returned to research on mental health in my dissertation. In the dissertation, which I defended earlier this month, I use computational text analysis to analyze discourse around mental health in the news media from 1980 to 2020 and on social media over the last five years. I highlight how mental health has become a normal aspect of day-to-day life and a lens through which we understand ourselves and others. Yet mental illness remains associated with deviance through an intransigent association with violence, contributing to stigma and inequality.

Beyond my research on mental health, I worked with the Stanford VMWare Women’s Leadership Innovation Lab to conduct a longitudinal study of college students’ understandings of and experiences with gender inequality during and after college. My work on gender is deeply rooted in my experience at a women’s college. My time at Wellesley also instilled a passion for equitable and inclusive teaching. For the past four years, I have worked at the Stanford Center for Teaching and Learning as a graduate student consultant. I taught several of my own courses on health, mental health, and pedagogy, and served as a teaching assistant for both undergraduate and graduate-level statistics courses. This led me to conduct teaching and learning research on strategies to more effectively teach statistical software, which is published in Teaching Sociology.

Outside of graduate school, I mentor high school seniors at the Boys and Girls Club as they apply to college. My past mentees have attended UC Merced, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara; many of our early meetings as we put together their college lists consist of me waxing poetic about the virtue of liberal arts and women’s colleges. I also try to maintain the elusive work-life balance by going to the beach and reading novels.

After searching for a job that would allow me to combine my research agenda with my love for teaching, I was hired for a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, which I will begin in August. Before driving across the country, I’m getting married in June to my partner of nine years. I look forward to writing my first book based on my dissertation and continuing to teach and mentor students.
Laura Mayron ’16 successfully defended her dissertation at Boston University last week. Both her dissertation on Lorca using cutting edge contemporary theoretical tools, and her oral defense were excellent, and the tribunal was unanimous in its praise. It was an honor to be part of the ceremony (also with Rodrigo Lopes de Barros!). She took advantage of all the opportunities for growth that the department offers: she lived in Casa Cervantes, studied in PRESHCO, and was our first “becaria” at Universidad Internacional Menéndez y Pelayo in Santander, Spain.

If you are an Alum and would like to be featured in the “Alumnae Updates” for our 2023-2024 newsletter, please send your stories and experiences along with photos to: jmatos@wellesley.edu.
Congratulations To Our Department of Spanish & Portuguese Prize Winners!

**Bella Adams**  
*Cervantes Prize*

**Heidi Orozco**  
*The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*

**Bethany Pasko**  
*Jorge Guillén Prize*

**Camille Osumah**  
*Maria Luisa Bombal Prize*

**Lisako Koga**  
*Gabriela Mistral Prize*

**Ruthchamar Jolibois & Kiera Barstad**  
*Justina Ruiz-de-Conde Prize*

**Lisako Koga**  
*Global Portuguese Studies*

Summer Internships - 2023

**Emma Andrew ’24**  
*Observatorio Instituto Cervantes, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.*

**Bryn Malone’24**  
*Asociación Cordobesa de Parálisis Cerebral y otras afecciones similares (ASPACYS), Córdoba, Spain*

Like us on Facebook!!  
[Wellesley College Spanish and Portuguese Department](https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyCollegeSpanishPortuguese/)  
Instagram wellesleyspanport_  
Follow us on Twitter!! - [@WellesleySpan](https://twitter.com/WellesleySpan)