



FLL'S SPANISH PROGRAMS FACULTY

# Spanish at UMD

Latin  
American  
Studies &  
Hispanic  
Studies

## ¡Saludos! Greetings!

Greetings from the Spanish section of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Minnesota Duluth! As this is our first newsletter ever, let us tell you a little bit about.....

### Who We Are:

We have majors and minors in Latin American Studies and Hispanic Studies. Lower division coursework pertains to language acquisition and upper division classes are culture studies, literature and film content courses carried out in the target language (Spanish).<sup>1</sup> Our faculty are active educators and scholars committed to UMD's goals of equity,

diversity, social justice, global citizenship and cross cultural competence. We pride ourselves on establishing strong relationships with students throughout their academic journey, guiding them as they enter the professional arena or pursue graduate studies. We are honored to be a part of their lives.

### Award Winning Faculty:

Jennifer Brady was awarded the 2015 College of Liberal Arts Research Award. Andrew Snustad won the 2015 College of Liberal Arts Teaching Award. Congratulations! ¡Felicitaciones!

### Our Faculty

Jennifer Brady  
Ana María Ferreira  
Milagros Gómez  
Jennifer Gómez Menjívar  
Andrew Snustad  
Maureen Tobin Stanley  
Carol Wallace



### Bienvenida, Ana María

Ana María Ferreira will join the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures this fall. She comes to UMD from Georgetown University where she successfully defended her dissertation in April. Her research interests include Latin American Cultural Studies, Indigenous Studies, Postcolonial Studies and Gender Studies.



<sup>1</sup> The exceptions include Sustainability and Globalization in Latin America (Liberal Education: Sustainability) and Latino Literatures and Cultures (Liberal Education: Cultural Diversity in the US) that are open to all UMD students.

# Study Abroad

UMD sponsored semester and year-long Study Abroad programs in Spain include the University of Deusto (Bilbao) and Instituto Empresa (Segovia). To learn about affiliate programs and UMD partners throughout the vast and diverse Spanish-speaking world, pop in to the Study Abroad Office (138 Kirby Plaza) in person, attend the biweekly Study Abroad 101 and visit the International Programs and Services site [www.d.umn.edu/ips](http://www.d.umn.edu/ips). SPAN 3894 is our short term program to Salamanca led by FLL faculty.

## FINANCING STUDY ABROAD

[www.d.umn.edu/fll/quick%20links/Scholarships.php](http://www.d.umn.edu/fll/quick%20links/Scholarships.php)  
<https://studyabroad.wp.d.umn.edu/finances/>

**Gita Lor**, Salamanca student 2015, writes, *"What makes an FLL degree worthwhile on a personal level are the experiences and the opportunities that are gained and presented along the way. From 'las charlas de los profesores de español' to recording a reading from the famous novel Don Quixote to even traveling to another part of the world, the chances of being part of something inspirational, intriguing, and influential are high. Not only are the experiences and opportunities available, but they are the most amazing and positively challenging domains in both academia and life. This degree helps a person grow into an individual with confidence and independence in both the work field and in himself or herself."*



Photos: Above: The Plaza Mayor in Salamanca, Spain, at the conclusion of the summer program. Lower left: Revelers in folk garb, Festival of San Juan Sahagún, Salamanca. Middle top: Teotihuacán, Mexico. Middle center: Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Middle bottom: La Alhambra, Granada. Top right: Students in their University of Salamanca sweatshirts before the music and light show in the Cathedral tower. Lower right: FLL Donors, Scholarship recipients and faculty at the CLA Awards Banquet. A huge **THANK YOU to our donors** whose invaluable generosity helps students fulfill their dreams. (Photos courtesy of Milagros Gómez, Gita Lor, Benjamin Rydlund, M. Tobin Stanley, Tanner Little and Paul Cannan)



# The Value of an FL&L Degree

Hispanic Studies majors were asked *What is it that made/makes an FLL degree worthwhile on a personal or professional level?* This is what they said.

Alumnus **Alex Korte** writes: "Personally, my FLL degree gave me the necessary resources to see the world. I was able to study abroad in Spain with Maureen and [be the program assistant with] Andrew. Now, of course, I'm living in Perú working as a Peace Corps Volunteer, doing my best to help people much less fortunate than I.

"Professionally, my degree helped me to get into my Master's program and into the classroom teaching, something I feel I was born to do." (Photo: Alex Korte, Hispanic Studies alumnus, MA Spanish Literature [Loyola University Chicago 2015], hiking in Otuzco, Lima, above the clouds)

Alumna **Emily Drevlow** writes: "Speaking Spanish opened a lot of exciting doors for me professionally once I finished college. My first job post graduation was teaching high



school in Spain, followed by a bilingual position at a mental health clinic in the Twin Cities, and then graduate school in international public policy at the University of Minnesota. I landed an internship at the United Nations in Rome during graduate school—a life changing experience—largely because I could speak a second language. None of these positions would have been possible without the ability to speak Spanish fluently – a skill gained through UMD's excellent language program.

"UMD's FLL department focuses on specific languages, but also encourages students to hone broader cross-cultural skills and examine issues from new angles – something inherent in a strong liberal arts program like FLL's, and important in our increasingly interconnected world. These skills were invaluable when my husband (also a UMD grad) and I moved to South Korea to teach English in Korean public schools in 2012. Navigating life in Korea and extensive travel through Asia was a richer experience thanks to my liberal arts background—it gave me a deeper appreciation for and understanding of different cultures, history, and the arts overseas." (Photo: Emily Drevlow in Kyoto, Japan)

## AROUND THE WORLD



**Benjamin Rydland**, senior, Hispanic Studies major, writes: "Besides the obvious reason, being able to communicate with millions more people on professional and personal levels, an FLL degree envelops students in the richness of a world different from one's own - some things congruous with one's native culture and others divergent. It makes the world into a larger, more exciting place, as it opens the mind to boundless new possibilities. Another benefit I like to promulgate is that people who speak two or more languages tend to have better mental acuity and longevity versus monolinguals." (Photo: Benjamin Rydland before the wall of masks at the Great Temple Museum in Mexico City)



(Cont. "Value of an FL&L Degree")

Alumna **Bonnie Winn** writes:

"This summer, my husband and I biked from Porto, Portugal to Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France-- a little over 1,000 miles. Long days on the tandem often lead to good conversations, and one afternoon, Richie asked me if there was a particular turning point in my life when I realized that I wanted to see the world. There was no question. I remember exactly where I was sitting in my Intermediate Spanish II course at UMD when I learned about the May Term trip to Guanajuato, Mexico. I signed up immediately, and by the end of the summer, I was hooked on learning abroad. In my junior year, Professor Tobin Stanley encouraged me to spend a semester studying in Sevilla, Spain. After that, I think my friends and family quickly saw there was no keeping me in one place for long.

"My time in the FLL department held, hands down, was one of the most formative moments in my life. It was there that I was inspired to teach and learn all over the world. Knowing what it takes to learn a second language led me to earn a Master's of Education degree in teaching English as a Second Language— and from there, I've



taught English Language Learners in Las Vegas, Nevada; Beijing, China; Padstow, South Africa, and in my current position, in Oberursel, Germany. More importantly, though, these teaching jobs have opened the door to countless learning opportunities: German language classes, flamenco lessons in Spain, cooking courses in India, Thailand, Vietnam, Italy, China and France. Those learning opportunities have led me to form long-lasting friendships with people from places I never even knew existed. This summer in particular, spending 20 days cycling across northern Spain, I was once again reminded how valuable my time in the FLL department was. I could make small talk with the woman selling octopus at the small

town festival, host impromptu English lessons with hotel proprietors, and tune in to the local news as it broadcasted the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona. In short, I don't exaggerate when I say that the professors and students in FLL changed my life, and for them, I am eternally grateful." (Photo: Teaching in Padstow)

### Upcoming Events

Mondays at 5pm in Kirby Plaza 309 are dedicated to film showings for classes, faculty research talks, major/minor information sessions and discussions on study abroad opportunities. Contact the department for exact schedule of all FLL sponsored and co-sponsored events. Be sure to attend the Alworth Institute's speaker series (focus on Global Migration) and the Office of Cultural Diversity events.

### In Memoriam



Professor Emeritus **Richard Seybolt** (October 4, 1942 – May 19, 2015) taught Spanish Language and Literature at UMD for more than 34 years. *¡Te echaremos de menos!*

If you have a story about how Spanish at UMD changed your life, contact Maureen Tobin Stanley at [mtobinst@d.umn.edu](mailto:mtobinst@d.umn.edu).

# Latin American Studies & Hispanic Studies

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