

APUNTES

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

MADRID STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE – SUMMER 2022

By Mia Cornale and Katie Lederhaus



How do you write just one page about a life-changing experience? This past summer, we and six other students attended UWM's four-week study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. This faculty-led trip, conducted by Professor Gabriel Rei-Doval, consisted of two classes: one at a local language school led by local teachers, and the other taught by Professor Rei-Doval. The language class, held at Don Quijote Language School, was assigned depending on each student's Spanish level, so some of us were placed in different classes. In these classes, we practiced our speaking and grammar skills in Spanish, but it was also an amazing experience because we got to meet other students from around the world.

In Professor Rei-Doval's class, "Beyond Toros and Flamencos - Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Spain," we learned about the modern history of Spain and examined all of these events through a cultural lens. We discussed common themes and issues in contemporary Spain and explored the cultural differences that exist within the regions of the country. Prior to this class, most of us were not aware of the linguistic diversity of Spain. One of the experiences we loved the most was the Xeito Novo concert in Pinto, where we got to see a Galician band play Celtic folk music. This experience was special for us because Professor Rei-Doval is from Galicia, and we got to enjoy a part of his culture with him. They also gave our group a shout-out at the end, which was amazing. He put a lot of effort into making the class as dynamic as possible by inviting guest speakers to talk with us and coordinating trips to museums, shows, and even to Toledo. His wife, Julie, and their dog, Griffin, also were with us and accompanied us on our excursions. Through our shared experiences, we grew closer and remain friends today.

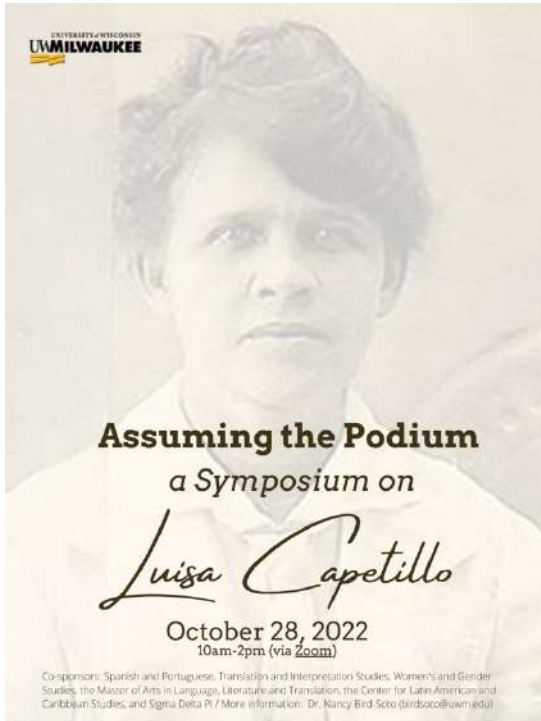
Overall, each one of us grew so much from this experience. We would all describe it as life changing. One of our fellow participants commented, "The fact that studying abroad is an emotional rollercoaster cannot be overstated. This experience challenged me in every possible way. I would do it again without hesitation." Because of this trip, we have the tools to go to new places, try new things, and talk to new people. It got us outside our comfort zone and eager to learn more about our world's many cultures. We are so grateful to the UWM Center for International Education, ACCENT, Professor Rei-Doval, and the UWM Department of Spanish & Portuguese for their help throughout the process, and for providing us with the opportunity to learn so much.



A SYMPOSIUM TO HONOR LUISA CAPETILLO

By Nancy Bird-Soto

On Friday, October 28, 2022, we hosted the event titled *Assuming the Podium: a Symposium on Luisa Capetillo*. The idea for it originated in 2021 as Prof. Nancy Bird-Soto and Prof. Amy Olen (Translation and Interpretation Studies) worked together on a bilingual edition of Capetillo's first two essays: *Ensayos libertarios* (1907) and *La humanidad en el futuro*. With 2022 marking the centenary of Capetillo's passing, and her being a pivotal figure in the trajectory of Puerto Rican, Latin American and Caribbean feminisms and the fight for workers' rights, the symposium aimed to bring together an array of scholars and students to honor her legacy. And, as the calendar allowed, the symposium was held on Capetillo's birthday.



The first keynote was delivered by Prof. Stephanie Rivera Berruz (Philosophy, Marquette University), and Prof. Jorell A. Meléndez-Badillo (History, UW-Madison). The program included the panel "Textuality of the Text" in which Olen and Bird-Soto addressed the challenges and intricacies of working with these particular texts, which are highly infused with Capetillo's persona as a tobacco factory *lectora*. As well, there was a graduate student panel which showcased first impressions with Capetillo's work from the perspectives of literature and translation, as Emily Quesada Glanz (Spanish) and Alexandra O'Rourke (TIS) did, respectively. The symposium was held via ZOOM and made possible thanks to the support from several units: Spanish and Portuguese, Translation and Interpretation Studies, MALLT, Women's and Gender Studies, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Sigma Delta Pi. The event was well attended, and we would like to thank Julie Kline for all the technical support with the virtual format.

The bilingual edition by Professors Bird-Soto and Olen, *Luisa Capetillo: escalando la tribuna*, is forthcoming from Editoria Educación Emergente, a publisher based in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

PERUVIAN NOVELIST ALONSO CUETO VISITS UWM

By César Ferreira

Peruvian novelist Alonso Cueto lectured at UWM on November 9th, 2022. He was hosted by Professor César Ferreira. Cueto is a leading voice in contemporary Latin American literature. He is the author of novels, short stories, plays and essays. His novel *La hora azul* (The Blue Hour) won the Herralde Prize for Novel in Spain in 2005. Cueto's works have been translated into 20 languages around the world and several of his books have been made into films. He has received the Medal for Service to Culture from the Government of Peru and is a member of the Peruvian Academy of Language. Cueto spoke at the UWM Golda Meir Library on the historical novel and the creative process of his latest novel in a lecture entitled "On Writing about Francisca Pizarro, the First Mestiza in South America."



PORTUGUESE PROGRAM NEWS

By Susana Antunes, Gonçalo Borges, and Portuguese students

New Portuguese Course

We have a new course offering for Portuguese in the Spring 2023 semester: Portuguese for Spanish speakers (Portuguese 202). This course will focus on the skills that students already have in Spanish to begin to develop their language ability in Portuguese, given its strong geographic, historical, cultural, and linguistic ties to Spanish. It will be offered online on TR from 4:30 to 5:45, and the prerequisite for this course is Spanish 204 or higher. It covers the content of Portuguese 103 and 104 at a faster pace, taking advantage of the strong lexical and linguistic ties between the two languages, and prepares students to continue their study of Portuguese at the 200 level (and hopefully add a second minor in Portuguese).

Teletandem: Facilitating the Portuguese Learning Process



As a result of a partnership established between the Portuguese program at UW-Milwaukee and the São Paulo State University, Araraquara, Brazil, Portuguese 203 and 310 students had the opportunity to participate in the Teletandem Brazil project from October 4th to November 1st, for a total of 5 hours through ZOOM videoconference. During the sessions, students practiced Portuguese in a real context and collaborated in the English learning process with their Brazilian partners. All the students who participated in the Teletandem project received a certificate from the Department of Modern Languages School of Sciences and Languages at São Paulo State University, Araraquara.

Events in Portuguese Classes this Fall



Brazilian writer and illustrator, Roger Mello, visited us in Portuguese 103 on November 15. It was a great opportunity to learn about him and his children's books. His books tell important stories about the environment, history, and culture of Brazil through colorful and vibrant illustrations. His illustrations encourage readers to use their imaginations to tell the story, rather than rely on the written text. I'm excited that Mello's books can now be found at the International Children's and Young Adult Literature Collection at the UWM Libraries!

Aimee Orndorf, Port 103 student

The Advanced Composition and Conversation class, Port 310, was visited by author Dora Nunes Gago on November 15th. Dr. Nunes Gago spoke with students, answering questions and talking about her relationship with Macau and her love for writing. In class, we had the opportunity to read a short story by Dora Gago, entitled "A chegada" [The arrival] from her most recent book titled *Floriram as rosas por engano*. The visit was conducted in Portuguese with great results from both students and our guest.

Rowan Bradley, Port 310 student

Brazilian singer-songwriter Chico Buarque once wrote that "people are afraid of change; I am afraid that things will never change". Hence, on November 17, 2022, the Clube Lusófono decided to invite Octavio Arcanjo, a Brazilian musician based in Milwaukee, to talk about his life experience as an immigrant artist in Milwaukee, and to discuss his music career throughout a transformative time when he moved from Rio de Janeiro to the US, and in particular to Milwaukee.

Octavio spoke about his childhood and how he learned to play guitar with his father, discussed his musical inspiration by participating in community events in Brazil, and how listening to bossa nova and samba was fundamental to

his musical education - which was self-taught. Octavio concluded his talk by explaining how moving to the US helped him rediscover his music career and reinforce his professional ambition as a performer. Octavio also played a small set of classic bossa nova songs for everyone in the audience, which was a delight for those who joined us that evening.

Gonçalo Borges, Port 360 Instructor

On December 5th, 2022, Santomean poet, writer and narrator Olinda Beja presented a talk to Portuguese 310 students, former Portuguese students, and community. From her childhood in Guadalupe exploring the cocoa and coffee fields to her time teaching Portuguese culture in Switzerland, Olinda regaled attendees with spellbinding stories and lessons learned. Olinda described São Tomé and Príncipe as a mosaic of races and cultures allowing us a glimpse into another reality. Her authenticity, warmth and wisdom reverberated throughout the meeting.

Samuel Orłowski, Port 310 student

CLUBE LUSÓFONO

University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
Spanish and Portuguese Department

**WORDS FROM SÃO
TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE**
with the writer Olinda Beja

December 6, 2022

4:30 - 5:45 pm CST

ONLINE ZOOM EVENT:



More at: facebook.com/UWM-Spanish-Portuguese-Program-1006428615146022



SIGMA DELTA PI INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

By Allison Libbey and César Ferreira

On November 18, Sigma Delta Pi hosted its fall initiation ceremony, welcoming seven new students into the honor society. The ceremony was led by Professor Ferreira and Epsilon Iota Chapter President Jesús Velarde-Moctezuma, and it included readings of poems by Pablo Neruda, Antonio Machado, and Lucha Corpi.

New inducted members: Kessia Andersen, Zahra Noor, Jordyn Richardson, Marybell Rodríguez, Torianna Serchen, Mckenzi Lee Rogalla, and Hannah Tousey



Back row (from left): Prof. César Ferreira, Mia Cornale (Vice President), Jesús Velarde-Moctezuma (President), Hannah Tousey, Mckenzi Lee Rogalla, Zahra Noor, Kessia Andersen, Ruth Schneider (Secretary), and Prof. Kathy Wheatley

Seated (from left): Emily Quesada Glanz (Treasurer), Tori Serchen, Marybell Rodríguez, and Jordyn Richardson

NEW GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD CREATED

By Allison Libbey

This fall, the department created a new Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award to provide recognition to the hard work and dedication of our TAs. In addition to taking MA-level coursework, TAs in our program teach one or two sections of beginning- or intermediate-level Spanish to undergraduate students. They are responsible for planning their own lessons, working with students during office hours, grading exams and projects, and providing support to students throughout the semester.

Our first ever recipient of this award is second-year MA student Tori Serchen, who is currently in the process of applying to PhD programs so that she can continue to grow and learn as an educator and an advocate for Spanish in the classroom.



FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. **Susana Antunes** presented the following papers: “Writing in L2 Portuguese classes: A case study” at the *104th American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference*; “Da Torre dos Ramires ao Cemitério dos Prazeres: ecos de um itinerário (possível) para Portugal” at the *III Jornada Saramago Vive!* in September; “Imagens da mulher na poesia de Olga Cabral” at the *36th Internacional Lusophony Conference* in October; “Aproximações à poesia interventiva de Olga Cabral” at the *International Conference Portuguese-language women writers in the military dictatorship and the Estado Novo in Portugal, Africa, Asia, and emigration countries* in October; “Aromas de corpo-alma em *Chá do Príncipe*, de Olinda Beja” at the *III International Conference on Caribbean, Iberoamerican and African Literatures and Culture: Encounters, Exchanges and Diversions in Difference* in November; “Diálogos Resgatados ao Silêncio em *Os Flagelados do Vento Leste*, de Manuel Lopes” at the *South Atlantic Modern Language Association* in November. She also attended the *XI World Meeting on Teaching Portuguese*, organized by the American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese in August. Her book chapter “Aproximações A Leila Sebbar e Odete Costa Semedo” was published in *The Africas in The World and the World in the Africas: Literatures and Comparativism* and she also published the “Prefácio” in *Chão de Canela* by Olinda Beja, which was released in November. An interview she conducted with Pedro Almeida Maia for *Scripta* can be found here: <http://periodicos.pucminas.br/index.php/scripta/issue/view/1376>

Dr. **Nancy Bird-Soto** published the essay: “¿Seremos Tlön?: Fricción entre ficciones” in *Fricción cuántica. Antología de ciencia ficción desde Puerto Rico y su diáspora* (Ed. Eiric R. Durándal Stormcrow. Gnomo Literario, 2022). She also published “Así, en conjunto: Reseña de *Body Becoming* de Robyn Henderson-Espinoza” in *Revista Cruce: Perspectivas LGBTTTQIA+2* (August 2022), which is a review of the 2022 book by Latinx writer and theologian Dr. Roberto Che Espinoza. On October 3, Prof. Bird-Soto guest lectured in Prof. Kristin Pitt’s Women’s and Gender Studies 700 Seminar here at UWM. She also continues to chair the Spanish UW System Placement Test Committee. Note on how to help post Hurricane Fiona: As Puerto Rico is still grappling with the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona, which made landfall in September, Prof. Bird-Soto encourages those inclined to make donations to consider entities that work directly with local communities such as Brigada Solidaria del Oeste (<https://www.bsopr.com/>), Casa Pueblo in Adjuntas (<https://casapueblo.org>) and Proyecto Matria.

Dr. **César Ferreira** was elected as a member of the Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE). He joins a distinguished group of academics charged with the study of Spanish and Hispanic culture in the United States. The [North American Academy of Spanish Language](#) (ANLE) is one of twenty-four members of the [Association of Academies of the Spanish Language](#), an institution that brings together the language academies of Spain, the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea, Puerto Rico, the United States, and 19 Latin American countries. Ferreira published two articles: “Edgardo Rivera Martínez y la novela de un país posible” in Edgardo Rivera Martínez. *País de Jauja-Edición definitiva*. Lima: Alfaguara, 2022, pp. 619-622 and “La vigilante presencia de José María Arguedas” in *Quipu Virtual-Boletín de Cultura Peruana-Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú*, No. 127, 4 de noviembre de 2022, pp.2-3. He also published three book reviews: Mario Vargas Llosa. “*La mirada quieta* (de Pérez Galdós).” *World Literature Today* Vol. 96 No. 6 (November-December 2022): 57; Rodolfo Hinostroza. *Contra natura*. *Latin American Literature Today* Vol. 1 No. 22 (June 2022); and Karina Pacheco Medrano. “*El año*

del viento." *World Literature Today* Vol. 96 No. 3 (May-June 2022): 78-79. In July 2022, Ferreira was invited to speak at "Cuatro décadas de *La vida exagerada de Martín Romaña*: Homenaje a Alfredo Bryce Echenique", at the 26th Feria Internacional del Libro in Lima, Peru.

Dr. **Allison Libbey** won a Course Development Grant from CLACS (the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies) to redesign our program's SPA 204 course. She and colleague **Laura Martínez-Geijo Román** attended the 2022 ACTFL Convention in Boston, MA to connect with other educators and learn about current trends in world languages pedagogy.

On September 19, Dr. **John McCaw** presented a paper, "Landscapes, Wordscapes: Text as Journey in Luis de Góngora's *Soledades*," at the Midwest Modern Language Association Conference in Minneapolis, MN. He also chaired two panels for the "Spanish I - Peninsular Literature before 1700" session. Additionally, he has been appointed to the Grants Committee for the Mediterranean Studies Association.

This year, Dr. **Gabriel Rei-Doval** was the Faculty leader of the Madrid Summer Study Abroad program, whose core component was his course *Beyond toros and flamenco: Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Spain* (Madrid, May-June 2022). He has also been working on the completion of his co-authored book *Principios de lingüística hispánica* (Georgetown University Press, 2023). He presented on this topic the paper [Los manuales introductorios de lingüística hispánica en Norteamérica: diseño curricular, teoría, pedagogía](#), in the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (Arizona State University, November 4, 2022). In addition, he has published four additional articles for his travelogue *Viajes sen Lee* on Galicia Confidencial: [En guerra coa guerra](#) (8/13/2022), [De Castaneda a Castañeda e viceversa](#) (9/24/2022), [Vodú en Cannon Beach](#) (10/16/2022) e [Tsunamis do corazón](#) (11/20/2022).

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

From Kathy Wheatley
Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
December, 2022



Dear colleagues, friends, students and alumni,

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about all of the exciting events that have happened this year in our Spanish and Portuguese programs. It has been invigorating to return to in-person classes and events, such as our Madrid Study Abroad program this summer, the Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society ceremony, and the visit from Peruvian author Alonso Cueto. However, we have also benefited from the convenience and accessibility that online events provide to learn about different people and cultures through events like the Luisa Capetillo Symposium, the Teletandem experience, and the Club Lusófono events.

I wanted to highlight a resource that was mentioned by Aimee Orndorf, a Portuguese 103 student who is also Assistant Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS). Through the efforts of CLACS, UWM Libraries has acquired several special collections, including the *Pura Belpré Medal and Honor Books*, which celebrate the Latino cultural experience, and the *Américas Award*, which recognizes authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books portraying Latin American, Caribbean or U.S. Latinx subjects. The newest collection, initiated in 2021, is the *International Children's and Young Adult Literature Collection*, which expands the collections to languages and cultures throughout the world. <https://uwm.edu/clacs/international-childrens-and-young-adult-literature-collection/> (To learn more, see Ryan Ammerman's interview with Julie Kline, CLACS Associate Director, in our Spring 2022 newsletter.) I hope that you will all have the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful new collection.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the newest members of Sigma Delta Pi, as well as the current officers, who led a beautiful initiation ceremony. And finally, I want to recognize Tori Serchen for receiving the first Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. ¡Enhorabuena!

Wishing you all a happy new year, feliz año nuevo, feliz ano novo.