

Tertulia program going strong

When the WCUSpanish program shifted its focus to enhanced oral proficiency (i.e. better speaking abilities), it created a weekly meeting for practicing Spanish, or **tertulia**, open to anyone in the community. Although most of the attendees are students and instructors of Spanish, it is not uncommon for other folks in the WCU community to come practice with us. We have even enjoyed **tertulias** with native speakers in the Cullowhee community who aren't connected to WCU. So, check your calendars, tell your friends, and make it happen: come polish your Spanish skills with us!

Our friends at [Tuck's Tap & Grille](#) graciously host our Spanish practice every week from 4:30 to 5:30. See the dates below to find **tertulias** that work for you:

- **Thursday, Oct. 8**
- **Tuesday, Oct. 2**
- **Thursday, Oct. 29**
- **Monday, Nov. 2**
- **Monday, Nov. 9**
- **Wednesday, Nov. 18**
- **Monday, Nov. 23**
- **Thursday, Dec. 3**

Remember, you don't need to bring anything except yourself to come practice your Spanish with us. We'll see you at **tertulia** at Tuck's!

Students and professors chat at a recent **tertulia** at Tuck's.

From left to right:
 Trevor Fender,
 MaryKay Kelly,
 O'Shay Massey,
 Santiago García-Castañón, Juan Bautista, Troy Eckles, Angie Yáñez, Allison Ashbaugh, Anna Ashbaugh, Lindsey Lail.



In late September, three WCUSpanish faculty members traveled to a conference in Mexico City. Dr. Mark Couture, Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido, and Dr. Lori Oxford all read papers at the *Conferencia Internacional de Literatura Detectivesca en Español*, or the International Conference of Detective Literature in Spanish, a yearly event organized by Texas Tech University and the UNAM, or the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Couture's presentation examined parody in a film starring Cantinflas, a beloved Mexican comic figure. In another talk, Centeno-Pulido compared the original *Breaking Bad* with its newer Colombian version, *Metastasis*. Finally, Oxford spoke about the works of Leonardo Padura Fuentes, a Cuban writer best known for his detective fiction.

Although the conference was scheduled to last three days, the last day was cancelled, so the three faculty members decided to visit the ruins at Teotihuacan, a city constructed around 2000 years ago. The professors' trip coincided with the one-year anniversary of the tragic events surrounding the disappearance and probable murder of a group of students at a rural teaching school (known as the Ayotzinapa massacre), and the streets of the Mexican capital were filled with people protesting what is viewed by many as an abuse of power at all levels of authority. Coincidentally, the disappearance of the students is one of Oxford's research areas, so observing the marches and protests in person was a fascinating experience for the three professors, even as they grieved the tragic loss.



at right, from top to bottom: Centeno-Pulido explains the concept of *videotopía*; Couture elaborates on Cantinflas; Oxford stands atop the Pyramid of the Moon in Teotihuacan; Mexico City police line the streets in riot gear as the protests gear up; the family members of the missing 43 students appeal for justice.

WCUSpanish's first faculty-led trip to Buenos Aires

Last May, seven WCU students participated in the first *WCU en Argentina* program. Together with Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido, Assistant Professor of Spanish in World Languages, they spent three weeks in Buenos Aires and enjoyed the many attractions and activities that the program offered. At the same time,

students earned six credit hours toward their major/minor in Spanish with two classes: SPAN 481 - Trouble Areas for Students of Spanish, geared toward reviewing specifically problematic grammar points; and SPAN 493 - History and Culture of Argentina, which was team -taught with the faculty of **Academia Buenos Aires**, an academic institution located only a block away from **La Casa Rosada** (The Pink House), Argentina's Presidential Palace. The two classes were combined with day trips and activities that allowed students to take their newly acquired knowledge and experience it first hand.

Most activities took place in the city of Buenos Aires. Students visited emblematic areas of the Federal Capital: **San Telmo** (famous for its craft markets), **Puerto Madero** (an upscale neighborhood where the group had their first **asado**, a feast from the grill), **La Boca** (home to one of Argentina's most famous soccer teams, **Boca Juniors**), **Recoleta** (the cemetery where Eva Peron is buried), **Palermo** (famous for its shopping, restaurants, and bars), and **Microcentro** (where the Argentinian Congress, Presidential Palace and economic center are located). Students also took part in conversation exchange with locals and had the chance to learn how to prepare **empanadas criollas** (hand formed meat pies).

Outside of the city, the group visited the **Estancia Santa Susana** (a **Gaicho**, or Argentinian cowboy, ranch), where they enjoyed another **asado**, as well as a demonstration of *gaucho* horsemanship in one of their favorite pastimes, the **carreras de sortijas**, ring-races in which the **gauchos** try to thread a ring with a point no bigger than a pen while galloping at full speed.

Students also visited **Colonia del Sacramento**, a nearby town in Uruguay which has been declared a UNESCO heritage site, as well as **El Tigre**, where they toured the river by boat and shopped for crafts in the massive outdoor market.

Since **WCU en Argentina 2015** was a success, WCUSpanish hopes it can become a staple of the World Languages Department's Faculty-Led Programs. To learn more, contact [Dr. Alberto Centeno-Pulido](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WCUSPANISH

OUR STUDENT HAS TALENT!

WCU put on its first “Cullowhee’s Got Talent!” contest on October 2, 2015, and the first place winner was none other than O’Shay Massey, a Communication major with a minor in Spanish. *¡Felicidades, O’Shay! ¡Estamos todos orgullosos de ti!*

STUDENTS HEADING TO CUBA

Keep your eyes out for upcoming news, since four WCU students and two professors will be heading to Havana, Cuba over Fall Break to learn more about what they have been studying in their SPAN 493 (Cuban Culture) course.

WaLC TUTORING AVAILABLE

The [Writing and Learning Commons](#), or WaLC, is currently offering tutoring for this semester in Spanish with student

tutors. Remember: most students who use the WaLC have Bs or better in their classes! If you think you could improve your reading comprehension, speaking and writing skills, or grammar usage, call 227-2274 or click on the link above to make an appointment. If you’re interested in becoming a tutor, talk to the faculty member who teaches the class with which you’d like to work.

STUDY IN COSTA RICA NEXT SUMMER WITH WCUSPANISH

Garrett Fisher, an instructor in the WCUSpanish program, is currently coordinating a summer study abroad program in Cartago, Costa Rica for May-June 2016. For more information see [this flyer](#) or contact [Garrett Fisher](#) directly.



Do you know a student in the Spanish program or an alumnus/alumna with an interesting story? Is there an event of interest to Spanish study that we should announce here? Let us know! Contact [Lori Oxford](#) with your news.



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Come by and talk to us in McKee or check us out on the [WCU Spanish program’s webpage](#).

¡Muchas gracias!