



Economics

Biology

Sociology

Accounting

Prof. César Valverde

## MAJORS

**Avalon Bruno** is currently employed with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state program that works to help educate students and families about the college application process. They are working in community outreach, and after their summer training program will begin working with students through presentations and one-on-one discussions to teach them about things like financial aid and help them figure out their next steps after high school.

**Daniel Maisch** is working in Chicago in the area of Financial Analysis and Accounting and also plans to volunteer in a weekly food drive for low-income individuals in a predominantly Spanish-speaking community.

**Tyler Maple** will be studying in Buenos Aires this fall and plans on attending graduate school for a Masters in Biomedical Science, and then on to Osteopathic Medical School.

**Colleen Palczynski** is currently undertaking an internship at the state capitol where she will be working with the Democratic party and doing research on bills and helping with tasks around the legislation process.

**Jake Tencza** will be working for Deloitte in Chicago as an Audit and Assurance Associate and hopes to secure a position in their branch offices in Spain in the near future.

## MINORS

Lindsey Agne (HS)  
Sasha Arredondo-De Lipski (HSNHC)  
Kaylee Bowers (HSNHC)  
Leticia Camacho (HSNHC)  
Maeghan Eaker (HS)  
Nancy Escobar (HS)  
Jessica Flores (HSBAFEM)  
Malcolm Hedgepeth (HS)  
Shannon Hogeman (HS)  
Kaylah Keuch (HSNHC)  
Brylee Lutman (HS)  
Courtney McAuliffe (HS)  
Madie Monk (HS)  
Lesley Ortega (HS)  
Sydney Runge (HSBAFEM)  
Vicktoriya Salgalova (HS)  
Jessa Salvador (HSNHC)  
Jack Schneider (HS)  
Jake Slovin (HS)  
Amanda Smith (HSNHC)  
Zachary Taylor (HS)  
Jordan Thompson (HSBAFEM)  
Saralexis Torres (HS)  
Eryka Turner-Figueroa (HSBAFEM)  
Wes Watson (HSBAFEM)

*Hispanic Studies (HS)*  
*Hispanic Studies for Nursing and Health Care (HSNHC)*  
*Hispanic Studies for Business, Accounting, Finance,*  
*Entrepreneurship and Marketing (HSBAFEM)*

## Kudos to our students!!

Victoria Ballesteros-González ('25), a Spanish tutor in the Language Resource Center, spoke this winter on a panel at the United Nations on access to clean water as part of the International Day of women and girls in science.

Lexi Ward ('24), a double major in Hispanic Studies and Educational Studies, was awarded a scholarship from the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The award will help pay for her studies here at IWU. ¡Felicidades, Lexi!

Daniel Maisch ('22), a double major in Hispanic Studies and Economics, was awarded the prestigious Lincoln Laureate, a prize awarded to one student in each of the universities across Illinois that recognizes excellence in and out of the class. Other Hispanic Study alums who have received this honor include Hannah Eby ('15), Danny Kenny ('12) and Kari Grace ('10).

Hispanic Studies has settled into our new office space on the third floor of the Center for Liberal Arts. Come visit and chat for a while in our new "Mermaid Lounge" or check out the art in the beautiful Language Resource Center where our new director, Cristina Almeida-Vélez, has put together an outstanding inaugural year of the intercultural corner and other LRC programming.

## August

We finished the move into our new CLA home!

A Salvador Dalí sculpture of Don Quijote was gifted to the department. This 1972 bronze piece on stone plinth was originally donated to IWU by Joseph Czestoshowski and we are delighted to have it displayed in the mermaid lounge.

## September

## November

The Student organization, SALSA, together with Hispanic Studies, put together a beautiful Day of the Dead altar and invited students, staff and faculty to join in the celebration. The president of SALSA, Nancy Escobar ('22), gave a wonderful talk on the meaning of the altar, the different components and what they symbolize, and other related details.

Nov: Dia de los muertos

## February

Over the winter Hispanic Studies collaborated with International and Global Studies to bring the professional dancer Alicia Morris to campus. During her two-day visit to campus, she gave workshops on Cuban salsa to students in the basic sequence classes, to students in Prof. Dixon-Montgomery's "Span 334: Culture of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean World" class, and for all on the IWU campus. Students in the advanced culture class also watched the documentary, "La salsa cubana," to get a fuller understanding of salsa in Cuba and how it differs from salsa in other parts of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

Mar: Ryan Woodall ('13) on Spanish in his life



Feb: Cuban salsa class!

## March

Prof. Ryan Woodall ('13), who returned to IWU this year to teach in the Hispanic Studies program, presented a talk on the impact of Spanish language and

Hispanic culture on his professional development. Students (and staff and faculty) enjoyed learning how he used the skills acquired at IWU as an undergraduate in the workforce and how it led to living abroad and then returning to the states and attending graduate school. Next fall Ryan will begin a doctoral program at UT-Austin. We wish you the best and look forward to hearing more from you in the near future. ¡Buena suerte!

Apr: Dr. Adanri on Yoruba

## April

The LRC also hosted an afternoon of Yoruba. Attendees were able to learn about Yoruba history, language, music, food, dress, and connection to the Spanish-speaking world through a series of guests both in person and online. In the photo above, Dr. Adebayo Adanri explains the significance of wearing one's hat on the left and the right side.

Throughout the spring semester, the LRC organized a series of "Yoga en español" sessions. These classes provided a relaxed environment in which students, staff and faculty could breathe and move our bodies while using our Spanish language skills. We learned vocabulary for different yoga postures and connected our bodies, minds and love of Spanish.

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## Prof. Carmela Ferradans

Prof. Carmela Ferradans' English translation of Garca Benito's short story titled *Cailcedrat* was published in issue 11 of the literary magazine *The Arkansas International*.

The story opens the collection *Por la va de Tarifa/By Way of Tarifa*, written originally in Spanish by Nieves Garca Benito, and first published in Spain in 1999. The collection

features twelve short stories and twelve photographs that document the migration crisis in the Mediterranean at the

end of the 20th century emphasizing the total indifference of the European powers to the tragedy. During the 1990s,

this coast was (and still is) a silent witness to the human tragedy unfolding on the coasts of Southern Spain, where

hundreds of migrant workers were trying to reach Europe in search of work and a better life. Many drowned in the

waters, their corpses taken by the strong currents of the Straits of Gibraltar to the beaches of Tarifa. The collection is

a journey that takes us from Senegal in West Afr

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## ALUMNI NEWS

### Susan Abraham ('05)

Susan is a doctoral candidate in Spanish at the University of Virginia and is working on early modern studies. In her own words, her research “focuses on representations and discussions of truth, falsehood, and authority in early modern (namely seventeenth-century) Morisco textual production. The central question I explore is what this preoccupation with truth and authority reveals about the symbolic function of Morisco manuals of faith and the ways their creators thought, taught, and imagined their history in the midst of their exile. My work tackles these epistemological questions through a framework and methodology that combines medieval Islamic and Christian rhetoric, as well as current theoretical debates in literary, religious, and Mediterranean studies.”

### Mary Tackett ('12)

Last year Mary was hired as the Executive Director of Western Ave. Community Center (WACC) here in Bloomington. While a student at IWU she interned at WACC and after graduating from IWU taught in a variety of bilingual settings and earned her master's in education from Western Illinois University. Mary's passion for multiculturalism, education, and social justice is a perfect fit at WACC and we are delighted to continue working with her in this new role.

## IWU Language School for Kids: Learn by doing!

The IWU Language School for Kids (LSK) hosts programming throughout the year in French and Spanish for ish a!d357 271T)JJ T57 2ch and eatl nTbe .6 (C)19and we wAI TJ 0,her

