



Department of Languages

El boletín

Fall 2019



Dear readers,

Thank you for reading el boletín! The Department of Languages has many exciting initiatives that you can read about in this issue. We continue to enhance and expand our course offerings for our majors, minors, and certificate programs. You can also learn more about our new Spanish for Health professionals program, which is flourishing. Don't forget to check out the many activities of the Foreign Languages Club.

We have many exciting ongoing and upcoming events around campus, as well as several exciting study abroad opportunities coming up for summer 2020.

Sincerely,
Giti D. Farudi
Head, Department of Languages

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XULA in Costa Rica 2019



In June 2019, eighteen students participated in the XULA in Costa Rica program.

Students studied medical Spanish and participated in observations and shadowing in Costa Rican clinics and hospitals including: Hospital Clínica Bíblica, the best private hospital in the country; Clínica Clorito Picado, a public hospital; and Universidad Latina, one of the best private universities in the country.

Participants received medical lectures with various physicians with differing specializations including: Dr. Gabriela Sanchez; Dr. Andrés Chacón; Dr. Rodrigo Villalobos, dean Universidad Latina; and Dr. Rodolfo Garbanzo, academic director at Hospital Clinica Bíblica.



All of this was combined with excursions to the National Theatre, the National Museum, volcán Irazú, Sanatorio Durán, the Art market, a sloth sanctuary, and other excursions. Students also participated in service learning at Santiago Crespo Nursing Home. The program also featured a weekend trip to visit the BriBri community in Limón, where students learned about traditional and plant based medicine, giving students an overall view of the healthcare system in Costa Rica while also exposing them to important cultural scenes and ecological progress of the country.

All students lived with host families, which reinforced the Spanish they learned in class.

**Contact Giti Farudi
to learn more about the
2020 program!**

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XULA in Costa Rica 2019

Jazmine Campbell, a junior Biology pre-med major and Spanish minor, was a recipient of the 2019 Beverly J. Gilliam Scholarship for Foreign Study. Her total award was \$5,200 for the Xavier University of Louisiana - Costa Rica Summer Study Abroad. Here, she reflects on her experience abroad in Costa Rica.

Let me start off by saying "PURA VIDA." This is a Costa Rica's saying which means to live a peaceful, simple, uncluttered life with a deep appreciation for nature, family, and friends. It is their national saying, which reflects happiness and "real living."

The first week in Costa Rica we had orientation at Universidad Veritas and Hospital Clinica Biblica where we learned about Costa Rica and its history while exploring San Jose's surrounding and taking in the sights. We were able to learn about different medicines in Spanish as well as the body parts, joints, bones, and even some tests and treatments. We were able to utilize our knowledge at the hospital when shadowed the doctors. This was very exciting because we were able to understand what the doctors were talking about and what issues the patients had and the treatment given to them. When asked certain questions by the doctors, I was able to answer them not just in English but in Spanish as well. I plan continue my studies to practice medicine as either a Trauma Surgeon or an OBGYN. Being able to shadow and learn about the schooling and the specialties further solidified for me that I am on the right track to achieve my dream.

Not only was I able to shadow doctors in Costa Rica and watch how they treat and discuss illness with patients, but I was able to be in the lab and watch experiments. The time spent at the hospital allowed me to be able to learn about the healthcare system and how everything connects and operates as one unit. This trip was not just all work and no play. We were able to go sightseeing to such places as Monteverde, Costa Rica where we saw the famous cloud bridge that is suspended above the Costa Rican Rainforest. We were able to go ATV riding in the rainforest as well. My most memorable excursion was being able to visit the Bri Bri community, which is an indigenous community in Costa Rica. They have their own medical practices that are very different than modern medicine.

Overall this was a wonderful experience that I was so blessed to have been given the opportunity to participate. Not only did this help me further my study and research within the medical field it also helped me to see and understand how different the United States' healthcare system is from another country's healthcare system. This experience is one I will never forget!



XULA in Martinique

In summer 2019 five Xavier students studied French in Martinique with Dr. Susan F. Spillman, William Arceneaux Professor of French, Xavier University of Louisiana.

Peyton Cuclager was one of those students. She is a junior biology pre-med major and French minor. Here, she reflects on her experience:

My experience in Martinique was incredible. I got many opportunities to learn about the French Caribbean culture there, from the traditional dance to the music and the cuisine. Our group took a tour of downtown Fort de France, went swimming with dolphins, and sailed on yoles together. My personal favorite was the cooking class, where we were able to make some of Martinique's signature dishes.

My host family was also great, and they made sure to take us to the black sand beaches of Saint Pierre and hiking up Mount Pelee. They were always patient in conversation with us, and we learned a lot of new phrases and words that were culturally specific to Martinique. Everyone that we experienced in Martinique was welcoming and helpful, so we had a great time and were able to ask for help when we needed it without fear.

Our courses were fun and interesting, and having Dr. Moise teach culture and Madame Spillman teach traditional folklore was a treat. I enjoyed researching and finding real world examples for my final culture project. Overall, I am so glad that I was able to visit Martinique through the Xavier program, and I made memories there that I will never forget.



**Contact Dr. Susan Spillman
to learn more about the
2020 program!**

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Cross Cultural Connections: Reunion with my host brother by John Zelaski

In the summer of 2018 I went to Costa Rica to fully immerse myself for an experience to learn Spanish. The Xula in Costa Rica study abroad program was very conducive towards my understanding and appreciation for the Spanish language. Yes, living in a Spanish speaking country was fundamental to enhancing my ability; however, being paired with the Genis family to live with made the biggest impact.

Taking a Spanish class with your English-speaking peers is one thing but living in a home of Spanish speakers is an entirely different matter. Fortunately, everyone in my host family was bilingual except for the mother—which is who I would practice with every morning before class. After 5 weeks with the Genis family I made bonds with them that would last a lifetime. I still keep in touch with their son and daughter via social media. I figured I would only see them again if I flew out to San José but I was proven wrong this past spring.

It turned out that my host brother was traveling in the United States with a friend and they passed through New Orleans! He messaged me on WhatsApp to see if I was available and the rest is history. I showed him around the French Quarter and took him to some of my favorite spots. Naturally, he filled me in on everything I missed out on, while I was away; for instance, his sister got a scholarship to play soccer at a school in New York. As with all good things, they must come to an end eventually and I had to say bye once again.

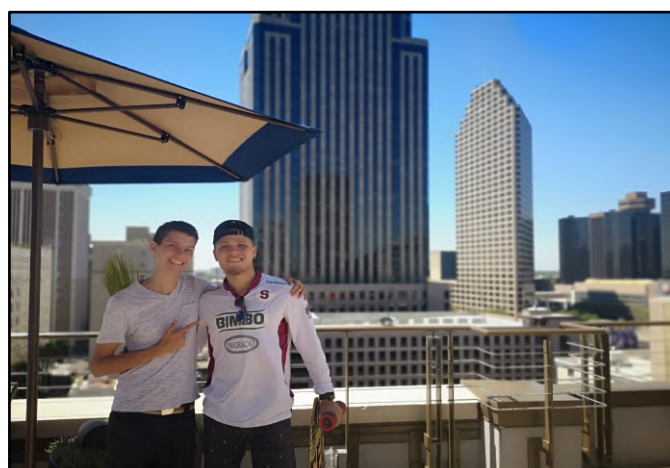
Still, I look forward to planning a trip back to Costa Rica after I graduate to visit the family. After all, I want to show them my certificate for Spanish-speaking medical personnel in person.

John Zelaski is a senior Biology pre-med major and Spanish minor. He participated in the XULA in Costa Rica program in 2018.



Above: John with his Costa Rican host brother in San Jose, Costa Rica 2018

Below: John with his Costa Rican host brother in New Orleans 2019



Foreign Languages Club

The Foreign Languages Club was very active with exciting events throughout Fall 2019.

They hosted several Chips & Salsa dance class nights, movie nights, Day of the Dead cookie decorating, Comparte! Discussion group, and more!



Upcoming Study Abroad Programs: Summer 2020!

The Department of Languages announces a new intensive *Spanish for Business* summer program in Viña del Mar, Chile!

- ◆ Choose legal or business track
- ◆ Live with Chilean host family
- ◆ Earn Xavier credits

Study Medical Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica!

- ◆ Participate in clinical practicum in Costa Rican clinics and hospitals
- ◆ Earn six Xavier credits

Study French in Martinique!

- ◆ Attend cultural activities and excursions
- ◆ Earn Xavier credits

The Garifuna Women: A Cultural Explosion



“The Garifuna Women: A Cultural Explosion” was an event organized by Professors Susan Spillman and Carmen Cosme for our Xavier Community with the support of the Dean’s Office for the Arts and Sciences to promote visibility of Women Studies at XULA. This event highlighted the importance of the Garifuna women in New Orleans. We had a conversation with Reina David, an aspiring Garifuna author and talented artist from Santa Fe Colon, Honduras. Ms. David has lived in New Orleans for more than 40 years. Her first novel titled *Patti’s Compromising Positions* was published in 2007.



We invited Ms. Reina David to campus because the Garifuna community is sizable, and very significant, culturally very rich, and also very diverse here in New Orleans. The Department of Languages at Xavier University has maintained an academic relationship with the Garifuna Community in New Orleans since 2005. The Garifuna are phenomenal rich resource people and everyone should pay attention and build a relationship with them. On May 18th of 2001 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awarded the titled “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity,” to The Garifuna Language, Music, and Dance.

A large group of students, faculty, staff, and members of the New Orleans community participated in this conversation with Ms. David. They learned about the Garifuna Culture, tasted the Garifuna traditional food prepared by Dionisia Alvarez Fernandez and Danced to the music presented by Conney Hill and her Garifuna drummers and dancers. We were honored with the presence of all these talented Garifuna women and would love to continue building our relationship with black culture from Latin America and the Caribbean.



SUMMER 2020

Study French in Martinique



Location: Martinique

Dates: Session 1, May 22 – June 19

Program Cost: \$3,500 (+airfare)

Accommodation: Homestay

Cultural Activities & Excursions

EARN XAVIER CREDITS!

Questions? Contact Dr. Susan Spillman

sspillma@xula.edu

SUMMER 2020

Study Business or Legal Spanish in Chile

Intensive Language Immersion Program



Location: Viña del Mar, Chile

Dates: Session 1, May 26 – June 27

Session 2, June 29 – August 1

Program Cost: \$4,766 (+airfare)

Accommodation: Homestay

Cultural Activities: 2 per week

Partner Organization: ECELA Spanish

Questions? Contact Giti Farudi
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SUMMER 2020

Study Medical Spanish in Costa Rica



Location: San Jose, Costa Rica

Dates: Session 1, May 30 – June 28

Program Cost: \$4800 (+airfare)

Accommodation: Homestay

EARN SIX XAVIER CREDITS!

Questions? Contact Giti Farudi
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Future Health Professionals

Are you looking for a program to boost your professional credentials?

Do you want to learn to better communicate with Spanish-speaking patients?

Spanish for Health Professionals Certificate Program

This is a 16-credit hour certificate with an optional clinical practicum and summer study in Costa Rica. Online language assessment or completion of Spanish 1020 is required to begin certificate program.

Required: 9 credit hours + 1 hour Capstone

Spanish 1090 – Conversation & Culture (3)

Spanish 2051 – Spanish for Medical Personnel (3)

Spanish 2052 – Intermediate Spanish for Medical
Personnel (3)

Spanish 4998 – Capstone (1)

Electives: 6 credit hours

Choose from Grammar, Conversation, Special Topic
or Independent Studies

Optional:

4-week International Practicum in Costa Rica (6)

**Financial
Aid is
available!**

Apply now!

For more information, please contact: Giti Farudi gfarudi@xula.edu (504) 520-5118
or the Center for Continuing Studies & Distance Education ccsde@xula.edu (504) 520-7669