



Welcome to *El boletín*!

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 1 of *El boletín*, the Department of Languages newsletter. It is an exciting time for our department, and with our newsletter we will keep you updated with news and events, as well as alumni and faculty activities and announcements.

As you will see in this issue, the Department of Languages had many achievements this past year. You can read about our summer 2018 programs, which included study in Costa Rica, Cuba, and Martinique. In all, the Department of Languages led five successful programs abroad! You can also learn more about our upcoming programs abroad and our offerings here on campus including a new minor in Afro Latin and Caribbean studies and a Spanish for Health Professionals Certificate program.

We enthusiastically welcome Dr. Carmen Cosme and Ms. Denise Crochet to our department. Meet them on pages seven and eight.

We are always here to answer any questions you may have and we hope you will stop by. We are located in the Administration Building Suite 300. *Gracias por leer el boletín*. I wish you much success and a wonderful fall semester full of learning and languages!

Warmly,
Professor Giti D. Farudi
Head, Department of Languages



XULA in COSTA RICA



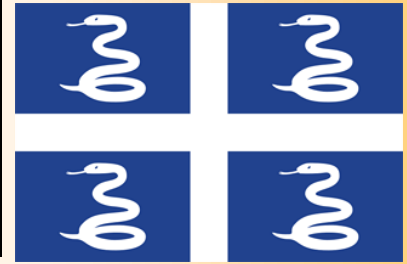
The XULA in COSTA RICA program, which took place over four weeks in June and was led by Professor Giti Farudi, was a success. A major focus of the program was giving students a chance to learn medical Spanish within an actual Spanish speaking healthcare environment, in order for them to acquire language skills that they can apply in their pre-medical studies and work in the US, where the gap between the increasing Spanish speaking population and the lack of Spanish speaking health care professionals has created a demand for more Spanish speaking health care professionals. Students improved their Spanish and gained valuable professional experience by taking Spanish 2051: Spanish for Medical Personnel and participating in several hours of medical observations, as well as shadowing physicians in Costa Rican clinics and hospitals.



Outside of their studies, students were fully immersed in the Spanish language and in Costa Rican culture. They lived with host families, and participated in several cultural activities and excursions: they explored the National Theatre, participated in a salsa dancing class, and went white water rafting. They also took weekend trips to the beaches of Guanacaste and Puerto Viejo, Limon.



Xavier in Martinique



The four week Martinique program at the Université des Antilles was led by Dr. Susan Spillman, Associate Professor of French. The program was codirected and reinforced by native French Afro Antillaise professor, Dr. Myriam Moïse, Director of English Studies at the Université des Antilles. Along with intensive language learning and conversational French, the studies also focused on Martinique's embedded Creolité (Afro Creole culture, history, and literature of Black Martinicans) as a major component and contribution to Martinique's contemporary culture and history.

In addition to coursework, students took several excursions including a guided walking tour of Fort de France, an excursion to Les ruines de Saint-Pierre, La Montagne Pelée, Le Jardin d'éméraude, Museum Aimé Césaire, Marché aux épices, and a boat shuttle to Trois îlets. Also, they met Victor Anicet, a Martinician artist and ceramist in his workshop and participated in Martinican cuisine workshop.



“Learning a Foreign Language, and the culture that goes with it, is one of the most useful things we can do to broaden the empathy and imaginative sympathy and cultural outlook of children.”

Michael Gove

Xavier in Cuba

The two programs that went to Cuba - directed by Dr. Karen Becnel Moore, retired Associate Professor of Spanish- were very different in that the first four week program was designed for advanced Spanish majors and minors who were both fluent and literate in Spanish and could enroll in a target language literature course entitled "*Afro Hispanic Studies*," focusing on the literature of Cuba, as well as an ALACS*/AADS 3020 course: Special Topics in African American Studies entitled, "*Afro Cuban Culture and History*."

The second program was the inauguration of a unique innovative offering here at Xavier for incoming freshmen to have the opportunity to study abroad in the Caribbean in either a Spanish or French speaking country during their summer prior to entering Xavier. This past summer it was Cuba. All trips were thoroughly integrated with lectures, excursions, and cultural activities such as Salsa lessons and cooking lessons in Cuba.





Havana, Cuba



San Jose, Costa Rica



Port Au Prince, Martinique

Student experiences

XULA in Costa Rica was a wonderful experience. For the four weeks that I was there, I was able to learn so much about the culture and explore different parts of the country. At first I was nervous about being a beginner in Spanish, but I easily adjusted and spoke more Spanish than I ever did before. This program was very inclusive and I was able to apply what I learned from class in the clinical practicum and in conversation. I definitely recommend this program to anyone that wants to improve their Spanish, gain clinical experience, learn about a new culture, and to have a great time!

~ Kaylani Sivayavirojna

I really loved my trip to Costa Rica. My host family was amazing. I loved going to the clinic every day, but the hours were long. It was hard to wake up at 5:45 but the experience was still great. I learned so much from Prof. Farudi during class. She was so nice and helpful, she always pushed us to try to speak Spanish and would help us when we made mistakes. I enjoyed the salsa class and the trip to Guanacaste. There were great bonding opportunities for all the students to interact with each other. I am so glad I made new friends. All in all it was a great time and lots of fun and I would recommend this program to anyone.

~ Cameryn Scott

I will never forget my time spent in Costa Rica. Everything from the authentic Caribbean food that I ate during a weekend trip to the city of Limón, to the daily Spanish conversations with my favorite bus driver was definitely worth it. Four weeks is plenty of time to be able to enjoy most of what Costa Rica has to offer. There will not be one weekend where you will not have something fun and exciting to do. In addition to being able to experience another country, culture, and language, gaining five credit hours of Spanish and participating in daily clinical shadowing rotations is what really makes this summer program worthwhile. Being able to interact with the healthcare professionals and the patients 100% in Spanish helps to develop an ear for the language fast. I would highly recommend this summer program to students pursuing careers in healthcare who want to become comfortable communicating with any future Spanish-speaking patients.

~ Matthew Robinson

XULA in COSTA RICA Summer 2019

The XULA in Costa Rica program, led by Professor Giti Farudi, offers students an incredible opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the Spanish language and **Costa Rican culture** while taking Spanish 2051: Spanish for Medical Personnel and participating in medical observations in Costa Rican clinics and hospitals.

XULA in CR Program Website: <https://gfarudi.wixsite.com/xulacr19>

XULA in MARTINIQUE Summer 2019

Study French in Martinique this summer with Dr. Susan Spillman! In this four week program you will learn about Creolite and participate in several excursions.

Visit Dr. Spillman in the Administration Building Suite 300 or the Center for International and intercultural programs located in St. Joes Room 312 to learn more.

NEW and Current Programs

NEW! Afro Latin American and Caribbean Studies MINOR:

We now offer a minor in Afro Latin American and Caribbean studies. This new and exciting minor requires **18 credit hours**.

NEW! Spanish for Health Professionals Certificate Program:

The certificate program requires **16 credit hours**.

Email knichola@xula.edu to register.

Majors and Minors: The Department of Languages offers majors and minors in Spanish and French. The minor requires 18 credit hours and the major requires 30 hours. Stop by the department to learn more!

Meet our new faculty: Dr. Carmen Cosme

SPANISH & AFRO LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES



Birth date and month: March 8th

Zodiac Sign: Pisces

Where are you from? I am from the Dominican Republic

What is your ethnicity? Afro Latina

What languages can you speak? I speak Spanish, English, Portuguese, and some Italian

Where did you grow up? I grew up in the Dominican Republic until age 18. Then, I moved to New York where I worked and studied for ten years. After obtaining my BA degree I moved to Amherst Massachusetts to start Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where I completed my Ph. D. in 2014.

What inspired you to become a professor? My 5th grade teacher.

Why a teacher for languages? Because language is a tool that we use to communicate with people and the more languages you speak the better opportunities you have to meet people around the world.

What courses do you teach? I teach Spanish and Afro Latin American and Caribbean studies.

What made you choose Xavier as your workplace? I have chosen Xavier because they serve a large number of Afro-American Women.

What are your hobbies besides teaching? I love to dance and to listen to music.

What is your favorite food? I love Caribbean Food.

What is a fun fact about you? I am very friendly. Another fun fact about me is that I love to cook while listening to music.



Meet our new faculty: Ms. Denise Crochet

Birth date and month: My birthday is October 20.

Zodiac Sign: I am a Libra.

Where are you from? I was reared here in Louisiana in a large French and Italian family.

What languages can you speak? I am a native English speaker, though my interest in languages has led me to investigate several other languages out of curiosity. I am a fluent user of American Sign Language as interpreting is my chosen field.

Where and what was your career before coming to Xavier? Prior to and continuing on during my time here at Xavier I am a private practice interpreter. I also frequently provide instruction and conference material both nationally and internationally in the field of interpreting and sign language.

What inspired you to become a professor? As a student and practicing interpreter I have investigated language acquisition and how we process language for functional use. I have a deep interest in semantics and social interaction. This has led me to teach ASL here at Xavier University.

What are your hobbies besides teaching? My number one hobby is travel! (though reading is a close second and I just finished Jesmyn Ward's latest masterpiece, Sing Unburied Sing) I have had the good fortune to travel extensively for both work and pleasure. I always try to visit the local Deaf school wherever I roam i.e. Turkey, Egypt, Belize, the UK and last year consulted with the Cambodian School for the Deaf.

What is your favorite food? Of course as a local, I love creole food and anything that swims or crawls in the water, but I also love food from the Middle East and Mediterranean.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



Faculty



In June 2018, Brother Herman Johnson, Spanish professor, attending an international meeting in Rome of Dominican nuns and friars. (left)

In July 2018, Profesor Giti Farudi travelled to Santiago, Chile with Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore (Political Science) and Ms. Karen Lee (CIIP) (below)



On her way back from presenting at the Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos conference in Granada, Spain, Dr. Elizabeth Rousselle went to Logroño, Spain where she met up with Xavier alumna Shavondria Jackson who has been working there as a Fulbright teaching fellow since she graduated from Xavier in 2016. (above left)

FIRST DEPARTMENT MEETING!



MAJOR/ MINOR MEETING:

NOVEMBER 1st at 12:15PM All are welcome!

Guest speaker: Dr. Grete Viddal

**Enjoy refreshments and learn about Expressions of Voodoo
and Vodou in New Orleans!**

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his Heart."

Nelson Mandela

Designed by : Mya McKennie