¡Felicidades a todos!
The Department of Spanish is pleased to offer awards and scholarships each spring to recognize the excellence and dedication of our undergraduate majors in Spanish. We congratulate the following students and recent graduates for their achievements and thank the generous donors who make these awards possible.
The WMU Department of Spanish Presidential Scholar for 2020-2021 and winner of the Robert and Barbara Felkel Cervantes Prize is Lindsay N. Warriner.

These awards recognize the recipient of the highest academic honor at WMU that a department bestows on an undergraduate student.

Thanks to the generosity of our retired colleague, Professor emeritus, Doctor, Maestro Robert Felkel and his lovely wife, Magistra Barbara Felkel, we offer the Cervantes Prize each year to our Presidential Scholar.
I would like to begin by expressing my thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Felkel. Your generosity helps students like me follow their passion. I would also like to give a special shout-out to Robert Vann for being the most caring, supportive professor I’ve ever had!
This picture was taken during my amazing study abroad trip in Costa Rica! Through this experience I fell in love with the Spanish language and found a greater appreciation for other cultures. My only wish for other Spanish students is that they study abroad as much as they can. I would have spent all four years abroad if I could! Thank you to the Department of Spanish for making all this possible.
The Suzanne M. Wheatley Award is made each year to honor the memory of Suzanne M. Wheatley, who attended WMU from 1985 to 1988 and passed away before completing her studies. It is given to undergraduate students who embody some of Suzie’s remarkable qualities, such as her love for the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures, as well as her zest for life. Our three Suzanne M. Wheatley Award recipients this year are: Emma Baratta, Carmen Vinkemulder, and Maya Willertz.
En primer lugar, me gustaría agradecer a la familia Wheatley por haber proporcionado esta beca en memoria de su hija. También quiero darles las gracias a Alba y Mariola por animarme a continuar mi educación en español. Especialmente, me gustaría dar las gracias a Rob, que ha sido mi consejero desde mi primer año y me ha desafiado e inspirado a través de sus cursos y me ha empujado a ser mi mejor. Después de graduarme este otoño me quedaré en WMU para completar mi AGDP en Español. Mi consejo a otros estudiantes es que se inclinen en sus estudios de español como algo más que añadir a su currículum, esta lengua te conecta con tantas personas diversas alrededor del mundo y hay mucho más que ganar de esa conectividad.
Me siento honrada de haber sido elegida para recibir la beca de Suzanne M. Wheatley. Me gustaría expresar mi agradecimiento por el apoyo inquebrantable de todos mis profesores y el Departamento del Español que he recibido desde el principio de mis estudios.

En el otoño, empezaré el programa de la Maestría Acelerada y después deseo asistir a un programa de Physician Assistant (P.A.).
¡Hola! Estoy en mi tercer año con las especialidades de Español y las Ciencias de Comportamiento. Estoy anticipando la primavera de 2022 para graduarme, pero estaré en Western para un año adicional para terminar mi maestría en el programa de Estudios Hispánicos. Después de graduarme, quiero trabajar con individuos y familias con autismo y necesidades especiales en áreas bilingües. Quiero dar una gracias grande a la familia de Suzanna Wheatley por sus becas generosas en memoria de Suzanna. Estoy muy agradecida por su generosidad y apoyo de estudiantes del Departamento de Español.
The **Michael Braun Award** was established in memory of Michael Braun, who was an alumnus of our program who returned to become a beloved professor and mentor to students interested in becoming Spanish teachers. Since his untimely death in 2018, the department makes this award in his honor to celebrate his passion for the Spanish language and his dedication to training the next generation of equally passionate Spanish teachers.

Our three recipients this year are: **Hailey McClimans, Marissa Sterken, and Ethan Wolf**
I am currently on track to graduate in the Spring of 2022 with my Bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish for Secondary Education. I would like to thank my professors for making my dreams possible and showing me not only the content they are teaching, but also how to teach.

My advice to all current and future Spanish majors is to listen to Spanish music, watch Spanish shows, and immerse yourself in as much Spanish as you possibly can. This is the best (and most fun) way to get more experience with the language. Lastly, listen to your teachers and advisors! They are here to help you every step of the way.

Hailey McClimans
Looking back on the last three years at Western Michigan University, my Spanish classes were my absolute favorites! I want to thank my many professors for the time and dedication they gave me in advancing my knowledge in the Spanish language and culture. Furthermore, I am so grateful to receive the Michael Braun Award in memory of Michael Braun. Thank you to his family for the generous award! I will be attending graduate school this upcoming fall at WMU in the Speech-Language Pathology master’s program. Following graduate school, I hope to become a bilingual speech-language pathologist in the school setting. Again, a huge thank you to every faculty member that helped me get to where I am today. I will forever be grateful!
I would primarily like to give a thank you to the Braun family for your support in furthering my teacher education. Your contributions in honor of Professor Braun have helped and will continue to help countless other aspiring teachers. After graduation this upcoming Spring, I will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to complete my Masters in Teaching in hopes of joining the new generation of educators. I would like to thank my family for their constant support and encouragement throughout these past four years. I would also like to give a huge shout out to Professor Vann for constantly inspiring my love for the language and my future profession.
The Carolyn Harris Award was established by the faculty in memory of Dr. Carolyn Harris, who was a professor and undergraduate advisor in the Department of Spanish from 1985 to 2014. Each year we make the award to an undergraduate student who embodies some of Carolyn’s outstanding qualities: generous, kind, service-oriented, pleasant, and passionate about what they do.

This year’s recipients are: Allison Cornue and Samantha Phillips.
Allison Cornue

Thank you to everyone involved in giving this award out to students. I am honored to have been considered and chosen for this award. I would like to give a shout-out to both Professor Vann and Professor Isea. They each helped me achieve a strong finish in my Spanish degree. I also want to take a moment here to remember Professor Braun who had a very special influence on my journey at the beginning of my time here at WMU. I look forward to using Spanish in my career and utilizing my knowledge of the language in my future travels.

The photo to the left is one of my favorite memories of my time studying abroad in Burgos, Spain.
I’m very thankful that I decided to major in Spanish at WMU. In the 3 years I have attended Western, my Spanish skills have grown immensely. I feel more confident when speaking, have stronger writing skills, and gained knowledge about many Spanish-speaking cultures.

In the future, I’d like to explore how I can use what I’ve learned from my Spanish major in my career. I hope to work as an editor and would be eager to incorporate Spanish by working with Spanish-speaking authors and by encouraging the accurate representation of bilingual characters and the Spanish language in writing.

Samantha Phillips
The Herb B. Jones Award is made in memory of Herb. B. Jones, a professor of Spanish who taught at WMU for 35 years. He was a man who devoted his life to the true assimilation of Hispanic culture. He passed away several years ago, and we remember him each year by awarding this scholarship to an outstanding student.

This year’s recipient is Maggie Neuman.
Muchas gracias a los donantes de las becas para ayudarnos con nuestros estudios. Para hablar y entender la lengua de Español permite muchas aventuras en la vida y quiero tener todas las que puedo.

También, muchísimas gracias a todos mis profesores de Español que he tenido en WMU por todo el apoyo en las clases y en el viaje extranjero a Burgos - Pablo Pastrana-Pérez, Antonio Isea, Mariola Pérez de la Cruz, Alba Fernández, y Dani Martínez. He disfrutado sus clases mucho y ellos me inspiran a aprender mucho en mi vida.
The Antonia H. Rostami Award celebrates the life and work of Antonia H. Rostami, who was born in Mexico and lived in Portage, Michigan for many years, where she was a Spanish teacher. This award recognizes the dedication of students who also plan to become educators.

There are two recipients this year: Logan Bockheim and Heather Price.
Hi everyone! I want to start out by saying thank you to Dr. Rostami for creating this award for creating this award in memory of Antonia H. Rostami and the faculty of WMU Spanish department for electing me as a winner. I have been fortunate in my studies to meet amazing professors and friends that I will cherish for a lifetime.

To all incoming Spanish majors or minors, my advice to you is speak in Spanish as much as you can. I know it is nerve-wrecking and you might not feel like you are good at it. But be fearless and make mistakes! It will help you so much in the long run. If I could tell my freshman self this, I would go back and speak the language more because is part of the process. Keep it up and make sure you study abroad! It was the best time of my life!
Estoy muy agradecida por todas las oportunidades que tenía con este programa. Muchas gracias especialmente a Dr. Rostami por su contribución, y a Profe Michael Millar por toda su ayuda durante mi tiempo aquí. Me graduaré en el otoño de 2021, y después espero tener trabajo como maestra del español en la escuela secundaria. También tengo planes para obtener mi TESOL en el futuro. Para los futuros estudiantes: no te asustes. Haces cualquier cosa que puedes para entender y practicar español. Cuando tienes la oportunidad para viajar – tómala.
Spanish Advancement Scholarship

This new award, established through the generosity of Dr. Irma López, a longtime Professor and Chair of Spanish who is the Dean of the Lee Honors College, recognizes the promise of a Spanish major or minor with a scholarship to support their continued studies at Western Michigan University.

The two scholarship winners for the 2021-22 academic year are: Yaylin López and Mariana Pereira Faleiro.
Estoy más que agradecido por recibir becas para continuar mis estudios en español. Estudio para mejorar mi español y ser maestra de español en la educación secundaria. Espero enseñar español a los estudiantes de una manera que los haga enamorarse del idioma y la cultura y lo aprecien tanto como yo. Aunque no pude estudiar al extranjero a España el año pasado y este año (debido a la pandemia) sé que lo haré en el futuro. Tengo mucha pasión por aprender sobre diferentes culturas. Planeo graduarme en el otoño de 2022. ¡Me alegro que ya casi termine mis estudios! ¡Muchas gracias a Irma Lopez y Ben Jones! Y a todos los profesores de WMU que me han ayudado.
I am extremely happy I decided to become involved with Spanish during my WMU experience. It allowed me to study abroad, which made a difference for me and added so much to my personal development. I would like to thank all my WMU Spanish professors for teaching me valuable grammar, vocabulary, and a lot of cultural content about the Spanish language, culture and history. I definitely encourage everyone to study abroad. It is so interesting to get out there and see that there is so much more in the world than we think.

Mariana Pereira Faleiro
The Department of Spanish is pleased to announce our awards for excellence in Spanish. We hope award winners take inspiration from those famous people their awards are named for to continue their engagement with the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures of the world.

Announcements are alphabetical by student surname.
María Moliner was a 20th century Spanish librarian and lexicographer. She is known for her dictionary "Diccionario del uso del español," which is a "must" book of reference for all of us who study the Spanish language.
I am so grateful to have been chosen for the María Moliner Award! Being a part of the Spanish Department has been one of the best parts of my time at Western. I would like to thank every professor I have had at WMU. They have all helped me to both strengthen my language skills, and deepen my understanding of Hispanic cultures. My connection to the Spanish language has grown immensely during my time at Western, and I am certain that the skills I have gained at WMU will help me with whatever I choose to do in the future.

My advice to future Spanish majors is to engage with your classes as much as you can. You get out of it what you put into it, and the skills you will gain are worth it!

Madison Ford
Joan Coromines was one of Catalonia's foremost linguistic scholars of the 20th century as well as an outspoken Catalan nationalist. Coromines lived in exile following the Spanish Civil War and even held a professorship at the University of Chicago before returning to Barcelona to pen his most famous works, which are now classics in both Catalan and Spanish philology.
Glen W. Kellam

Winner of the Joan Coromines Award
Rosario Castellanos was a Mexican poet and author and was one of Mexico's more important literary voices in the last century. Throughout her life, she wrote eloquently about issues of cultural and gender oppression, and her work has influenced feminist theory and cultural studies. Her work opened the door of Mexican literature to women.
Gracias a todos los contribuyentes que hicieron posible el premio de Rosario Castellanos. Me gustaría agradecer a todos mis profesores, especialmente a los profesores Pablo Pastrana-Pérez y Robert Vann por crear y enseñar clases tan influyentes para mí. Tuve la oportunidad de que una compañía en la industria automotriz, me ofrecieran un puesto en el que puedo utilizar tanto mis conocimientos de análisis empresarial y el español. En el futuro, quiero trabajar internacionalmente para no solo usar mis habilidades en español para comunicarme, sino también para conectarme con las culturas hispanohablantes del mundo en un nivel más profundo.
Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was a 17th century Mexican poet and essayist. She was a self-taught scholar and poet of the Baroque school. She is considered to be a contributor to the Spanish Golden Age and one of Mexico's intellectual gems.
I am honored to have been chosen for the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Award. The Department of Spanish faculty have continuously inspired and supported me throughout my Spanish journey, and I am truly grateful for them.

After I graduate, I will be attending WMU’s Industrial Organizational Behavior Management (I/OBM) Master’s Program. I intend to use the Spanish that I have learned as an undergraduate to connect with more people and cultures in businesses. My advice for future students is to reach out to their professors and form meaningful relationships with them. They are amazing people who want to help you succeed!

Sadie Martin
Jorge Luis Borges was an Argentine poet, essayist, and short-story writer whose tales of fantasy and dream worlds are classics of 20th century world literature. He truly changed the world of literature with his imagination, creativity and intellect.
Estoy muy agradecido de haber recibido el Premio de Jorge Luis Borges. Durante el tiempo que estuve estudiando en WMU y Burgos me he enamorado aún más de la lengua y la cultura del español. Se siente muy bien ser reconocido por mi arduo trabajo.

Me gustaría agradecer a mis increíbles profesores, compañeros de clase y amigos que me han ayudado en el camino.

Me graduaré este verano y comenzaré a trabajar como contadora el próximo otoño en Chicago. Mi objetivo es trabajar en negocios internacionales y seguir aprendiendo más sobre el mundo hispanohablante.
Antonio de Nebrija, one of Spain's greatest humanists, published the first grammar of the Spanish language in 1492, now credited as the first published grammar of any Romance language. Nebrija was known for his belief that the power of the Spanish Empire spread through the teaching and learning of the Spanish language, which is one of the reasons he wrote his grammar.
I am extremely honored to receive this award from the WMU Department of Spanish. From studying in Santander to taking classes on campus, the faculty always go above and beyond to make every experience meaningful for their students. I am continually inspired by the passion and dedication to the Spanish language exuded in and out of the classroom.

This semester, I will graduate with both a BA in Spanish and a BA in Dance, followed by a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance in Fall of 2021, and a Masters in Hispanic Studies in Fall of 2022. From there, I hope to move to New York City to pursue a career as a performer and a translator.
Rosalía de Castro was a 19th century Galician poet & fiction writer, whose work shows great sensitivity and concern for humanity.
Thank you to the Spanish Department and specifically to Dr. Millar for always encouraging me to work harder in class and for pushing me study abroad in Costa Rica in Spring 2020. That is an adventure that I will never forget. As of now, I am not sure what my future holds for me after my graduation in December 2021, but I am most certain that I will be utilizing my Spanish speaking abilities!

To all the other Spanish majors out there, all I can say to you is study abroad!!! Your Spanish will be transformed and you will constantly be wanting to return to the place where you once called home! ¡Pura vida para siempre!

Anastasia Sikkila
The Inca Garcilaso de la Vega was a cultural historian in the 16th century. He was born in Peru. His father was a Spanish Captain and his mother an Inca princess. He was therefore a "mestizo," that is to say, a man of two races, two worlds, two visions and two languages.
A million thank you’s to the Spanish Department for this award. As my undergrad nears its end, I feel so grateful for the education I have received at Western. I was so fortunate as to study abroad in Costa Rica in 2019, which was only possible because of awards like this one and my professors and mentors. After graduation in June, I plan to teach ESL in Spain! This would not have been possible without the help Dr. Torres, Dr. Millar, and Dr. Pastrana-Pérez, who each supported and guided me throughout my four years here. Thank you, WMU Department of Spanish, for a wonderful and irreplaceable four years.

Martha Tinker
Sandra Cisneros is an award-winning Chicana poet, novelist, essayist, artist, and performer known for her portrayals of the lives of working-class people. Her accolades include a MacArthur Fellowship (known as a “Genius Grant”). Her work is read and beloved throughout the world.
I am honored to have been chosen for this incredible award. I would like to sincerely thank the faculty of the Department of Spanish for this honor. I would also like to say thank you to all the amazing Spanish professors I have had throughout the course of my education at WMU for deeply caring about their students. Having professors and a department that clearly care about the education and well-being of their students makes all the difference. The Department of Spanish at WMU has not only provided me with an excellent Spanish education, but once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to study abroad in Costa Rica, and connect with Spanish-speaking communities.

I hope to use my Spanish skills throughout the rest of my career and life. I plan to use my Spanish education to better connect with and serve the Spanish-speaking community and to serve as an ally.

After graduation this May, I plan to join the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program where I will be working in a team to serve communities around the U.S. in need. After 10-12 months with AmeriCorps, I plan to continue my work in the human services field and obtain a master’s degree in social work. Eventually, I would like to open my own non-profit organization.
Alfonso X el Sabio Award

Alfonso X el Sabio was a Spanish King in the 13th century. He was called “the Wise" because he established centers of learning all around Spain.
Tengo el honor de recibir el premio Alfonso X el Sabio y me gustaría dar las gracias a todos los miembros del Departamento de Español de la WMU que me han ayudado a prosperar durante mi carrera académica. Planeo seguir trabajando con el idioma español después de graduarme y espero conseguir un empleo que me permita usar mis habilidades.
This year’s recipient of the Department of Spanish President’s Award for Study Abroad is:

Joseph Rice, for Costa Rica (Spring 2022)

¡Felicitaciones y buen viaje!
Muchas gracias al departamento de Español de WMU y a todos los donantes. ¡Estoy muy emocionado para estudiar en Costa Rica en la primavera! Me encanta estudiar el español. ¡Gracias a todos mis profesores!

Joseph Rice
President’s Scholarship for Study Abroad

This year’s recipients of the Department of Spanish President’s Scholarship for Study Abroad are:

**Gabrielle Francois**, for Costa Rica (Spring 2022)

**Hope Goodwin**, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)

**Emily Kostbade**, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)

**Lillian Randall**, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)

¡Felicitaciones y buen viaje!
Quiero darles un gran agradecimiento a los donantes de esta beca que han hecho posible que tenga esta gran oportunidad. También un gran agradecimiento al profesor Pablo Pastrana por crear una experiencia de español emocionante y de apoyo aquí en Western. Estoy lista para ver hasta dónde me lleva este viaje.

Gabrielle Francois
Thank you to everyone that has supported me on this journey! I am so grateful for the opportunity to study abroad in Burgos and I cannot wait to make new memories and have new experiences!

Muchísimas gracias a Sra. Kopy. Eres la razón por la que estoy en este viaje en mi vida. ¡No puedo agradecerte suficiente, eres impecable!
I'm so honored to be a recipient of this award and would like to thank the WMU Spanish Department for always supporting me and making studying abroad so accessible. I can't wait to continue my Spanish studies in Burgos this fall! Despite having the pandemic rearrange my plans, I am really looking forward to immersing myself in Spanish language and culture. I would also like to thank all my Spanish professors, especially Dr. Antonio Isea and Dr. Pablo Pastrana-Pérez for supporting me academically through such a challenging year.
I would like to thank the donors who made this scholarship possible. Special thanks as well to Dr. Antonio Isea and Dr. Pablo Pastrana for their continued support in the classroom and in helping me to achieve my study abroad goals. I am incredibly excited to study abroad in Burgos, Spain during the Fall of 2021, and I am looking forward to having an immersive cultural experience.
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Lucas N. Cunhas
Allison L. Cornue
Madison E. Ford
Glen W. Kellam
Sarah L. Turner
Carmen J. Vinkemulder
Lindsay N. Warriner
Hope A. Welter
Congratulations, and we wish you all the best!