Department of Spanish
Departamento de español

Honors and Awards
Spring 2022
¡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.
Musical Prelude

J.S. Bach, Suite Nº 1 in G Major, I- Prelude (Cello: Piper Meldrum-Roy)

J.S. Bach, Suite Nº 1 in G Major, II- Allemande (Cello: Piper Meldrum-Roy)
The WMU Department of Spanish Presidential Scholar for 2021-2022 and winner of the Robert and Barbara Felkel Cervantes Prize is Carmen Vinkemulder.

The Presidential Award represents 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.
Presidential Scholar Presentation

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

Announcements are alphabetical by student surname.
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. The recipient of the 2022 Rosario Castellanos Award is Elizabeth Arreola.
I’d like to preface by expressing my gratitude towards the WMU Spanish Department for having been nominated and selected for the Rosarios Castellanos Award. After graduating this Spring, I plan to pursue higher education attending law school and following my dreams of becoming an Immigration Attorney.

A special shout-out goes to my first Span. professor at Western Michigan University, Dr. Benjamín Torres. Thank you for being a great instructor, advisor, and most especially – friend. Since 2019, you have been nothing short of supportive and I cannot imagine my time here without you!

Elizabeth Arreola
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. The recipient of the 2022 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Award is Meghan Vaughn.
I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected for the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Award. Thank you to the faculty of the Department of Spanish for this honor. I would like to extend a special thanks to all the remarkable Spanish professors who have provided me with a high-quality education.

After I graduate with my bachelor's degree, I will advance onto dental school. Although this is where my formal Spanish education ends, I will continue practicing Spanish. My goal is to be a bilingual oral health care provider.

Meghan M. Vaughn
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. The recipient of the 2022 María Moliner Award is Jake Kelley.
I want to thank my favorite professor, Pablo Pastrana-Pérez for always helping me to step outside my comfort zone and for making class fun. My only regret was that I wasn't able to study in Spain due to the pandemic. I would have enjoyed getting to know him better and experience the culture of the country.

I studied both Spanish and Multimedia Arts Technology and I'm hoping to incorporate both of those into my dream job, which would be to do audio/video work globally.
Rosalía de Castro Award
(Presenter: Prof. Mariola Pérez de la Cruz)

Rosalía de Castro was a 19th century Galician poet & fiction writer, whose work shows great sensitivity and concern for humanity. The recipient of the 2022 Rosalía de Castro Award is **Sydney Grenier**.
B.M Candidata de La Educación de Música;
BA Candidata de Español

Estoy muy agradecida al Profesor Pastrana y a la Profesora Perez porque en mi primer año universitario me guiaron en la lengua Española. Muchas gracias al Dr. Wolfinbarger, my non-Spanish speaking trombone professor, who has always pushed me to be a better student in the practice room and beyond. Mi deseo es de ser una maestra de música en una escuela primaria y usaré mis habilidades para comunicar con los estudiantes y los padres. Music classrooms are a lot more fun when there is more than one language involved!
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. The recipient of the 2022 Antonio de Nebrija Award is Sierra Olson.
I cannot express enough gratitude to Dr. Tasende and Dr. Pastrana for the academic support that they offered to me. They both teach with a passion I admire and inspired me to be the best student I could.

This award has helped boost my confidence with Spanish as I get ready to study abroad this summer in Santander. Studying abroad is something I have looked forward to throughout my college experience and I am grateful to participate in this opportunity this before I graduate in Spring of 2023.
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. The recipient of the 2022 Sandra Cisneros Award is Julia Sehy.
First, I want to say I am honored to receive the Sandra Cisneros Award. Thank you to all of the Spanish professors who have helped me explore and develop my passion for Spanish. I am unsure what my future holds, but I look forward to trying to find a way to continue my journey with Spanish.
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. He was responsible for codifying the medieval Castilian language, which we call Spanish today. The recipient of the 2022 Alfonso X el Sabio Award is Sofia Fox.
Muchísimas gracias al Departamento de Español de WMU por este premio. Gracias por esta honra que reconoce todo el trabajo que dediqué a mi educación española. Muchísimas gracias a todos mis profesores que me han ayudado durante mi carrera. Quiero dar las gracias, especialmente, a Pablo quien, por fin, logró en enviarme a estudiar en el extranjero después de casi dos años de lucha.

Espero continuar mi uso de Español en la carrera que elijo en el futuro.

Aconsejo a todos los estudiantes futuros de español que estudien en el extranjero y tomen la oportunidad de ir a las horas de oficina de su profesor, que lamentablemente no aproveché.
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. The recipient of the 2022 Jorge Luis Borges Award is Lane Alsup.
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. The recipient of the 2022 Inca Garcilaso de la Vega Award is Sarah Siskonen.
I’d like to thank everyone for this award and I’d like to thank professor Felkel for teaching me so much and for encouraging me in my studies. I’ve really enjoyed my Spanish studies and am excited to be able to utilize Spanish one day as a physical therapist.
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. The recipient of the 2022 Joan Coromines Award is Graydon Wilson.
Graydon Wilson
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.

The recipient of the 2022 Herb B. Jones Award is **Quinn Scheller**.
Quiero decir muchísimas gracias a los donantes que me han dado esta beca y a todos los profesores que me han enseñado e inspirado durante mi tiempo en WMU. Ustedes hicieron mi compleción de esta subespecialidad posible. Estoy emocionada de continuar mejorando mi español luego de graduarme. Tengo la intención de practicarlo en mi carrera como trabajadora social y en mis aventuras alrededor del mundo. Aunque aprender una nueva lengua es un reto, es un reto divertido y gratificante. Se siente increíble conectar con más personas y culturas a través del uso del español.
Mathilde Steckelberg Award
(Presenter: Prof. Kristina Wirtz)

The Mathilde Steckelberg Award was established by her upon her retirement from our department. She taught Latin at WMU from 1927 to 1961, and was chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, which included Spanish, from 1944 until she retired. She established a scholarship to recognize outstanding achievement by students majoring in the languages available at WMU at that time, directing that students would be selected for their performance and potential in the language.

The recipients of the 2022 Mathilde Steckelberg Award are: Gabrielle Francois and Meaghan Maguire.
Quiero darles un gran agradecimiento a los donantes de este beca, Mathilde Steckelberg, por elegirme para este honor. También un gran agradecimiento al profesor Pablo Pastrana, y cada de mis profesores de español por crear una experiencia de español emocionante y de apoyo aquí en Western. Me voy para estudiar en el extranjero este verano y después, planeo empezar el programa de accelerated master en estudios hispánicos. Este apoyo hace posible que puedo seguir con mis estudios en español, muchas gracias.
Meg Maguire

Muchas gracias no sólo a la familia de Mathilde Stekelberg, sino también a todos los donantes que financian estas becas. Estoy muy agradecida por el apoyo y la guía que me ha dado el Departamento de Español durante el curso de mis estudios aquí en WMU.

Me gradué en la primavera de 2022 y seguiré estudiando para recibir un máster en ciencias de la información geográfica. Estoy muy emocionada de usar el español para aprender de otras culturas y personas durante mi carrera.
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.

The recipients of the 2022 Suzanne M. Wheatley Award are: Allison Cornue, Madison Ford, Madeline Kastel, Maggie Neuman, and Hope Welter.
It is such a great honor to receive this award that has been established in memory of Suzanne M. Wheatley. I would like to thank the Wheatley family for making this award possible, and for their continued support of the Western Michigan University Spanish department.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Isea, who is one of the most passionate and engaging professors I have ever had. I would advise future Spanish majors to take a class with Dr. Isea, as his enthusiasm toward literature and history is contagious. Again, I am so grateful to be chosen for this award, and will always cherish my time spent as a student of the WMU Department of Spanish.
I would like to thank the family of Suzanne M. Wheatley for your generosity in providing this scholarship in honor of your daughter. I am honored to have been selected for this award to pursue my future Spanish studies. Thank you to my parents who have always encouraged and supported me in continuing my Spanish education and for my Mom who inspired me to start in the first place.

I will be studying abroad for the Fall 2022 semester in WMU’s Burgos program! I am very excited to take on this new adventure and want to thank Mariola Pérez de la Cruz for running this program and for helping me with my honors thesis while abroad.
Muchas gracias a los donantes de las becas por ayudarnos con nuestros estudios en Español. Mis experiencias en Español me han preparado para mi vida después de la graduación y estoy muy emocionada por todo lo que haré.

También, muchísimas gracias a mis profesores de Español aquí en WMU, especialmente Pablo Pastrana. He aprendido mucho de mis clases y también de mis profesores, y todo va a ayudarme en mi futuro.
Thank you to the Wheatley family for your generosity in providing the Suzanne M. Wheatley scholarship. I am grateful to have received this support as I move on to attend A. T. Still University’s Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program in Kirksville, MO. At the end of the month, I will graduate from WMU with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Bachelor of Sciences in Biomedical Sciences. I am grateful to Dr. Pastrana Pérez and Dr. Robert Vann for their support and inspiration as I pursued my Spanish degree. You both have challenged me in the best way possible.

Future Spanish majors, take advantage of the care and thoughtfulness provided by the department. You won’t regret it!
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.

The recipients of the 2022 Antonia H. Rostami Award are: Hope Goodwin, Samantha Phillips, and Maya Willertz.
I want to give a big thank you to the Spanish Department for making my undergrad experience so amazing! I am very thankful for the time I got to spend in Burgos, Spain and I would not have had this wonderful opportunity without the faculty that made it possible.

I am graduating in April, and, thanks to Dr. Rostami, this award will go toward continuing my education through the MAT-SE program here at Western in my pursuits to become a secondary education Spanish teacher.
Thank you to the WMU Department of Spanish faculty who selected me to win this award and to Dr. Jeffrey Rostami for his generous gift.

My advice to future Spanish majors is to embrace the language as much and as often as you can. Seek out opportunities to encounter Spanish in different ways to build your confidence when speaking the language. Let yourself make mistakes and then learn from them.

I’m grateful for all I have learned from my time as a Spanish major at WMU, and I hope to continue improving my use of the language after I graduate this April.
¡Hola! Estoy en mi cuarto (y último) año con especialidades de Español y las Ciencias de Comportamiento. Después de graduarme en la primavera, estaré en Western por un año adicional para terminar mi maestría en el programa de Estudios Hispánicos. Después de graduarme, quiero trabajar con individuos y familias como terapista en el campo de psicología clínica. Quiero dar un agradecimiento a Dr. Rostami por su generosidad con este premio.
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 give 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.

The recipients of the 2022 Carolyn Harris Award are: **Emma Baratta** and **Justin Brown**.
¡Muchísimas gracias al departamento de español por todas las oportunidades que he tenido como estudiante de pregrado y ahora posgrado!

Estoy trabajando en mi maestría en español y trabajando como asistente de posgrado para la oficina de relaciones gubernamentales, ayudándoles a mejorar el alcance a las comunidades hispanas y latinas. ¡Planeo graduarme la próxima primavera y ver a dónde me lleva la vida!

Emma Baratta
I would like to thank all of my professors within the Spanish department for all the help and encouragement given throughout my college career. My next immediate step is to study abroad this summer to round out my college Spanish experience. Hopefully, I get to use this experience in tandem with my computer science expertise in a future job opportunity.
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.

The recipients of the 2022 Michael Braun Award are: Emily Kostbade, Joseph Rice, and Laura Steele.
I would like to thank the Braun family so much for their support of my continued studies of the Spanish language, as well as Antonio Isea for encouraging me to study abroad in Burgos, Spain. My advice to future Spanish majors is to try as hard as you can to study abroad. It taught me so much more than I thought it would and was a life changing experience.

After my graduation in the spring of 2023 with bachelor's degrees in Spanish, Global and International Studies, and French, I am currently planning on attending graduate school for International Relations and Diplomacy.
First and foremost, I want to offer an enormous thanks to the generosity of the Braun family. I’m honored to receive this award and hope that my love for Spanish and my desire to learn can be seen as honoring the late Professor Michael Braun.

Additionally, I would like to offer my thanks to all the professors who I have had at my time here at Western, especially Professor Millar and Professor Vann, who have helped me deepen my love for the language. I am yet to have crossed paths with a Spanish class or professor that I haven’t enjoyed.
First, I would like to give a huge thank you to the family of Michael Braun, and to the Spanish faculty who have selected me for this award. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the donors who have contributed to the awards and scholarships in the Spanish department. Your investments in our futures are invaluable.

I plan to study abroad in Burgos this fall, and then graduate in 2023 with a double major in Spanish and music therapy. I hope to utilize my Spanish language abilities as a music therapist in the medical field, so that I can serve a greater diversity of patients. I look forward to continuing my Spanish studies at WMU!
The WMU Department of Spanish **Presidential Scholar** for 2021-2022 and winner of the **Robert and Barbara Felkel Cervantes Prize** is Carmen Vinkemulder.

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.
Me gustaría agradecer a todos los profesores del departamento por esta nominación para la beca presidencial. Es un honor tremendo y quiero expresar mi gratitud por el apoyo inquebrantable de este departamento a lo largo de mi carrera escolar aquí en WMU.

Graduaré esta primavera con mi B.A. en Español y un minor en Biología. En el otoño continuaré la Maestría Acelerada en Español. Después, deseo continuar mis estudios y solicitar los programas de Physician Assistant (PA) con la meta de ser una PA bilingüe en obstetricia y ginecología.
Musical Interlude

La llorona (Voice: Marysol Millar; Guitar: Piper Meldrum-Roy)

Lágrimas negras (Voice: Marysol Millar; Guitar: Piper Meldrum-Roy)
The Spanish Student Support Scholarship is awarded to those students who have plans to study in the Quito, Ecuador, study-abroad program and have yet to declare a Spanish major or minor. It is meant to help them defray the costs associated with our study-abroad programs.

These are the students receiving a 2021-22 Spanish Student Support Scholarship: Angie Bissonnette, Nia Bush, Maeve Cavanaugh, Riley Fuller, and Alyssa Ouding.
This is one of our newest awards. It was established through the generosity of Dr. Irma López, a longtime Professor and Chair of Spanish who is now the Dean of the Lee Honors College, and recognizes the promise of a Spanish major or minor with a scholarship to support their continued studies at Western Michigan University.

The scholarship winner for the 2021-22 academic year is: Blanca González.
The **Suzanne M. Wheatley Scholarship**, much like the Award with the same name, 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.

The recipient of the 2021-22 Suzanne M. Wheatley Scholarship is: **Piper Meldrum-Roy**.
The Antonia H. Rostami Scholarship, like the award that bears her name, 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.

The recipients of the 2021-22 Antonia H. Rostami Scholarship are: Seth Allred, Magglé León de Bautista, and Ryan Pristas.
Ruth Y. Kirby was a lifelong educator who taught French and Latin for many years in both the Portage and Kalamazoo Public School systems before joining the faculty in the College of Education at Western Michigan in 1945. For the 23 years of teaching that followed, Professor Kirby served as an inspiration to her classes and colleagues alike. Her mastery of languages was second only to her unwavering dedication to her students. Because of her very generous bequest in 1990, Ruth Kirby's devotion to our students continues today by supporting them in their studies on campus and abroad.

The recipients of the 2021-22 Ruth Kirby Scholarship are: Justin Brown, Anna Davidson, Sydney Davidson, Gabrielle Francois, Marysol Millar, Lillian Randall, Autumn Roemer, Julia Sehy, and Carmen Vinkemulder.
This year’s recipient of the Department of Spanish Travel Study Abroad Scholarship is:

**Morgan Vandenbrink**, for Santander, Spain (Summer II 2022)

¡Felicitaciones y buen viaje!
President’s Award for Study Abroad
(Presenter: Prof. Michael Millar)

This year’s recipient of the Department of Spanish President’s Award for Study Abroad is:

**Abigail Airo**, for Heredia, Costa Rica (Spring 2022)

¡Felicitaciones y buen viaje!
President’s Scholarship for Study Abroad
(Presenter: Prof. Michael Millar)

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

Megan Baldry, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)
Zola Crow, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)
Madeline Kastel, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)
Laura Steele, for Burgos, Spain (Fall 2021)

¡Felicitaciones y buen viaje!
Phi Beta Kappa

The oldest and most prestigious honor society for the university’s top liberal arts students

(Presenter: Prof. Kristina Wirtz, Theta of MI Chapter Secretary)

Sofia Fox
Emily Kostbade
Julia Sehy
Carmen Vinkemulder
Katelyn Whitehead
Maya Willertz
Recognition of Department Service-Learners and Volunteers

We honor all of our students participating in Service learning opportunities in our community schools, hospitals, legal offices, immigrant services, and administrative posts.

We also thank all our volunteers. Special thanks to Irene Miguélez Morán, graduate student from Spain who is helping with today’s ceremony.

Last, but never least, our heart-felt gratitude to the most important person in our Department, who goes above and beyond the call of duty with grace and generosity: Mrs. Colleen Sante.
Musical Postlude

J.S. Bach, Suite № 3 in C Major, II-
Allemande  (Cello: Piper Meldrum-Roy)

J.S. Bach, Suite № 3 in C Major, III-
Courante  (Cello: Piper Meldrum-Roy)
Congratulations, and we wish you all the best!

¡Enhorabuena y nuestros mejores deseos para todos!