

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE COMMENCEMENT

Class of 2021

Indiana University, Bloomington



CELEBRATING THE IU SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE CLASS OF 2021

SATURDAY, MAY 8th

2:00 **LOG ON:** <https://iu.zoom.us/j/89229532846>

Meeting ID: 892 2953 2846

Password: SPANPORT

2:05 **LIVE WELCOME AND STUDENT INTROS:** Opportunity for each student to share their name, degree, and introduce anyone celebrating with them, in person or in spirit

2:10 **CONGRATULATION VIDEO FROM THE SPAN/PORT UNDERGRADUATE TEAM:**
Chair Manuel Díaz-Campos, Associate Chair Jonathan Risner, Director of Undergraduate Studies Laura Gurzynski-Weiss, Director of the Basic Language Program Allen Davis, Department Outreach Coordinator Israel Herrera, & Academic Advisor Natalie Techentin

2:18 **CELEBRATION OF SENIORS:** Valedictorian speech from 2021 Outstanding Graduate Austen Ott, followed by a celebration of each graduating senior

2:28 **DEGREE CONFERRAL:** Students invited to put on their undergraduate caps (with tassels to the right) and stand. Chair Manuel Díaz-Campos “confers” degrees and invites students to switch their tassels to the left, signaling their new status as IU grads!

2:30 **CELEBRATION:** Opportunity to move into Zooms dedicated to degree concentrations:

PORTUGUESE: HOSTED BY PROF. LUCIANA NAMORATO

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/83698504033?pwd=ZEIiWXpaV1BOQQ0psSWxVVo2OXduUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9850 4033

Password: SPANPORT

HISPANIC LINGUISTICS: HOSTED BY PROF. PATRICIA AMARAL

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/81250974440?pwd=U2FIK2gweHlhclAzVVFvc2hZUXpDUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 5097 4440

Password: SPANPORT

HISPANIC STUDIES & CULTURE: HOSTED BY PROF. OLIMPIA ROSENTHAL

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/86068567435>

Meeting ID : 860 6856 7435

Password: SPANPORT

HISPANIC LITERATURE: HOSTED BY PROF. JONATHAN RISNER

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88354419641?pwd=RGNJVVdCTGpachFjL0FoWnZiNnRaQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 5441 9641

Password: SPANPORT

DEGREES IN SPANISH

Ayala, Andrés, Majors in International Studies & Hispanic Literature, minors in French & History

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I will forever cherish the friendships and kindled by the HISP department. Whether I be riding horses towards a tucked-away waterfall in the Dominican Republic with Dr. Erik Willis and new/old friends or forging an argument inspired by migrant literature in Dr. Andrés Guzmán's breakout rooms, I will hold onto my classroom and international experiences close to my heart.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has allowed me to linguistically and historically connect with my roots in Mexico, but at the same time, I have learned to embrace my Xicano identity here in the United States.

What are your plans after graduation?

Will accept a full-time position with an immigration law firm as an immigration paralegal before attending law school to get a joint JD/MA

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Semi-Finalist for Mexico Fulbright Student Grant

Kate Hevner Mueller Senior Award

Indiana Outstanding Latino College Student Award

"Retracing Revolutionary Women: A Gendered Analysis of Insurgent Women's Participation in the 1953-1959 Cuban Revolution" (my INTL thesis)

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting your throughout your IU journey?

Dr. Arlene Díaz, Dr. Erik Willis, Dr. Anke Birkenmaier, Dr. Nicole Kousaleos, and Dr. Andrés Guzmán, thank you for the immeasurable support in and out of the classroom all these years!

Beaver, Megan, Majors in Spanish & Nursing

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I cannot think of one memory, but I enjoyed all of the classes I took in the Spanish program.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning Spanish has helped me develop as a person. Studying Spanish led me to study abroad in Spain, which was an absolutely amazing experience. I met some amazing people, including one of my best friends. While studying abroad I learned the phrase, "no pasa nada," which has reminded me to relax and not be so hard on myself.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on working as a registered nurse in Lafayette, Indiana. I hope to use my Spanish with patients and their families.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Graduating with dual degrees in Spanish and Nursing

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting your throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank my advisor, Natalie Techentin for helping me to obtain this degree. I would also like to thank my friend Brittney Springstun, who I studied abroad with.

Brandl, Taryn, Major in Spanish, minors in Portuguese, Norwegian, & Informatics

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

The excitement of talking with Professor Gurzynski-Weiss about studying abroad in Sevilla!

What are your plans after graduation?

I have been accepted into the 2-year Environmental Educator Fellowship program at Osprey Wilds in Minnesota.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Phi Beta Kappa member

Pol-IU-glot

Dean's List

Founder's Scholar

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting your throughout your IU journey?

Professor Laura Gurzynski-Weiss

Professor Gergana May

Carter, Sarah, Majors in Spanish & Biochemistry, minors in History & Chemistry

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Studying in the Dominican Republic with Professor Erik Willis will be an experience that remains near and dear to my heart for the rest of my life. From exploring the country with my peers to cooking with my host mom, studying abroad in the Dominican was one of the best decisions I made while at IU.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning additional languages has opened up my life to people, places, and experiences I would have otherwise never had the opportunity to enjoy. As I look forward to starting dental school this summer, I also look forward to the opportunities I will have to communicate with Spanish and Portuguese speaking patients to ensure the most comfortable and informed patient experience.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will attend the University of Michigan School of Dentistry after graduation. Go Blue!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting your throughout your IU journey?

I am so incredibly thankful for my support system in Bloomington: my friends, family, and faculty in both the Biology and Spanish departments.

Chandler, Kirsten, Majors in Psychology & Spanish, minor in Counseling

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Making so many friends in my Spanish and Portuguese classes.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Having the ability to speak to others that do not speak English is an incredible experience and I hope to use Spanish and Portuguese in my future career.

What are your plans after graduation?

I am returning to IU in the fall to obtain a M.S.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling and Counselor Education.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I have received a Dedication Award from Collins LLC for my hard work and dedication to the LLC community.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize my parents for helping me financially and encouraging me to learn Spanish and Portuguese throughout my time here at IU.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

I am very thankful for the experiences and abilities that I have gained from this program in my time here at IU.

Cox, Evan, Majors in Linguistics & Spanish, minors in East Asian Languages & History

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My study abroad in Perú

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has shown me what I want to do with my life

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Krystie Herndon

Natalie Techentin

Daryl Spurlock

Israel Herrera

Travis Evans-Sago

Drake, Margaret, Major in Spanish, minors in Folklore & Ethnomusicology

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

A memory would be volunteering with a dual immersion elementary class and seeing kids enthusiastically interacting with the different culture and language. They did sometimes refer to me as Señor Maggie as their teacher was referred to as Señor. The native speakers usually had to remind the other students to say Señorita, and they were so cute in correcting themselves.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

I enjoy working with people so learning about additional languages/cultures has changed my life by becoming more open to asking questions and being curious about traditions that are important to others and how it shapes their identity. It helped develop my passions outside of the classroom setting.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank my family for their support and my host family for their generosity and kindness while I studied and grew in my abilities in Alcalá de Henares.

Elliott, Yiliza, Major in Spanish, minor in Chemistry

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I was only taking a Spanish class to fulfill my undergraduate requirements, but my professor, Profesora Vania Castro, encouraged me to pursue Spanish as a major or minor because she believed in me and my abilities when I wasn't sure of myself. She's the reason I'm graduating with a B.A. in Spanish!

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

I've become more confident in speaking Spanish and can now help others, translate for Spanish speakers in my work field, and have more conversations with people in my family!

What are your plans after graduation?

Study study study for medical school!

Everhart, Madeline Rose, Majors in Anthropology & Spanish

Fonseca, Austin, Majors in Spanish & Neuroscience

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

This department is what allowed me to study abroad in Spain, growing into the world around me and gaining a new cultural appreciation I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. But it is also the department that hosted Cafe Hispano, a place where I could build community and feel at home with my own multiculturalism.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

For me, it wasn't so much about just learning a language. It was seeing the other students and professors so passionate about the culture that reawakened a side of myself that had been long forgotten. Relearning and reconnecting with this culture has proved to be a pivotal moment in figuring out who I am.

What are your plans after graduation?

I am excited to attend IU School of Medicine and continue my journey towards becoming a physician, where I can use the Spanish language and an understanding of my own biculturalism to make a difference in the medical community.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

From the beginning, my parents have always allowed me to pursue any dreams that I have had, which I cannot thank them enough for. Every class that I have taken through this department has pushed me to grow and learn new ways of being a student, which I have found invaluable. I would like to specifically thank Andrés Guzmán, Alejandro Mejías-López, and Melissa Dinverno for their inspirational instruction and for guiding me along this path.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Just thank you, that I appreciate the role you play and the ideas you represent within the IU community.

Friel, Noelle, Majors in Broadcast Journalism, Political Science, & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My grandmother is a native Spanish speaker and I got to interview her in Spanish for a class project. It was the first time I had ever spoken Spanish with her.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning Spanish has helped me in my goal of becoming a reporter. As a Spanish speaking reporter, I will be able to empower other Hispanic and Latino people and tell their stories.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I will be working as a reporter at NBC26 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I am a Hudson and Holland Scholar, I am an IU Founders Scholar, and am graduating with High Distinction.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

My parents have always supported my dream of being a reporter and have been my number one fans.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

I highly recommend that everyone try to learn a second language. I'm so glad that I pushed myself to become bilingual and I'm incredibly thankful that I got to continue my Spanish education at the Spanish and Portuguese Department at IU.

Gimeno, Alex, Majors in Neuroscience & Spanish, minor in Chemistry

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My time at La Escuelita and seeing a Grammy-winning Mariachi group with my estudiante.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has allowed me to get to know my own family in Spain better, and it has shaped my professional trajectory into one that hopefully involves working with Spanish speakers for the rest of my career.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be starting medical school at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

2021 Outstanding Honors Thesis Award (in neuroscience); 2021 Department of Spanish & Portuguese Outstanding Community Engagement

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize my parents for their unwavering support.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

¡Gracias por unos cuatro años extraordinarios!

Graham, Camille Eve, Majors in Spanish & International Studies, certificate in TESOL

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Professor Ali Alsmadi was my Spanish Composition and Conversation teacher during the Fall of 2018 and his joy and passion for the Spanish language and culture expanded my love for it greatly. Anyone that has taken his class could agree that he tries his absolute hardest to push his students to do their best work, as well as he knows how to make any simple topic quite exciting due to his animated personality.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Not only did knowing a second language (Spanish) allow me to travel abroad to Quito, Ecuador but my love for the language has inspired me to move to Spain this upcoming September.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be teaching English as a second language in Spain from September-June.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Member of Phi Beta Kappa, Member of the National Honor Society of Spanish University Students (Sigma Delta Pi), Founders Scholar

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Profesor Ali Alsmadi (he has written several letters of recommendation for me)

Graham, Rachel, Majors in International Studies & Spanish

Gunning, Logan, Majors in International Studies & Spanish, minor in History

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?
My opportunity to study abroad in Alcalá de Henares.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?
Understanding and speaking Spanish has broadened my career outlook, and it has created a strong foundation for a lifetime of language development and cultural study.

What are your plans after graduation?
I will be teaching in Madrid for the 2021-2022 academic year. Afterward I intend to continue my academic career in a graduate or professional program.

Horan, Grace, Majors in Spanish & Media – Cinema and Media Arts, minor in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?
¡Los profesores han sido increíbles!

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?
I decided to become a Spanish major in the second semester of my junior year. Challenging myself in learning another language has put me outside of my comfort zone. In needing to scramble for the right words or correct grammar, I have strengthened my brain's communication and language skills in both Spanish and English. In addition, learning Spanish has gifted me with increased cultural awareness.

What are your plans after graduation?
One day I desire to use this major in a Spanish-speaking country!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?
Thank you to my family: thank you for all of the sacrifices you have made for me; thank you for all of the love you have given me throughout my life. You have done everything possible to put me on the path to a great life- may we ever journey this life together!

Anything else you'd like to share with us?
I have loved my peers!

Hutchens, Julia Nell, Majors in Spanish & Journalism, minor in Business

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?
My favorite IU memory was studying abroad in Sevilla, Spain.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?
Studying Spanish has opened my eyes and changed how I see the world. It has definitely given me the travel bug, and I cannot wait to further travel the world and learn more about other cultures!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?
I would like to thank my family for their continued support in my Spanish education.

King, Carli, Majors in Chemistry & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My study abroad to the DR my freshman year was so incredibly fun. I made so many memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning about language and culture has broadened my worldview in a way that allows me to both communicate and emphasize with a broader group of people.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending IU School of Medicine this fall.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I was recently awarded the Kate Hevner Mueller Senior Award.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank Professor Willis for supporting me all four years in all of my endeavors.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Thanks for an amazing four years!

Leystra, Magan, Majors in Spanish, International Studies, & Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (Arabic)

Macias, Adamari Fernanda Majors in Spanish & Linguistics, minor in Latino Studies

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

During my time in the IU Spanish program a memory I will always keep with me is when I studied abroad in the Dominican Republic. I made so many friends and such a good connection with the professors is an experience I will always be grateful for.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning about different cultures has helped me realize how different can be but something as complex as language can help ease those difference and be a bridge to a connection you wouldn't be able to explore otherwise.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I will be moving to San Antonio, Texas working with the AmeriCorps program City Year helping in inner city schools within the community.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Professors Erik Willis and Laura Gurzynski-Weiss helped me realize that I wanted to work within the field in a way that worked language acquisition. Having Professor Willis in the Dominican Republic and in Spanish Phonetics and seeing how he knew the Dominican community so well and was so eager to help them and us further or language skills and having Dr. Gurzynski-Weiss for The Acquisition of Spanish and learning more in-depth about what goes into acquiring a second language made me realize that I want to help people through those struggles.

Martine, Victoria, Majors in Biology & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I participated in Teatro Vida until COVID prevented us from performing this year. It was truly a blast, and it was very neat for me to find that I could act in another language. It helped me conquer my fear of

speaking Spanish to native speakers; because once you improvise with terrible grammar in front of a room of people, it's much easier to do it in front of a couple people!

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has brought me closer to my heritage and given me different viewpoints as to how others live their lives.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending the IU School of Medicine in the fall!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank my friends and family, especially my mother, who have been incredibly supportive of my university pursuits. I'd also like to thank my advisors. It's only for them that I am actually graduating on time!

McClain, Abigail, Majors in Hispanic Linguistics & Biology, minor in Anthropology

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Everything! I would not change a single thing about my time in the department.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Spanish has changed virtually every part of my life. It is a beautiful thing to be able to make new connections with anyone and being able to understand another language and culture only broadens those possibilities.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending George Washington University in DC for a Master's in Human Paleobiology where I'll be researching zoonotic pathogen transmission in primates in Costa Rica and Panama!

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship in Biological Anthropology

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

My family, professors, friends, host families, and anyone I have unduly subjected to fun facts about phonemes.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Thanks for a great four years!

Meyer, Teresa, Majors in English & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I really enjoyed Contemporary Cinema with Professor Jonathan Risner.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has allowed me to grow in confidence in my ability to communicate with others, not only in English, but in Spanish as well.

Moorthy, Meena, Majors in Neuroscience & Spanish, minor in Healthcare Management and Policy

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Volunteering with La Escuelita at the Monroe County Public Library was one of my favorite experiences within the Spanish department. It was so gratifying to work with young Latino/a/x kids and see their reading and writing skills progress over the course of the semester.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning Spanish has introduced me to an entirely new sphere of art, literature, and history that I will continue to explore and appreciate for the rest of my life. It has allowed me to connect with people from many different countries and backgrounds and is something I intend to fully integrate into my career as a physician.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending the Indiana University School of Medicine to pursue my medical degree.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

The Clara Javan Goodbody Senior Recognition award, election to Phi Beta Kappa

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank the Wells Scholars program (WSP), specifically Dr. Christoph Irmischer, Elspeth Hayden, and my classmates, for always supporting me and pushing me to explore areas of study that I wouldn't have otherwise. I would also like to thank Prof. Israel Herrera for always informing me about unique opportunities happening within the Spanish department and also for helping me so much in my academic endeavors.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

My study abroad experience in Granada, Spain is something I will always cherish. Through classes about Islamic Civilization in Spain, Islamic Art and Architecture, History and Memory of the Sephardic Jews, and Lorca and the Andalusian Literary Tradition, I was able to learn so much about the rich culture, art forms, and history of this beautiful city.

Ngyuen, Jelena, Majors in Spanish & Computer Science, minors in XXXX

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

During an amazing opportunity to study abroad, I remember running through the forest in the Dominican Republic, and with the sun flashing on my face in between the tall tree branches, I picked wild fruits with my host family and friends and was truly at one with nature and at peace with myself.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

I absolutely love it. Spanish has opened worlds for me. I learned in college that I really love learning about others and their stories. But additionally, it also gives me the opportunity to help so many others in the fields I might want to work in.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be working as a software engineer starting summer 2021!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Mom for teaching me to love others so hard I hope to make an impact one day.

Dad for teaching me resilience.

Brother for being my rock and my role model.

My extended family for their character building :P and love.

My advisor, Natalie Techentin for hearing me out every year when I was constantly lost in determining what to study and lost in life in general.

Norris, Em, Majors in Spanish & International Studies

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Studying abroad the summer before my Sophomore year was an experience that I will always cherish and that is full of memories that I will take with me for many years to come.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning additional languages and about additional cultures has changed my life entirely in the sense that it has broadened my perspective and made me passionate about fighting for the rights of others whose experiences are very different from my own.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

2021 Founders Scholar

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize Professor Olimpia Rosenthal and Dr. Nicole Kousaleos for supporting me throughout my IU journey.

Ott, Austen, Majors in Neuroscience & Spanish, minor in Chemistry, Biology, & Latino Studies

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Working with Dr. Andrés Guzmán to write an honors thesis for the Department has been a transformative experience. I've grown and developed as a student, scholar, and person through this project.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

The opportunity to learn the Spanish language and engage with numerous Spanish-speaking cultures around the globe has made me a more caring, empathetic, and engaged global citizen.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending the University of Minnesota Medical School to pursue an M.D./M.P.H.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Jeffrey H. Hillis LGBTQ+ Award Recipient (2019); Kate Hevner Mueller Outstanding Senior Award Recipient (2021), 2021 Department of Spanish and Portuguese Outstanding Senior

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Thank you to Dr. Andrés Guzmán, Dr. Laura Gurzynski-Weiss, Dr. Anke Birkenmaier, Dr. Deborah Cohn, and Dr. Ehren Newman for informing my worldview, supporting my pursuits, and mentoring me into the person I am today. Thank you, also, to Willow Johnson, Jordan Cruse, Sarah Nance, and Sam Messier for making IU a place where I could grow and thrive.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

The classes I have taken with the Department have been the most engaging, most thought-provoking, and most interesting classes I have taken during my time at IU. Thank you to everyone who made the past four years such an amazing experience!

Petersen, Kathryn, Majors in International Studies and Spanish, minor in Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, Certificate in Liberal Arts Management.

Robertson, Alanna Nicole, Majors in Anthropology & Spanish, minor in Global Health Promotion

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

When I took phonetics, I met with the professor and had a long conversation about my goals as a Spanish learner, how to improve my speech, how to use it in my career, and many other topics. I left that meeting feeling more confident in my ability than I had felt throughout my entire college career. Even though the professor wasn't part of the field I am going into, he was the one who offered me truly helpful advice and helped me to feel capable.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning new languages and being exposed to different cultures has allowed me to have an open and compassionate mind. It helped me to see the differences in people, but also the similarities. In addition, it pushes me out of my comfort zone and encourages me to have faith in myself and my competence.

What are your plans after graduation?

I currently work as a social worker at a federally qualified health center. I will be going into a MPH program in the next few years to work as a social epidemiologist.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Graduated with distinction

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Every instructor that I begged for guidance and asked far too many questions

Robinson, Kira, Majors in Spanish & Criminal Justice

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

The Café Hispano sessions every week

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It has made me more open and understanding to problems and injustices concerning other cultures

What are your plans after graduation?

Moving to Los Angeles to obtain my law degree

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

My family and Spanish professors

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Love you all

Ruiz, Wendy, Majors in International Studies, Linguistics, & Spanish, minors in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I will never forget my trip to Cuba with the department. It was an incredible experience.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Throughout my time in the department, I have gained the confidence to speak Spanish as a heritage speaker. Taking linguistic, literature, and culture classes broadened my world view and I will forever be grateful for the knowledge that I have gained.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I am a recipient of a Kate Hevner Mueller award.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would personally like to thank Lillian Casillas from La Casa. Her support has meant the world to me and without it I do not know where I would be today. I would also like to thank the professors I have had in this department.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Some of my favorite courses have been through the department. I encourage everyone to take a course in this department.

Scheaffer, Catherine, Majors in Human Resources & Spanish Linguistics

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Teachers

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

It helped me be more open to learning new things

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

National Honor Society for Spanish majors

Sorg, Zachary D, Major in Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain at the start of the pandemic.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

I have been able to connect and make friends with people all over the world.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be commissioning as an officer into the US Air Force on May 9 and be stationed in Tucson, AZ as a Financial Management Officer.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

God, my family, and my friends

Southard, Meg Teresa, Majors in Neuroscience & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Studying abroad in Chile was an unforgettable experience. I learned so much about the world and myself.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning another language and culture had provided me with a new, unique perspective on the world. I have also met a ton of awesome people and have had a lot of fun!

What are your plans after graduation?

I am planning on taking a gap year to work and then applying to graduate school for a Neuroscience Ph.D.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Graduating with Hutton Honors Notation.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank my family for supporting me throughout my college experience, my boyfriend, Andrew, for always being there for me, and Dr. Prieto for being an excellent mentor.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

It has been awesome! I can't believe it is over.

Stine, Alexa, Majors in Spanish & Biology, minor in Chemistry

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I will forever remember working in a service-learning context with preschoolers.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning a second language has allowed me to learn more about cultures other than my own and view the world from a different perspective.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to pursue veterinary medicine and apply my bilingual skills in my career.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I am a member of IUB Sigma Delta Pi.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize my friends and family for supporting me throughout this entire journey.

Svendsen, Abigail, Majors in Spanish & Sociology, minor in Political Science & Psychology

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I remember rushing through campus trying to make it to my 9am S280 Spanish grammar class on time. It was the first class I ever took in college and I was so nervous for it. But I'm so appreciate of that time because it really helped develop my Spanish skills and it officially started my college career.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning an additional language has really opened my eyes to the vastness of the world we live in. There are so many cultures that exist and learning about them makes you realize that there is a lot to see and experience in the world.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to attend law school after graduation.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Founders Scholar, member of Sigma Delta Pi (academic honor society for students studying Spanish), member of Phi Beta Kappa (academic honor society)

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize my parents for supporting me throughout my journey. They have supported my journey ever since I was an exploratory student my freshman year.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

When I first came to college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I was an exploratory student with no real passions for any particular future career. I decided to continue taking Spanish classes, as I started them in high school, just because that was the only topic I knew I enjoyed. Now, looking at where I am today, I am

so happy I made that decision. My Spanish skills have significantly improved and I have met so many wonderful people and professors throughout my journey to completing my Spanish major.

Thomas, Metta, Majors in Public Relations & Spanish, minor in Political Science

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain! Even though it was cut short, it was the best semester I had all throughout college.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

I have been able to open myself up to so many different cultures and people. Spanish has given me the confidence to try new things and take a leap of faith into the unknown.

What are your plans after graduation?

I'm working in Chicago for a public relations agency!

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

My friends and family for always supporting me throughout my time as a Spanish major.

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

Thank you to the Spanish/Portuguese department for all of your help these past four years!

Tilghman, Katherine, Majors in Spanish, minor in Portuguese, French, & Music

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

My time studying abroad in Madrid was unforgettable!

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Studying additional languages and cultures has enriched my life and worldview in so many ways: it has allowed me to discover my passion for foreign languages, to learn so much more about the world, and to meet and communicate with so many different people from a wide variety of backgrounds. It was, and continues to be, an inspiring and invaluable experience.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be pursuing a doctorate in Hispanic Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, starting in Fall 2021.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

Spanish Departmental Honors; Hutton Honors Notation; Phi Beta Kappa; AATSP Indiana Outstanding College Student of Spanish Award; Sigma Delta Pi; Phi Lambda Beta; College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

Too many to count! Here are a few, if time/space permits:

Professors Deborah Cohn and Patricia Amaral - for being such wonderful and supportive mentors during my research projects

Professor Alejandro Mejías-Lopez - for his hard work and support as Resident Director of the Madrid program, especially during the difficult transition to virtual learning

Professor Israel Herrera - for his constant efforts to connect me to community and volunteer work

Professor Luciana Namorato - for her knowledge and guidance through four semesters of Portuguese

And of course, my parents, for their unending love, support, and guidance

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

I am very lucky to be part of such an amazing department, and I am immensely grateful for the knowledge and experience that the faculty and students of Spanish and Portuguese have shared with me.

Timperman, Katherine, Majors in Politic Science, Spanish Literature, & Political and Civic Engagement, minors in International Studies & Nonprofit Management

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

I will always remember reading Don Quijote in its original text with Professor Wagschal and the theatrical moments we had in S450.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning Spanish has allowed me to communicate with new friends and members of my community on a deeper level.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to travel and use my Spanish speaking skills once I am fully vaccinated!

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

I will be graduating highest distinction with a Hutton Honors Notation. I was also on the Dean's List for the College of Arts & Sciences every semester of my undergraduate career, and I was recently accepted into Phi Beta Kappa for my academic merit and community leadership.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank Professor Herrera and Profesora Hojas Carbonell for encouraging me to major in Spanish! I would also like to thank Professor Wagschal and Profesora Boyd for helping me through a daunting grad school application process!

Anything else you'd like to share with us?

I'm so glad I chose to challenge myself with this major and I am very thankful for the Professors who supported me along the way!

Watson, Emma, Majors in Speech and Hearing Sciences & Spanish

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

A memory during my time with IU Spanish that I will take with me is when Profesora Vila-Belda took me aside after class and told me I could do a better job participating in class. While intimidating at the time, this urging for me to do better is what led me to get the most out of each class and out of my Spanish education. It is a fond memory that will continue to motivate me to participate in life.

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning a second language has formed a foundation for me to continue to improve speech-language pathology services provided to Spanish-speaking communities.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I will be attending Texas A&M University-Kingsville in pursuit of a Masters of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to recognize Profesora Vila-Belda for supporting me throughout my IU Spanish journey and for helping me secure a spot in a Masters program that will allow me to continue my education as a bilingual SLP.

Zeh, Janie, Majors in Human Biology & Spanish, minor in Chemistry

What is a memory during your time with SPAN/PORT that you will take with you?

Studying abroad in both Madrid and the Dominican Republic were the highlights of my time at Indiana University. I will cherish those experiences for the rest of my life!

How has learning additional language(s) and culture(s) changed your life?

Learning Spanish has allowed me to broaden my perspectives of the world. I have experienced new cultures, learned new ways of life, and have been able to get to know so many amazing people through the Spanish language.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be attending IU School of Medicine to pursue my MD.

Are there any award/recognitions that we can celebrate with you?

IU Founders Scholar

Hutton Honors Notation

Is there anyone you would like to recognize for supporting you throughout your IU journey?

I would like to thank my parents and siblings for their support! I would also like to thank all of my Spanish professors at IU, especially Erik Willis, Alejandro Mejías-López, and Jim Lynch, for everything they have done for me throughout my Spanish education.



CONGRATULATIONS!
¡FELICIDADES!
PARABÉNS!
FELICITATS!