

Department of Spanish and Portuguese



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. LAURA PODALSKY

It's an easy job to celebrate the excellence of our faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduates, and alums. I see it every day. Graduate students work

together to enhance the intellectual life of our department by organizing "Five-Minute Scholar" events as well as the annual spring symposia. A staff member puts in extra hours to support the development of new undergraduate programming; another collaborates with graduate students to participate in OSU's Digital Flagship initiative. Undergraduates win fellowships to study Portuguese. Faculty members win external grants and university-level recognitions; they also mentor undergraduates on independent research projects as well as graduate students on their dissertations and professional development. This issue of SPPO's newsletter provides an overview of some of those achievements over the past year. We also include a new feature highlighting the personal and professional trajectory of alumnus Mark Wise ('69, '71). The profile celebrates his accomplishments and allows us to see the department's impact on a former student.

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Laura Podalsky

Chair, Department of
Spanish and Portuguese



FACULTY AND LECTURER NEWS

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP: NOTES FROM STUDENTS



Dr. Glenn Martinez won the 2019 **Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching**. Dr. Martinez's students cannot say enough about the impact he is having on their lives. Martinez ensures the

content in the classroom connects to students' everyday experiences. One student said, "Every assignment is concluded with 'How does this relate to your real world experiences?'" For Martinez and his students, part of that "real world" experience includes building a pipeline of Latinx students to the medical professions as part of the IMPACT program at Westland High School on Columbus's west side. Students also appreciate the inclusive community he creates. Martinez's students see him as an ally who can empathize with struggles like sexism and racism. "He creates an inclusive and safe environment for students and takes students' opinions seriously," says a student. Thanks to a Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) grant he received, Martinez was able to offer SPPO graduate students paid research opportunities from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2019. The GAANN grant supported students who, without funding, may not have had the opportunity to continue their education.

Dr. Frederick Aldama won the **2018-2019 Rodica C. Botoman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring**. The award

recognizes Frederick's efforts as an outstanding teacher in the classroom in a wide variety of classes and his immense impact on students majoring in a wide variety of disciplines. He has helped to promote the academic excellence of Latinx students by establishing a robust mentoring program through LASER, and by establishing the Humanities and Cognitive Sciences High School Summer Institute, an enrichment opportunity aimed particularly at underrepresented communities. "He is one of the most transformative professors I've had at OSU. As a student who encountered many extenuating life circumstances this semester, Aldama was not only empathetic in terms of his out-of-class discussions with me but he also unintentionally lifted my spirits with his vibrant and energetic approach to instructing within the classroom," says one student.

TEACHING MENTORING LEADERSHIP

Dr. Elena Foulis received the **2018-2019 Provost's Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Lecturer**, which annually recognizes up to six lecturers, senior lecturers or other associated faculty for their teaching

excellence: As a teacher-innovator, Dr. Foulis has made excellent contributions to the department and to the university by utilizing courses to engage students with the Latinx community in central Ohio, by developing new courses aimed at OSU's growing heritage-speaking student population, and by supporting student learning in ways that bridge the classroom and the world outside those walls. One student says, "We are extremely grateful to Dr. Foulis for teaching us about the power of our own voices and the importance of building strong partnerships between the university and surrounding Latina/o communities."



Dr. Elena Foulis and **Dr. Frederick Aldama** won the 2018-2019 **Susan M. Hartmann Mentoring and Leadership Award**. This award recognizes a faculty member, staff member or student from within The Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring to and/or leadership on behalf of women or other historically underrepresented groups at the university. The award is granted to an individual, irrespective of gender, rank, and status, who has generously and unselfishly served others in an effort to promote equity, fairness, and equal opportunities for all members of the university community.

Below are statements from nomination letters by their students:

"We all value the learning and mentoring community **Professor Aldama** fosters. To help with retention of our matriculating Latinx students and to create access for future generations, he created

the nationally recognized LASER. With this program Professor Aldama has helped us build community on campus by working with communities off campus, graduate students working with Latinx undergraduates on campus, and both groups working with Latinx high school students in the wider community."

"**Dr. Foulis** is outstanding in her dedication to mentoring both undergraduate and graduate students. She regularly invites students to work together beyond their coursework to collect Latina/o oral histories, produce podcasts, co-author articles, co-present at academic conferences, and guest lecture in her courses. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Foulis for teaching us about the power of our own voices and the importance of building strong partnerships between the university and surrounding Latina/o communities."



**PROFESSOR ALDAMA,
STUDENTS, AND LASER STAFF**

LASER

LASER (Latinx Space for Enrichment and Research) was founded in 2009 to focus on scholarship and mentoring of Latinx students. It provides a forum for Ohio State faculty, staff, and students to build a scholarly community on campus and to prepare, recruit, and retain Latinx scholars from high school to college and on to graduate school.

FACULTY AND LECTURER NEWS

Elvia Andia Grageda and **Patricia Stuessy** won the **2018-2019 SPPO Associated Faculty Award for Excellence in Second Language Teaching & Learning**.

This award recognizes exceptional commitment to implementing nationally-established and innovative practices in the field of second-language teaching as well as ongoing efforts to actively participate in professional development opportunities in fields related to teaching and learning.

Stuessy has exemplified these qualities by basing her pedagogical practice in developing strategies for teaching students *how* to learn, not just *what* to learn. Students routinely praise her dedication, warmth and desire to help. Patricia has sought out professional development opportunities here at OSU through departmental and University Institute for Teaching and Learning (UITL) workshops. She's also participated in professional conferences such as the Ohio Foreign Language Association (OFLA) Conference. She is a great departmental citizen, having served as a course coordinator and

representative of the associated faculty to the Department Committee, among other things.

Andia Grageda has exemplified these qualities by crafting a pedagogical practice for Quechua language instruction that emerges out of Andean principles. She aligns these practices with the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Students call her dynamic and always willing to help. Elvia also goes above and beyond to seek out professional opportunities here at OSU (e.g. winning an Affordable Learning Exchange grant to create an online textbook for Quechua) and with colleagues elsewhere who teach indigenous languages with organizations such as the Symposium on Indigenous Languages and Cultures (ILCLA). She has contributed to the department and the study of Quechua by visiting local high schools to talk about Quechua and Andean culture.



PATRICIA
STUESSY

ELVIA
ANDIA
GRAGEDA



OUTREACH
INITIATIVE

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese Community Outreach Initiative brings together faculty, staff, students, and community partners to create visibility and appreciation for Latinx cultural production. Signature events include Festival Latino in the summer, "Día de los Muertos" in the fall, and a partner luncheon in the spring.

FACULTY AND LECTURER NEWS

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

The Global Arts + Humanities Discovery Theme selected "***K'acha Willaykuna: Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Arts and Humanities Collaboration***" as a winner of the Indigenous Arts and Humanities Grant. The project is **spearheaded by Dr. Michelle Wibbelsman** with collaboration from **Pamela Espinosa de los Monteros** (University Libraries), **Guisela LaTorre** (Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies), **Alcira Dueñas** (History), **Richard Fletcher** (Arts Administration, Education and Policy), **Megan Hasting** (Center for Latin American Studies), and **Elvia Andia Grageda** (Department of Spanish and Portuguese-Quechua). The review committee called the project "exciting and innovative and very worthy of support." As stated in their successful proposal, the project will promote "collaborations around a fundamental appreciation of material cultural production, oral traditions and performance practices as key sites of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous knowledge, memory and meaning making." This is a large, ambitious project and it took many meetings, conversations, and writing sessions to craft the winning proposal. It will make a fabulous contribution to the department and the larger university.

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

LISA VOIGT



Dr. Voigt received an **ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship for "*The Epistemology of the Copy in Early Modern Travel Narratives*"**, a project that she will be carrying out in Academic Year 2019-2020 with colleagues Elio Brancoforte (Tulane University) and Stephanie Leitch (Florida State University). *The Epistemology of the Copy* "explores the role of the 'copy'" — the replication and recycling of illustrations in printed texts — in the circulation of knowledge in early modern Europe about the wider world.

EUGENIA ROMERO



In November 2018, **Dr. Romero** received an **Ohio Five Mellon Language Enrichment Grant**, along with colleagues Dosinda Alvite (Denison) and Eva París Huesca (Ohio Wesleyan) for "***Representations of Gender Issues in Contemporary Spain: A Collaborative Teaching Approach***" to collaborate on the courses that each would teach at her home institution in Spring 2019.

MEGAN LOBERT



During Academic Year 2018-2019, Associate Language Program Director **Megan Lobert** was on a **Fulbright Teaching Assistant grant** at IE University in Madrid, Spain. Her primary responsibilities at the university included collaborative teaching in Advanced English and Academic Writing courses, leading staff/professor interest groups, as well as designing and hosting talks related to American studies in classes or events organized by the regional Education Department.



FREDERICK ALDAMA

In Autumn 2018, **Dr. Aldama** received the "**Best Academic/Scholarly Work**" for *Latinx Superheroes in Mainstream Comics* (University of Arizona Press) **at the 2018 Will Eisner Comic Book Industry Awards**, the Oscars of the comic book world. These awards honor the best books, creators and retailers of the past year.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS GIVEN BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

CELIA MARTINEZ SAEZ



Celia Martínez Sáez and **Mark Roff** each one won a **Presidential Fellowship** for Autumn 2018- Spring 2019. The Presidential Fellowship is the most prestigious award given by the Graduate School. Recipients of this award embody the highest standards of scholarship in the full range of Ohio State's graduate programs.

MARK HOFF



RAPHAEL PALERMO

In Spring 2019, **Mark Hoff** and **Raphael Palermo dos Santo** each won a **Graduate Associate Teaching Award**. The Graduate Teaching Award is Ohio State's highest recognition of the exceptional teaching provided by graduate students serving as Graduate Teaching Associates.



ELENA COSTELLO

In November 2018, **Elena Costello** was awarded the Global Arts + Humanities Discovery for Spring semester 2019. She had to decline the fellowship as she already had a GAANN fellowship.

CAROLINE SHIPLEY

In November 2018, **Caroline Shipley** was selected as a **graduate fellow by the Center for the Humanities in Practice for Spring 2019 (CHiP)**. During that semester, she worked at the Ohio Humanities Institute on their *Pathways* membership newsletter.

ASHLEY DAUPHINAIS

In Autumn 2018, **Ashlee Dauphinais** received a **Fulbright-Hays Doctors Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship** to carry out doctoral research in Brazil during 2019. She is one of five OSU recipients of the award this year, and one of just 90 recipients nationwide.



The second Spanish and Portuguese Community Outreach Initiative was its Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, which took place on October 19, 2019. This was the fourth year of the event! The initiative collaboratively offers public programs to teach the public about the cultural significance of the holiday and build community. An archive of this work from past years has been created in an effort to promote future scholarship.

DAY
OF THE
DEAD

ALUMNI PROFILE

MARK WISE '69, '71

UNIMAGINABLE EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPED A LIFE

For Mark Wise, ten years in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Ohio State is what shaped his current life. Mark speaks gratefully about those years in the department, which he says gave him opportunities to structure and navigate a life through studying and teaching Spanish and Portuguese. Mark began his time at Ohio State as an undergraduate student majoring in Spanish. He then served as a graduate teaching associate while completing his Master's in Spanish Literature and his PhD in Romance Linguistics. Mark cannot imagine what his life would have been like without these opportunities. "I enjoy what I enjoy today in retirement because of that," he shares. He

speaks fondly of his experiences in acquiring a second and third language through instruction by dedicated professors and living abroad. These experiences exposed him to different cultures and ways of life. "As a boy growing up in Columbus, Ohio, these experiences were not remotely imagined."

WHEN THINGS JUST HAPPEN

When asked what made him choose Spanish as a Major, Mark's answer did not come easily. He reflected that his life was shaped by a decision that "just came to him". Mark comments that he entered college knowing only that he was interested in the humanities and without a particular major in mind. Suddenly, although no one in his family had any foreign language background at all, he chose Spanish. This was perhaps encouraged, he says, by his natural curiosity and exposure to Latin music, and in particular to the Cuban music that his father used to listen to. Mark expresses that after having taken Spanish in high



MARK WISE

school, "I just kept taking Spanish, kept enjoying it, and ended up with a Spanish Major."

"AS A BOY GROWING UP IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, THESE EXPERIENCES WERE NOT REMOTELY IMAGINED."

He also recalls taking advantage of a quarter that the department offered in Mexico, where he studied for three months, took courses at a university, and lived with a Mexican family during his time as an undergraduate student. That experience reinforced his decision to continue studying Spanish. His interest in the study of languages was strengthened when he taught Spanish to a diverse student body in the midst of the turbulent years of the Vietnam War.



LANGUAGE INTEGRAL TO CAREER

Mark is currently in Costa Rica, where he is comfortably spending his retirement after having worked in Chicago for 20 years as a senior vice president in human resources in one of the top 100 teaching hospitals in the United States. Mark expresses that the position would not have been possible without the integral education he acquired in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Ohio State. His ability to communicate easily in a language other than English added another perspective and

"LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES ALLOWED ME TO PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE OTHER CULTURES AND MAKE FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD... FRIENDS I HAVE TO THIS DAY."

dimension to his work. He could better connect with the Spanish speaking population at the hospital. Additionally, Mark continued traveling through Spain and several Latin American countries (Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, and Argentina to name a few), exploring other cultures, speaking the language and making friends. "Learning foreign languages allowed me to personally experience other



cultures and make friends from around the world... friends I have to this day." In addition to giving Mark good friends and invaluable experiences, it also gave him the freedom to continue exploring different occupations. Today he utilizes his language education through translation, interpreting, occasionally teaching, and even television commercials in Spanish.

INVOLVEMENT AS A FRIEND OF SPPO

To this day Mark's experiences as a student at Ohio State are some of his favorite memories and have significantly influenced his path in life. For this reason, he continues to feel a strong commitment to Ohio State and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He recalls with special affection professors Mario Iglesias, Eleonor Bulatkin and Aristóbulo Pardo. They are great and fabulous professors,

"BEING ABLE TO RETIRE HAPPILY IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY WAS IN LARGE MEASURE DUE TO MY EXPERIENCES AT OSU."

he says, who contributed in different ways to his future career. In their memory, he decided to materialize his gratitude by donating to funds that help the students in the department academically and professionally each year. He emotionally concludes, "Being able to retire happily in a foreign country was in large measure due to my experience at OSU. I am appreciative of and extremely grateful to the Department and Spanish and Portuguese for giving me the gifts I use every day. I wish more students took advantage of their youth and opportunities to learn other languages and cultures to make a difference in their lives."

IN THE DEPARTMENT

In a MLA report published in June 2019 (Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Summer 2016 and Fall 2016), **our Quechua program received very positive recognition as an exemplar of what works in community and cross-disciplinary connections.** According to the report, "In the United States, Quechua enrollments have doubled in a decade, from 55 in 2006 to 108 in 2016. While the absolute numbers are not large, the noticeable increase documents the growing interest in the language, which was taught at sixteen different institutions across eleven states in Fall 2016." Among these institutions, The Ohio State University was highlighted for offering a sequence of courses from beginning through intermediate for students minoring in Andean or Amazonian Studies and for studies complementing work in Spanish, Portuguese, and other fields.



SPOTLIGHTS

THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE OUTREACH INITIATIVE



The **Spanish and Portuguese Outreach Initiative** won the **Emerging International Engagement Award**. Ohio State's Engagement Recognition Awards honor faculty, staff, students and community partners for outstanding achievement in meaningful partnerships that produce engaged scholarship and community impact.

ELVIA ANDIA GRAGEDA – FIRST OPI EXAM TESTER IN QUECHUA

Ms. Elvia Andia Grageda has become the **first person ever to be certified as an OPI exam tester in Quechua**. The OPI is an oral proficiency assessment tool developed by the **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages** (ACTFL) to assess oral proficiency in numerous languages; it serves as the "industry standard." We are extremely proud of Ms. Andia Grageda for her dedication to the year-long training protocol. Her achievement will certainly continue to enhance OSU's reputation in Quechua language instruction, and Andean and Amazonian Studies.



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