During the pandemic and the most difficult and challenging time in the academic year of 2021-2022, almost all the courses were moved from online teaching to in-person teaching. Through teamwork we reached its successful end. Our 3 program coordinators, department faculty members, administrative assistant, and Language Resource Center director worked cooperatively and extremely hard to make the academic year a successful one. We offered 116 courses with 6 languages. Despite the department’s small number of professors, there were 1,810 students enrolled in our classes—It was the biggest enrollment in our department’s history.

During the academic year, we increased the number of major and minor students. 77 students declared their new majors or minors in Spanish (major: 6, minor: 56) and in French (minor: 15), and all of them, including some former students, were assigned their academic advisors. The increased number of major and minor students was amazing and encouraging. The department kept working on the degree works and periodically updated the major and minor students’ information for the departmental records. We had 15 graduates (3 Spanish major students, 11 Spanish minor students, and 1 French major student) in May and will have about 3 graduates in December 2022.
In addition, we have some exciting news from our students: (1) One Chinese student, Jasmine Kelly, received the Critical Language Scholarship. (2) One French major student, Nailah Barnes, was selected for a Fulbright award to Senegal as a Fulbright scholar for the academic year of 2022-2023. (3) One Spanish major student, Naima Castaneda, was selected for a Fulbright award to Mexico as a Fulbright scholar for the academic year of 2022-2023.

The department aims to have more major and minor students for each language and to create new minors. To do so, we need to develop our curricular and improve their quality. We had some discussions and reached the following results:

- **French minor curriculum update**: We propose to change the French minor from 24 credit hours to 20 credit hours, with 4 language courses (taught in French) and 1 culture course (taught in English). Through this process, we will revise and update our existing courses and submit them to the department and the college for their review in Fall 2022.
- **Develop a common degree**: We propose a Minor in World Languages and Cultures/World Culture Studies with a concentration on Francophones Studies, Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, etc.
- **The Portuguese Program** has submitted a new course proposal and is working on a minor proposal on Luso-Afro-Brazil Studies.

The department not only aims to develop its curricular to attract more students but also tries to improve their academic quality to meet students' real interests and needs. The Spanish and French Programs passed the Student Learning Outcome (SLSO) assessments on November 15, 2021. This is a very important accreditation.

During the academic year we updated the departmental committees that performed an important role in our department’s success:

- The Faculty Search Committee encountered the most competitive job market during the pandemic. They spent a tremendous amount of time on conducting job interviews and worked extremely hard and professionally on reviewing applications. The department is thrilled to welcome 2 new assistant professors of Spanish, who will join our department in Fall 2022.
- The Media Communication Committee appreciates the importance of our online presence and had several discussions to revamp our webpage and other future developments.
- The Curriculum and Teaching Methodology Committee worked on teaching workshop for final exams, helped with the new course proposals and departmental curricular development.

In the academic year of 2021-2022, in addition to some on-campus cultural events, we hosted some international cultural events on campus. (1) Spelman 2022 Cherry Blossom Festival had almost 200 people join the event. We invited the presenters from Japan and Japanese government. (2) Spelman International Film Festival. The 8 most recent and popular movie presentations attracted about 300 students and faculty members. Those movies were selected from 8 countries, which showed different sociocultural backgrounds and enriched the cultural awareness on the Spelman campus. Both events were successful.

As the interim department chair, I truly appreciate all your cooperation, support, and help. Many congratulations on our faculty’s achievements (See below under Faculty Highlights). Many faculty
members presented their research papers at the scholarly conferences; some faculty members were invited as guest speakers, and other faculty members organized panel discussions. Furthermore, one faculty member published a book, and some others published their research papers and book reviews or have been working on their under-contract books.

We look forward to the returning of Dr. Jacqueline Alvarez-Rosales and Dr. Anastasia Valecce and the arrival of the 2 new professors and 4 new FLTAs (Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, and French) in fall 2022.

Xuexin Liu

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**Event Highlights**

**Baking French Crêpes @ The Wellness Center Kitchen | October 22, 2021**

Fun filled event with WLC’s French students who gathering to make French crêpes!

**Film Screening and Q&A with Colombian Filmmaker Jhonny Hendrix Hinestroza | November 10, 2021**

We welcomed with Colombian filmmaker Jhonny Hendrix Hinestroza and screened his film *Saudó, Laberinto de almas* (*Saudó, Labyrinth of Souls*, 2016). The conversation with the filmmaker focused on Afro-Colombian communities and legends.

This virtual event was possible through the sponsorship of the Department of World Languages and Cultures and The Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education.
A Conversation with Dr. Maboula Soumahoro | January 18, 2022

During this virtual conversation, Dr. Maboula Soumahoro shared her work on race and diaspora in France.

This virtual event was possible through the sponsorship of African Diaspora and The World, The Gordon-Zoto Center, History, Humanities Division, International Studies, Villa Albertine, and World Languages and Cultures.

The Spelman 2022 Cherry Blossom Festival | March 23, 2022

With almost 200 people joining in on a variety of activities, the Cherry Blossom Festival tables included cultural shows, JET Program Presentation, Origami & Calligraphy Workshops, Dance Performance and Film Presentation, and JIU Japanese Students' Presentations and Exchanges with Spelman students. It was a great success.

Dr. Xuexin Liu worked as the organizer with our FLTA, the Japanese teacher, and AUC Japan Club for the Japan/Asian Studies Programs and Department of World Languages and Cultures.

- Presentation on Japanese Pop Culture: JIU Students, Tokyo, Japan
- Japanese Calligraphy – Shodo: Yasumin Tarui & Minako Ahearn
- Presentation on Japan Exchange and Teaching Program: Lora Schaeffer, Consulate General of Japan
- Japanese Art - Origami (paper folding craft): Yasumin Tarui, Minako Ahearn and Xuexin Liu
- Japanese Tradition - Kimono Wearing: Yasumin Tarui, Anetha Evans & AUC Japan Club
- Folk Dance - Chakkiri and Film - Seven Samurai: Yasumin Tarui, Anetha Evans & AUC Japan Club

Spelman College International Film Festival 2022 | March 21st- 28th

The annual International Film Festival took over the online space and brought to the Spelman and Atlanta community eight international films and had over 300 viewers.

This year’s International Film Festival was a tribute to Dr. Julio González Ruiz and supported by Pragda’s Spanish Film Club Grant, The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Spain, SPAIN arts & Culture, and the Office of the President and Provost of Spelman College.
Films screened included:

- *Bacurau*, Kleber Mendonça Filho, Brazil, 2019
- *Les Misérables*, Ladj Ly, France, 2019
- *Better Days*, Derek Tsand, China, 2019
- *Guie´dani´s Navel*, Xavi Sala, Mexico, 2018
- *Ni héroe ni traidor*, Nicolás Savignone, Argentina, 2020
- *Perro Bomba*, Juan Cáceres, Chile, 2019
- *Shoplifters*, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Japan, 2018
- *Los Lobos*, followed by a Q & A with Mexican director Samuel Kishi Leopo, Mexico, 2019

During the 4th Annual Spanish Research Day, graduating Spanish major Seniors culminated their capstone experience by showcasing their research. During the department’s Spanish Research Day, faculty and students joined virtually to support our graduating Senior’s work and learn about their unique research.

- “La anti-negritud y la opresión sistemática en la narrativa política y cultural de la República Dominicana” (‘Anti-blackness and Sistematic Opression in the Political and Cultural Narratives in the Dominican Republic”) presented by Leila Sampson
- “Ser mujer es radical: La escritura expresiva como resistencia para las mujeres” (“Being a Woman is Radical: Expressive Writing as Resistance for Women”) presented by Kayla Bryant
- “Posibilidades bajo de la opresión, MUJERES NEGRAS ATRAPADAS EN SU DAÑO MORAL: Aplicando teoría a mujeres trabajadoras de sexo de la República Dominicana en las películas Dólares De Arena y Princesas” (“Posibilities under Opression, Black Women Trapped in their Harmed Moral: Applying Theory to Women Sex Workers in the Dominican Republic in the Films Dólares De Arena y Princesas”) presented by Naima Castaneda
- “La definición y la autodefinition de las mujeres” (“The Definition and Autodefinition of Women”) presented by Sydney Calmes
- "Las mujeres otras: Las historias no contadas de la población inmigrante femenina de España" (“The Other Women: Untold Stories of Feminine Migrants in Spain”) presented by Jandolyn Washington
Danielle Akinbobola, C’2022 and a Spanish Major, will be attending Drexel University School of Law.

Oludayo Adebawo, Portuguese student, was accepted in the 2022 Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP). She will be doing intensive research with a focus on Brazil this Summer.

Nailah Barnes, C’2022 and a French and International Studies Major, was one of five valedictorians of the class of 2022. She is also the recipient of a 2022-2023 Fulbright Research Grant. She will travel to Dakar, Senegal, where she will pursue several research projects under the direction of Dr. Ndiouga Benga at Université Cheikh Anta Diop.

Kayla Bryant, C’2022 and a Spanish Major, will attend a photography workshop at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado under a scholarship from the Department of Art and Visual Culture.

Naima Castaneda Isaac, C’2022 and Spanish Major, is a Presidential Scholar and Fulbright Finalist.

Clarie Jackson, C’2024 and a Spanish major, appeared on Jeopardy! National College Championship on ABC.

Jasmine Kelly, C’2025 and an Intermediate Chinese II student, has received 2022 Critical Language Scholarship (Chinese) by the State Department.

Jandolyn Washington, C’2022 and a Spanish Major, will be attending Morehouse School of Medicine beginning July.

We are always delighted to host accomplished young scholars under the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program. Their contributions and support are invaluable to our student’s success.

This year we welcomed Yi An “Ann” Chen (Chinese program), Amélie Bardivia (French program), Yasumin Tarui (Japanese program), and Yasmin Araujo (Portuguese program).
Francisco (Paco) Chen-Lopez earned his doctorate in Hispanic Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2022. He also has an M.A. from Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. Paco’s area of expertise is contemporary Spanish American narratives, with an investigative focus on the representation of diaspora, race, place, and identity. His current research project focuses on the representation of Chinatowns in Mexican, Peruvian, Puerto Rican, and Argentinean literature while dialoguing with theories related to otherness and trauma. These research interests reflect in his teaching. As a new Assistant Professor of Spanish at Spelman, he will design courses on cultural production from the Hispanosphere while focusing on marginalized groups and immigrant communities.

Paco’s current research project centers on the literary portrayal of the transpacific encounters between China and Latin America and will branch out to cover cultural production from areas and countries that form part of the Global Hispanophone studies, such as literary works from the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea, and Spain while focusing on marginalized groups and communities. He has published articles in academic journals such as Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea, Transmodernity, Aerea, and the Latin American Literary Review.

WLC is beyond thrilled to welcome two Assistance Professors to the Spanish program. Their scholarly work and service will make an impactful addition to our growing program.

Félix M. Rosario Ortiz holds a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from Cornell University. His scholarly interests are modern and contemporary Latin American literature, poetry and poetics, Caribbean studies, and popular culture. His current research examines the construction of a self-image, focusing primarily on paranoia, personal writing, and the limits of the autobiographical genre in Caribbean and Southern Cone literature produced from 1960 to the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Besides his academic work, he has published two poetry books: «El tiempo ha sido terrible con nosotros» (Ediciones Alayubia, 2020) & «También mueren los lugares donde fuimos felices» (first recipient of the Juan Ramón Jiménez International Poetry Prize of Coral Gables in 2020).
Congratulations to our
GRADUATING SENIORS

Spanish Minors
Danielle O. Akinbobola
Olivia I. Cain
Taylor L. Dews
Nia R. Foster
Ayanna P. Fourte
Abigail Gordon
Niya E. Harden
Zaria T. Johnson
Kaitlyn A. Malone
Alyssa M. Tasker
Makenna I. Waller

French Majors
Ms. NAILAH Barnes
(Valedictorian of the class of 2022)

Spanish Majors
Kayla M. Bryant
Naima I. Castaneda
Jandolyn Washington

The Alma Oakes Memorial Award is presented to a student who best exemplifies the intellectual excellence and qualities of character that Ms. Oakes sought to impart to her students by her teaching example.

Students, FLTAs, and WLC Faculty gathered for an end-of-the-year celebration at The Oval.
Anne Carlson
- Participant in two roundtable presentations at the African Literature Association conference (May 18 – 21, 2022).
- Participant in the virtual ACTFL workshop, “Linking Proficiency Outcomes with the Social Justice Standards” (February 2022).
- Invited Dr. Maboula Soumahoro to Spelman College for a virtual conversation about her work on race and diaspora in France (January 18, 2022).
- Organized the visit of Monsieur Gaëtan Bruel, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy, and Monsieur David Ruffel, Cultural Attaché of the Consulate of France in Atlanta to Spelman College (February 3, 2022).
- Together with Dr. Vainer and Ms. Amélie Bardivia, French FLTA, organized and hosted a crêpe party for French students (October 22, 2021).

Jacqueline Alvarez-Rosales
- 2022 Invited Lecture at the Graduate Seminar in Latin American Literature "Insurrection Prose." Purdue University. Online visit, April 11.
- "Featured Research" at the National Humanities Center, where I have been for the academic year as a 2021-2022 HBCU Mellon Fellow at the National Humanities Center.

Gabriel Eliaiek-Rodriguez
Books published:
- Colombian Gothic in Cinema and Literature - Anthem Press, 2021.

Articles published:

Talks and conferences:
- Chair of the session “Inter-Culturality between Asia and LAC.” LASA/Asia 2022, February 15–19, 2022.

Certifications:

Estelle Finley
- Participant in the TRRC Faculty Colloquium (VIRTUAL): “Art Speak to Power / Black to Power,” Spring 2022.
- Participant in the ONE DAY MEETING (VIRTUAL) “Forty Years of Black Feminist Fire,” Fortieth Anniversary of the Women’s Research and Resource Center, April 15, 2022.

Luis González-Barrios
- Spelman College Int. Film Festival 2022 (March 21st- 28th), tribute to Dr. Julio González Ruiz. Supported by Pragda’s Spanish Film Club Grant, and the Office of the President and Provost of Spelman College, among others. Total films: 8 international films; Total attendance: 300 viewers.
- Organized the Q&A with Mexican director Samuel Kishi Leopo, director of "Los Lobos" (2019).

Fernanda Guida
- Publication in Peer Review Journal
  Conducted Interview
  Portuguese Title: Ô abre-alas que o Mulherio vai passar, agora em língua inglesa
  English Title: Make room because here comes Mulherio, now in English
  Journal: O Eixo e a Roda n.30 v.4
- Co-organizer of Peer Review Journal - O Eixo e a Roda – n. 30, v.4
  Portuguese Issue Title: O Brasil e as Literaturas de Língua Inglesa: Interlocuções
  English Issue Title: Brazil and Literatures in English: Dialogues
- Book - Editorial Board and Peer Reviewer
  Portuguese Title: Narrativas Africanas e Afrodiaspóricas: Dilemas Contemporâneos
  English Title: African and Afrodiasporic Narratives: Contemporary Dilemmas
- Conference (online)
  AACU - American Association of Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting
  Co-presenter with Estelle Finley, Sophie Vainer, Soraya Mekerta and organized by Estelle Finley
  Title: “Educating for Democracy: Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation in World Languages”

Xuexin Liu
Published papers and Conference Presentation
- “Effective Foreign Language Teaching through Global Education and Acculturation” published in
- “An Analysis of Learning Errors in i- and na-adjectives” Presented at the Southeastern Association
  of Teachers of Japanese (SEATJ), 37th Annual Conference, Clemson University, April 2, 2022.

Richard Lu
- Recipient of an Innovation Lab Small Grant to develop educational games for the learning of
  Chinese.
- Selected to mentor three Spelman students for the 2022 Data Science Summer Research
  Program.

Gustavo Segura
- “Olvidadas en el desierto: El caso Alto Hospicio y el tratamiento del feminicidio en la televisión
  chilena.” A contracorriente. Forthcoming.
- This past semester, the Spanish 354 course, which solely focused on the civic-military dictatorship
  in Chile (1973-1990) and the aftermath of its violence as seen through documentary films
  students explored the short- and long-term consequences of violence in society and at a personal
  level. Students effectively drew comparisons between this seemingly distant country and their
  own realities in the US, culminating in a successful course.

Sophie Vainer
- Together with Dr. Carlson and Ms. Amélie Bardivia, French FLTA, organized the French crêpes
  event.
- Attended conference on Teaching Democracy in the Classroom.
- Official French Translator for an HBO series the Stair Case this past six months.
- Working on a book collection of my paintings and poems inspired by travels to Egypt, Israel, and
  the Middle East.

Anastasia Valecce
- Faculty Associate for the AfroLatinidades Institute Internships at UC Santa Barbara, California.
  Two Spelman students, Annis Barron and Jillian N. Brown, were selected and accepted into the
  program for Summer 2022.
- Article: "Presencias invisibles: la estética de Damián Sainz en Batería", [Invisible Presences: The
  aesthetics of Damián Sainz in Batería] Black Camera: An Internation Film Journal, 14, no. 1 (Fall
Interviewed by graduate student Jasmine Rivera from MAIA Program - M.A in International Administration | University of Miami, for a documentary about the effects and impact of sex tourism in Dominican Republic, Dec. 2021

"Neorealismo alla cubana: Reyna y Rey come traduzione visuale di Umberto D." in bilingual volume (Italian-Spanish) published in Italy and Cuba in collaboration with the organization Orizzonti Italia-Cuba – promoted by the association “Teatri della Resistenza” –, in agreement with the Cuban Embassy in Italy and the support of the Division of Cinema of the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Instituto Cubano del Arte e Industria Cinematográficos. Forthcoming Fall 2022.