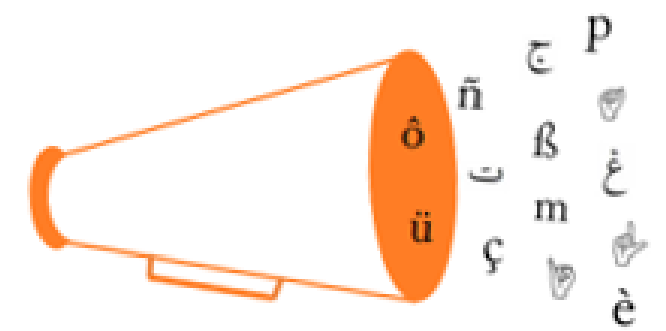


# BABEL



WOLC Student Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 2 – Spring 2019

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of Babel, the student newsletter of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Sam Houston State University. We are a biannual newsletter that showcases the many wonderful language and culture-focused events hosted or sponsored by the department, the college, and the university at large. We are also proud to report on our students' academic and professional achievements, as well as provide them with a creative outlet. Read this issue to learn about the events and people of this wonderful department!

Conner Flynt  
Editor-in-Chief

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We hope that you enjoy this issue. Feel free to contact us if there is anything you would like us to cover in the future ([babel.wolc@gmail.com](mailto:babel.wolc@gmail.com)).

# Multilingual Works Readings

By Conner Flynt and T.A.



Dr. Debra Andrist explains how these multilingual events came to be:

“In order to add a festive note to cultural opportunities, not to mention practice-the-language ones (and some extra credit that really had some justification), beginning years ago when I was a tenured professor at Baylor, continuing at St. Thomas as chair and then at SHSU as chair, I decided to organize student/faculty/staff events like the multilingual readings for Valentine’s Day and International Women’s Day.

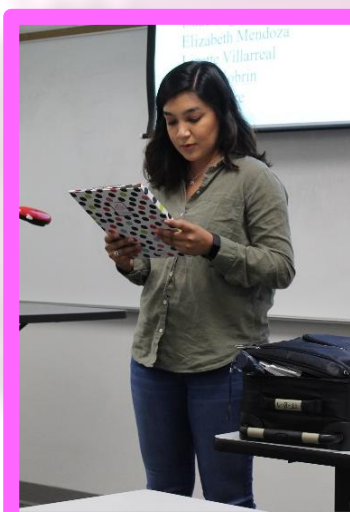
I try to offer at least two or more per semester at holiday times, with which the students may, or may not, be familiar: in the fall, Fiestas Patrias on Sept. 16, Day of the Dead on Nov. 2, caroling just before Christmas; in the spring, Valentine’s Day, sometimes Cuaresma, International Women’s Day and Easter. These are also fun, social events for everyone to get to know each other across student/faculty/staff and across languages. In the past, we’ve even sometimes had culturally-linked foods!

When we offered these languages at SHSU, even though the holidays may not be culturally-linked to the languages, we have had participants in Japanese and Chinese – and some participants took part using their own first languages, like Finnish, Danish, Greek, Portuguese, etc.; they were students, faculty and staff!”

On February 11 and March 4, WOLC’s Spanish Professor Dr. Debra Andrist held two exciting events: Multilingual “love” poetry readings in honor of Valentine’s Day and Multilingual “work by women” readings in honor of International Women’s Day.

Participants of the first event began their presentation with a short bio of the poet (name, country, life span) and a brief explanation of content of the poem in English. Then, they read aloud in the original language short poems, or selections from them, about love (romantic, etc.) written in languages other than English. The second event was set up the same way, however, this time the works read had to have come from women authors and they could be on any topic.

Both these events welcomed participation from students, faculty, and staff. The attendees got to hear readings in Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Finnish, Papiamento, Catalan, Dutch, and French.



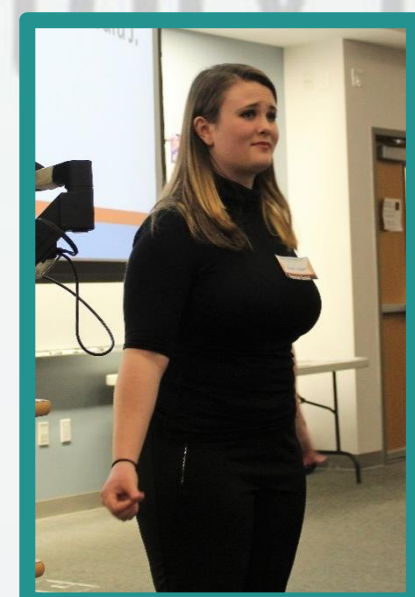
# Latina Mixer

By Dr. Montse Feu

On March 19, the Latinx Graduate Student Organization (LXGO), with the help of Latinx Club of WOLC and SHSU LULAC, organized a Latina Mixer during the CHSS Diversity and Inclusion Committee Women's History Month celebrations. The event was open to all majors.

The question "How can I contribute to your success" was the initial prompt during the speed networking activity that took place after Sara J.'s comedy routine "Of Mothers and Mentors." "Comedy put us at ease and ready to network," said Dr. Maria Barker, LXGO's co-advisor. A relaxed networking with coffee and cookies closed the event.

Dr. Montse Feu, co-advisor of LXGO and advisor of Latinx Club and LULAC, notes that "an institution that has a positive and culturally engaging campus effectively improves the graduation rates of Latinx students. Mentorship programs and collaborative learning promote Latinx students' positive self-perceptions as well as their engagement in their leadership and professional development."



Professors from several colleges discussed their professional experiences with students. For example, Spanish professor Frieda Koeninger recalls, "I advised a student about the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing a graduate degree in Mexico and the United States." Erika Barrera, from Career Services, and Tracy Ann Pringer, from The Graduate School, answered students' questions about job searching and graduate school applications. CHSS Dean Zink and Heather Varela, Diversity Coordinator, enjoyed interacting with students as well. Varela was happy "to have the opportunity to speak with students about how I might be able to contribute to their future success." Similarly, Dee Howard Mullins, Huntsville councilwoman, guided students with the vision of a community leader and her love for Huntsville. Howard Mullins thought it was "a great opportunity for me to meet a few of the outstanding students who attend SHSU."

Dr. Feu's Conversational Spanish class attended the event and were excited to showcase their semester progress. In the context of formal and professional Spanish, SPAN 3369 students have been practicing ways to present their knowledge, experience, and professional goals. Students liked that the event "fostered professional connections between students and distinguished professionals from various disciplines." Students particularly liked the collaboration among participants. One student said, "I learned about SHSU Latinx organizations. LULAC caught my attention. I now feel more comfortable interacting with professors and professionals."

# Arab and Muslim Culture Week

By Dr. Samar Zahrawi

The mission of this week is to promote religious tolerance and understanding of Islamic cultures, to raise awareness of Islamophobia, and to discuss issues that Arab and Muslim-American communities have with acceptance and inclusion.

These events are made possible by the funding from the CHSS Diversity & Inclusion Committee and contributions from the departments of Psychology and History, Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, Newton Gresham Library, and Islamic Arts Society in Houston.

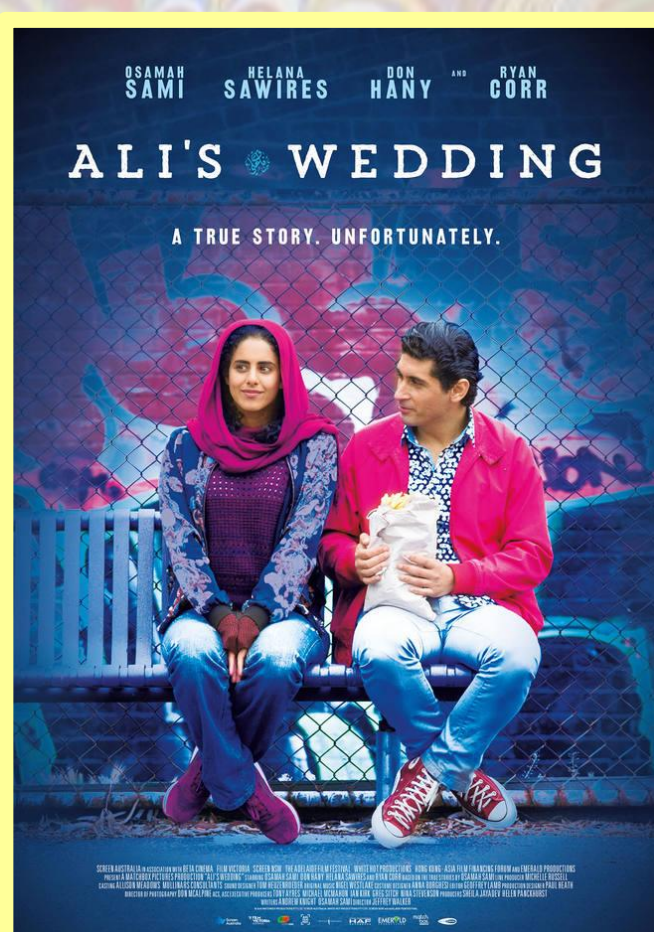
This culture week, April 8-11, offered four events, which varied in their content and style of delivery.

The first event was a talk entitled: “Welcoming the Stranger: What Americans Can Learn from Arab Culture and Muslim Refugees about Hospitality?” Dr. Kimberley Meyer and her guest speaker Ghadah Bayati presented a compelling view of the culture and life of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Houston. Dr. Meyer provided a reflection on the long history of “welcoming the stranger”, the thread linking Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, which is the base of American identity that is challenged now. She told the story of her experience with Arab and Muslim refugees in both Houston and Jordan. She explored the benefits the immigrants can bring to contemporary American culture. Her guest speaker Ghadah Bayati told the heart-rending story of her persecution in Iraq and journey to Houston. The story of her difficult assimilation into the community inspired her to lead a lifelong career in helping other refugees through Amaanah Refugee Services. Our students were positively impacted by her speech. They admired Ghadah’s strength and resilience and were inspired to view immigrants with empathy.

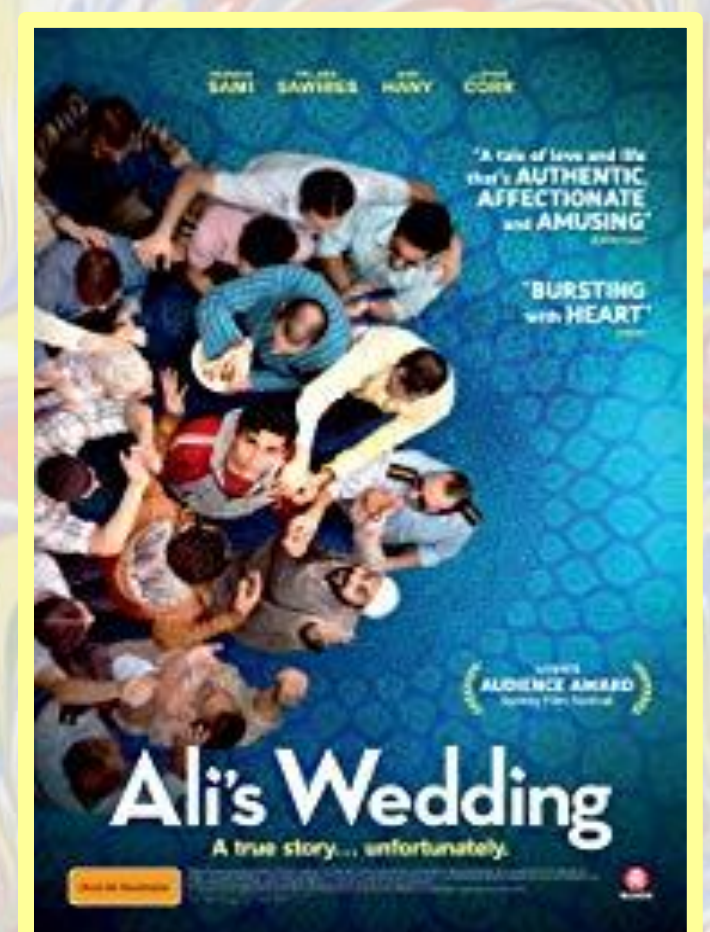


## Student comment:

“I always had an innate feeling that people living in Syria, Iraq, and Iran had such difficult lives. Now I have heard a story from the keynote speaker that spoke on how detrimental her life has been and how we must support others, love others, and accept others (culturally, ethnically, and religiously).”



The second event was the movie night, for which Ali’s Wedding was selected. This film depicts the experience, values, and slow process of assimilation of an Iraqi immigrant community. With a background of persecution, torture, and immigration to Australia, the protagonist is faced with the pressure to excel and not lose the traditional identity. The romantic comedy offsets the toughness of the immigrant experience and presents the characters in an empathetic light.



# Arab and Muslim Culture Week

By Dr. Samar Zahrawi

The third event was the Islamic arts exhibition, which featured ceramic art pieces and oil paintings. More interestingly, it included live art such as henna, calligraphy, and Ebru.

Our students learned about the female body art that is traditionally used for festivals and weddings. The art of calligraphy manifested the love for and pride in the Arabic language shared among speakers of Arabic and believers in Islam. Ebru oil paintings, done on the surface of water, was traditionally the art of sophist Muslims who used to contemplate philosophical ideas while watching the colors freely take shape in water.

Students enjoyed the three kinds of live art and formed long lines in Newton Gresham Library to enjoy free art products geared to their requests.



**Student comment:**  
“I was only able to go to the art exhibit and it was really cool because I got to see the different culture and art they did. Plus the artists were really nice. I really enjoyed the calligraphy and henna the most.”

**Student comment:**  
“It is amazing how much we haven't seen in this wonderful world. The calligraphy specifically was phenomenal, I loved seeing the artist glide though so many words with such beautiful skills. Thank you for coming to Sam Houston State University, it really opened my eyes to experience this event personally.”



**Student comment:**  
“I was amazed to see the Ebru Art that was happening right in front of my eyes! These mesmerizing paintings had streaks and swirls that were aesthetic and completely unique in every aspect. I am so thankful for getting introduced to this Art.”



The last event was Chat & Chew on the topic of “Muslim Women between Oppression and Empowerment.” This event featured a presentation by Imam Dr. Rihabi Mohamed on the rights of women in Muslim faith and another presentation by Dr. Samar Zahrawi about challenges of women in Muslim cultures. The event concluded with a group discussion of many scenarios that are controversial and may be conceived differently by various cultures.



# Model United Nations (MUN)

By T.A.



Model UN is an organization for students who are interested in learning about foreign affairs. Students can join if they have an interest or desire to learn more about how the United Nations work. A team from Sam Houston State University, led by Dr. Dennis Weng from the Department of Political Science, participated in the national conference that took place this year in New York City from April 14<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>. We interviewed two of the team members about their experience at MUN.



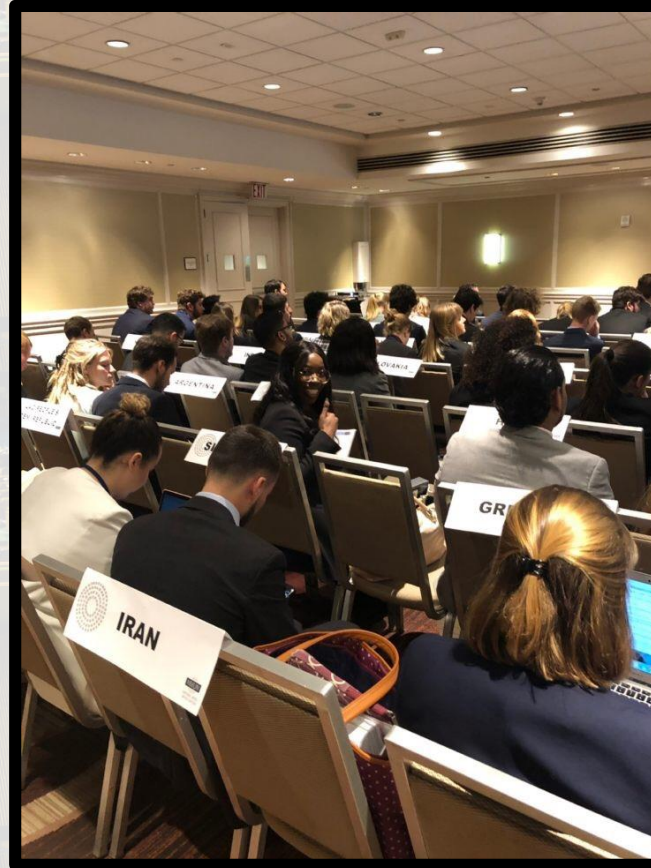
- **Elizabeth Mintah** (left) is a Political Science major with a minor in French and a minor in Communication Studies. She is a French tutor here at Sam and has studied French for 5 semesters. She also studied the French language abroad for 5 weeks in Quebec, Canada.
- **Victoria Makanjuola** (right) is majoring in Mass Communications and minoring in Political Science. She is a member of the SHSU French and Francophone club, and she studied French for 4 semesters.



To learn more about MUN, visit <https://www.nmun.org/index.html>.

**1. How did you learn about Model UN and become a participant?**  
**Elizabeth Mintah:** I learned about MUN from my political science classes and applied to be in the program.

**Victoria Makanjuola:** In high school was when I first learned about Model UN. At SHSU, I learned more about it through Dr. Weng who came to one of my political science classes to give a presentation about MUN. After applying, I was selected to be one of the 12 delegates on the MUN team.



**2. Which country did you represent? What was it like to act as a delegate of a country that is not your own?**

**E. M.:** We represented the country of Singapore! It was very interesting and different because we had different views than Singapore on some issues, but it was fascinating to see how they thought and explore why.

**V. M.:** My delegation represented Singapore! It was a different experience because I knew so little about the country and most of the East Asia region.

**3. What was the most important thing that you learned at the National Model UN?**

**E. M.:** The most important thing I learned was that there is a wrong and right way to negotiate and express your ideas; you need to make sure that you are personable yet professional in every conversation so later on you can collaborate and work with different types of individuals.

**V. M.:** To network, and be confident in yourself!

**4. How has this experience affected you? (For example, think about your future career choices or skills that you have acquired through participation in this conference)**

**E. M.:** This has affected me in my career path by pushing me more toward doing international politics or business law. I want to change the world in a big way one day.

**V.M.:** It has shifted my perspective tremendously, for example in relation to climate change and other world issues. I think one day I would like to work at the United Nations!



**5. Has participation in this conference reinforced your views on the importance of multilingual and multicultural competences in today's world? Explain.**

**E. M.:** My knowledge of French really helped me enhance my experience because I was able to communicate with a wide variety of people because I utilized my French skills. I feel that in professional international environments like that having some knowledge of any foreign language is very important.

**V.M.:** For sure! I think the more you know about the world and the issues that surround us, the better informed you will become as a global citizen!

# St. Jordi – Day of the Book

By Dr. Montse Feu, Viridiana Ortiz Gutierrez, and Thisia Sayers

The Catalan festivity St. Jordi, or Day of the Book, was held April 23, 2019 in SHSU to highlight the importance of culture and love by buying books and roses for loved ones, friends, and colleagues. Based on the killing of the dragon by St. Jordi, the legend is now a festivity when people are able to learn about books and their authors.



## Student comment:

“Being able to communicate with students that are beginning to explore the Latino world and being able to be confident in my own work and explain history and culture behind the project I did made me feel appreciation for who I am.”



Under the guidance of Dr. Feu, students in her Conversational Spanish class (SPAN 3369) prepared and hosted a book fair. The book fair included several Latinx books. The event was open to the public, and students chatted with guests about their chosen books and their significance. Students were stationed with informative display posters that they had created. Visitors walked from station to station where the students presented their research. Posters showed the students' interest in their books with a variety of visuals. Students Thisia Sayers, Viridiana Ortiz Gutiérrez, Andrés Puente, Marisol Urbina, Madai Luna Romero, Edna Valero, Nidia Espinosa, Reed Sowell, Iselle Garcia, Pablo Vargas, Adriana Mendoza, y Daisy Ibarra found the experience of hosting the event to be an amazing opportunity to help guests learn about Latinx books. To make the event more special Dr. Feu handed out red roses as is traditional on this day. Additionally, there was a guest librarian from Newton Gresham Library present showcasing numerous Hispanic books that are available at the library on campus.

The event provided the students from SPAN 3369 with a great opportunity to practice speaking Spanish in public as well as presenting research findings and socializing with the visitors. According to SPAN 3369 student Reed Sowell, the opportunity to share his passion and research with someone else was extremely enjoyable. Another student, Viridiana Ortiz presented the book *Living in Spanglish* by Ed Morales. She shared that St. Jordi Day was very educational since she got to learn a lot about Hispanic literature thanks to the presentations from fellow students. There were various students and professors that visited the book fair, which made the event a successful learning experience for all present.



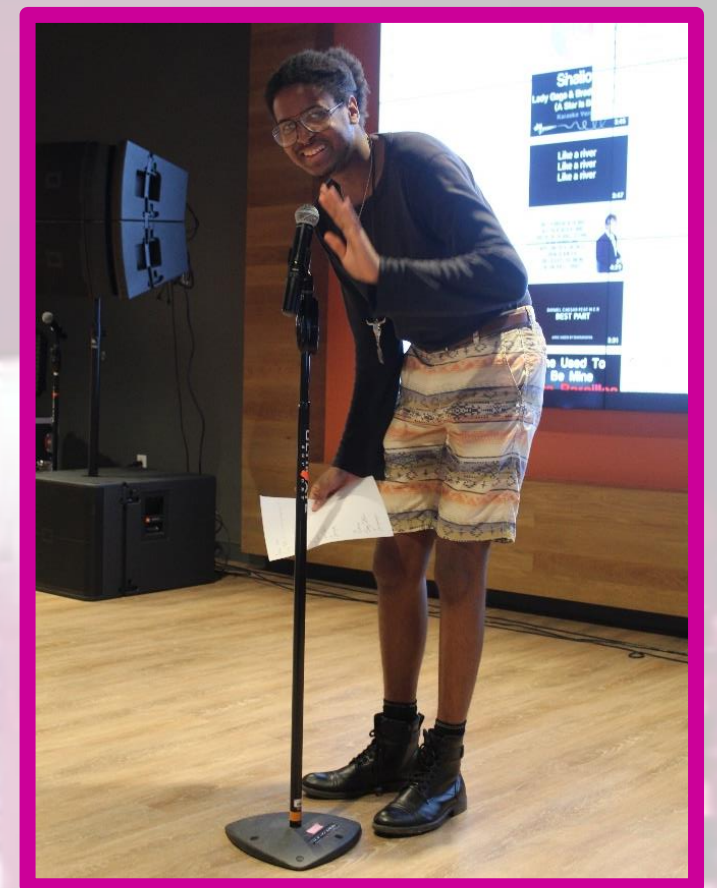
## Student comment:

“Sant Jordi book fair was an awesome opportunity to share research and learn so much from each person in the class. This allowed me to have a greater appreciation of the culture and how we can learn from it.”

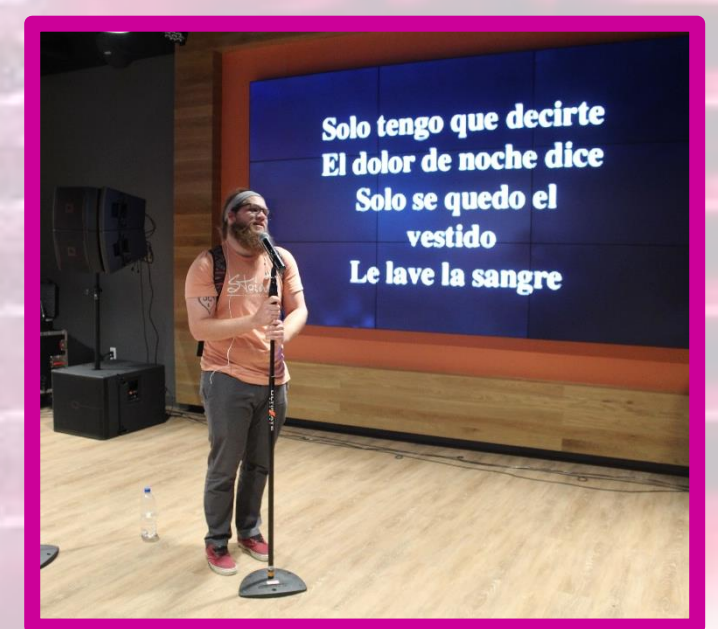


# Multilingual Karaoke Night

By Kristopher Gaines



This event started with just a simple idea – well, more like a brilliant discovery, but an idea nonetheless. A question was brought up as to why there did not exist an event for the entire WOLC Department. Neither Wendy Herrera nor Kristopher Gaines (aka WOLC tutors for Spanish and French) wanted it to remain so. They made it their mission – no, outright duty – to make it happen. They had many ideas come up, but one that they both agreed on was a karaoke night. They came together with a plan to have a musical event that really showcased the WOLC Department and every language club that Sam Houston State University has to offer. There was a huge turnout for the event. There were songs for every language of the WOLC Department. There was a riveting performance of *Blackbird* by the Beatles, done entirely in the American Sign Language (ASL). We also received a treat from the WOLC tutoring team by having not one but two karaoke performances that showed the true talents hiding within the department. As the night dwindled down, our top three performers received prizes of candy and WOLC swag. It was truly a fun night, as you can see in the pictures, and we hope to make it a WOLC tradition.

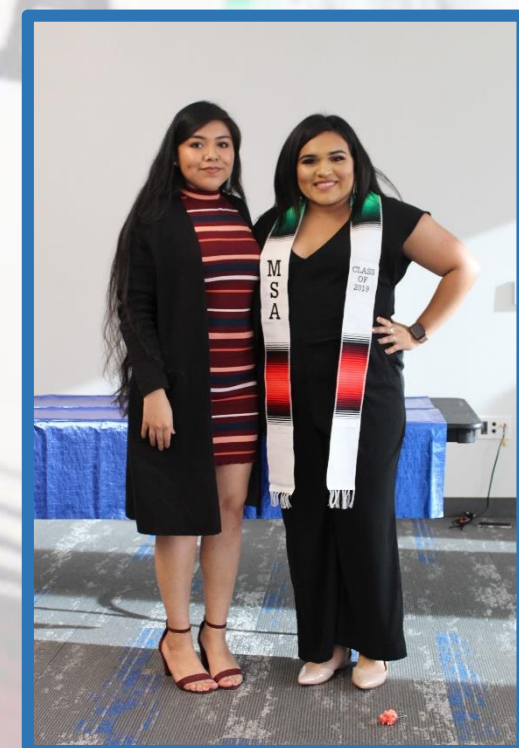
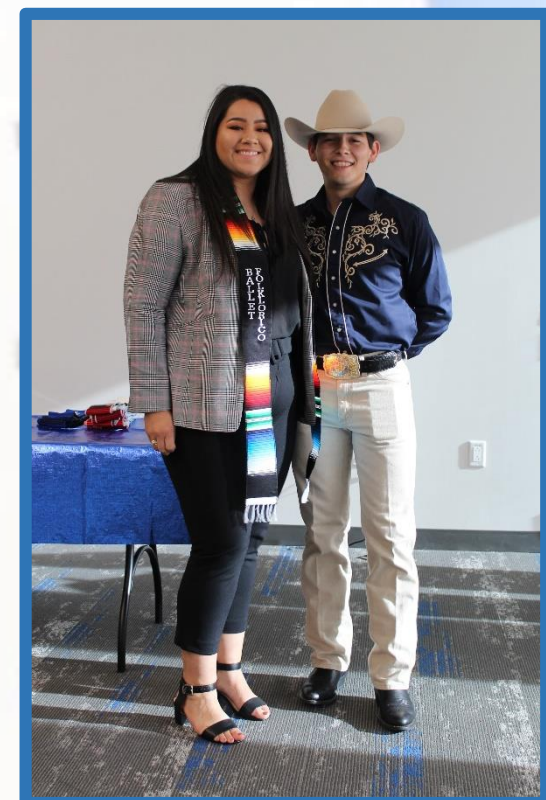
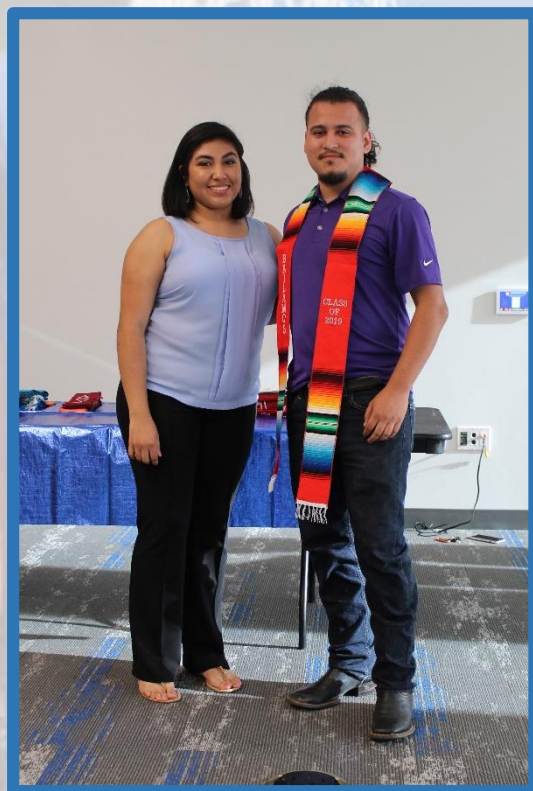




# Latinx Graduation

By T. A.

On May 4, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Latinx Graduation Ceremony. It was a night to remember. The following organizations celebrated their graduating seniors: LatinX Club, LULAC, MSA, Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority Inc., Lambda Alpha Epsilon – Delta Chi, Ballet Folclorico, and Bailamos Latin Dance. At 5pm the graduates began filling the room, joined by their families and friends. During the event, the graduates and their guests were treated to several amazing performances by Ballet Folclorico and a heartfelt speech by Dr. Montse Feu, advisor for LatinX Club, Ballet Folclorico, LULAC, and co-advisor for LXGO. The ceremony continued with sarape presentations. Words cannot describe the joy and pride that we all felt, but I hope that you get an idea by looking at these pictures. Congratulations to all of our Latinx graduates!



# French Honor Society

By Conner Flynt

## Pi Delta Phi – French Honor Society

According to the description provided on the official Pi Delta Phi's website (<https://www.pideltaphi.org/>), "Pi Delta Phi is the National French Honor Society for undergraduate and graduate students at accredited public and private colleges and universities in the United States. The highest academic honor in the field of French and the oldest academic honor society for a modern foreign language in the United States, Pi Delta Phi was founded as a departmental honor society at the University of California at Berkeley in 1906. The Society was nationalized when the Beta Chapter was established at the University of Southern California in 1925. The Society was officially endorsed by the [American Association of Teachers of French](#) as the only collegiate French honor society in 1949."

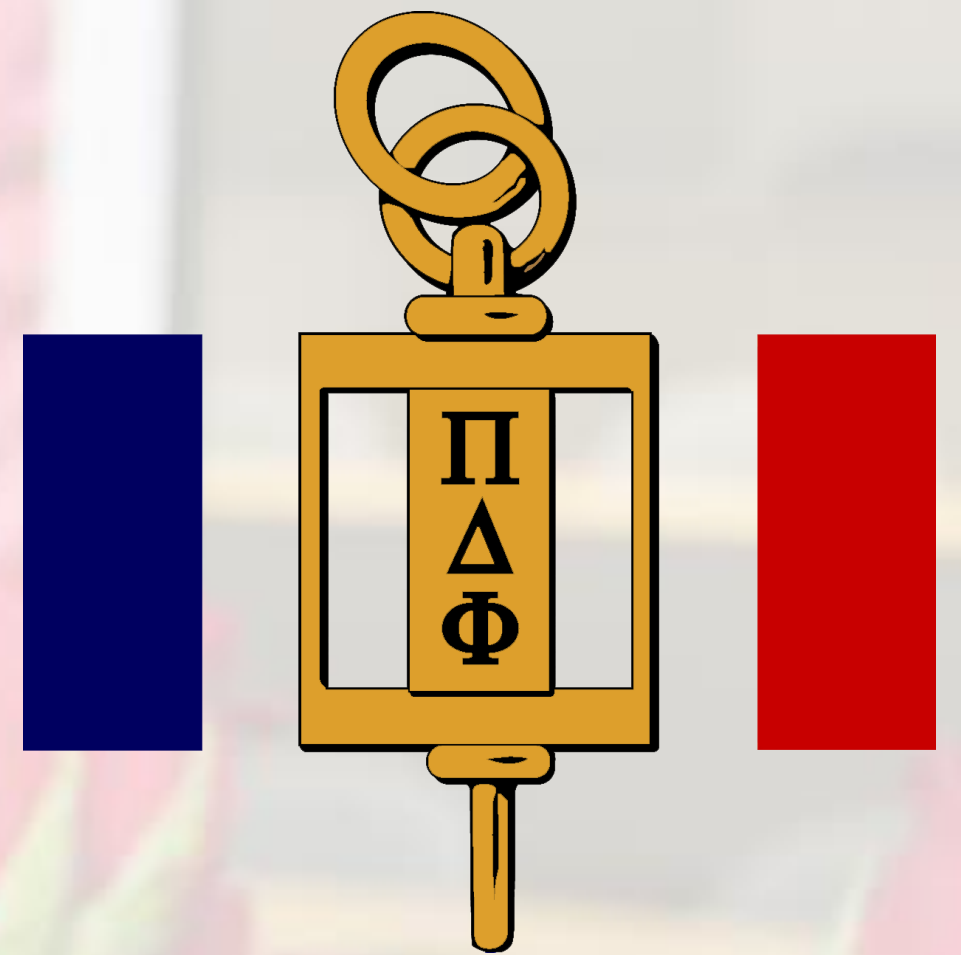


Image taken from: <https://www.pideltaphi.org/>

The Eta Iota chapter of Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society was founded at SHSU in 1972. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding scholarship in the French language and literature, to increase knowledge and appreciation in America for the cultures of the French-speaking world, and to stimulate and encourage French and Francophone cultural activities.

On Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Sam Houston chapter initiated seven new members into the society. The chapter was previously closed for a significant period until the 2018-2019 academic year, when it was reopened by Dr. Siham Bouamer, the French program coordinator. Coinciding with the launch of the Bachelor of Arts in French, the society is poised to grow considerably in the coming years. The society welcomes all French minor and major students whose GPA in French classes is at least 3.0, given they have taken at least one upper division class. Executive Board officers will also be welcomed, specifically those with a passion for the French language and Francophone cultures and literatures.

For any questions, contact Dr. Bouamer at [sbouamer@shsu.edu](mailto:sbouamer@shsu.edu)



Dr. Siham Bouamer



# Spanish Creative Writing Club

By Wendy Herrera

The Department of World Languages and Cultures recently added a new organization under the guidance of Professor Julio Medina and Dr. Rosalva Alamillo as advisors. The president, Wendy Herrera Fernandez, is happy to present the student organization, named Spanish Creative Writing Club for Heritage Speakers.

In a recent interview, advisors Professor Medina and Dr. Alamillo revealed the reason behind the newest organization.

**W.H:** Can you explain to the audience the purpose of this organization?

Yes. The goal of the organization is to open a space for students with Hispanic heritage, to support them, and to help them develop writing skills in their heritage language, in this case, Spanish. A heritage speaker of Spanish is someone who was born in the U.S. or arrived at an early age and grew up in a Spanish-speaking household. Typically, heritage speakers have some degree of proficiency in the heritage language, but that does not mean that all of them are able to fully understand or speak the language fluently.



Dr. Rosalva Alamillo



Prof. Julio Medina

**W.H:** Where did the idea come from?

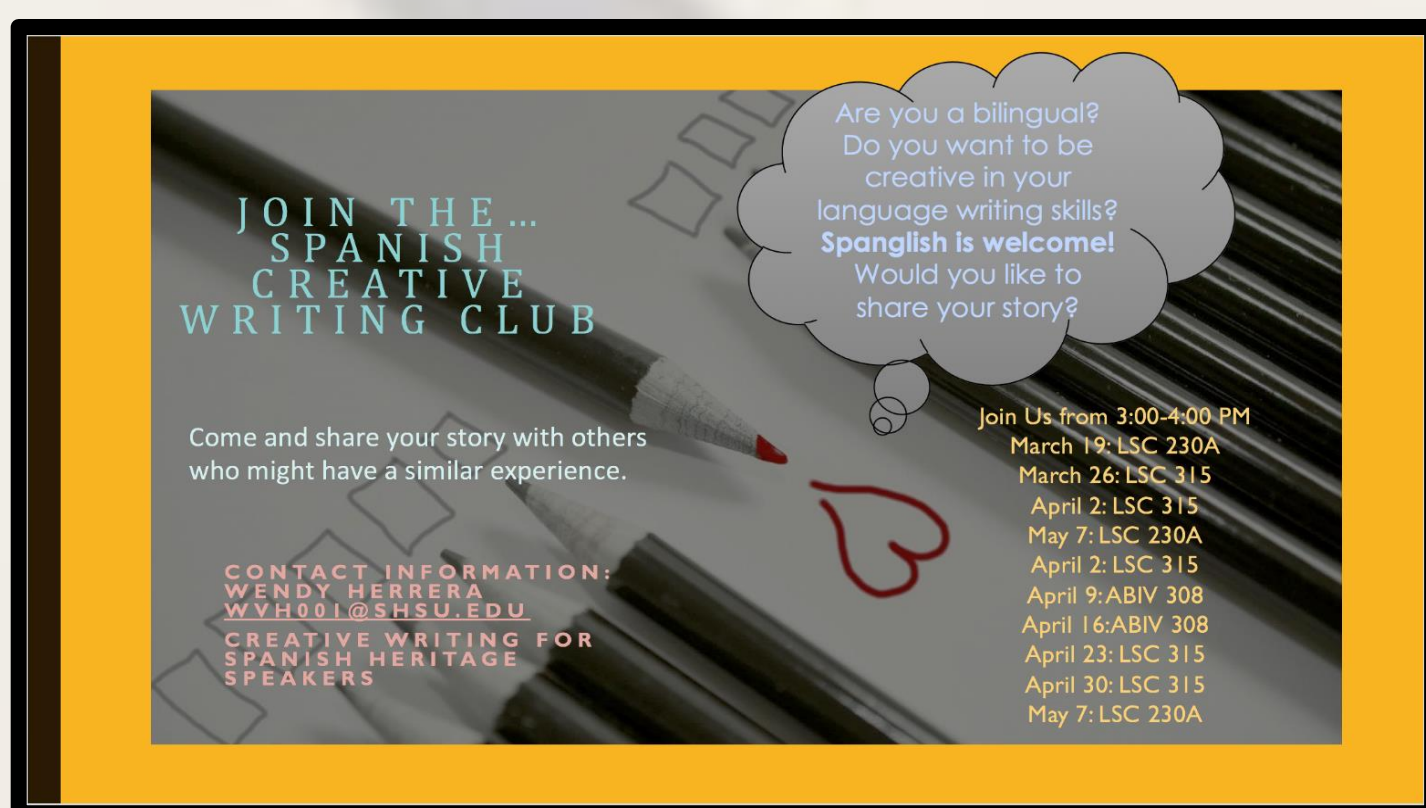
Professor Julio Medina and I noticed that some students with Hispanic heritage were enrolled in Spanish as a Second Language classes, but did not have the opportunity to take advantage of the previous knowledge they already had in Spanish in a creative way. As a result, we decided to create a space for them and that is how the idea of Spanish Creative Writing Club for Heritage Speakers was born.

**W.H:** Who can join the organization?

All students with Hispanic heritage or students without Hispanic heritage who have lived in a Spanish-speaking country, or those who have receptive (understanding) or productive (speaking) skills in Spanish. They should show an interest in writing short stories in Spanish and/or Spanglish and can be enrolled or not enrolled in classes at the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

**W.H:** Are you willing to let our students who are studying to become language teachers practice their teaching methods with your members?

Of course, it is a great idea that advanced or graduate students share with the rest of the members what they have learned in their classes, especially in regard to developing writing and presentational skills.



Flyer from Spring 2019

# American Sign Language Club

By Kaylee Campbell

When people hear the word “language,” they tend to think of the spoken ones, such as English, Spanish, French, German, Arabic, etc. However, what they sometimes forget are the languages that rely on hands and facial expressions to communicate rather than the mouth and ears. One club on campus – the American Sign Language Club – works to advocate for the importance and need for ASL.

“ASL Club started when the former ASL teacher Joseph Holmberg started here at SHSU,” said Kristen Gustafson, president of SHSU’s ASL Club. “Being the ASL teacher and deaf, he felt an ASL Club should be made for ASL students to learn more about Deaf culture and have more opportunities to practice ASL.”

One way members practice is through playing several games at club meetings, two of which are fan favorites.

“For Fly Swatter, we write the words on the board, sometimes with a category, sometimes without,” said Gustafson. “I sign a word from those on the board and the first person to hit the correct word with a fly swatter wins a point for their team. Animal Memory is another fun game where everyone chooses an animal sign. The person signs their animal sign and someone else’s, and the game continues to go around the room until someone messes up (there are certain rules that make it harder than it seems).”



The ASL Club also hosts a variety of socials throughout the year. The majority take place at Double Dave’s, Potato Shack, and Buffalo Wild Wings and are also open to ASL students and the Deaf community around Huntsville. The ASL Club also hosts guest speakers, an end-of-the-year bowling social, and “No Voice Night”—an event that takes place at Old Main Market each semester, in which students must use ASL to interact and to avoid getting caught talking by the hearing cop.

If members are not able to make it to the socials, however, they can always find the ASL Club in ABIV Room 313 every Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 and every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30.

“I fear that most people think you need to be fluent in ASL to join, or at least be enrolled in an ASL class. This is not the case,” said Gustafson. “I want people to know that we welcome EVERYONE regardless of ASL skill level, GPA, or classes being taken.”

To learn more about joining the ASL club, check out their Facebook page (SHSU ASL Club) or go to one of their meetings. They welcome anyone curious about the language and culture.

“One thing I love about the organization is the diversity,” said Gustafson. “People from all walks of life come to learn ASL. It is interesting to hear stories of interactions, of family members, or even people who simply saw others signing and thought it was cool.”



# Student Spotlight

By Kaylee Campbell

Every spring semester, faculty, staff, and organization presidents nominate students who they believe have both succeeded academically and embraced the school's motto – “The measure of a life is its service” – to be a Raven Scholar. Jenny Puente de Patlan, a current graduate student in the Spanish MA Program, received this award this semester, alongside only 99 other students.

“It was a shocking impression; I honestly did not expect it,” said Patlan. “After accepting it, I was very excited to know that there is always someone watching your efforts.”

The one person who watched Patlan's efforts was the same one who nominated her: Dr. Montse Feu, a Spanish professor in the WOLC Department. Patlan had the opportunity this last fall to work alongside Dr. Montse Feu on projects focusing on Hispanic literature and culture. This opportunity has led to Patlan's biggest success so far.

“I'm from Piedras Negras, Mexico, and I have been living in the US for about 3 and a half years,” said Patlan. “It has been a challenge to immerse myself in another culture and language. Therefore, my biggest achievement has been the Raven Scholar award from Sam Houston State University, in a country that is relatively new to me.”



Despite the difficulties of settling into a new home and culture, Patlan has managed to stay busy while at Sam Houston. She serves as the current president for the Latinx Graduate Student Organization, participates in the Bridge Aspire program, and creates fliers for the Spanish MA program and Hispanic Heritage Month. She also was a part of the 3MT Competition this past semester.

When asked if she had any advice for Sam students on how to balance their academic studies and extracurricular activities, Patlan gave an answer that shows the reason why she was a perfect fit for the Raven Scholar award.

“I believe that giving service to the student community leaves bigger benefits to those who serve than those who receive it,” said Patlan. “I have learned that being part of a student community goes beyond being in the classroom. There are too many opportunities outside classes to build relationships and networks with students, teachers, and experts who enrich one's thoughts and abilities.”

If you would like to be featured in our next issue, let us know. All academic achievements (merit-based scholarships and awards, conference presentations, and publications) are considered.



# Student Spotlight

By Kaylee Campbell

Conner Flynt, originally from Llano, TX, is a senior majoring in History and minoring in both French and Spanish. Flynt recently presented a paper at a national conference.

## 1. Which conference did you present at and what was the name of your presentation?

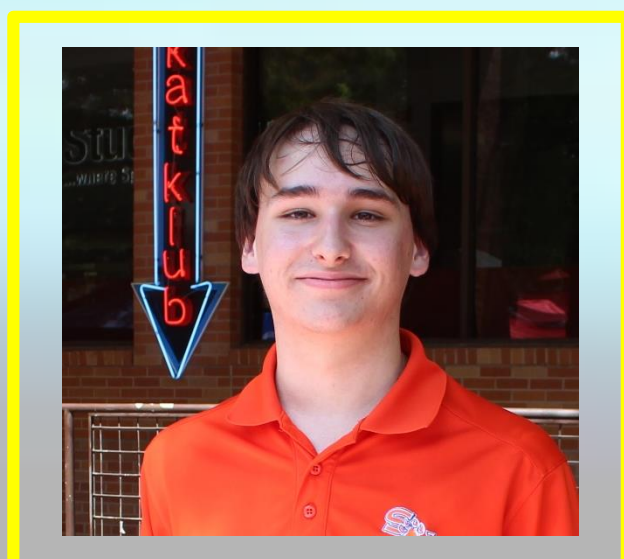
My paper was titled “The Globalization of Archaeological Method and Technique” and was presented at the Western Social Sciences annual conference in San Diego on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## 2. What inspired your presentation?

I was inspired by my strong interest in archaeology. I took HIST 4399, The History of Globalization, with Dr. Zachary Doleshal, and for my article in this class, I chose to connect the history and periodization of archaeology with that of globalization. These two topics greatly interested me and will contribute to my graduate school topics in the future.

## 3. Were there any professors or fellow students who helped you with your research?

Dr. Doleshal was my advisor and biggest help with editing and researching the topic of globalization. I did all of the research on the archaeology side by myself, as SHSU does not have any professors in this subject. I was also helped a great deal by Dr. Debra Andrist, who encouraged me to submit to and attend the conference. She helped me get accepted to present and also helped me with foreign language sources.



## 4. What was the conference like?

The conference was such an amazing experience! San Diego is a beautiful city and the conference had so many great minds in one place – you don’t see that too often. It was an amazing experience to present your original research to others in your field, especially for me because Sam Houston does not have an archaeology department. This means that I am not able to often share my research or get advice outside of a conference like this one.

## 5. Do you have any further plans for research/writing?

I have many future plans for the topic of archaeology! I will be pursuing a master’s degree in anthropology at Louisiana State University, specializing in the archaeology of the ancient Mayan civilization of Mesoamerica. I will be a graduate assistant and will be working to further my research in this field. I would love to publish this article I wrote on globalization and archaeology in the future, possibly using it as a basis for a book detailing the links between these two subjects.

Update: Conner Flynt graduated from SHSU in the spring of 2019 and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology at LSU.

If you would like to be featured in our next issue, let us know. All academic achievements (merit-based scholarships and awards, conference presentations, and publications) are considered.

# Creative Corner

## Note from the Editor

Hello readers!

My name is Kaylee Campbell, and I am a junior here at Sam Houston with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. I would like to personally welcome you to the Creative Corner!

In this section, we invite Bearkats to submit their personal creative works and share their artistic talents - whether it's in the form of a poem, a drawing/painting, or a photograph.

If your creative genius needs an outlet, feel free to share your work here in the Creative Corner! We look for new pieces to include every semester. Our only requirement is that these works relate to the languages and cultures of the WOLC Department.

For now, I hope you enjoy this section and let the art take you into a new world!

Sincerely,

Kaylee Campbell

Creative Corner Editor

## Un Viaje Por La Calle de Recuerdos/A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Sarah Wagner

Sarah Wagner is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, but she has spent most of her life in Houston, TX. She is a Communication Studies major with a double minor in Sociology and Spanish, and at some point she would like to go back to school for Psychology. She is a graduating senior with the ambitions of becoming a stand-up comedian, writer, actress, and motivational speaker. Sarah wants to give a special "thank you" to her best friend Sandra Hernandez for editing the poem.

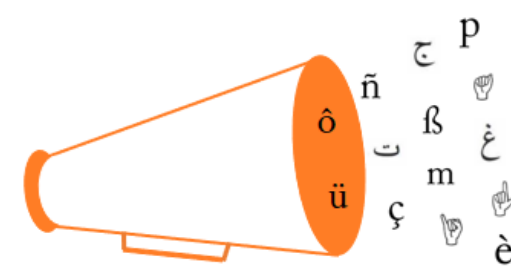
Sarah: "I was inspired by the idea of loss and everything associated with it. When you lose someone that was so special to you, that's painful enough, but it's so much more than simply losing a person. You lose the friends and family you made through them. You lose the opportunity to make life-lasting memories with them. You can't go to certain places anymore because that was "your place". You lose a lot of your friendships because you only had those friends through that special person. You can always look back on those old memories and cherish them, but you have to remember that they're out of your life for a reason."

Quando pasé por la calle de recuerdos, recordé  
todas las cosas que ya no puedo tener  
Todos los lugares que ya no puedo visitar  
Todas las personas con las que tuve relaciones  
perdidas  
A lo mejor realmente nunca eran míos  
Pasé por nuestro lugar favorito y admiré el  
edificio  
A lo mejor nunca tuvimos una buena fundación  
de amistad  
Tal vez ahí es donde nos equivocamos  
Miré hacia abajo y vi mis huellas en el piso  
Donde te soporté o caminé sola  
A lo mejor por eso es que soy mucho más fuerte  
Cuando vi los coches que pasaron por la calle,  
supe que nunca vería tu coche por mi calle otra  
vez  
Pensé que estabas perdido o estabas pidiendo  
direcciones, pero nunca salías de tu casa  
A veces, deseo que podamos viajar juntos, pero  
mi viaje nuevo no incluirá la calle de recuerdos  
Quiero olvidarte, pero me diste tanto para  
recordar  
Deseo que un día pueda viajar por la calle de  
recuerdos sin sentir tu presencia

As I walk down memory lane, I pass by all the things  
I can no longer cherish  
All the places I can no longer visit  
All the people I can no longer celebrate  
I guess they were never truly mine  
I pass by our favorite place and admire the building  
Maybe we never had a solid foundation  
Maybe that's where we went wrong  
I look down at the footprints in the cement that  
never dried  
There was always one set as I either carried you or  
walked alone  
Maybe that's why I'm so much stronger now  
As I watched the cars pass by, I realized I will never  
see your car in my driveway again  
I used to think maybe you were lost or stopping to  
ask for directions, but you never even left your  
driveway  
I wish we could travel down memory lane one more  
time  
But my new journey doesn't include that route  
I try my hardest to forget you, but you gave me so  
much to remember  
I long for the day I can travel down memory lane  
without feeling the ghost of you

If you would like to showcase your talent in our next issue, contact us at [babel.wolc@gmail.com](mailto:babel.wolc@gmail.com). We accept literary and visual works. We are particularly interested in works that are focused on the languages and cultures represented in the WOLC department.

# Announcements



## French BA

WOLC is proud to announce that we have launched a new bachelor's degree in French! The program will train students in the French language and in the literatures and cultures of the Francophone world. This degree can open many doors in the future, in both the private and public sectors. Many employers value bilingualism in candidates, and with this degree, a student stands out amongst his/her peers, who may not be fluent in another language. If you want to learn more about this new degree program, contact Dr. Siham Bouamer, the French program coordinator ([sbouamer@shsu.edu](mailto:sbouamer@shsu.edu)).

On April 24, a celebratory reception took place in honor of the new BA. Among those in attendance were guests from the French Consulate in Houston, Dean Zink, and even Sammy!



## Latin American and Latinx Studies Minor

WOLC is excited to announce its new minor in Latin American and Latinx Studies (LALS). The minor provides valuable training for those pursuing careers in business, criminal justice and law, education, health, public administration, media, and social work. LALS Minor equips students with career skills and prepares them for potential graduate study in multiple fields.

The first student cohort will begin their studies within this minor in Spring 2020. If you want to learn more about this program, contact Dr. Montse Feu ([mmf017@shsu.edu](mailto:mmf017@shsu.edu)).

## Thank you for reading our newsletter!

BABEL team:

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Kaylee Campbell – Copy Editor & Creative Corner Editor

Wendy Herrera – Reporter

Kristopher Gaines – Reporter

Dr. Montse Feu and Dr. Samar Zahrawi – Faculty Contributors

Viridiana Ortiz Gutierrez and Thisia Sayers – Student Contributors

Dr. Tatiana Artamonova – Faculty Advisor