

¡APÚNTATE!

MASTERS IN SPANISH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Department of Foreign Languages

Fall 2012

People Who Benefit From an MA in Spanish

The courses offered by renowned faculty at the Masters level reinforce skills and expand knowledge acquired at the undergraduate level. Our unique seminars on translation, interpretation, Spanish and Spanish-American art, technical writing, teaching methodology, literary analysis, linguistics and literature turn classroom knowledge into career achievement in the following areas including doctoral studies:

- Education (Teachers/Professors)
- Criminal Justice
- International Business
- Health Professions
- Government agencies
- Business

The program emphasizes practical fluency skills by concentrating on the following:
-Listening, speaking, reading, and writing
-Cultural, linguistic and literary training
-Offering a non-thesis 36-hour program during Fall, Spring and Summer sessions.

Courses are available online and face-to-face evenings at The Woodlands Center in The Woodlands, TX.

The program is designed for students who desire to continue their academic career in further doctoral study in

Spanish as well as for those who wish to enter the workforce as teachers, interpreters or bilingual employees in various industries and services.

Anyone who would like to acquire a thorough grounding in practical fluency skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), pedagogical methodology, cultural, linguistic, and literary training in Spanish is welcome to apply.

Professionals in the public and private sector whose jobs require an appropriate knowledge of the Spanish language are also encouraged to contact the program.



Rewards Conferences

and

Publications

The M.A. program in Spanish has a distinguished group of students who are scholarly active. Some have already published articles in academic and literary venues and participated at conferences.

Andrés Ruiz Olaya- He has published a short story which won the literary award, Salaluna Magazine for best short story ("La madamita") by a graduate student.

María Ixchell Hernández attended the Western Social Science Association annual conference in Houston

in April last year. Jorge Chavarro published an essay, "El conflicto armado colombiano, apuntes para su comprensión," and the short "No es eso lo que pienso" in *Otro Lunes Revista Hispanoamericana de Cultura*, Madrid, Spain.

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STUDY ABROAD IN SPAIN - 2012

Sam Houston State University offered the unique opportunity for students to earn college credit at the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain during Summer 2012. Participating students received a total of six

credits. Three of our graduate students, Luz V. Reboloso, Donna Turner, and Elizabeth Wood arrived in Madrid June 1st.



Our Professors and Graduate Students

The Department of Foreign Languages started a Spanish Graduate Program last spring. Courses are offered in different face to face and online. Our graduate faculty are: Dr. Debra Andrist, Chair, Professor; Dr. David Ross Gerling, Associate Professor; Dr. Frieda Koeninger, Associate Professor; Dr. Enrique Mallén, Professor; Dr. Al Policarpo, Associate Professor; Dr. Rafael E Saumell, Director of Graduate Studies, Professor, and Dr. Manuel Triano-López, Assistant Professor.



We also offer work opportunities for teaching assistants who teach and tutor undergraduate Spanish students, do scholarly research, and support other academic activities. TAs also receive training in pedagogical and technological topics related to the teaching of Foreign Languages in face-to-face and online format. This semester, our TAs are Caleb Baker, Jennifer Góngora, Julio Medina López, Andrés Ruiz Olaya, and Angélica Treviño. For more information about available scholarships, check the following link;

http://www.shsu.edu/~fao_www/scholarships/

We asked our current graduate students to write a short autobiographical profile. We want to share these profiles with you.

Mary Smith

I am an Mexican American born and raised in Houston Texas. I graduated in May 2011 from the University of Houston – Downtown with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Political Science. I started my graduate studies in the 2011 Summer II session. My plans are to become a certified



translator and interpreter. The graduate program will prepare and allow me to be more proficient in speaking and writing Spanish and give me a new appreciation for all Spanish-speaking cultures and countries. In the meantime, I am using my skills to help my children's

teachers and school administrators to translate documents for their schools. I work fulltime as a legal assistant for a large law firm, with offices in 11 U.S. cities - as well as Hong Kong and London, where I have had to interpret and translate for the law firm's clients.

Juana Sánchez

I am from Juchitán Oaxaca, México. I completed my B.A. in education at the National Pedagogical University. I've worked 15 years as a teacher in México. I have been a resident of the US for the last three years and worked with bilingual children in the Huntsville School District. My husband is a History professor at SHSU



and my daughter is a high school student. My commitment to Spanish-speaking children and young people interested in learning Spanish as a second language is one of the reasons to continue my post graduate education. I consider myself fortunate to have learned the indigenous language, Zapotec, of my grandparents. I have worked as a translator of this language in Spanish interviews with indigenous prisoners. One of the goals

that I have with the M.A. program in Spanish is to make significant contributions to the linguistics of the Zapotec language so as to facilitate the learning. SHSU has given me the opportunity to professionally continue my knowledge, improve my teaching and to keep the cultural connection of my roots alive.



Jorge Chavarro

I was born in Colombia, South America in a small town called Tora, by the indigenous people, also known as Barrancabermeja. However, I moved to Bogotá very early in my life. I attended a



school of medicine where I met my future wife. I graduated with a degree in Urology. For thirteen years I was a Professor of Urology at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. In 2002, I was kidnapped by the guerrilla group called

Autodefensas Colombianas. After being released, I moved to the U.S with my family. When I finish my Master's degree in Spanish at Sam Houston, I will fulfill my dream to teach literature and become a full-time writer.

Daliana Rodriguez

I was born in Guanajuato, México on June 6, 1990. At the age of 12, my family and I moved to Texas and have lived here since then. Before coming to SHSU, I attended Prairie View A&M University, majoring in Spanish with a minor in Social Work and graduated in the fall of 2011. I decided to



seek a M.A. Degree in Spanish because I want to use my skills and expand my knowledge when it comes to teaching the Spanish language. Personally, to me, it is very important to gain a deeper understanding of the Hispanic culture and its people, though its language.

Michelle Fernández

¡Hola! I am the oldest of three girls. I was born in Hearne, Texas, but was raised in a small town called Calvert, Texas. I attended Mumford High School, which is academically recognized for excellence. I have a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Sam Houston State University. I am currently in the M.A. program



for Spanish. I studied abroad in Spain for a month and found that traveling could be a new career path for me. I am interested in the M.A. program because being fluent in different languages can open the doors

to many opportunities in life. I would love to combine both my degrees and work for a company that has expanded internationally. I would be interested in traveling and interpreting for that company.

Virginia López Cela

I was born in Argentina and my first language is Spanish. In December 2010 I graduated from Sam Houston State University with a major in Spanish and a minor in Secondary Education. During my last semester at Sam Houston, the M.A program in



Spanish was offered for the first time, so I became part of that wonderful program with the goal of becoming a translator. While I am working towards my M.A. degree in Spanish, I am teaching Spanish at Peet Junior High in Conroe ISD.

While I was a student at SHSU, I was fortunate to have received scholarships, such as the Sadye Wilson Scholarship. I was selected as the Outstanding Native Speaker student. I am truly proud to be a Bearkat!

Doris Trejos



I was born in Colombia. I'm the oldest of three siblings, and my parents and sisters are still in Colombia. I have two boys, Juan, who is 18 years old and will be graduating this year from College Park High School, and Matthew, the 10 year old, who is in the fifth grade at Vogel Intermediate. I went to school in Colombia. I received a B.A. degree in education in foreign languages. I have been working as a teacher at the high school level for 19 years. Because of the insecurity of my country, I decided to immigrate to the

U. S in 1999. I received my certification as an educator to work in Texas. I was hired in 2001 by the Aldine School District at Eisenhower High School and have been there for eleven years. Right now, I'm the chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. I received information about the M.A. program in Spanish from a friend, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to advance my education. I began my studies in summer II of 2011. It is a great program with an excellent group of professors who are very professional and supportive. My classes are made up of professionals from different fields of work. We all have opinions from different perspectives, and the academic level is very high. This is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life.

Jennifer Góngora

I was born in Houston to Colombian parents. I earned my B.A. in Spanish and English at Sam Houston State University in 2011. I would really like to be a translator or an interpreter some day. Currently I am working as a substitute teacher in Huntsville ISD, and I am a teaching assistant for SHSU. I decided to begin my studies in the M.A. program in Spanish because I



know this program has quality professors that will prepare me for the job I want as an interpreter.

Andrés Ruiz-Olaya

I was born in Medellín, Colombia, where I completed a B.S. in Biology. Initially, I worked as a botanist in the forests of Antioquia. Later, I worked in the public health sector doing research on tropical disease prevention programs. However, all my life I have had a passion for reading and writing



fictional works. For this reason, I have done research on the history of Colombia, written an unpublished novel and a few short stories. I came to Texas to earn a M.A. in Health from which I graduated in 2011. At this university, I found the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the Spanish language and

literatures. Now, as a graduate student in the M.A. in Spanish program, I am enjoying the opportunity of doing what I love most. In the future, I would like to enroll in a doctoral program and after completion to become a university professor.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Every semester the Office of Graduate Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences offer scholarships to new students.

The Office of Graduate Studies has \$10,000 available for 2012-2013 recruitment scholarships. The recipients of the scholarships should be new students, since this is a recruitment scholarship.



Donna Turner

I started out my life in California, and when I was eight, we moved to Texas. I have lived in Houston and in The Woodlands most of my life.

I have four children, twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. I started college when I was fifty years old, majoring in Spanish and



English and earned a teaching degree. I went on to teach bilingual education in the Aldine School District for twelve years. After three years of retirement, I decided that I wanted to pursue a M.A. in Spanish. When the M.A. in Spanish program started in spring 2011 at Sam Houston, I was proudly among the first

to apply and to be accepted. I am now over half way through my degree and am looking forward to graduating.

Silvia Gaviria

I was born in Bogotá, Colombia and I graduated in Computer Engineering from Universidad de los Andes. After several years in the technological sector in Colombia, I moved to United States and in 2002, I started working at The Rubicon Academy as the Spanish and technology teacher for children from Kindergarten through 8th grade.



Approximately at the same time, I started a partnership and implemented an after and before-school Spanish program in several public schools at the Woodlands, for children from Kindergarten through 6th grade, as well as private and group classes. In 2006, I began working as a Spanish instructor at LoneStar College in

Continuing Education. I still work in the three activities mentioned above. I decided to pursue the M.A. in Spanish in order to improve my language instruction skills and also to satisfy a personal interest in literature, linguistics and adult education.

Víctor Gutiérrez

I'm originally from La Unión, El Salvador; I moved to the United States when I was thirteen years old. I completed my undergraduate degree in accounting at SHSU. I decided to get a M.A. degree because the company that I currently work for presented me with the opportunity to continue my education. Studying in the



M. A. program in Spanish allows me to reconnect with my language roots, to improve my bilingual skills and to explore a new career in the international world in the future.

“The Measure Of A Life Is Its Service”

Rocío Ovando

I was born In Toluca, a city located in central México. I earned my B.S. in Chemistry from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México. After graduating, I worked for a private company that produces glue and plastic laminates as a research and development engineer.



Through an alternative certification program I received my teaching certificate and moved to the United States of America in 2002. In 2003, I expanded my area of expertise and was awarded my certificate in Montessori Early Childhood. This is my tenth year teaching in a pre-kindergarten Montessori school in Aldine ISD. I am pursuing my M.A. degree in Spanish because in the future I would like to teach Spanish in college.



Vianey Gutiérrez - Beltrán

I was born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico where I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing. My family and I moved to The United States five years ago. We lived in San Diego, CA. for three years, and we moved to The Woodlands two years ago. My family is full of teachers and professors, and



I have been following that path as well. Back in Mexico I taught in different levels since the beginning of my professional career. Now I am teaching pre-kindergarten in Spanish School House which is a Spanish immersion school. I have two boys; they are 11 and 9 years old. Also, I have a daughter who is 6 years old.

They gave me the opportunity to explore and see the world through their eyes. The Master's degree in Spanish is giving me the opportunity to develop and enrich my capacity to teach Spanish, explore my own language, and discover a great experience while I am writing in it.

Rosa Escamilla

I'm from the Texas Panhandle. I moved to the Huntsville area in the early 80s, and have lived here since. In 2004, I completed my undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice at SHSU. My decision to obtain a Master's degree resulted from a desire to explore a new direction in my career. A M.A in Spanish will enhance my bilingual skills and my



understanding of the language, and I anticipate that in the near future, this will reveal new and promising career paths.

Marta Bran

I am from El Salvador, Central America. I moved to the United States seven years ago. I completed my undergraduate degree in bilingual education at University of Houston-Downtown. I love teaching and it is one of the reasons why I decided to apply to the M.A. program in Spanish. I would like to teach my native language



to high school and college students in the future. I am proud to be a bilingual teacher and feel the need to learn more about this beautiful language.

We strive to recruit, motivate, and retain qualified students.

Lisa Ledezma Rogers

I am originally from Chicago, IL and my family is Bolivian-American. I completed both my B.A. and my M.A. in Sociology at the University of Houston. I decided to pursue a Master's degree in Spanish because I love the



Spanish language and culture. I hope to transmit that value to future generations as a professor and researcher.



Mary Jenke

I learned to speak Spanish in Buenos Aires, Argentina when I lived there as an exchange student in high school. I later earned my Bachelor's degree in English, minoring in Spanish and then began working in a variety of fields where I could utilize both languages. In addition to customer service and



administrative positions, I also assisted in a bilingual pre-kindergarten class in San Antonio and then taught Spanish at Coldspring-Oakhurst High School for three years. I am currently working part-time in the Department of Foreign Languages here at SHSU.

Spanish is my passion. I am very adaptable so I don't mind what kind of work I am doing as long as I can do it in Spanish. The Master's program gives me the opportunity to utilize and grow my Spanish daily. It is an honor to interact with the students, staff and faculty of this program. Goal for the future? Something in Spanish...

María Martínez

I am originally from Sabinas Hidalgo Nuevo Leon, Mexico, but raised in Texas; Stratford, Texas to be exact. I was nine months old when I was brought to the United States by my parents. I graduated from Stratford High School and started my undergraduate degree in accounting at West Texas State



University which I attended for a year and a half. I then moved to Huntsville and 11 years later decided to finish my undergraduate degree which I then changed to Education. I completed my undergraduate degree in Bilingual Education with a minor in Spanish at

Sam Houston State University. I decided to get a Master's degree in Spanish to expand my knowledge, language, and skills.

Blanca Jane

I am from Monterrey, NL Mexico; I moved to the United States twelve years ago, following my sweet husband who was hired to work in Houston as a Bilingual Teacher in Aldine ISD. We have a family of six chil-



dren. I completed my undergraduate degree in Spanish at University of Houston - Downtown. I decided to begin my studies toward a M.A. in Spanish because I love my native language and really enjoy

teaching. My goal is to be ready to teach Spanish in college, and to improve my bilingual skills.

Midad Garcia Cuadra

I am from El Salvador; I came to the United States in 1995. I graduated from Westfield High School in 1997. I started attending college but after two years, I returned to El Salvador. I decided to come back to the United States as a resident and started again at North Harris College and finally graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from University of



Houston - Downtown. I currently work for Aldine ISD as a bilingual kindergarten teacher. I chose to pursue a M.A. in Spanish to reconnect with my language roots, to improve my bilingual skills and to explore a new career in the international world in the future.

Office of Graduate Studies

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(877) 883-9726

How to apply: Submit the Graduate Studies Application for Admission to the Office of Graduate Studies. An application may be accessed online at www.shsu.edu/graduate. A \$45.00 fee must accompany the application. Submit official transcripts of all college level work, including the transcript that shows the date the undergraduate degree was conferred. Submit other program-specific admission materials.



For more information, visit:

Sam Houston State University

www.shsu.edu

Graduate Admissions

http://www.shsu.edu/~grs_www/

MA in Spanish

http://www.shsu.edu/~fol_www/MASpanish.html

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