

FALL 2022



# DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURES

## GREETINGS, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS

The faculty of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department is excited to share with you this fall 2022 newsletter. Inside, you will find information about our recent graduates, study abroad courses, and student clubs and organizations. You will read the testimonies of transfer students who are currently completing their degrees with us and ways in which the faculty provides opportunities for students to engage with Chicago and all the city has to offer

Our dynamic and engaging faculty is committed to your success! Our doors are always open. We are happy to have you with us and we look forward to getting to know you all better inside and outside the classroom

Wishing you a happy, bountiful, and blessed harvest season

**Dr. Gómez on behalf of the WLLC Faculty**



Picture from left to right:

Christine Summers (German), Federica Bando (Spanish), Rebecca Monger (French), Chris Travis (Spanish), Beatriz Gómez (Spanish)

## Paul Sebedyn (Spanish)

### Waubensee Community College

I decided to transfer to Elmhurst University in the Fall of 2022 after finishing my associates degree in Liberal Arts from Waubensee Community College. I made this decision because I felt very supported and encouraged by Elmhurst University's faculty and my Spanish professors. As I was meeting with them and asking questions about the university and World Languages program, I could tell that they really cared about my academic success and were willing to go the extra mile to answer all my questions.



During my first day of classes, I was amazed by my Spanish professors' quality of instruction. Their teaching styles motivated me to keep learning more about Spanish and Latin American cultures because they connected to the students' diverse backgrounds and included their traditions and cultures in the class instruction. One of my professors was talking about Venezuela's linguistic aspects during class, and this made me feel like my culture mattered. This experience showed me how important diversity and inclusion is to all my professors.

I was also able to study abroad in Spain for a month before the Fall semester started. I walked the pilgrimage "El Camino de Santiago" in the province of Galicia along with other classmates and my Spanish professor, and I learned so much about Spain's culture. All these opportunities would not have been possible without the support I received from my instructors. For all of this and more, I am extremely grateful to be a student at Elmhurst University.

## Ninely Gaeta (Spanish)

### Harper College

I transferred to Elmhurst University from Harper College in the Fall of 2021. At Harper, I discovered a 2+2 Program for Spanish that listed the classes I could take at Harper that would transfer to Elmhurst. The wonderful help I received along the way from my Harper advisor and the faculty/advisors at Elmhurst helped me have a smooth transferring experience.

Once at Elmhurst, I was intimidated at first. However, the Freshman/Transfer Orientation made me feel welcomed and calmed my nerves. Plus, the informational emails regarding the fun events on campus have been helpful, too! In terms of being in the Spanish program, the classes are varied and interesting.

I even got to study abroad in Spain this past summer on a spiritual, physical, and academic adventure in the province of Galicia and the capital Madrid! Now, I am taking my Spanish capstone, ready to complete the requirements for my Spanish major. I would not have been able to do it without all the support from both institutions. Thank you, Elmhurst University!



## Michael Heidecke (German)

### College of Dupage

I came from College of DuPage with an associate degree in Chemistry. I furthered my studies with 3 years of German. I'm quite enthusiastic about my new German Major at Elmhurst University.

My experience from transferring at the 4th year level to Elmhurst has been demanding and rewarding. I think the pressure is very productive. I'm looking forward to finishing all my studies and doing my best at this opportunity. The limit to take is the offer of a lifetime.



## Resources for Transfer Students 2+ 2 Programs:

### Harper College

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/admission/transfer-adult-students/community-college-partnerships/harper-college-2-2-programs/>

### Triton College

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/admission/transfer-adult-students/community-college-partnerships/triton-college-2-2-programs/>

### Oakton Community College

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/admission/transfer-adult-students/community-college-partnerships/oakton-community-college-2-2-programs/>

### College of DuPage

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/admission/transfer-adult-students/community-college-partnerships/college-dupage-2-2-programs/>

# WORLD LANGUAGE TUTORS

The Department of WLLC hires qualified French and Spanish Majors to work as peer tutors at the Learning Center. Professor Federica Bando selects these students based on merit and interest and offers them training prior to the start of the academic year. Language tutors work primarily with first- and second-year students helping them with homework and providing additional conversation practice.

AY 2022-2023 WLLC Tutors from left to right.  
Front row: Valeria Perez (Spanish), Madelyn Castillo (French), Sarah Cuevas (Spanish), Vianca Perez (Spanish)  
Back row: Gabriel Galindo (Spanish), Paul Sebedyn (Spanish),



## MAKE AN APPOINTMENT NOW!

Go onto your Elmhurst Portal account and make an appointment with our tutors through MyTutoring



# ALUMNI NEWS

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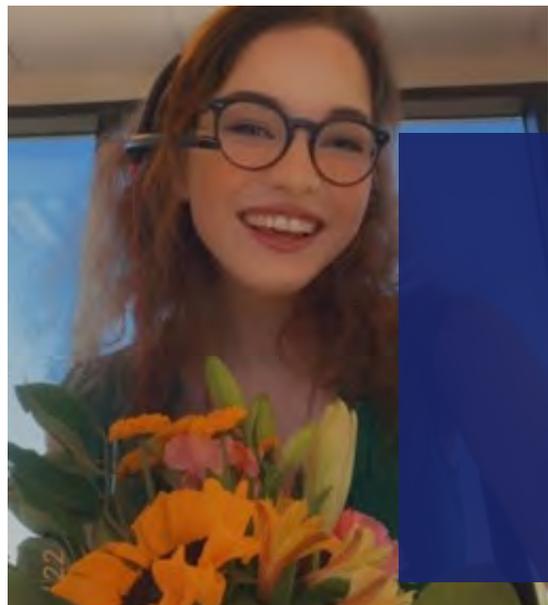
## **KATRINA BAUMAN** 2022, FRENCH & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

I walked across the stage on the Elmhurst mall to receive my diploma in May of 2022, and just one month ago I started working as an intern at the French Chamber of Commerce in Chicago. I'm the Marketing and Communications Coordinator at the chamber. I'm in charge of running all the social media platforms the chamber has which includes Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube. I also take pictures and film at different FACC events, and I've recently begun creating PR for the chamber and connecting with journalists as well.

Right now, everyone at the chamber is busy preparing for our biggest annual event, Passport to France, which is happening on November 17th at the Chicago History Museum. Although knowing French isn't required to work at the FACC, it's a plus as all my colleagues are natives of France and speak French at work daily! Knowing French has helped me not only connect on a deeper level with my coworkers but connect with so many other people I've met in Chicago who are from France and attend FACC events. From business luncheons to young professional afterworks to last week's meet and greet with French senator H el ene Conway-Mouret, there've been so many real-world opportunities to use French in just my one month of being at the FACC! It's truly exciting to see the many ways French can be utilized in a professional setting and help further one's career, and I can't wait to continue learning and growing more as my internship continues.

## **JAMIE PRESSLEY** 2022, MULTI-LANGUAGE BA

Before the end of the year, I will be moving to Montreal, Canada for work. I will still be in the field of business and finance, supporting small businesses with payroll and tax assistance. I am incredibly excited to pursue a more fulfilled personal life by moving to an area in which I will be able to use my language skills every day! I will continue to pursue my M.B.A. online. Also, I'm still actively keeping up with my hobbies of fashion, hockey, and cooking/grilling!



# Study Abroad Testimonies

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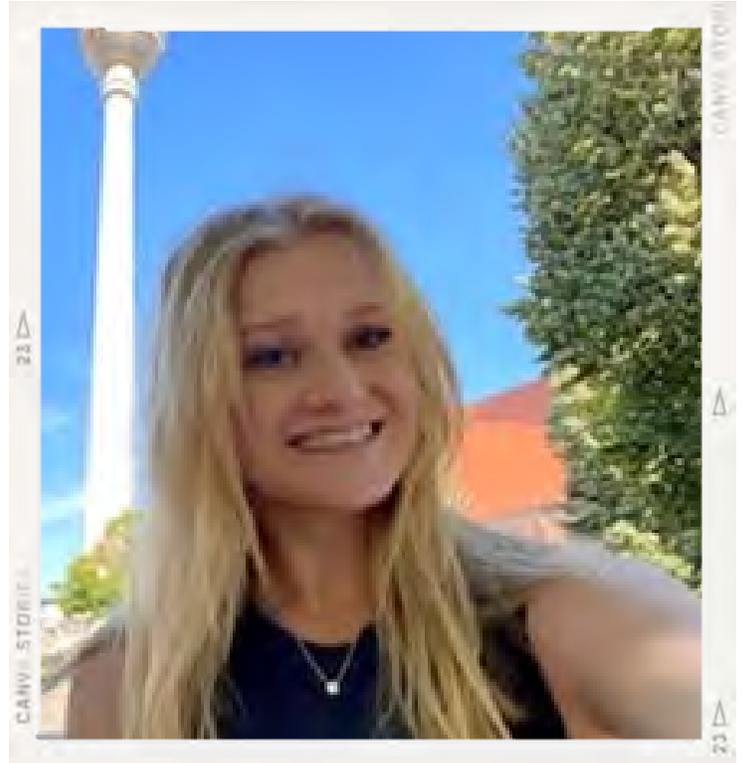
## **Katie Mulford (German Major)**

### **Summer 22 Internship in Berlin**

My name is Katie Mulford, and I am going into my 5th (and final!) year at Elmhurst University. I am majoring in Social Science Education, History, and German, with a minor in Teaching World Language.

Over the summer, I completed an internship at Alexander von Humboldt Institut für Internet und Gesellschaft located in Berlin, Germany, where I helped organize events, assisted researchers, and got to learn about how technology and the media impacts our society.

Living in another country for two months was such an amazing, unforgettable, and life-changing experience, as I learned so much about the world and about myself just from being immersed into a different culture with norms and customs that were unfamiliar to me. I also got the opportunity to travel while living in Europe and saw many different places in and around Germany. Some of my favorite places were Ireland, Scotland, Poland, and Austria.



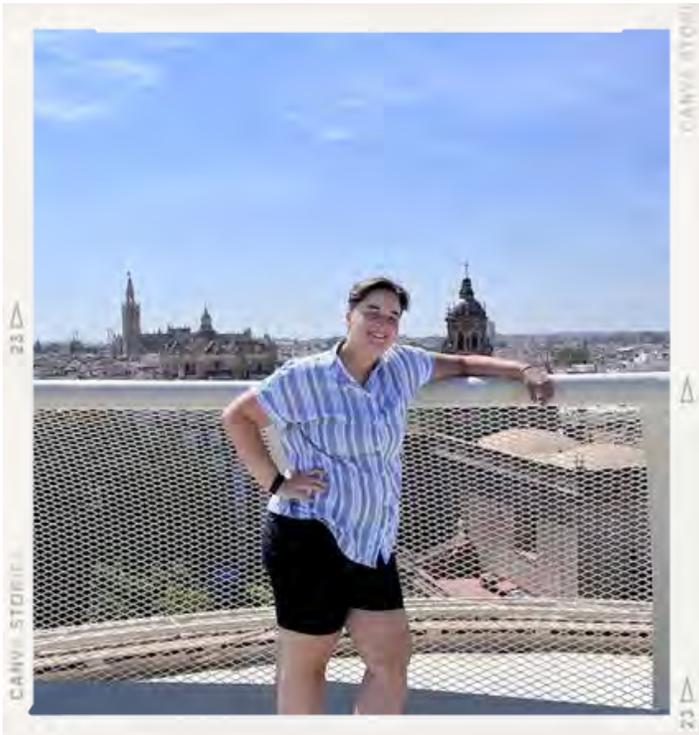
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## **Grace Ciolino (WL Education & Spanish Major)**

### **Fall 22 Semester Abroad in Sevilla**

Hi everyone! My name is Grace Ciolino and I am in my Senior year, studying World Language Education and Spanish. I am currently abroad in Seville, Spain. Studying abroad has been an experience of a lifetime and I would recommend it to everyone.

There is truly nothing like enjoying a café con leche for 1 euro. By the way, the dollar now has more value than the euro, which means it's the cheapest time to travel Europe. During my time abroad, I have also traveled to Italy, Portugal, and Morocco. Yes, you may have FOMO but the memories you'll make abroad are priceless.





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## Allison Skiple (Spanish Minor)

### **Summer 22 Study Abroad in Spain Camino de Santiago**

In June of 2022, I studied abroad for three weeks in Spain, walking the English route of El Camino de Santiago. Our typical day began with us waking early and grabbing a quick breakfast before starting our walk. We would walk for three to four hours before taking a break to have a picnic lunch. Along the way we'd have lectures about various topics including the religious history of the pilgrimage, culture, nature, economy, and more. In addition to lecturing along the walk, I was able to learn more about my classmates and enjoy the nature around me.

Once we arrive at our accommodation for the night, we'd clean up, rest, and enjoy a traditional pilgrim meal as a group.

My favorite thing to learn about was nature. We learned the history of the native trees and the importance of autochthonous forests for Galician economy. In addition to the academic and physical component of the course, there is also a personal or spiritual aspect. On this trip, I heard a phrase like this: "even if there is room in your backpack, it doesn't mean you have to fill it". While this was literally talking about the backpack we carried for 12 miles each day, I applied this mindset to my life. During my time at Elmhurst, sometimes my "backpack" (personally and academically) was full and weighed me down. My experience on the Camino helped me re-evaluate my approach. So, ask yourself, what's in your backpack?



## Questions about traveling abroad?

Go to:

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad/>

# ALPHA MU GAMMA- THETA EPSILON THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY

## ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Elmhurst University's chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma ( National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society) has been committed to members who have achieve continual excellence in the study of foreign languages and service within the community.



## HOW TO JOIN



- Contact Dr. Beatriz Gomez-Acuna at [bgomez@elmhurst.edu](mailto:bgomez@elmhurst.edu) to receive a copy of the application form
- Initiation Fee: \$50 (Payable to Elmhurst University) This includes the national membership fee, a certificate, and a key.

## Qualifications

SOPHMORE STANDING  
OR ABOVE

A "B" AVERAGE FOR  
ALL COLLEGE WORK  
(=3.0 AVERAGE)

TWO GRADES OF "A"  
IN A SINGLE FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE

# EVENTS



As part of celebrating Día de Muertos (Day of the Day) Alpha Mu Gamma members created altars in honor of their loved ones that have passed away.

## RECOGNIZING HISPANIC/LATINO VETERANS

In honor of Veteran's Day, Alpha Mu Gamma took part in recognizing members of the military who are part of the Hispanic and Latino Community. Thank you to Gabriel Galindo , Sydney Horton, and Allison Skipple for decorating a display case to honor Hispanic/Latino U.S. Veterans.



# Connections to Chicago



The Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures makes CONNECTIONS to Chicago! In all language programs and many classes, as well as through Alpha Mu Gamma, WLLC students are taking advantage of all that Chicago--our classroom beyond the classroom--has to offer!



On October 7th, Dr. Gómez and a group of 37 students visited the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen to view the Day of the Dead ofrendas display. The field trip was sponsored by Alpha Mu Gamma and the Office of Equity and Inclusion. What a turnout!



As a requirement of Dr. Travis's Spanish-Speaking Chicago class (SPN 316), students visit Humboldt Park/La calle Division as well as Little Village and Pilsen, establishing contact with an organization in the community and researching for their final project in the class.

Some comments (translated from the students' Spanish by Dr. Travis) accompany the clips from their outstanding video assignments.

We are a nation of immigrants and this mural shows that we should all have the same basic human rights..." – Jade Link SPN 316

"Hector Duarte prefers public art so that he can reach the people, not be stuck in a museum for the privileged, and comments on issues such as gentrification..." - Sofía Castro, SPN 316



"We were fascinated by the story of Vanessa Guillén, and the gender violence she suffered, falsely accused and no one did anything to support her..." -Paul Sebedyn SPN 316





“Mujeres Latinas en Acción provides therapy support, tools, and leadership training for victims of domestic violence and their children.” –Mary Odwazny SPN 316

The Consulat Général de France à Chicago has not forgotten that the Mississippi River was used to connect many regions of the Midwest once known as Nouvelle France. Less colonial and more collaborative now, the French Consulate has engaged with Elmhurst University before and provides intriguing opportunities for our students!



FRENCH  
HERITAGE  
CORRIDOR



And finally, we cannot forget the wonderful Christkindlmarket Chicago, a Christmas time tradition that Elmhurst students have visited for many years with their professor, Christine Summers. Bring on the winter!