

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND LATINO STUDIES

Chair's Message

When we all toasted to the New Year, I'm sure we thought this 2020 was going to be a year of "perfect vision" and, in your case, the year marking your graduation and the beginning of a new stage in your lives. Of course, all this was true but little did we know that the "vision" and the months ahead were going to try us in such unprecedented ways. When we toasted to 2020 we didn't expect a graduation in quarantine and in the middle of such uncertainty. And yet, this moment is worth celebrating.

We must recognize our students' accomplishments even more emphatically now because they mean so much this year. They are a testament to human resilience, flexibility, creativity, and a clear indication that you, dear graduates, are ready for the new world that lies ahead. A world relying on technology and virtuality to overcome the unexpected. A world resorting to social distancing—I hope only temporarily—in the name of public health and the common good.

I wish I could write this farewell message in more prosperous and propitious times. However, I write these words with hope and happiness. My hope is inspired by the exceptional work that you all have done to complete your studies. Your success today forecasts the many extraordinary opportunities that will come your way in the future. My happiness is rooted in optimism because, I know, you are well prepared to make a definitive mark in this unpredictable world.

With your degree in hand, you will rise to the challenge.

Light up the dark paths as you traverse the forest of life. Always stand on the

side of knowledge and against irrational confusion. Use your expertise in the Spanish language and culture to foster communication and understanding among people. Embrace what is to come and always follow your heart. By doing so, you'll forge a promising future and make this world a better place.

A final word as you prepare to part: remember that you will always keep an important place in our department's history and, as alumni, your initiatives will be enthusiastically welcome. Therefore, let us not say goodbye, only *hasta pronto*.

Dr. Raúl Galoppe
Chair, Department of Spanish & Latino Studies



Meet Some of Our Graduates



Yareli Arreola is graduating with a Spanish major and Grades K-6 teacher certification. She spent the spring semester with 4th graders at Abington Avenue Elementary in Newark. Her future plans include teaching in public

schools and obtaining ESL certification in order to work with students of all backgrounds.

Skarlet Baiza-Zelaya is graduating with a BA in Spanish (concentration in Translation) and a minor in Business. Her favorite memories of MSU are the experiences and opportunities she had and all the friendships she made along the journey. Her future plans are to continue with her Master's degree in School Counseling and eventually become a high school counselor.



Matthew Berg is graduating with an MA in Spanish. Some of his favorite memories of MSU are his time abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the wonderful professors and fellow students he met during his time here. His future plans

are to continue his studies in Temple University's PhD program in Spanish and go on to become a professor.

Karen Cruz is graduating with a BA in Spanish (concentration in Translation) and a minor in Linguistics. Two special memories of MSU are making many friends and having the opportunity to become a per diem court interpreter. In the future she hopes to open her own translation agency, become ATA certified, and pursue a law degree concentrating in immigration or international law.



Ashley Ell is graduating with a BA in Spanish (concentration in Translation) and a minor in Linguistics. Her best memories of MSU are the great relationships she formed with her professors and fellow peers and also studying abroad in

Spain. Her future plans are to continue her education to become a Speech Language Pathologist, work as a freelance translator and travel as much as possible.

Jennifer Gutiérrez is graduating with a concentration in Translation and K-6 teaching certification after completing a clinical internship at Charles H. Bullock Elementary School. This summer she plans to find a teaching position and prepare for the court interpreting exam to become a per diem interpreter in the NYC court system. In the future, she'd like to pursue a Master's degree in Bilingual Education.



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Emily Ip graduated in January 2020 with a double major in Spanish (concentration in Translation) and Linguistics (concentration in Language Engineering) and a minor in Music. A highlight of her years at MSU was her semester abroad at the Universidad de Salamanca. Her future plans include furthering her career in the language services industry, pursuing advanced degrees and research, and teaching English abroad.



Jennifer Lopez graduated in January 2020 with a BA in Spanish. Her best memories of MSU include the friendships and experiences she made while studying in Spain. She is currently a Spanish teacher's assistant in an alternative high school and is studying for a Second

Bachelor's in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Her future plans are to teach high school Spanish and serve undocumented Latinos.

Anthony Mancuso graduated in January 2020 with a Spanish major and International Studies minor. He is currently working at a boutique hotel and hopes to travel internationally whenever possible. In the future he'd like to pursue a career in language education, teaching either ESL or Spanish. His memories from the Spanish program include all the wonderful people he met and the empanadas in University Hall.



John Marin is graduating with a concentration in Translation and a minor in Spanish and International Business. He is currently working on his entrepreneurial goals. In the future he plans to work as an interpreter at the NYC courts and eventually focus all his efforts on his business.

Raiza Menendez is a graduating senior with a major in Spanish (concentration in Translation) and a minor in Italian and is also a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Hispanic Honor Society. After completing her BA in just three years, she is currently looking into Master's programs and plans on incorporating her love for traveling and languages into a lifelong career.



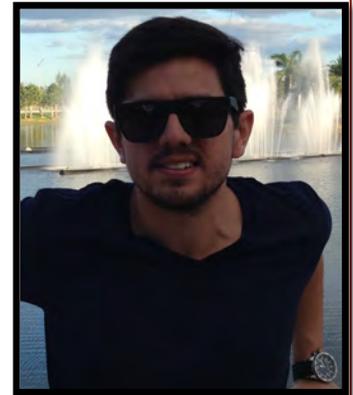
Katuska Ernestina Mies is graduating with a double major in Spanish and Linguistics. She is currently working at the Chanel counter of Macy's as a makeup artist. She is the first member of her generation to graduate from college, an achievement that makes both her parents proud. Her future plans include continuing a career as a Spanish Linguist for the government or a private company.

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Nathalia Moreira is graduating with a major in Spanish and K-6 teacher certification. A highlight of her university experience was being a part of the Newark Teacher Project during her clinical year. She recently accepted a position to teach 5th/6th grade literacy in Newark and plans to continue teaching and supporting bilingual students in her classroom! In the future, she hopes to obtain bilingual certification.



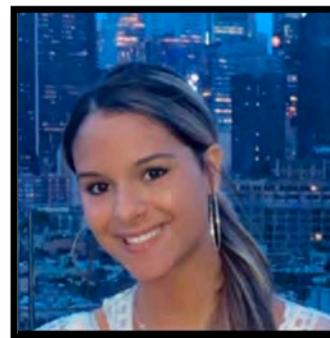
Franco Pratolongo is graduating with a major in Spanish and a minor in Social Work. This summer he will be enjoying the beautiful weather by going to the beach and also using his new degree to obtain a position in Social Work. His memories of MSU are all great. In the future, he plans on attending graduate school in International Relations.



Cristina Moricete is graduating with a Spanish Major (Concentration in Translation) and a Linguistics Minor. Her favorite memories are taking translation and linguistics classes, volunteering with Sigma Delta Pi and the “Mesa de Conversación” at

Bradford Elementary, and audio describing the play *The Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. In the future she hopes to become a Spanish teacher or pursue a career in Translation.

Colleen O’Rourke-Heredia is graduating with an MA in Spanish with a concentration in Interpreting and Translation. Her best memories of MSU include brain-burning translations, speedy simultaneous interpretations, wonderful friendships, amazing support and professors who are truly dedicated. She is currently an adjunct professor and her future plans include sharing her love of the Spanish language with others. ¡Gracias por todo!



Melanie Regos graduated in January 2020 after completing her clinical internship at Wayne Valley High School. Since then she has been an elementary Spanish teacher for

grades 2-6 in Nutley. Her future plans are to eventually get her Master’s degree in Spanish.

Yurany Restrepo graduated in January in Spanish. In the future she wants to pursue a Master’s degree in Education. She has been working with children since she was young. She loves enjoying their happiness and teaching them with love.

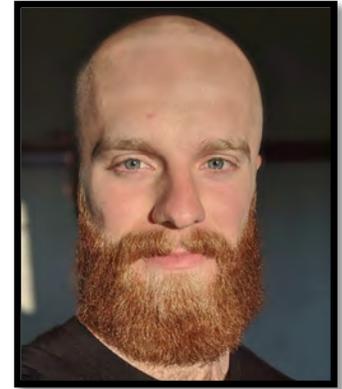


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Ivonne Reyes is graduating with a concentration in Translation. Her favorite memory of MSU is creating audio description for visually impaired Spanish speakers to be able to enjoy a play in NYC. In the future she hopes to become a Spanish elementary teacher, sharing her love of the culture and language with children, and also plans to work as an interpreter.



William Hayden Suchecki is graduating with a major in Spanish and minors in French and in Spanish & International Business. A highlight of his university years was being a part of the Montclair State University Rugby Club as a player and a coach. In the future he hopes to continue learning languages and cultures as he pursues his passion for traveling the world.



Rosa Angelica Sanchez Perez is graduating with a major in Spanish and a minor in Criminal Justice. Highlights of her time at Montclair State include being part of the National Hispanic Honor Society (Sigma Delta Pi), helping with events and spending time with excellent friends and

mentors. In the future she plans to teach Spanish in a public school.

Amanda Stein graduated in January 2020 after completing her clinical internship at Arts High School in Newark and earning teacher certification for Spanish K-12. She is currently working with high school students as a long-term substitute teacher. In the future she plans to continue sharing the Spanish language and culture with her students and pursue certification to teach English as a Second Language.



¡Felicitaciones!