

UNCW SPANISH CLUB



A New Beginning!

Spanish Club has had a great start this spring semester with a fantastic brand new board! All officers have a high command of Spanish, love practicing and are ready to help other students have fun with the language. Among our projects for this academic year: volunteering at the Latino Center (Amigos International), creating a Spanish Club on campus for elementary to middle school children, tango and salsa lessons, volunteering at the Hispanic Festival, welcoming international students and much more. Spanish Club meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. What activities does the Club enjoy during meetings? Tons! We play games in Spanish, dine at El Cerro Grande, watch videos and movies in Spanish and just have fun speaking the language in an informal setting. Professor Marianela Jara, the Spanish Club advisor, is very proud of the new board and truly enjoys working with the Club. Visit the club's page on Facebook for news and updates!

[El Club de Español - UNCW](#)

Meet the new Spanish Club Officers:



Cody Searchfield (Co-President)

My name is Cody Searchfield, and I am a junior here at UNCW. My first two years of college I attended Wingate University near Charlotte. I recently declared my major in Spanish and wanted to get involved on campus, so I started talking to other students and people on campus who might be interested in Spanish Club. I had the unique opportunity to travel extensively as a child, and I think that having visited more countries than states has driven me to want to learn and understand the Spanish language, especially in today's diverse, ever-changing world. I feel that too many U.S. citizens are prejudiced towards Latinos, and I want that to change. I have visited many Spanish-speaking countries and provinces including Spain, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean islands. I lived with a host family in Heredia, Costa Rica and learned how much Latino culture is based on the family unit, not unlike our own culture. This summer I will be studying abroad in Spain with Ms. Jara. I am very excited to visit Spain again, have a new host family, further experience the Spanish culture, improve my Spanish and make new friends.



Stephanie Forgash (Co-President)

My name is Stephanie Forgash, and I am from Harrisburg, N.C. I am a sophomore at UNCW and have a double major in Spanish and Criminal Justice. I have spoken and studied Spanish for almost six years. Being involved with the Spanish club has given me an opportunity to meet fellow students who also have an interest in the language. I have been able to talk to my peers about their experiences abroad while gaining peace of mind that I will carry with me as I study abroad this summer! So far, I have traveled to Madrid and Toledo, Spain, and this summer I will be going to Valparaíso, Chile. Overall, my experience with the Spanish Club has inspired me and given me more confidence in my Spanish-speaking abilities and in myself as a person.



Cody J. Polera (Vice-president)

My name is Cody Polera, and I am a sophomore. I am a double major in Spanish and International Business. Spanish is more than just another language for me. It's a gateway to other societies, cultures and more. I spent two years in South America where I learned the language simply by speaking with the people. I discovered there is so much more in the world than just the United States and our ways of thinking and doing things. Because of my knowledge of Spanish, a whole new world of people and relationships and experiences has opened up for me. I not only joined the Spanish Club in order to maintain what I have learned of the language, but also to further it and to encounter more of the vibrant world around me and really become a part of what is rapidly becoming an extremely international world.



Hannah Tew (Marketing and Promotions Coordinator and Secretary)

My name is Hannah Tew, and I am a senior at UNCW. I have a double major in Spanish and business administration with a concentration in international business. I am also completing departmental honors with a thesis written in Spanish of the analysis of

cultural differences within the autonomous communities. The Spanish Club interests me because I love the Spanish language and also would like to empower other students to develop their skills in the language and become involved with the Hispanic community. My junior year, I studied as an exchange student in Valencia, Spain. I had the opportunity to visit many different places in Spain and improve my Spanish skills. Upon graduation, I hope to utilize the Spanish language in my professional career.



Carynne Spalding (Treasurer)

I am from Fuquay-Varina, N.C. I was President of the National Spanish Honors Society Chapter at my high school for three years. My mom is Colombian but never taught me Spanish, so I have been taking it for eight years and have fallen in love with the language. My major is international studies

with a minor in Spanish, chemistry and forensics. I wanted to become a board member of UNCW's Spanish Club because I have held leadership positions in Spanish Clubs since middle school, and I wanted to get involved here too! I have been to Colombia and Honduras and will study abroad this summer in Chile. I can't wait to be fully fluent and am so excited to have a new opportunity to practice Spanish!



Mayra Julissa Zaldivar (Social Chair and Ambassador)

My name is Mayra Julissa Zaldivar. I was born in Clinton, N.C., and raised in Wallace, N.C., but my nationality is Honduran. I am completing a double major in Spanish and International Business. As a Spanish native, I have a natural passion for Spanish and I feel

that the Spanish Club is a great place to place such passion, plus it is a place that allows me to evoke that passion in others. Besides being a native speaker, I have had previous educational experience with Spanish since high school. I have been to Honduras as part of personal vacations and will be going to Peru during Spring Break 2012 as part of Spanish 412: Fronteras Andinas: El Perú Colonial.

