

MERCER  
UNIVERSITY

VOL. 01

# VOX POPULI

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures



POETRY • ART • WRITINGS • CLUBS & TRIPS • INTERVIEWS

A vibrant, abstract painting featuring a complex composition of intersecting lines and energetic brushstrokes. The color palette is rich and varied, including shades of blue, red, yellow, green, and orange. The artwork has a sense of depth and movement, with some areas appearing more solid and others more translucent. The overall effect is one of raw energy and visual complexity.

VOL. 01

VOX POPULI

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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# DEAR READER,

It is a real pleasure to welcome you to Vox Populi, the first magazine published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FFL) at Mercer University. We are really excited that you have it in your hands!

It was not easy to get it done. Last year when we launched the call for articles, we were caught by the pandemic. Sheltering at home and dealing with the stress of going online made it difficult for students to learn about the new magazine and consider sending their material.

I remember talking about all of this with my colleague and co-founder of the magazine, Libertad Aranza. She said to me:

**“esta revista de que se hace,  
se hace”** (which, in English,  
means something like “this  
magazine is happening”).

So we kept going and armed with patience and tenacity, we gathered photos, poetry, drawings, and short stories written by students of the FLL Department. As you will see inside, we have a great collection of submissions in Spanish, German, French, Latin, and Chinese.

We organized an open contest to find an attractive and clever title for the magazine. The winning name was “Vox Populi,” which, in English, means “The Voice of the People.” Having a title in Latin seemed ideal because, as you know, Latin is the mother of the romance languages. “The voice of the people” also captured our goal to gather and represent the different student voices that fill the halls of our department.

Our cover was inspired by a project submitted by one of our students for his children’s literature class. We liked the color-changing chameleon because it represented the idea that languages change when they are in contact with other languages or dialects of a language. In fact, the person speaking a foreign language also experiences emotional and intellectual changes at different levels. Language is really about transformation.

In this issue, you will find photos of study abroad trips led by our department’s professors, creative work done during our foreign language classes, and two interviews with alumni who decided to go out and explore the world. For the next issues, we would like to include a section of “relevant news,” “unusual anecdotes,” or whatever happens in our little “Babel.” We hope you take the time to read and enjoy our magazine.

Our mission is to show to the Mercer community the outstanding work of students and professors of our department. We would like to recognize all the magic that many passionate, courageous, and creative people have produced.

Thank you for reading us,

Clara Mengolini



VOX POPULI



P

POETRY

# Soy la guitarra

by Bristal Thompson



Soy la guitarra.  
Un cuello elegante, pero firme.  
Piel como madera envejecida, con un acabado satinado.  
Un cuerpo curvado alrededor un centro con un gran agujero.  
Tengo miedo de los silencios.  
Entonces, lleno los silencios,  
lleno los espacios, con la música. Porque no pretendo ser abandonada en una esquina. No pretendo ser acariciada, disfrutada. pero muchas veces, me dejan en la esquina. me hice por artesanía fina, con un propósito específico: me satisface traer alegría a otros. Mi personalidad depende de quién me toca. si me duro, pro-golpeas sonido enojado. -duzco Un Pero si me tocas dulcemente, traigo hacia fuera la más dulce melodía. Si me tocas como eso, seré tu fiel acompañante. Deseo compañerismo. Soy fiel como el sonido distinto de las cavernas de madera. Mi amistad es cálida, rica. Los momentos más especiales están en porches delanteros, hogueras íntimas, santuarios. El sonido de las cuerdas mezclada con las voces, con los cuentos, con la risa. Y eso es la música. A veces, no hay rima ni razón. Solo gente y guitarra, y la libertad de dejar el momento pasar.

Soy la guitarra.

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# Carlos

by Jakob Barton



Escucha el rasgueo de la guitarra,  
deja que te lleve a otro momento  
Combinación de jazz y rock  
Dulces melodías resuenan a través de las cuerdas  
Te lleva a una edad más simple  
El sueño sigue vivo  
La música continúa hasta nuestros días  
Un legado que define una generación  
The magic of the guitar is enchanting  
The soul shaking might of each cord  
Continuing day by day  
the dream lives on  
An experience brought to us by just a man with a guitar

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# L'Amérique

by Trent Bateman

Amérique  
Fusils, bière, football américain  
Champions des deux guerres mondiales  
Les gens gros, les gens ignorants  
Depuis de nombreuses années,  
L'Amérique est connue pour ces choses  
Et à cause de ces choses, ce pays me plaît



# Tranquila en los cielos

by Matthew Bowling

Quiero vivir una vida sencilla  
Donde no haya reglas para "ser"  
Vivir como algo diferente

¿Tan libre como el agua?  
¿Cuál es el propósito de las piedras?

Inmóviles hasta que algo las mueve  
El movimiento es su apogeo  
Y después van en dirección  
hacia los destinos finales

Inmóvil con una vida tranquila  
Como una ciudad solitaria  
los días pasan fácilmente  
como la lluvia en la ventana:  
no puede morir o preocuparse  
hasta el fin de la temporada,  
después de nuestra resurrección  
toda tiene paz y tranquilidad  
totalmente inmóvil  
ahora es una vida nueva  
es una vida mejor y sencilla  
estoy en los cielos.

by Taylor Morgan Porterfield

# Chinese New Year

祝您年年有餘 新斤

Zhù nín nián nián yǒu yú

祝您萬事如意

Zhù nín wàn shì rú yì

祝您工作順利

Zhù nín gōng zuò shùn li

祝您心想事成

Zhù nín xīn xiǎng shì chéng

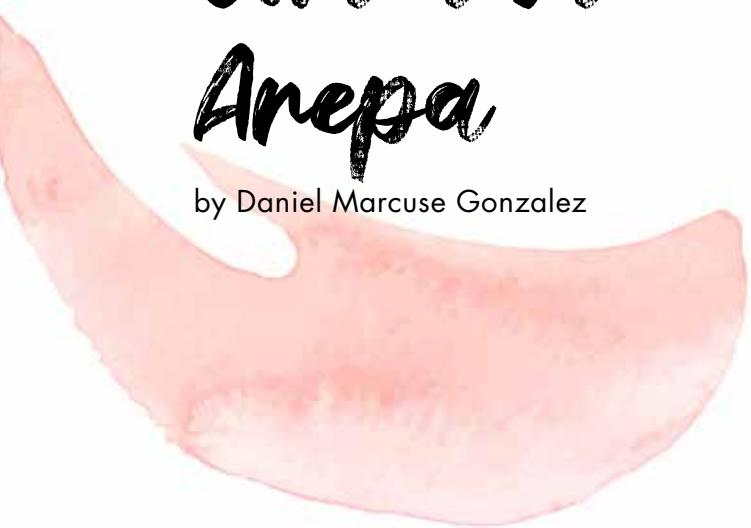
年

快

乐

# Oda a la Arepá

by Daniel Marcuse Gonzalez

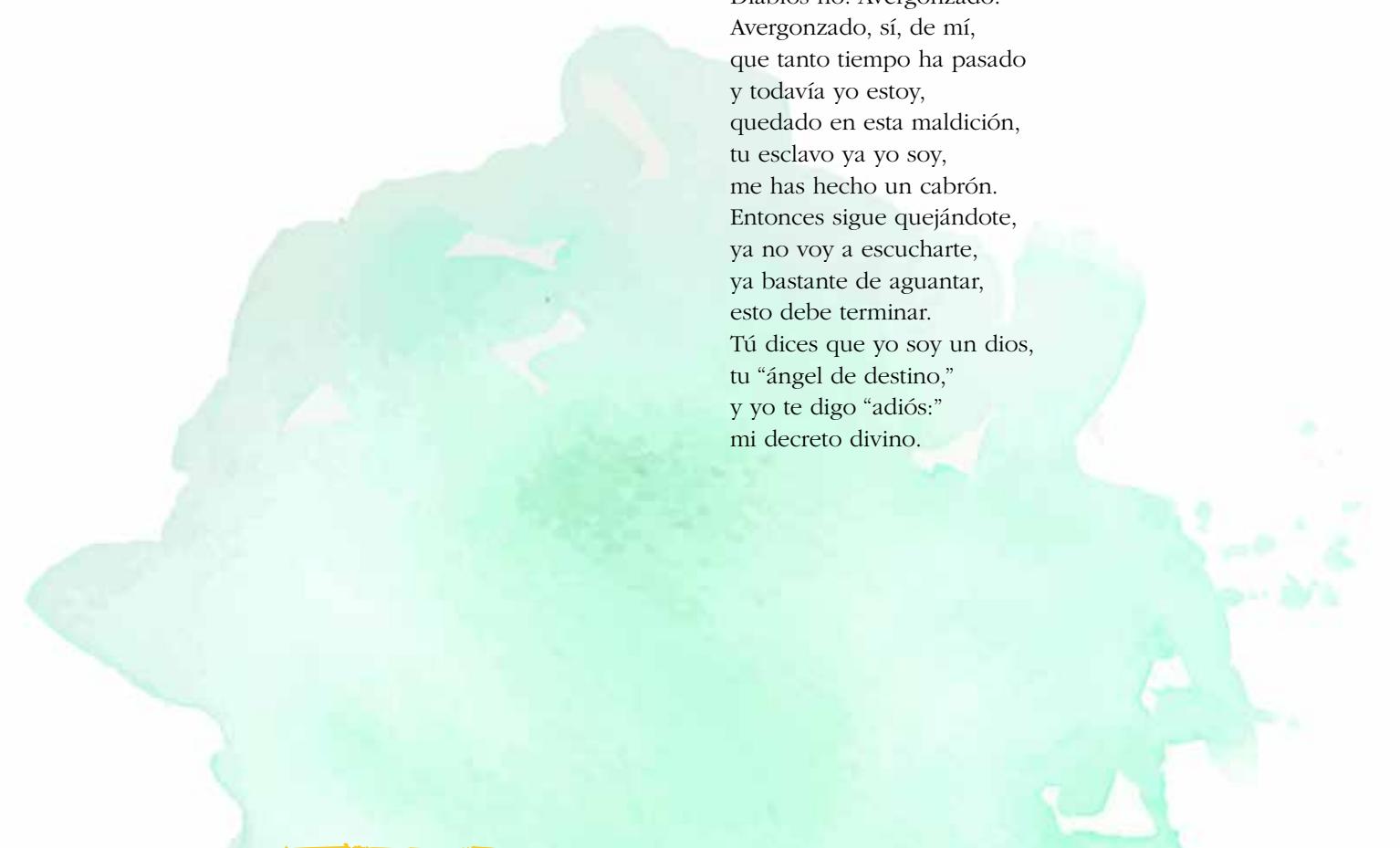
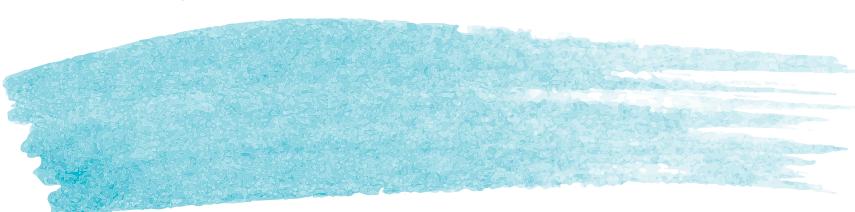


Cuando me levanto,  
la arepa  
me está esperando.  
Mi abuela  
se despertó temprano  
para prepararla.  
La arepa  
está sentada allí  
blanca y  
levemente tostada,  
silenciosa y sencilla  
Es triste abrirla  
con el cuchillo  
pero nunca le gusta estar sola.  
La corto  
como un sobre  
y da un gran suspiro.  
Empieza a escapar  
el calor  
de su cuerpo.  
Mantequilla,  
perico,  
queso fresco,  
pollo,  
aguacate,  
crema blanca,  
chorizo,  
frijoles,  
chicharrón,  
carne mechada.  
Todos vienen  
a disfrutar de su cálido abrazo.  
Después,  
tan rápido como llegó  
se va.  
Pero ella siempre está allí  
a cualquier hora del día  
para dar consuelo,  
para dar fuerzas,  
para dar amor,  
para dar vida.

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# Una carta de rencor

by James Foreman



Leí tu carta de amor,  
princesa de mi alma,  
y te lo ruego, por favor,  
¡cálmate!  
"Amadora de Almonte"  
¿no te gusta tu nombre?  
Ay chiquita, inocente,  
¿necesitas un apodo?  
Y lo siento, mi Diana,  
que yo tengo una vida,  
"¡una vez por semana!"  
una vez, sí, mi querida,  
porque, amor, si tú no quieres  
estar sola contigo misma,  
¿por qué, mi flor de mujer,  
piensas tú que yo lo querría?  
Tú eres una araña.  
Chupas vida de los sabios,  
quejándote, babeas  
veneno de los labios.  
¿Y debo gozarme? ¿De ti?  
Diablos no. Avergonzado.  
Avergonzado, sí, de mí,  
que tanto tiempo ha pasado  
y todavía yo estoy,  
quedado en esta maldición,  
tu esclavo ya yo soy,  
me has hecho un cabrón.  
Entonces sigue quejándose,  
ya no voy a escucharte,  
ya bastante de aguantar,  
esto debe terminar.  
Tú dices que yo soy un dios,  
tu "ángel de destino,"  
y yo te digo "adiós:"  
mi decreto divino.

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# Así soy yo

by Nicole Gentile

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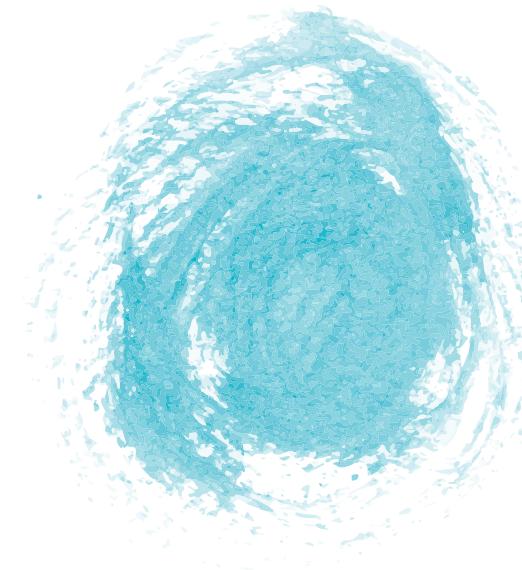
Ella es una chica que constantemente se derrumba, sólo para volver a subir.  
 Ella es una chica que se le dice constantemente que no puede, por lo que lo hace.  
 Ella es una chica a quien se le dice que actúe de una manera, pero luego actúa, de otra.

Ella es su propia persona, moldeada por el mundo y, sin embargo, sigue siendo ella misma.  
 Aún única.

Nace con grandes expectativas.  
 Nace con grandes metas.  
 Nace con gran personalidad.  
 Bendecida con una mezcla de talentos y regalos.  
 Destinada a encontrar su propósito.

Ama a su familia, lucha por las cosas correctas y se empeña por la grandeza, pero la vida sigue derribándola.  
 La vida tomó a sus abuelos.  
 La vida tomó a sus amigos.  
 La vida tomó su cordura.

Aprendió que la vida era difícil.  
 Aprendió que la vida era dura.  
 Pero ella aprendió que era aún más dura.



Cada momento era una lección. Una prueba de fuerza.

Cuando la vida le decía que no, ella le dijo sí.  
 Cuando la sociedad la llamaba gorda, ella creyó que no lo era.  
 Cuando el mundo quería que odiara, ella eligió el amor.  
 Cuando la vida le dijo que renunciara, ella sigue siendo aún más fuerte que antes.

La vida hacía todo lo que podía, y todavía prevalecía.

Era fuerte porque creía.  
 Era fuerte porque sus amigos la rodeaban con amor.  
 Era fuerte porque sus padres la criaron para ser.  
 La fuerza nació con ella y nunca podría perder.

Ella venció la adversidad.  
 Ella se convirtió en líder.  
 Ella se convirtió en modelo para otros.  
 Ella se convirtió en lo que una mujer debería ser.  
 Poder. Fuerza. Amabilidad.

Esta es mi pelea.  
 Esta es mi lucha.  
 Así soy yo.

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# Lost In Spain: A Poem From One Student's Journey Through Spain

by Jacob James Just-Buddy

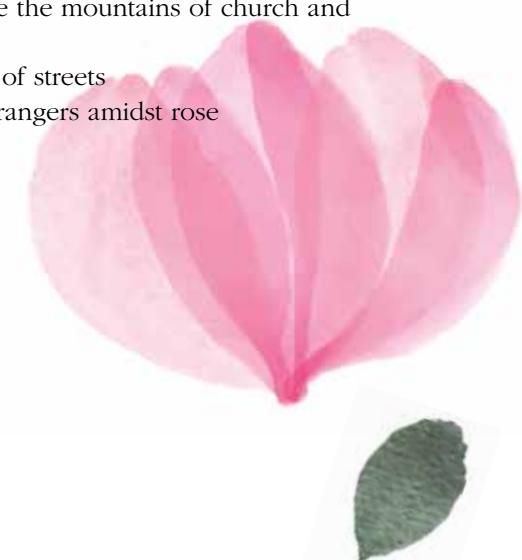
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## **Day 3**

Amidst gilded thrones and crosses  
Friends, strangers, satirical remarks  
People in chains,  
Angels glowing in the dark  
Marbled flowers anointing our feet  
Caramel-filled lions  
Please don't touch  
Please don't eat  
Chaotic roads  
Winding streets  
Ancient crypts where only the dead and royalty  
sleep  
True love,  
Remember to smile and occasionally weep

I stand before the mountains of church and  
spooky crypt  
I cross rivers of streets  
I glance at strangers amidst rose  
I am home



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I hope someday I'll return here  
I'll steal more than a glance  
Perhaps, a love I'll find here  
I suppose there's a fat chance

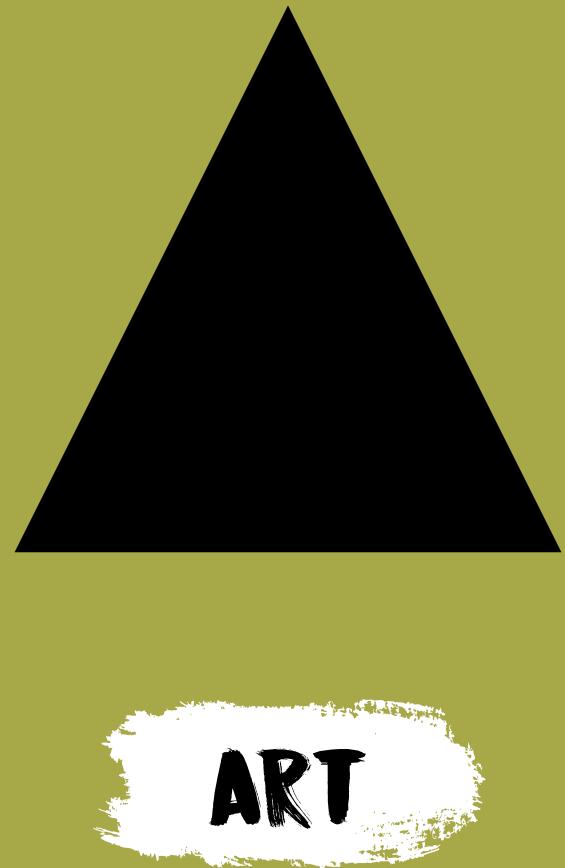
I stand in mountains and valleys  
I sail el Prado's shores  
I walk amongst the masters  
Their works we still adore

Too many paintings on too many walls  
Too many sculptures inlaid into to many halls  
But among the several that we loves  
I valued the simple one's  
In place of those from above

Tired and lovely  
El Prado sits  
Like the poem - his only wish is to be known

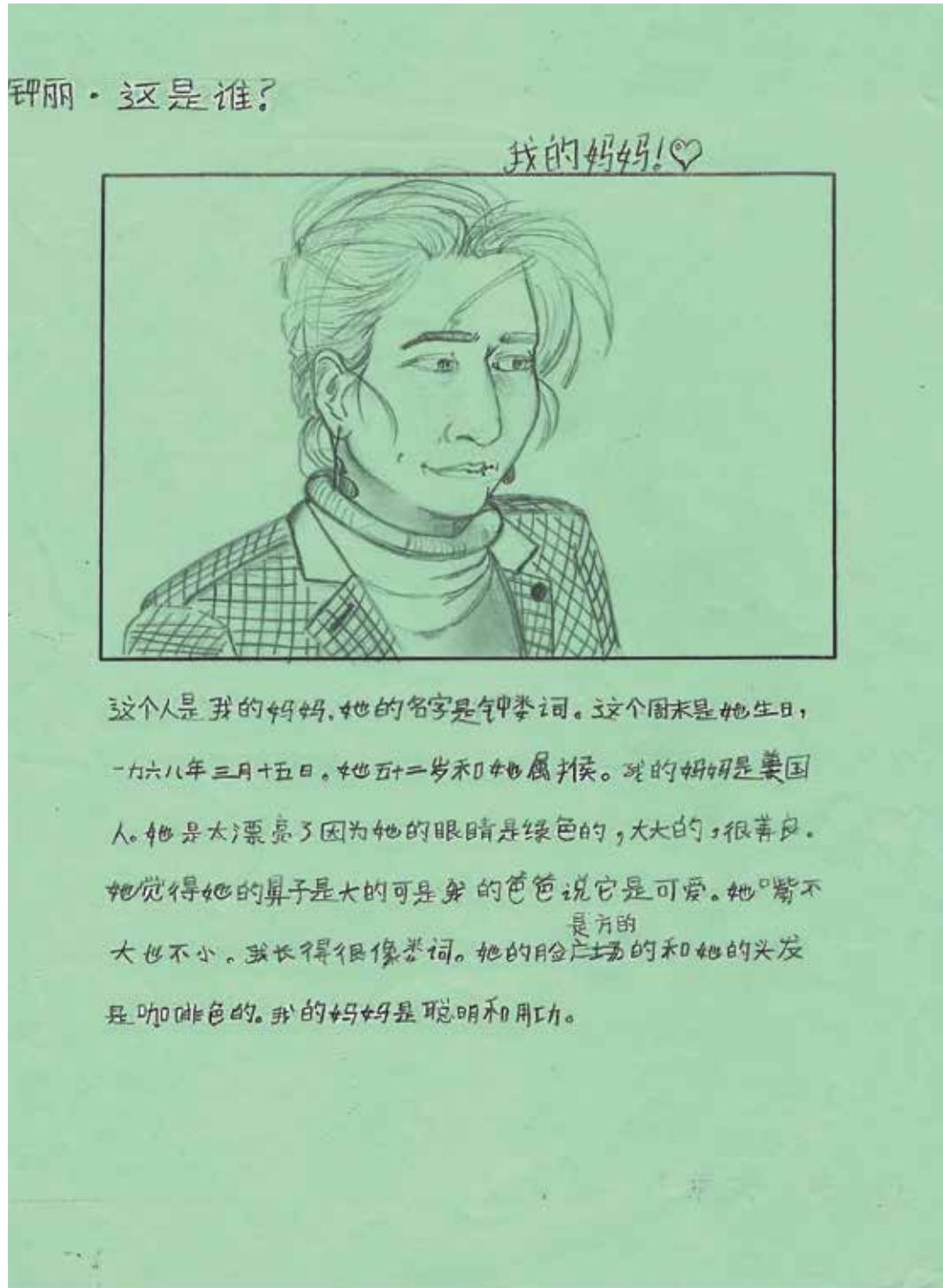


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# WHO IS THIS?

by Alexandra Jana Jones



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# EL CAMPESINO

by Tiana Andrews

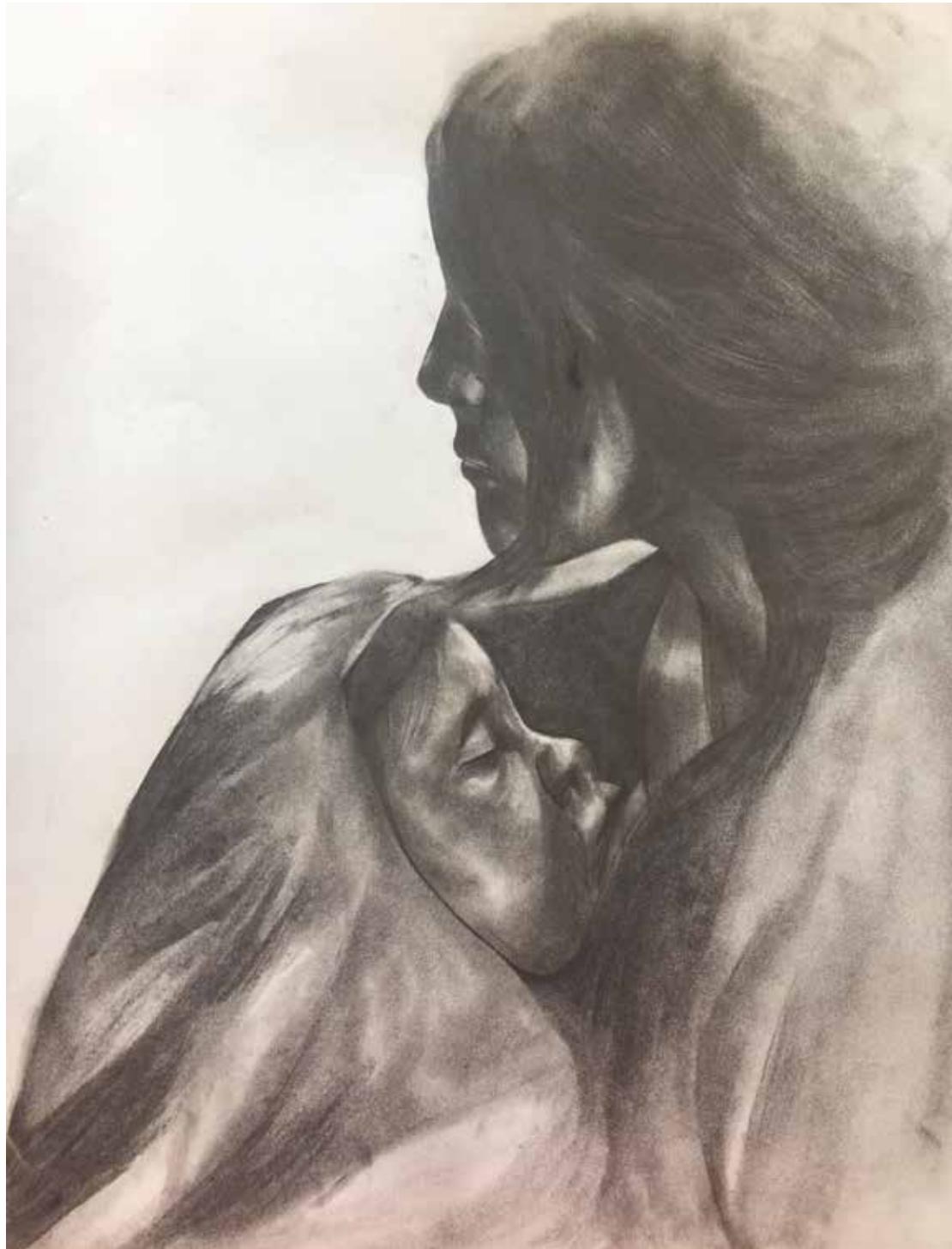


Students from Chinese 112 had to write a portrait of someone using the material learned during class (Spring 2020).

Students from Spanish 112 had to produce cultural presentations. Tiana drew a painting inspired by the famous Mexican muralist Diego Rivera (Summer 2020).

# AMOR DE MADRE

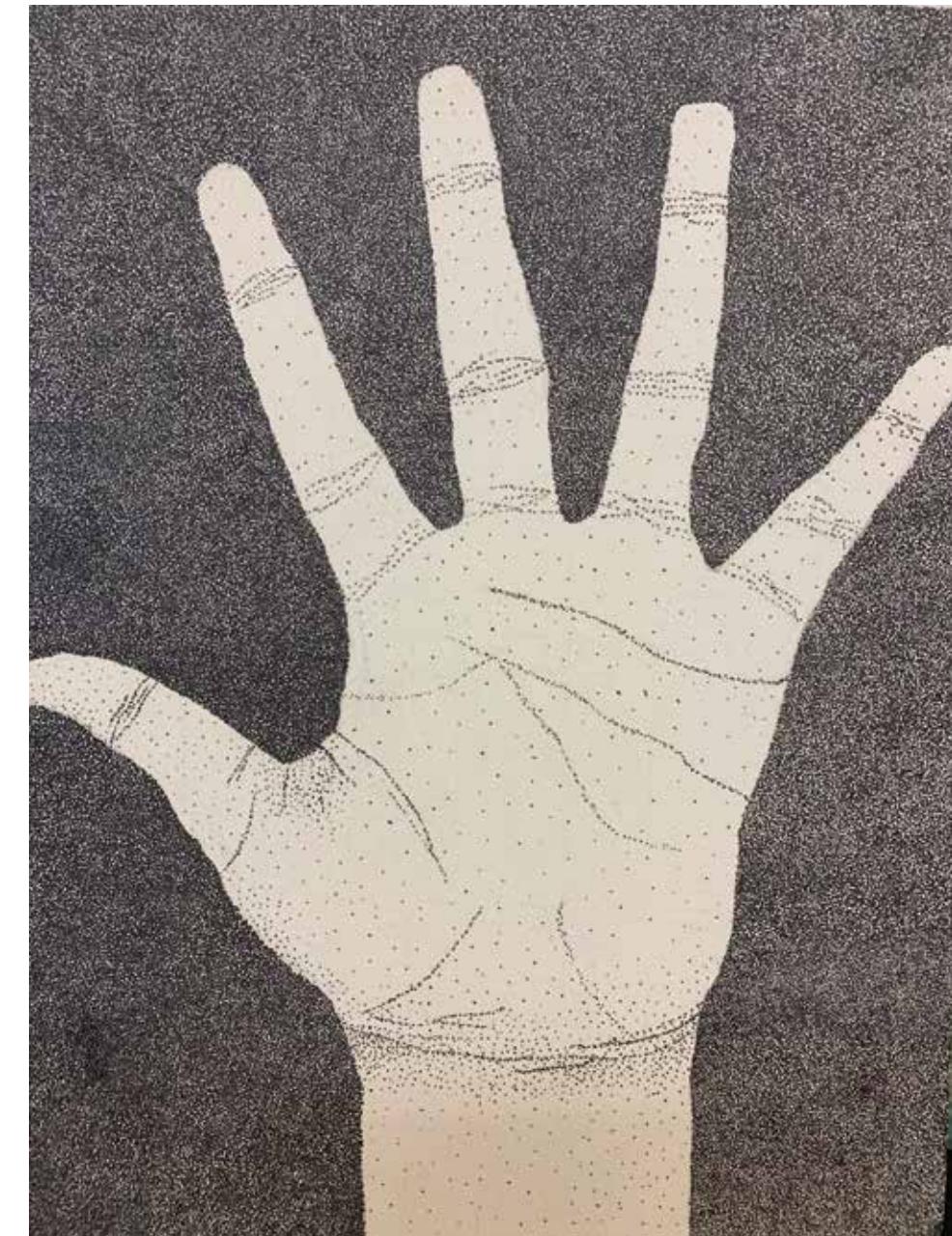
by Mallory Sammons



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# LA MANO DE PAZ

by Sidney Roe



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Students from Spanish 310 had to produce cultural presentations. Mallory drew a mother with her child, inspired in a poem entitled "Soneto XVIII" written by Chilean author Pablo Neruda (Spring 2019).

Students from Spanish 252 had to produce cultural presentations. Sidney, inspired by a peace movement that happened in Spain on 2004, drew a hand raised in protest using pointillism (Fall 2019).

# EL CHUPACABRAS

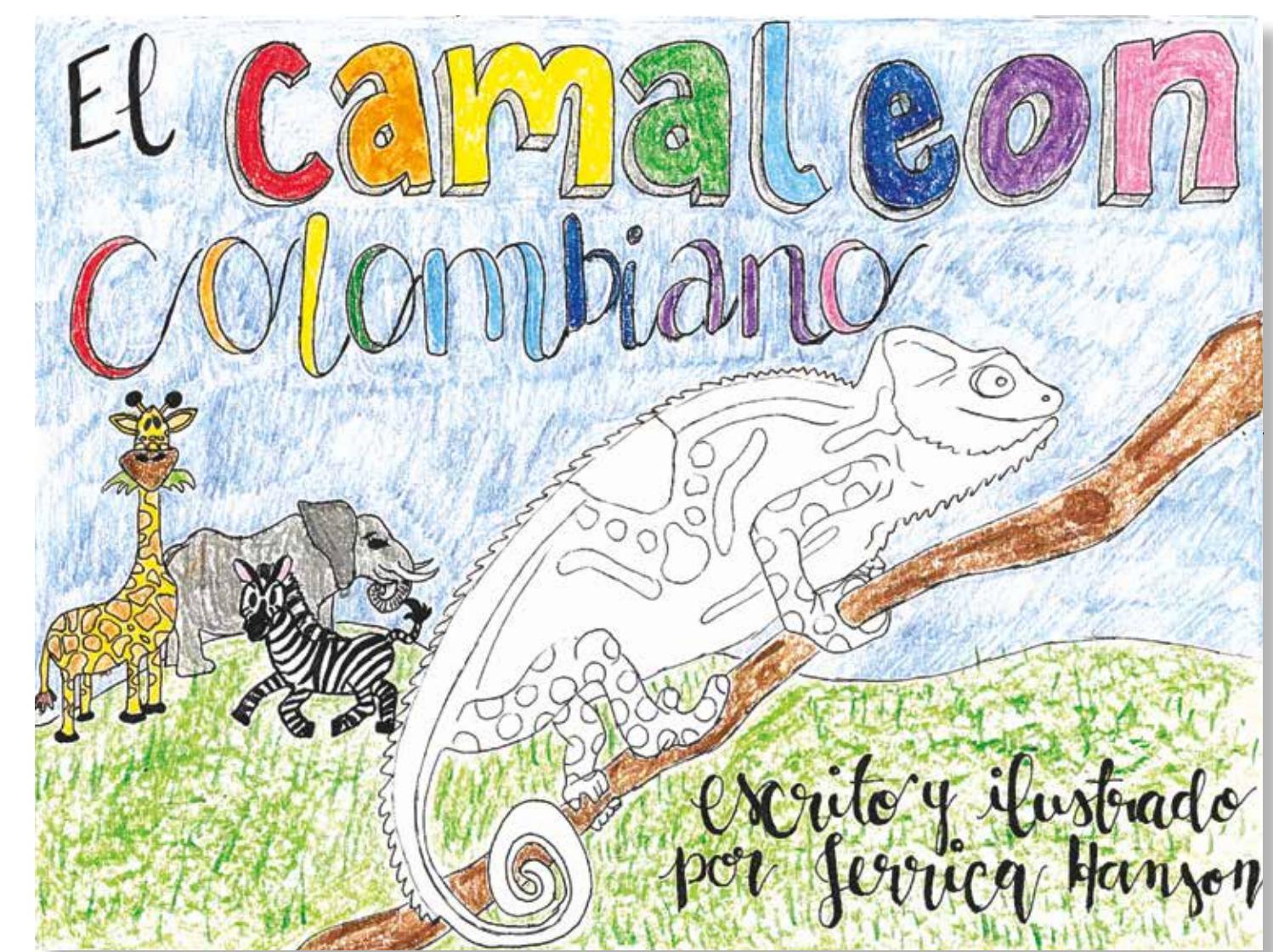
by Mia Spinola



Students from Spanish 111 had to produce cultural presentations. Mia drew a painting inspired in the folkloric Latin-American tale "El Chupacabra" (Fall 2019).

# EL CAMALEON COLOMBIANO

by Jerrica Hanson



Students from Spanish 385 had to imagine, design and illustrate the cover of their own picture book. Jerrica drew a chameleon that migrates from Colombia to Africa. This represents a metaphor of Latin Americans who immigrate to the United States (Summer 2020).

# COMO EL AGUA

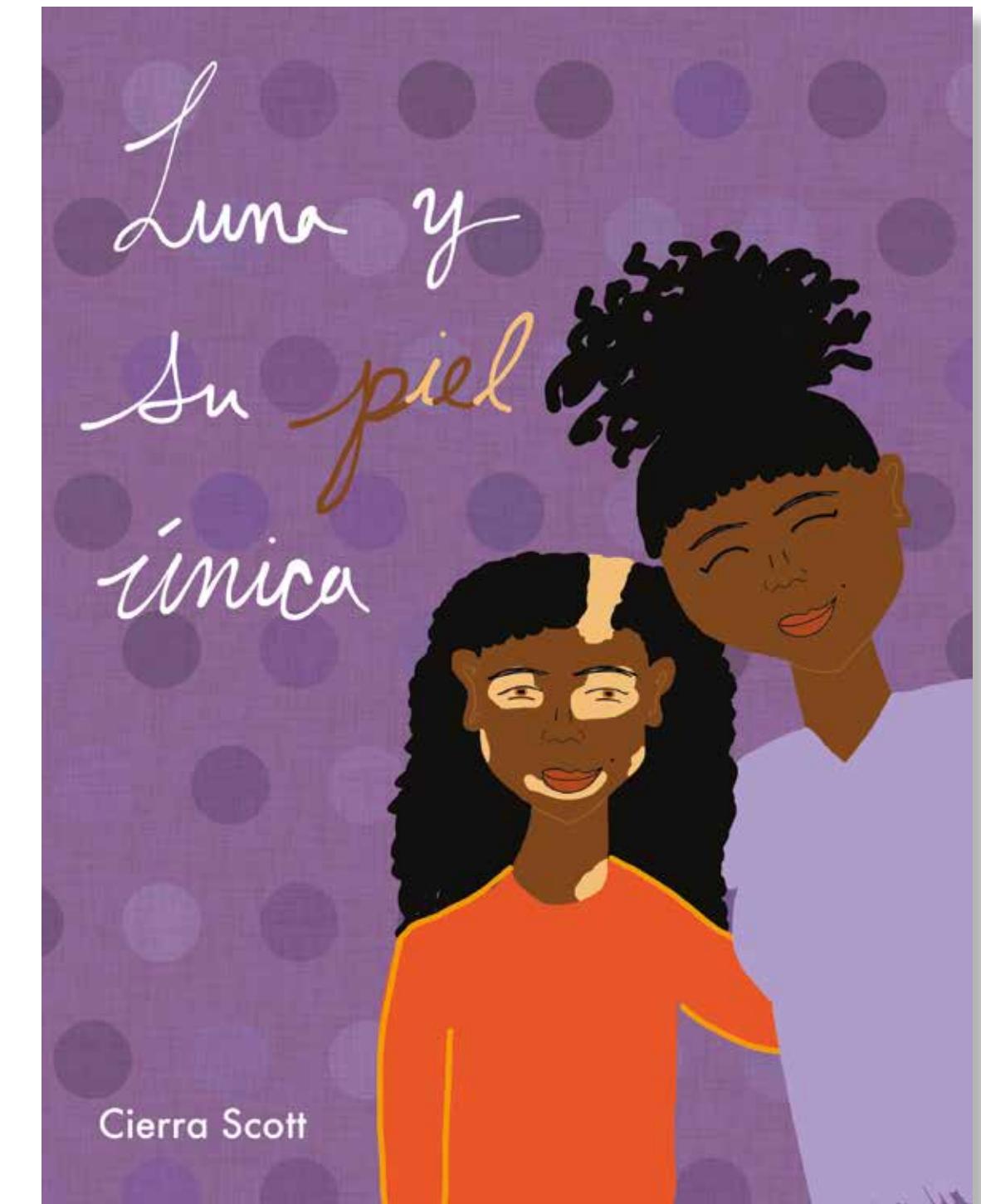
by Karen Wessells



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# LUNA Y SU PIEL

by Cierra Scott



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Students from Spanish 385 had to imagine, design and illustrate the cover of their own picture book (Summer 2020).

Students from Spanish 385 had to imagine, design and illustrate the cover of their own picture book.

Cierra Scott represents a girl with vitiligo to teach children the importance to love themselves as they are (Summer 2020).

# LOS ARTISTAS EN SUS ESTILOS

by Anna Peerbolte

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# LA VIDA DESPUÉS DEL ARTE

by Chase George

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Students from Spanish 252 had to produce cultural presentations. They had to express themselves artistically. Anna drew Diego Velazquez, Joaquin Sorolla, Juan Gris, and Pablo Picasso "in their own styles" (Fall 2019).

Students from Spanish 385 had to imagine, design and illustrate the cover of their own picture book. Chase drew herself and Frida (Summer 2019).

VOX POPULI



WRITING

# La barra de jabón

by Tucker Buffington

Usualmente solo lo veo una vez al día. A veces lo veo por la mañana, a veces por la noche. Otros días ni siquiera se acerca. No sé su nombre, solo sé cómo se ve, cómo suena y cómo se siente. También sé que le encanta cantar, aunque no es el mejor cantante del mundo. Sin embargo, no le importa cuando está a mi alrededor, canta tan alto y tan orgulloso como puede. Nuestro tiempo juntos solo dura unos minutos. Si tengo suerte, se quedará media hora.

Es un momento agrio dulce cuando finalmente decide interactuar conmigo. Disfruto nuestro tiempo juntos porque sé que lo estoy ayudando a convertirse en un hombre mejor. Cuando termina conmigo, siempre está limpio y fresco. Sin embargo, cada vez que lo veo, comienzo a desaparecer más y más. Él me usa, y me siento cada vez más pequeña. Hay ocasiones en las que me asusta tanto desaparecer para siempre que salto de su mano al piso de abajo. Él trata de atraparme y levantarme, pero yo me deslizo y me deslizo para intentar escapar de él. Aunque siempre me recoge de nuevo. No me importa. Me recuerdo a mí misma que estoy haciendo lo que se supone que debo hacer.

Este ciclo ha continuado por semanas ahora. Finalmente, me he vuelto tan pequeña y delgada que apenas puedo levantarme. Puedo sentir que mi tiempo con él llega a su fin. Cuando abre el agua, comienzo a aceptar mi destino. Después de que él me levanta y sienta el agua desde arriba, me da un último golpe en el pecho antes de dejarme caer al piso de la ducha. Esto es, mi tiempo con él ha terminado. Adiós señor. Espero haberte servido bien. Le doy una última mirada antes de que el agua me arroje al desagüe.

# Latin Phrases Used Today

by Imani Jones

## *E pluribus unum*

Meaning of Each Word

E= out of

Pluribus= many

Unum= one

Parts of Speech for Each Word

E= preposition, always takes the ablative case (object of the preposition)

Pluribus= ablative case, it is the object of the preposition

Unum= nominative case, it is the subject of the sentence

Translation and Where it is Used/Found

*E pluribus unum*= one out of many

It is found on the U.S dollar bill and coins. In that context, the dollar and the coins are a part out of our entire currency, which is why that phrase is imprinted.

## *Subpoena*

Meaning of Each Word

Sub= under

Poena= penalty

Translation and Where it is Used/Found

*Subpoena*= under penalty or punishment

*Subpoena* is used in the court system. It is a court-ordered that requires you do something. If failure to comply, the person is subject to penalties, which is where the under penalty implies towards.

## *Quid pro quo*

Meaning for Each Word

Quid= something

Pro= for

Quo= something

Parts of Speech for Each Word

Quid= nominative case, the subject of the sentence

Pro= preposition, always takes the ablative cases (object of the preposition)

Quo= ablative case, the object of the proposition

Translation and Where it is Used/Found

*Quid pro quid*= something for something

Originally, this was phrase was used in medicine when substituting one medicine with another. Overtime, the context of the word changed to what we know today. *Quid pro quid* is closely related to the phrase an eye for an eye however, it does not have to causing harm to someone. If you do something to someone, whether it is good or bad, that person will do the same to you in return for you advantage.

# Traumwäscherie

by Cecelia Grace Poehlman



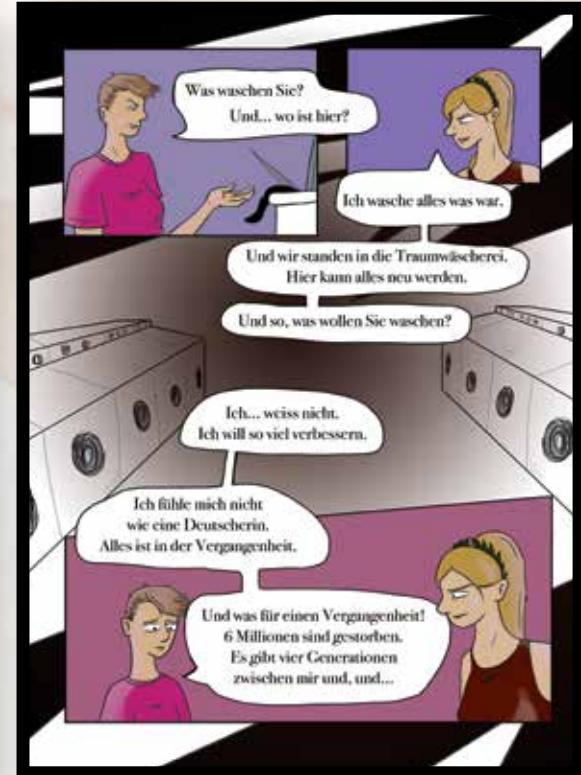
The German national anthem you may have heard is only the second verse. Because the very first line, "Deutschland, Deutschland, über alles," translates to "Germany, Germany, over everything," the first verse is omitted after WWII.



Stolpersteine are a project begun by Gunter Demnig to commemorate those who died in the Holocaust. They are small brass-plated blocks embedded in the street in front of the last place of residence or the workplace of those who died. The name translates to "stumbling stone." Though the project began in 1992, the nature of such a memorial still provokes controversy.



Germania is the female personification of Germany, often found in Romantic Era (1800-1890) art. She is one of several symbols for Germany. The American cognate would probably be Columbia or Lady Liberty.



"Traumwäscherie" is a word that may not have been coined, but was used to great effect, by Ingeborg Bachmann in her poem "Reklame," or "Advertisements." It means "the laundromat of dreams."



Monika Maron's Pawels Briefe is excellent further reading if ways of handling inherited guilt interest you.



Throughout this dialogue, Germania and the woman use "Sie," the formal you, to refer to each other English used to have this construction (see "you" vs. "thee/thou") but modern English does not have an equivalent. In German, until told "Sie kann 'du' zu mir sagen," it is expected that two people will use the formal you with each other in conversation.

# Why I Wanted To Learn Chinese

by Sophia Yang Guo

Name: 郭采娴

我上的大学有要求我们学外语。我刚开始无法决定，我该学西班牙语还是学中文。因为中文是我的母语，所以我才打算学中文了。我中文讲得好，不过写和读得不好。在我的中文班里，有的同学跟我一样已经会中文，有的同学只是想学习这个语言。我上这个班之前，我不觉得学中文很简单。我上这个课以后，发现实际上中文没那么难。我尽可能有时间的时候，我会复习中文。即使有一些字很难，我复习以后也记得了。我很重视我在这个班学到的一切。我的中文水平不但进步了，我还学到很多有用的词。我唯一非常遗憾的事情就是以后没有这样子的机会在学中文了。

# Der Passagier im Bus

by Jenna Sanders

(Basiert auf dem Kurzfilm Schwarzfahrer)

This piece is about a short film titled *Schwarzfahrer*. The film features an outwardly racist woman who is saying racist things on a bus. The people around her sit and listen silently. This is written from the point of view of one of those passengers who is witnessing this happen.

Ich konnte mir nicht vorstellen, so rassistisch wie die Alte zu sein. Sie, eine alte weiße Frau, ist teils rassistisch teils unwissend gewesen. Außerdem war ich nervös, weil ich keinen Fahrschein hatte, den ich haben musste. Wenn sie nur leise geworden wäre! Es ist mir schwer gefallen, nichts zu sagen. Leider hatte ich keinen Fahrschein, also wollte ich keine Unruhe machen. Ich wollte, dass der Junge, der neben der Alten war, etwas gesagt hat. Die Alte, die so unheimlich war, hat zwar süß ausgesehen aber rassistische Kommentare gesagt. Ich habe gehofft, dass der Junge, der bei der Alten saß, etwas tätte. Wenn ich nur einen Fahrschein gehabt hätte, wäre ich nicht so nervös gewesen. Dann war der Kontrolleur, der die Fahrscheine überprüft, gekommen, und ich wusste nicht was ich machen sollte. Ich wollte laufen, aber ich konnte nicht. Ich habe mich krank gefühlt. Dann etwas ist passiert. Es war teils Wahnsinnung teils unerwartet. Ich habe gedacht, dass der Junge verrückt ist. Wenn ich nur so mutig wäre! Er hat den Fahrschein gegessen, der der Alten gehört. Nach der Busfahrt hatte ich dem Jungen ein Buch gegeben, eine historisches Buch. Ich denke, dass es ihm helfen würde. Danach bin ich zur Arbeit gegangen. Es war doch ein normaler Tag!

# Erlkönig Skit

by Shailey Shah and David Dyer

Explanation of the work By David Dyer

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I was in German 252: Intermediate German II. Dr. Weintraut would give us scenes to act out with partners that he would pick for us. The groups would then get together after class and write a script to act it out in the next class. The scene that he gave me and my partner, Shailey Shah, was about a poem/picture called *Erlkoenig* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe that we looked at and interpreted and made up different theories about what happened. The picture showed a father and son riding a horse through a scaring looking forest. It also depicted the father and son being chased by the Erlkoenig and his three daughters. This project's main point was to show that we understand how to use the grammatical structures that we have learned and become more comfortable with speaking the language. Shailey's part was that she is the father worried about his dead son. Most of the class had assumed that the son was killed at the end of the poem, and either Erlkoenig or the father killed him. My part was a police officer asking the father what had happened and why they were in the forest late in the night.

## Szenen

**Der Vater:** Sie haben vor wenigen Stunden den Totenschein für Ihren Sohn ausgefüllt. Sie sitzen nun zu Hause. Auf einmal klopft es an die Tür: ein Polizist steht vorm Haus.

**Der Polizist:** Die Geschichte von Erlkönig und totem Kind haben Sie schon gehört, aber Sie glauben es dem Vater nicht ganz. Sie wollen sich nun besser informieren über den seltsamen Tod. Klopfen Sie an die Tür des Hauses, wo der Vater wohnt

**Der Vater:** (auf dem Sofa) Oh nein, was passierte hier? Mein Sohn ist tot... Mein Sohn ist tot...WARUM? MEIN SOHN? Nein, das ist nicht wirklich! Nur fünf Stunden vorher war Ich mit ihm. Wir ritten in dem Wald und ich sprach mit ihm. Was kann ich machen?

**Polizei:** \*klop klop\* Hallo Herr Unglück, das ist die Polizei. Öffnen Sie die Tür, bitte.

**Der Vater:** Warum soll ich die Tür öffnen?

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**Polizei:** Weil ich ein Formular habe! Sie müssen!

**Der Vater:** Bitte erklären Sie, warum ich die Tür öffnen muss. Mein Sohn ist tot und ich bin traurig.

**Polizei:** Herr Unglück, öffnen Sie die Tür, bitte. Ich weiß, dass Ihr Kind tot ist. Ich habe ein paar Fragen nach Ihrem Sohn. Kann ich in Ihr Hause kommen?

**Der Vater:** Ja, Bitte kommen Sie. Ich werde alles erklären.

**Polizei:** Danke. (Er kam in das Hause und saß auf dem Sofa mit Herrn Unglück)

**Der Vater:** Ich und mein Sohn gingen durch den Wald. Als er sagte, er habe Erlkönig gesehen, einen fruchtbaren Geist. Ich hielt ihn fest und wir ritten durch den Wald. Ich habe ihm geholfen und wir haben den Wald verlassen. Dann war er tot. Er wurde vom Erlkönig ergriffen. Sein Geist tanzt mit Erlkönigs Töchtern.

**Polizei:** WAS? Das ist unmöglich! Sie haben Ihren Sohn getötet!

**Der Vater:** Nein! Sie haben mir nicht zugehört!

**Polizei:** Sie sind schuldig. Ich muss Sie zu dem Gefängnis bringen!

Der Vater: Nein, bitte! Ich machte nichts! Ich liebe meinen Sohn! Ein Geist, der Erlkönig hat meinen Sohn getötet!

Polizei: Ich kann nicht mir vorstellen, dass ein Geist spricht! Wie kann ein Geist Ihren Sohn töten? (Er kommt an Herr Unglück und nimmt seine Hände) Kommen Sie mit mir!

Der Vater: NEIN!!! BITTE!!! Ich bin unschuldig!! (Er weinte)

Zwei Tage Später...

In der Zeitung war ein Artikel betitelt "Der Polizei starb nach einem Besuche mit Herrn Unglück, der für den Tod seines Sohns angeschuldigt war."

VOX POPULI



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CLUBS & TRIPS

# ECUADOR TRIP

Ecuador, 2017



Mercer on Mission in Zaruma, Ecuador during summer 2017. Spanish students joined students in economics, chemistry, engineering, and public health on projects designed to collaborate with the local communities regarding different economic and social challenges. Led by Dr. Adam Kiefer, Dr. Clara Mengolini, and Dr. Antonio Saravia. (Photos courtesy Dr. Mengolini)



Up left, Dr. Mengolini collecting coffee. Up right, Business and Spanish students visited the coffee plantations. Up, Dr. Kiefer with Chemistry students.



View of Zaruma city.

# FRANCE TRIP

France, 2020



Study abroad in Normandy, France during spring 2020. Led by Dr. Katherine A. Roseau.  
(Photos courtesy Dr. Roseau)



Up left, Cadet James Smith gives battle analysis at Utah Beach. Up, cadets help Dr. Roseau find information about her grandfather as they look through his photos from WWII. Left, students visiting Mont Saint Michel.

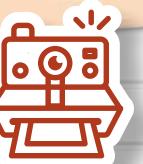
# PUERTO RICO TRIP

Puerto Rico, 2020



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Study abroad in San Juan, Puerto Rico during spring break 2020. Students identified and analyzed Puerto Rican health issues through a Service Learning project. Led by Dr. José Pino.  
(Photos courtesy Dr. Pino)



Students exploring San Juan, P.R.



Right, students learning how to dance salsa. Left, students exploring San Juan, P.R.

# CUBA TRIP

Cuba, 2019



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Students exploring the city.

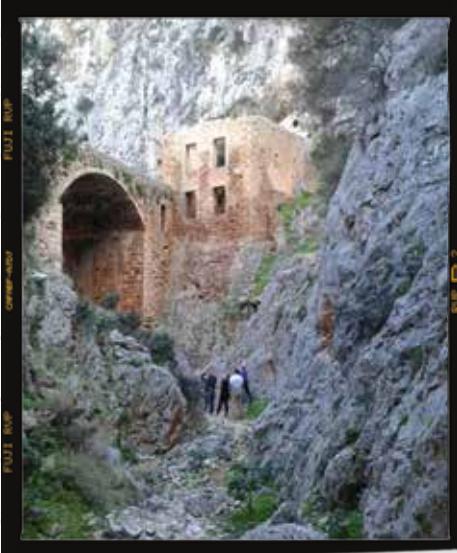


Community service at Santovenia nursing home.

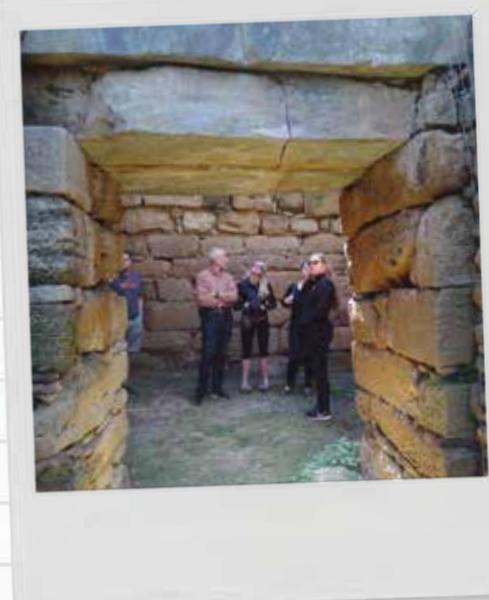
Study abroad in Havana, Cuba during spring break 2019. Students identified and analyzed Cuban health issues through a Service Learning project. Led by Dr. José Pino and Dr. Lydia Masanet.  
(Photos courtesy Dr. Pino)

# CRETE TRIP

Greece, 2017



Study Abroad in Crete, Greece during spring Break 2017. Led by Dr. Achim Kopp and Dr. Clara Mengolini.  
(Photos courtesy Dr. Achim)



Up, Hiking in the ravine below Katholika Monastery on the Akrotiri Peninsula on Crete, Greece. Down left, Dr Kopp explaining a Late Minoan chamber tomb near Maleme, Crete. Down right, Latin major Stephanie Duffy entering the dromos of a Minoan tomb at the necropolis of Ameni, Crete Grece.



# SICILY TRIP

Italy, 2018



Study Abroad in Sicily, Italy during Spring Break 2018. Led by Dr. Achim Kopp and Dr. Fernando Palacios.  
(Photos courtesy Dr. Achim)



Left, Walking across the agora of the ancient city of Morgantina with the well-preserved steps of the ekkllesiasterion. Right, Dr. Kopp with Mercer students Zach Zeisler, Zain Ismail, Will Darragh, and Shawn McCarthy in front of the Doric temple at Segesta, one of the best preserved Greek temples on the island of Sicily.



Up left, Latin major Zach Zeisler explaining the remains of the monumental Temple F possibly dedicated to Aphrodite at Selinunte, Sicily. Up, Dr Kopp speaking to the group on the site of Agrigento, Sicily.

# SPANISH TABLE TALK

2019-2020



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Up left, students practicing Spanish outside of the classroom. Up right, students playing games in Spanish. Down, first table talk meeting.

# SPANISH CLUB

2019-2020



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Celebration of the Day of the Dead



# LATIN CLUB

Club 2019–2020



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Up, Roman Gingerbread House Making. Right, Latin Club participating at the Bear Fair 2019. Down, The Latin Club held officer elections and planned club events for the first meeting.



# FRENCH CLUB

Club 2019–2020



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Students at Café Bon.

VOX POPULI



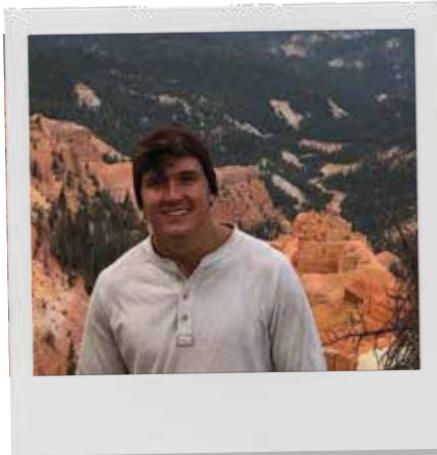
INTERVIEWS

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MASON THORNTON

# New Culture, New Mindset

By Madeline Smith, Gabby Tibbets, & Lea Dulcio

Mason Thornton graduated from Mercer in 2020 and received the opportunity to work with the Peace Corps working in Latin America to create sustainable medical facilities through training. Mason's experience in the foreign language department along with inspiration from his grandfather's medical missions led him to apply for the Peace Corps opportunity. He emphasized that learning a language provides many opportunities to learn about new cultures and explore the world in a deeper way.



**"Knowing another language is such a door opener to a totally different culture and a totally different mindset."**

**Q:** "How do you use Spanish now?"

**A:** "The way I always plan on using it is to better connect with people. When I do become a doctor, I would really like to use it while practicing, not only to expand my patient base, but also [for medical mission trips]."

**Q:** "What are you most excited about for your Peace Corps deployment?"

**A:** "Genuinely I'm a huge people person. I love connecting with people and I really just can't wait to meet some of the people that I'm going to meet."

**Q:** "If there was a student coming to Mercer that was sort of unsure if they wanted to do... what sort of advice would you give them?"

**A:** "I would just ask how they feel about being connected with the world in a certain way. By 2050... there's going to be more Spanish speakers than English speakers in America... Something where you can easily build yourself up an advantage. But then it's also how much do you really want to limit yourself if you do want to travel? Knowing another language is such a door opener to a totally different culture in a totally different mindset."

Our interview with Mr. Thornton was an insightful conversation. Hopefully his viewpoint inspires more Mercer students to consider doing Peace Corps and tap into the opportunities that Mercer has to offer.

## TALKING TO THE FOUNDER &amp; CEO OF ZBEANS

# The Fruition of ZBeans

By Madeline Smith, Gabby Tibbets, & Lea Dulcio

Shane Buerster is a Mercer alumni and the founder of Z-Beans coffee, graduating in 2018 with a marketing and Spanish major. Over the course of his junior and senior year, Shane worked with farmers in Ecuador to start his coffee brand Z-beans with the goal of creating sustainable jobs and economic mobility for the farmers of Zaruma, Ecuador. The Z-Beans coffee shop is located in Mercer Village and Shane hopes to expand to other locations and work with more farmers in the future. In this interview, Shane discusses how foreign language has helped build his business and communicate with business partners from many different backgrounds.



**"In whatever you endeavor in life, try and build a team around you."**

**Q:** Where does the name "Z Beans" actually come from?

**A:** So Z stands for Zaruma. That's where we took that first original Mercer mission trip.

**Q:** How do you use Spanish now?

**A:** Well I use it every single day to converse with farmers- Arturo. We talk via Whatsapp, we send texts. So really, just using it in everyday life. It's one of those things I'm constantly able to improve. If you want to become really good at it, I encourage you to find a way to implement it within your life.

**Q:** How has the foreign language department at Mercer helped you?

**A:** I have personal relationships with each of them (Dra. Mengolini, Dr. Pino, Dr. Palacios, Dra. Masanet). Before the coronavirus situation happened we had planned a Mercer on Mission with Z Beans chocolate and Dr. Pino was going to be the professor of record. I have good relationships with all of them. I'm very grateful

**Q:** You're doing more than the fair trade system? (Even though Z Beans does not pay for the expensive "Fair Trade" certification)

**A:** Yeah. And so that's what's good about the coffee shops, is they allow you to tell your own story. You know, if you're your own retailer, you can tell your own story.

**Q:** At Mercer, everyone majors in "changing the world," right? So how are you changing the world, Mr. Shane?

**A:** Individually, I'm not, you know, I'm not helping the farmers of Ecuador. It really takes an entire team, but I think if you know a great way for you to start to change the world is to certainly have a vision that could create shared values for whatever the "vision" is. You don't have to build a business. With everyone that you're touching, allow them to be within the production of the thing that you're chasing.

Our interview with Mr. Buerster was inspiring. It was a joy to gain insight on makings and maker of Z Beans. Now we know some more about how this revolutionary business began.

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Thank you Mercer University for all you do for your students.

Clara Mengolini and Libertad Aranza  
Vox Populi visionaries and founders

March 2021

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DANKE SCHÖN

MERCI BEAUCOUP

MULTAS GRATIAS

MUCHAS GRACIAS

謝 謝

