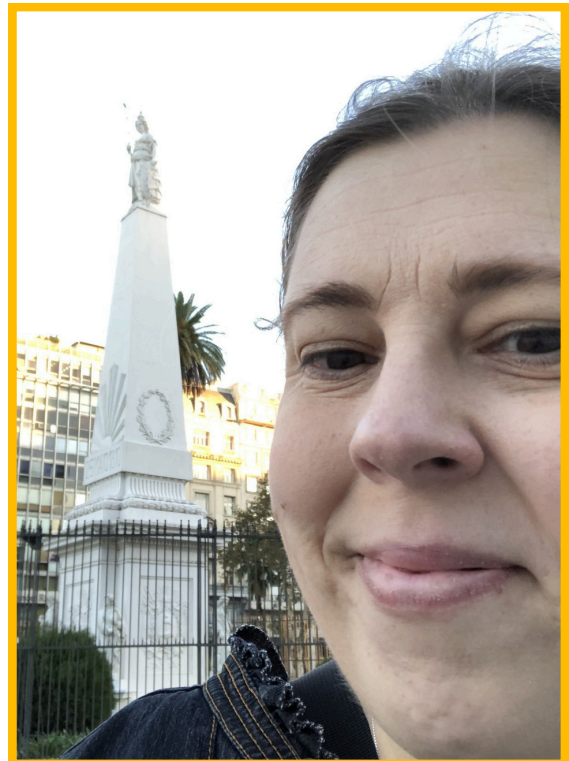


# iCharlemos!

## We're looking forward to a wonderful spring semester!

In this newsletter, we've included spotlights of faculty (Dr. Laura Callahan), two of our current courses (Spanish 591 and 680), and more!

Hi! My name is Laura Callahan, and I am a lecturer in Spanish at the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Towson University. I grew up in a little town in central Ohio with five amazing siblings. I'm an aunt to six awesome tiny humans, and cat mom to an adorable but mischievous tuxedo kitty named Miss Ellie, who loves to join me on Zoom! My research focuses on identity and collective memory in documentary films from Latin America as well as memory reconstruction in the frame of human rights. **Here I am in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the Plaza de Mayo!**



I am so excited to be a part of the Professional Spanish Graduate Certificate this semester! **My class, Hispanic Cultures in the Media, looks at how Hispanic and Latino individuals and cultures are represented in a variety of different media, from television to film to podcasts, TedTalks, and even video games.** We are also considering how other countries perceive their own cultures and how we define ourselves. I have a great group of students this semester and I'm looking forward to teaching this class to future certificate students, too!

Saludos,  
Dr. Callahan

# The People of Professional Spanish:

## Allison Vanisko

Hello! My name is Allison Vanisko. I am one of the graduate assistants for the Professional Certificate in Spanish and a first year Doctor of Audiology Student. I did my undergraduate degree at Towson where I earned a B.A in Spanish with a minor in linguistics and a B.S. in speech-language pathology and audiology! Some of my favorite Spanish classes included Spanish Phonetics, the History of Spain, and Advanced Spanish Grammar. I couldn't imagine not being involved with the Spanish department here at TU, so I'm thrilled to serve as a graduate assistant for the department.

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*Photos of traditional dancers (top) and Inca ruins (bottom) taken in Ecuador during undergraduate study abroad minimester 2025*

## Study Abroad Update

Dr. Ebacher spent winter break in Ecuador leading a study abroad trip. The students stayed with families, learned about weaving the misnamed Panama hat, made pottery and Ecuadorian meals, attended dance class, visited museums and so much more.

Dr. Ebacher and the students visited Quito, the equator, the largest indigenous market in Otavalo, and explored the beautiful El Cajas National Parks.

They also visited important Indigenous sites and spoke to leaders of the Indigenous community. Look for information on the graduate study abroad in Ecuador summer 2026 in our next newsletter!

## TU Survival Guide: Student Support & Outreach (SOS)

Need some support this semester? SOS has your back! They work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment to promote student health and well-being, self-advocacy, and resilience, guiding students to live self-directed lives and reach their goals. **Fill out the SOS form to speak to a member of the team to get what you need.**

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### Inside the Classroom: Spanish 591



**Dr. Martínez Ibarra**

"In SPAN 591 we learn how Spanish is used outside the classroom, in both formal and casual contexts of interaction. We examine the communities of speakers that use Spanish in different parts of the world, and we reflect on the social value varieties of Spanish carry. An important part of this course is learning about the use of Spanish in the US and the contact with English."

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If you'd like to be featured or have an idea for a feature story (or want to introduce us to your pet) **please let us know by filling out this form!**

Don't forget that Dr. Ebacher is your advisor and would love to hear from you. **Email her at [cebacher@towson.edu](mailto:cebacher@towson.edu) with questions, concerns or just to say "hola".**

**The Graduate Certificate in  
Professional Spanish Team**