

ELON UNIVERSITY



**WORLD  
LANGUAGES  
AND  
CULTURES**

**FALL  
2022**

**NEWSLETTER**

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# TASTING TRADITION: ITALIAN CUISINE AND LITERATURE

*Corbin Skaff*

As Chef Myles expertly sizzles butter in the large pan on the stove, the mouth-watering aroma fills the classroom. He carefully explains the technique for toasting the rice in the butter, creating a perfect base for the delicious risotto dish that the students will soon be creating.

The focus of “Italian Cuisine and Literature,” a course led by Associate Professor of Italian and Chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures, Dr. Essary, is not only on creating traditional Italian cuisine, but also on the cultural portrayal of Italian food in literature, films, and other popular outlets. Chef Myles, Chef de Cuisine for Elon Dining, takes the time to discuss the origins of the ingredients they are using and how many of them are locally sourced to support the local economy.

The students, many of whom have spent a semester abroad in Italy, eagerly watch as Chef Myles demonstrates how to prepare the burrata, a soft, melty cheese that is a favorite among Italian food lovers. They listen intently as he describes the different flavors and textures of the capocollo, a type of Italian cured meat, and how it can be used in a variety of dishes.



Next up is the cannoli, a classic Italian dessert that is sure to delight the taste buds. Chef Myles carefully shows the students how to fill the crispy, fried shells with a rich, sweet ricotta filling and how to top them with an array of delicious toppings such as chocolate chips, pistachios, and candied fruit.



As the students take their turn preparing the risotto and cannoli dishes, the classroom is filled with the sounds of sizzling pans and the chatter of excited students reminiscing about the tastes they encountered while in Italy. Finally, the finished dishes are presented, and the students dig in with gusto, savoring the flavors of Italy that they have been able to recreate in their own classroom.



# Student Spotlight: Libby McKivigan

Mara Waskiewicz

As an international business major on the dual-degree track, junior Libby McKivigan will spend her last two years of study at the Neoma Business School in Reims, France. She completed her first two years of study at Elon and during that time, she was actively involved in the dual-degree program and in other programs around campus. She worked as a Peer Educator in Elon 1010 for first year dual-degree students, had a job at the library, and served as president of the Women in Sales Club.

McKivigan is able to participate in the dual-degree program in part because of the Lunsford-Ihrle Grant awarded to her by World Languages & Cultures. This grant honors Elon faculty emeriti Dr. Ernest Lunsford and Dr. Maureen Ihrle, and awards students up to \$500 that can be applied to airline tickets. McKivigan noted that plane tickets “have definitely been the most expensive part of studying abroad,” and the Lunsford-Ihrle Grant “was a blessing.”

McKivigan says she “technically started [studying French] in eighth grade...but didn’t feel like I had learned very much until I got to Elon.” Thanks to the variety of French courses offered at Elon, including business, phonetics, history, literature, and more, McKivigan was prepared for not only the courses taught in French when she arrived in Reims, but also the cultural differences and norms she has since encountered. Still, the transition hasn't always been easy, and McKivigan has learned some important lessons from living abroad.



On her first day in France, she learned the hard way that the French have drinkable yogurt containers that look deceptively similar to American milk cartons--a mistake she will never make again! And during her first grocery store trip, McKivigan found herself overwhelmed and questioning her choice to study abroad. “What am I doing?! What am I doing *here*?! What kind of unwarranted confidence...did I have to end up here?” However, with the help of new friends, other international students, and the dual-degree program, she has since grown to embrace her decision to study abroad.

*“It’s been the most incredible decision I’ve ever made in my life, and I wouldn’t change it for anything.”*

Since arriving in France, McKivigan has met international students from a multitude of countries including Germany, Brazil, Lithuania, Taiwan, Italy, Spain, Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine. A majority of her classes this semester have been taught in French, but with all the languages she hears spoken outside of the classroom, she believes that she and her classmates “could probably communicate with anyone in the entire world.”

For students studying abroad in the future, McKivigan advises, “My biggest thing is that you cannot be afraid to look dumb. Everyone around you already knows you’re American before you even open your mouth...be willing to ask people questions. You can’t let your ego get in the way of creating an educational experience.”



MCKIVIGAN (SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH FRIENDS AT LASER TAG



# Celebrating **DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS**

Lorenzo Tibolla

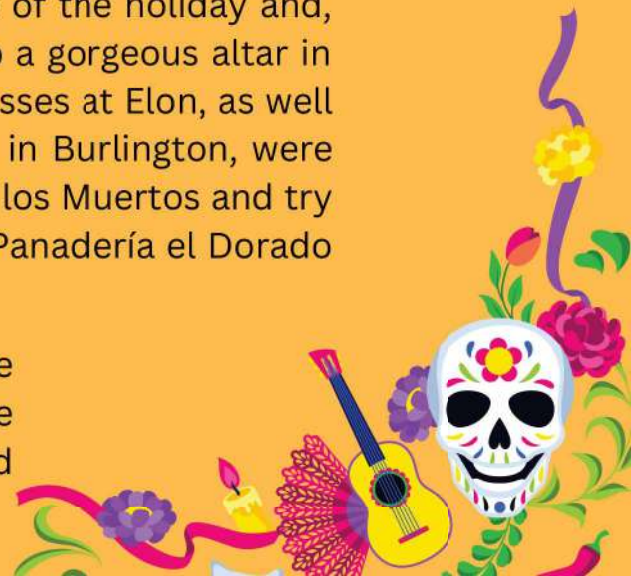
**Día de los Muertos** is a holiday originating from Mexico, but it is celebrated in numerous variations by many countries around the world. It takes place over two days, November 1st being **Día de los Angelitos** which celebrates the spirits of children, and November 2nd being **Día de los Difuntos**, which celebrates all souls who have passed. The holiday is meant to reunite the living and the dead and is not a moment of mourning but rather of celebration!

During the holiday, families create *ofrendas* (offerings) in the form of altars decorated with flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods of the one(s) being honored. All in all, **Día de los Muertos** is a holiday to remember loved ones by sharing a meal with them as one would when they were alive.



Members of the Day of the Dead committee--April Post, Mayte de Lama, MJ Larrazabal, Elizabeth Trexler, Ronnie LoCash, and Ricardo Mendoza--worked together to create activities for classes with the theme of the holiday and, alongside WLC and El Centro student assistants, set up a gorgeous altar in Carlton Commons. Over 200 students from Spanish classes at Elon, as well as 51 8th-grade students from Western Middle School in Burlington, were able to attend an interactive presentation about Día de los Muertos and try delicious *pan de muerto* (day of the dead bread) from Panadería el Dorado in Burlington.

The celebration and the events were held during the week that spanned from 10/31 to 11/4 and were supported by the Department of World Languages and Cultures and El Centro.





# Dumplings & Ice Cream:

## Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Opportunities for Students & Faculty

*Hayley Hawkins*

This semester, Dr. Binnan Gao-- Asian Studies Program Coordinator, Lecturer in Chinese, and Advisor to the Chinese Club--organized and participated in several exciting events to not only promote the Chinese Program and Asian Studies Minor but also to highlight the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of both the Department of World Languages and Cultures and Elon University as a whole.

### Dumplings Across Cultures

Early on in the semester, Chinese Club collaborated with the Latinx-Hispanic Union and the Italian Club to host a "Dumplings across Cultures" cooking event.

"Chinese club has envisioned having a multicultural dumpling event with other cultural organizations on campus for quite some time," said Hannah Chaput, President of the Chinese Club. In addition to preparing and enjoying some delicious food, the aim of the event was to highlight the interesting commonalities between each culture's traditions whilst still respecting their differences. Members from each cultural club gathered in McEwen on September 22nd and were assisted by Elon Dining staff to make traditional empanadas, ravioli, and dumplings from Hispanic, Italian, and Chinese cuisine. "In short," Hannah said, "the event was a success, and we cannot wait to have more like it in the future!"



## Global Citizens & Sundaes

In addition to "Dumplings Across Cultures," Dr. Binnan Gao also organized an ice cream social pre-registration event on October 26th to promote interdisciplinary minors. Along with faculty from the International & Global Studies major, the event was co-hosted by the Asian Studies, African and African American Studies, German Studies, Italian Studies, Latin-American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Peace and Conflict Studies minors.

During the event, students had the opportunity to enjoy an ice cream sundae buffet and mingle with faculty as they strolled around the room to each informational booth to learn about various minors and opportunities.

Dr. Gao stated that her intent for organizing the event was to attract interest in and promote pre-registration for the various interdisciplinary minors that many students would join if only they heard more about them.

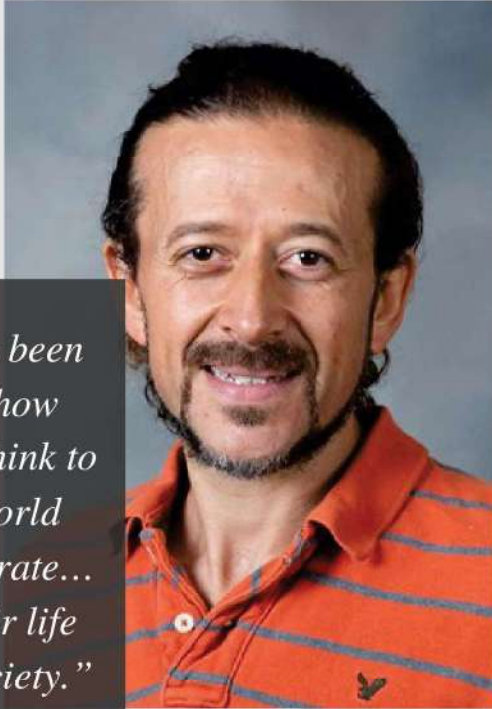
If you missed the ice cream and info, don't worry, the event is bound to happen again soon!



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## FEDERICO POUS

LEXI MULHOLLAND



*“I’ve always been interested in how people who think to change the world radically operate... They risk their life to change society.”*

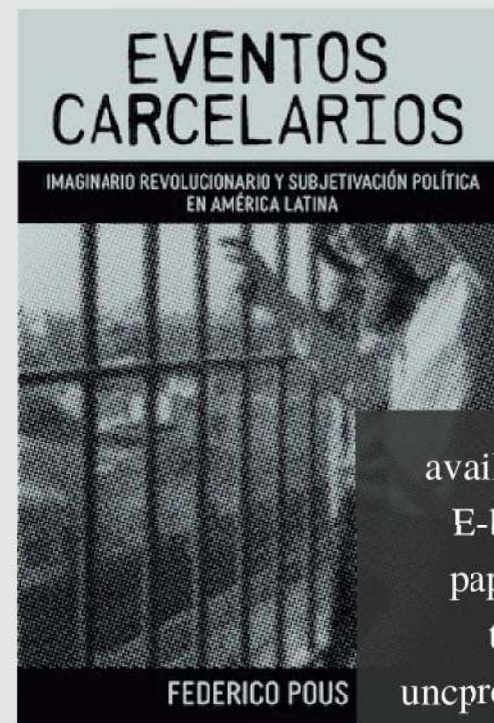
Dr. Federico Pous, Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, recently published a book titled *Eventos Carcelarios: Imaginario revolucionario y subjetivación política en América Latina*.

Dr. Pous uses the book to examine the experiences of political prisoners during the 1960s and 1970s under the dictatorships of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. This has long been an area of interest for Dr. Pous, beginning with his dissertation, followed by several years developing his book through continuous research, hard work, and commitment.

In addition to his own interest on the topic, Dr. Pous has a personal connection to the book. His father grew up in Uruguay before fleeing to Argentina, where he then married and had 3 children--Dr. Pous being the eldest. Living and growing up under a dictatorial regime had a significant impact on him as a child. *“Growing up with this idea that...we have this political idea and we shouldn’t share it because of the potential that the military people might come to get you.”*

When asked what he hopes for readers to take away from this book, he shared:

*“There is always opportunity for resistance...On one side, people criticize radical people a lot because they want to change right now, but it's important to understand that this is a product of society. Society creates its own radical people.”*



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E-book or  
paperback  
through  
[uncpress.org](http://uncpress.org)

# OKTOBERFEST

Brendan Antrosiglio

When Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig planned his marriage in 1810 he wanted to create the most spectacular celebration ever made in the history of Bavaria. The celebration included horse races, carnival events, and beer and wine tasting. Following its success, the decision to make this an annual event was made and in the following years it quickly spread to the rest of Germany. Although officially starting on September 17th and ending on October 3rd, this event became known as Oktoberfest, and is now the world's largest beer celebration.

This semester, Oktoberfest has spread to Carlton Commons, bringing all of the traditional food, games, and drinks--minus the beer of course! Students made chicken schnitzel, a traditional German dish consisting of fried breaded chicken breast topped with lemon juice. There were games galore, and even a surprise visit from Assistant Professor Dr. Kristin Lange's dog, Schnitzel, not to be confused with the food!



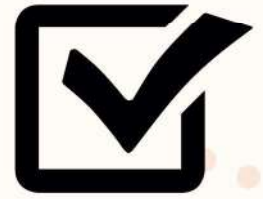
**The German Club has helped to create a sense of community within the German Program which many students appreciate. Ryan Sease, a sophomore studying history says, “I’m a big fan of all the German Program activities. Dr. Lange and the German Club do a great job of organizing all of the events.”**

**While these events are aimed at learning about German culture, the German Program has found that students from all over campus are enjoying them. Following the event, Dr. Lange stated, “I am blown away by the turnout, we had quite a lot of students who aren’t taking German show up.” Keep an eye out for more German Club events this spring, including a pretzel making event this February!**



# "I MitzVoted!"

*Hayley Hawkins*



Baked goods, lawn games, and “I voted” merchandise were scattered across the lawn of Hillel house on Election Day this semester as a celebration of Jewish students casting their votes. Members of Hillel, Hebrew Club, and other Elon University students gathered on November 8th to take part in the festivities. Students celebrated those that had already voted and directed people to the polls if they still needed to vote.

The “Celebrate Your Voice” event was organized by Elon’s MitzVote ambassador Stephanie Miljanic. MitzVote is a nonpartisan Hillel International project to encourage Jewish students to get out and make their voices heard. Stephanie explains that voting is important to her because it gives her a sense of power in making our society less anti-Semitic and more equal for all.

This semester, Stephanie also organized a highly successful Oneg MitzVote Shabbat where students had the opportunity to celebrate participating in elections and learn a Hebrew prayer for voting. “I learned recently that voting is a mitzvah,” Stephanie said, “and a mitzvah is a good deed done from religious duty!” The Oneg MitzVote Shabbat was held at the Sklut Hillel Center and students were treated to red, white, and blue themed Shabbat and bundt cakes.



# AN INTERVIEW WITH NATALIE TRICHE

ALO, COOKING,  
AND COMMUNITY

*Jasper Myers*



I sat down with Natalie Triche to discuss her role in the Arabic Language Organization, or the ALO, on campus. While Triche is officially listed as the Vice President on PhoenixConnect, she shared with me during our time together that the ALO functions on a communally-oriented basis; this is a theme that continued throughout her personal account of the Arabic Studies program at Elon.

“Cooking events are by far the highlight,” said Triche excitedly. At each cooking event, “Shereen teaches us how to cook a dish from the Arab world!” On November 16, 2022, the ALO hosted one of their famous cooking events. On this particular day, they made Maqluba, a stewed dish full of rice, vegetables, and/or meat. Prepared in layers in a large pot, the pot is then flipped upside down on a platter and served warm.

# "I AM INDEBTED TO HER FOR EVERYTHING"

-TRICHE ON DR. ELGAMAL

I also spoke with Triche about her recent application to the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), a scholarship given through the U.S. State Department to provide opportunities for U.S. students to live in a country whose national language is critical to U.S. foreign policy objectives. Triche listed Mandarin, Russian, and, of course, Arabic as examples of critical languages. Her application to the CLS was shaped in large part by Middle East Studies Coordinator and Lecturer in Arabic Dr. Shereen Elgamal, who has encouraged and nurtured Triche's proficiency in Arabic during her time at Elon. Triche shared with me that she was officially hired just one day prior as an Arabic tutor at Elon. In commenting on Dr. Elgamal's influence on her linguistic abilities, she was emphatic, stating, "I am indebted to her for everything."

As our conversation came to a close, I asked Triche about her post-graduate plans. Applications to over twenty different law schools (with one acceptance already!) and to the Fulbright program are concrete steps Triche has already taken toward her career post-Elon. Her goal is to practice immigration law for immigrants from the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) specifically.

Triche shared with me a powerful experience she had while conducting fieldwork in Egypt in January: a man there asked for Natalie's help in filling out his visa application to the U.S., because the paperwork was in English, not Arabic. This experience in particular inspired Triche's professional purpose: "It would be great to be able to work one-on-one with clients to help them seek access to the United States."



# Dr. Mayte de Lama: Community Engagement



On October 13th, Associate Professor of Spanish Dr. Mayte de Lama and her husband, co-owner of Irazú Coffee Rod Salazar, gave a presentation on Spain and Costa Rica at Smith Elementary School in Burlington. Though largely raised here in North Carolina, Salazar is originally from Alajuela, Costa Rica. Dr. de Lama was born and raised in Vigo, Spain.



During the pair's presentation, a class of second grade students had the opportunity to learn all about life and culture in Costa Rica and Spain directly from people who have experienced it themselves!



# French Week 2022

Holly Cardoza

Each year, Elon's French Program celebrates **National French Week** to appreciate and promote the French language as well as the culture and people behind it. This year, from the 1st to the 7th of November, in support of the theme **Le français, langue de la diversité** ("French, the language of diversity"), the program hosted various activities and events all over campus.



Nov  
01

French Week officially began on Tuesday morning with a table at Elon's weekly College Coffee event on Phi Beta Kappa Commons.

In the evening, they hosted a Charity Crêpe Sale in the Moseley kitchen with proceeds going to the North Carolina African Services Coalition.

Nov  
02



Gathered in Carlton Commons on Wednesday, students and faculty put their French language skills to the test as they played French games and competed for some tasty French prizes!





*The film highlights initiatives in ten countries that have proven themselves to be examples of innovative solutions to the global challenges that we face.*

Nov  
04

On Friday, the program held a virtual Alumni Homecoming, during which French faculty caught up with former French students. The alumni shared all the amazing opportunities and experiences they have had since graduating, and how their time studying French at Elon helped them get to where they are today.

Nov  
03

Thursday evening included a showing of the award-winning French documentary **Demain (Tomorrow)**.

A timely piece on various topics of global concern—including agriculture, energy, economy, education, and governance—the film has been heralded for its honest but optimistic perspective on our future.



National  
French  
Week

Nov  
07

Elon's celebration of French week finished off with a virtual Study Abroad Panel. Students heard from the director of the Paris Program and from current and past participants. They learned all about what life is like living in Paris as well as the incredible opportunities the program has to offer.



# iTarde Latina!

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

By Lorenzo Tibolla

What better way to spend an afternoon than watching a soccer match with a taco bar and awesome music!?

On September 25--with the help of the athletics marketing team, Elon Dining, and the World Languages and Cultures Department--El Centro hosted Tarde Latina! As the Elon women's soccer team took on Monmouth University, spectators were treated to a fabulous taco bar and some amazing Spanish tunes.

Flags from Hispanic countries surrounded the pitch, which created a beautiful image and atmosphere. As the teams came out for warm-ups, artists from Shakira to Ricky Martin were on the stereo system, and the crowd was ready to roll and enjoy a fun match. Lineups for both teams were announced in Spanish, and the game was on its way!

It was a tight first half, with both teams competing fiercely but the Phoenix looked to have the upper hand. The teams went into the break tied at 0-0, and the crowd sprinted to the taco bar! All you would ever want in a taco was present, from guac to beans and even dessert! All was accompanied by great music and laughter.









The teams came out for the second half, and it did not take long for the Phoenix to get on the score board. Just 7 minutes in, Isa Murdock headed the ball in from a beautiful free kick taken by Emilia Cappellett. The crowd erupted in cheers and the mood was high in the Elon camp. After battling until the 90th minute, Elon was able to secure the win and the crowd was enthusiastic. As the celebrations on the field began, fans did not forget to get a taco for the road!

Thanks to El Centro, the WLC, and Elon Athletics and Dining, it was an awesome afternoon at Rudd Field celebrating Hispanic culture and cheering on our women's soccer team!



The World Languages and Cultures Department and El Centro put on a variety of events in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month! The celebrations kicked off on September 15 and ended on October 11.

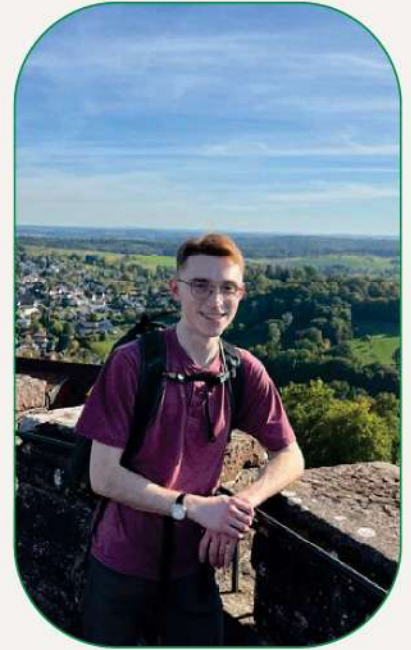






# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BLAKE HEALEY

BY: BRENDAN ANTROSIGLIO

Blake Healey is a Junior who is studying in Germany as part of the American Junior Year in Heidelberg program. Blake decided just halfway through his first German course during his first year at Elon that he wanted to major in German and go abroad.

Originally from Huntersville, North Carolina, he sees this study abroad experience as an adventure filled with new opportunities. Outside of his classes at the University of Heidelberg, he enjoys weekend trips exploring the nearby sights with friends.



**"I've always been very interested in German, and here was a chance to study it in any way I wanted to"**

Since the German Major is an individualized major, Blake must complete capstone research. He is researching the issue of contracts within the German tragic play, *Faust*, by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Blake will return to Elon for his senior year and then wishes to study law post-graduation--and possibly return to Germany! A piece of advice from Blake to students wishing to study abroad: "Keep an open mind and start planning now!"



# Event Spotlight

## Classical Studies: Race & Ethnicity From Ancient and Modern Perspectives

Jasper Myers

This September, Classical Studies and Art History double major Ava Crawford organized a panel focused on educating Elon students and community members about how race and ethnicity functioned in the ancient world, and how these notions of race and ethnicity continue to affect our modern reality. The event, called *Building Diverse Communities: Past & Present*, featured the speakers Dr. Tedd Wimperis, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies; Sylvia Muñoz, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the CREDE; and Nadine Jose, Elon's Student Body President. Each speaker received ten minutes to talk through their material before the floor opened for questions.

While the panel began with a sojourn to the ancient Greek and Roman world, the speakers quickly found connecting links between the distant past and the current lived reality of people of color. At the heart of this panel was an effort to show why it matters to study ancient conceptions of race and ethnicity. Below are some key excerpts from speakers Dr. Tedd Wimperis, Sylvia Muñoz, and Nadine Jose.



**Dr. Tedd  
Wimperis**

Along with deconstructing notions of race and ethnicity as they related to citizenship and slavery in ancient Greece and Rome, Dr. Wimperis took care to push back against the oft-exclusionary idea that these empires were “white civilizations.” Dr. Wimperis detailed how modern-day white supremacy groups appropriate ancient Greek and Roman symbolism for their own racist, xenophobic, and bigoted purposes. A more honest reckoning with the past, Dr. Wimperis emphasized, can produce new and exciting ideas in relation to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world. Dr. Wimperis ended with a call to action: “Advocate for this ethically guided, judicious and honest approach to history!”

# Event Spotlight

## Classical Studies: Race & Ethnicity From Ancient and Modern Perspectives

Jasper Myers



**Sylvia Muñoz**

Sylvia Muñoz provided a critical assessment of Elon's categorization and conception of race on campus. Muñoz specifically highlighted the growth of Latinx and Hispanic communities in and around Alamance County, and the experience of Latinx and Hispanic students at the university. In unpacking the complications of identity, especially the identity of immigrants on a college campus, Muñoz was emphatic: "That higher education is a space that was created for white people – we need to acknowledge that."

Nadine Jose gave her personal testimony about what it's like to be a student of color attending a Predominantly White Institution (PWI): "It was difficult to get along with suite and flat-mates. They were kind, and inclusive, but they were white women and we [Jose and her other roommate] were Asian women, and that barrier was difficult to cross at times." Jose described her experience of connecting to other students of color: "What bonds us is trauma." The challenge of healing from this trauma and enacting real, tangible change is something Jose did not shy away from addressing: "It requires community, it requires allyship, it requires our white privileged allies."



**Nadine Jose**



# Goûter Francophone

Holly Cardoza



MIAM-  
MIAM!

Carlton Commons was filled with the buzz of the French language on the evening of August 30th. Dozens of enthusiastic francophiles congregated from all over campus for the French Program's Goûter Francophone event. From new and old French students to faculty, staff, and community members, all coalesced as a result of their love for learning and speaking French.

Whilst mingling with new and old friends, they enjoyed delicious French treats. After the summer break and spending so long in online courses and wearing masks before that, the Goûter Francophone event provided an excellent and wildly successful opportunity for French speakers and learners to come together to enjoy some good food and great company.



# MEET THE AUTHORS



CORBIN SKAFF '23



MARA WASKIEWICZ '25



JASPER MYERS '24



BRENDAN ANTROSIGLIO '23



HOLLY CARDOZA '23



LORENZO TIBOLLA '25



LEXI MULHOLLAND '24



HAYLEY HAWKINS '24



*Thanks for Reading!*

SEE YOU IN SPRING 2023...