

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

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WELCOME TO SEVILLE

Student blog by Taylor Gibbs

The weeks leading up to coming to Sevilla were mildly stressful but also super exciting. I was constantly reading articles about Sevilla, Spain, and other places that I plan on visiting. I was also making a packing list, checking that it all made it into my suitcase, and then redoing the whole thing when it weighed too much. My cat, Lily, also enjoyed helping me pack. Everyone was asking me if I was nervous and a little bit of me was, but for the most part, I was just ecstatic to be coming to Europe for the first time which has been a lifetime dream of mine. *Continued on page 4*



HOLY WEEK

March 25 – April 1, 2018

Festivals and cultural events fill Andalucia's calendar. Every town and village has annual fairs featuring parades, dancing, fireworks and bullfights. The celebrations are held from April to October throughout the region. Many of them are religious. Others have their origins in pagan ceremonies marking the end of winter. Seville's two most important celebrations are Holy Week and the April Fair.

Holy Week, or Semana Santa, is arranged into eight days of processions beginning with Palm Sunday and going through Easter Sunday. During this whole week the city of Seville transforms itself into a living scenario, where religious fervor, passion and an explosion of the senses take over the streets. In essence, it revolves around the marching in processions of penitents and Brotherhoods of the church, or *cofradías*, followed by musical bands and *pasos*, elaborate platforms of beautifully hand-carved images of the Virgin, of Christ or of biblical scenes. The processions leave churches all over town from early afternoon onward. They move through the city and return back to their resting place hours later.

Although *Semana Santa* is celebrated in many regions of Spain, it is in Seville where it takes on majestic proportions. Each year, on Monday of Holy Week, the ICS organizes a get-together for students, faculty, friends, and family members. It is a wonderful day in which we all enjoy together the procession of Saint Genevieve as it passes before our College and to which we make a floral offering to the Virgin.



EXTRACURRICULAR CLASSES

Learning the local dance and cuisine.



SEVILLANAS CLASSES

Perhaps the most widespread manifestation of Flamenco, *Sevillanas*, dancing is also one of its most accessible expressions. During their semester in Seville, ICS students have the opportunity to enroll in private dance classes at the *Escuela de Baile Rocío Albéniz*.

Our students find that learning to dance *Sevillanas* at ICS not only enriches their cultural experience, but that these lessons have a most practical use. During the April Fair when all of Seville is dancing till dawn, they too can join in on the fun. At the ICS Pre-Feria party we will all be able to brush up on the dance steps with the professors of the *Escuela* before heading to the Fair grounds.

COOKING CLASSES

Each semester our students have the opportunity to learn how to cook Seville's most traditional dishes! During the semester we provide classes to learn how to make Classic Mixed Paella, Fresh fruity Sangría, Creamy Gazpacho, and Traditional Tortilla de patata. Classes take place in the home of one of our host families, at a short walking distance from ICS. After making our creations we all are able to sit down and indulge in a wonderful Spanish meal together.

STUDENT CORNER

Welcome to Seville, Continued

It wasn't until about a week before I left that I started to mildly freak out. What was I getting myself into? Going halfway across the world to a country that speaks a language I barely know. Also, I didn't know anyone else who was going to this program, so I would be completely alone. Still, I knew that this was something I wanted to do and the only reason I was freaking out was because it was a new experience. After a thoroughly stressful 20+ hours of traveling, I finally made it to Sevilla and was greeted by Lisa Dolan, Director of Student Affairs at ICS. It was nice to see a friendly face that was there to make sure I made it to my family okay. My first encounter with the Andalusian Spanish was with the taxi driver. He didn't try to talk to me but did take a call during the drive and I was immediately overwhelmed because I could not understand a single word he said. This was going to be a lot harder than I thought.

The door to my host family's apartment was waiting open for me when I arrived, and I was greeted with the traditional Spanish greeting by my house mother. Thankfully my roommate was already there and was able to help me understand my house mother since she speaks no English. The rest of the day I pretty much spent in my room unpacking, mostly because I was too nervous to try out my Spanish skills.

The next day started Welcome Week, a week full of fun activities the school puts on to welcome all of the students to Spain. All the students met at the school and we had a short Orientation on Spain and what to expect and we also took a Spanish placement test. After that, we started the fun activities of eating yummy Spanish food and meeting the other students. I soon found out that quite a few students were from Missouri as well and it allowed me to make instant connections with people. After the little party, a few students and I decided to go and explore before we had to be back to our host families for lunch. El Parque Maria Luisa is only a minute or two from the school and so it was the first thing we happened upon. The beautiful palm trees were one of the first things that called our attention. Up ahead we saw the beautiful tower of a building piercing the sky and so we went to check it out and were greeted by the huge, magnificent building that is La Plaza de España.



I feel like coming upon this building was my first encounter with Spain I was expecting. Its beautiful structure simply made me speechless. The rest of welcome week was filled with so many activities. We toured the center of Sevilla, watched belly dancing and Flamenco, ate delicious Spanish food like tapas and churros, and even took a river cruise down the Guadalquivir river. It was time spent getting to know new friends, a new city, and a new culture. Every moment was well spent. Even though our feet hurt a little by the end of the week the time spent was definitely well worth it!

By Taylor Gibbs



Student Corner

Our Trip to Córdoba - February 17th



Click picture above to view a video made by student, Alex Larsen

Córdoba Essay Winner

Potted plants hang from the walls, housed by blue abodes, rich like sapphires. Flowers boast loud and proud like raging red embers when a fire's finished its run. Against their clean, white backdrop of these charming buildings, they cannot be missed.

I rub shoulders with my friends and classmates. These streets weren't made to be big enough for the both of us. My mood is cheery, the air is crisp and the surroundings, otherworldly, so today they will be.

I am led by my nose. Around the bend here, across the street there, under this archway. I am greeted by fresh teas – more beautiful than any bouquet I've seen before. Perfumes of mint, rose hip and chai make my nose turn-up in smile.

I close my eyes and try to imagine myself having lived here long ago. I cannot. I am in awe of the sum of the parts that have amounted today from the additions and subtractions of the past.

My degree won't be in mathematics, I major in the arts. The feel of the stone, the unevenness of the streets under feet, the vivid color of the shrubs. Here and now, this is where I want to be.

*By Oceana Minthorne
Westfield State University*



UPCOMING TRIPS & VISITS



THE TOWN OF GRANADA

MARCH 9TH-10TH

During our weekend visit we will tour one of the most charming towns in all of Spain, Granada. There, we will visit the magnificent Moorish Palace of the Alhambra, the city's breathtaking Cathedral, and the famous Carthusian Monastery.

SEVILLE CATHEDRAL

MARCH 2ND

We will have our guided tour through Seville's Gothic Cathedral where our students will learn about the history, architecture and works of art that compose this important monument.



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