The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter, April 2019

At the Alhambra palace in Granada.

IN OUR APRIL ISSUE:

CULTURAL VISITS AND TRIPS

See the different guided tours our Spring students have taken during the month of March.

STUDENT TRAVELS

Now that our students are feeling at home in Seville, they have begun to travel far and wide, independently. See pics from some of their adventures!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITES

Learn all about the activities in which our students have taken part in this month!

UPCOMING NEWS

Read about what's new and coming at the ICS this Spring semester.

STUDENT CORNER

"Paella, Flamenco & Friends" by Parkland College student, Savannah Weishaar, and "¡Bailemos!" by University of Hawaii at Manoa student, Christian López.

To view all of our student blogs visit: ics-seville.org/blogs

In downtown Seville before St. Mary's chapel.

STUDENT CORNER: Savannah Weishaar (Parkland College)

Paella, Flamenco & Friends.

I had a busy week filled with lots of Paella, Flamenco, and friends. The week was especially busy and exciting considering my best friend, Emily, was visiting. Of course, I had to show her all of my favorite places in Seville. First we went to *Las Setas* where we enjoyed coffee and churros along with the gorgeous views of the city from the top of the structure. The next day, I showed her the beautiful Maria Luisa Park and Plaza de España. I left her there to explore on her own while I went to Spanish class just down the street. The next day I had to take her to the Alcázar -- if visiting Seville you can not leave without seeing this amazing architectural masterpiece. Even though it was my second time there I enjoyed the visit just as much as the first. I was Emily's personal tour guide since I had learned a lot about the palace from my first visit. We had fun exploring and taking photos even though it decided to rain on us a little -- quite the rarity in Seville.

Emily also just so happened to come to Seville on the week when I had Flamenco dance and Paella cooking class. At first I was a little upset because I thought it might put a dent in our time together. However, ICS was very accommodating of her and we ended up having a lot of fun! Emily got to watch my dance group struggle through the first Flamenco lesson -- a very challenging feat. She definitely enjoyed watching me make a complete fool of myself. After working up a sweat dancing, we enjoyed some pizza and drinks at one of my favorite restaurants here in Seville called *Taberna La Auténtica*.

The next day was Paella cooking class. I had attended the Tortilla cooking class previously so I kind of knew what to expect, but Paella was a completely different ballgame for its complexity! Paella is a Spanish rice dish which we were very excited to try. So we both went to the cooking class and enjoyed homemade Sangría while we watched the cook prepare the Paella. After a brief introduction, he showed us how to prepare the dish. We learned there are lots of different steps, tips, tricks, and ingredients involved in making a good Paella. I also learned how to make a lemon flower which we decorated the finished Paella with. Our personal chef completed this dish flawlessly and the final product was delicious. After a whole month in Spain I had finally learned what all the rage of Paella was about!

After our fun-filled week, I had to say goodbye to Emily far too soon as I had to leave for our ICS trip to Granada on Friday morning. However, I am so very thankful for the time that we spent together and all the memories we made. Thanks to ICS I will never forget my week filled with Paella, Flamenco, and very special friends.

Our students travel far & wide!

ON WEEKENDS, THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY LOW-COST AIRLINE TICKETS AND TRAVEL THROUGHOUT SPAIN AND EUROPE!

Adam and Jonah in Amsterdam.

Thalia and Skylar in London.

Samantha & Ileana in Cinqueterre.

And in Pisa.

The Canary Islands.

A group of 18 ICS students went there! Wonderful weekend!

STUDENT CORNER: Christian López University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Bailemos! (Let's dance!)

José, World-renowned artist now dance instructor.

If you're going to come study in Spain, you´d better bring your dancing shoes! Not just for the clubs and nightlife that can run until seven in the morning, but for a uniquely Sevillian tradition that the International College of Seville has put together for its students. Though not a requirement, the school highly encourages students to participate in this FREE bi-weekly night class taught by instructors with over 40 years of dance experience. While everybody that completes the course enjoys themselves, some students bring their past dance skills to the table and really light up the dance floor. As to not overflow the studio with all 34 students enrolled at ICS this semester, they break it up into two groups so one learns in February and the other in March.

A stone's throw away from the college's front steps is the Rocío Albéniz dance studio. The instructors, Jose and Rocío, are locals that have experience in several dance styles including Ballet, but are more specialized in traditional styles like Flamenco. In a small room with 16 people trying to learn footwork and hand motions, it can be hard enough to try and lead a class. The fact that Jose did not speak English and more than half the class didn't speak Spanish, didn't stop the universal language of music and dance from overcoming that barrier. By the end, both instructors were very proud and told all of us to give out his card if we were stopped and asked where we learned how to do this very Spanish dance.

Las Sevillanas, translated literally to The Sevillians, is a dance that itself is truly beautiful and has its roots in Flamenco. Performed in pairs and in line, the women wear long dresses and the men, slim suits. Both wear *tacones* which are essentially tap shoes with a small heel. The men's version is more of a boot but for most Spaniards, a solid *golpe*, or stomp, is enough to get the desired sound from the floor. I personally did *Ballet Folklórico* in High School, which best would to described as Mexican Folk Tap dance, and found this style very familiar. By the end of the 8 sessions, the students were ready to bust out their moves at The April Fair.

Former dancer and owner of studio, Rocío.

The dance class is offered for students in both Fall, Spring and Summer semesters, but the Spring is when it really makes a big difference. Coming up in May, ironically, is going to be the April Fair, or *Feria de Abril*. This Sevilla specific event is recognized all over the world and takes place on the fairgrounds located just on the other side of the river from where the ICS is located. The fair includes carnival rides, pure-bred horse with ornate carriages, food, drinking and plenty of music for dancing the night away. The week-long celebration is the most typical event students could participate in and having the ability to dance with the locals during it is definitely an exciting idea. The week before *Feria*, the ICS is going to hold a review class for everyone to practice the steps and get the timing to cross their partner sharpened up. But more important than the specific steps themselves, as our instructor Jose told us, "*Las Sevillanas las tienes que sentir, no solo tomar los pasos.*" or "You have to feel the Sevillanas, not just go through the steps." And he also assured us, that after a few cups of *Manzanilla* we, nor anybody else, would really care how you were dancing, as long as you were dancing. *Olé!*

SEVILLE'S GOTHIC CATHEDRAL

Guided tour by Professor John Boyle

Click on the pictures to see complete album.

"LET US BUILD A CHURCH SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO GRAND THAT THOSE WHO SEE IT FINISHED WILL THINK WE WERE MAD."

After its completion in the early 16th Century, the Cathedral of Seville became the largest Gothic church in the world. Built on the site of the former Muslim Great Mosque, it houses most impressive works of sacred art and magnificent architectural elements.

WEEKEND IN GRANADA

THE LAND OF THE LAST MOORISH KING.

In our two-day and one night trip to the city of Granada, we visited Spain's most visited monument: The magnificent Arabian palace of La Alhambra Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada this 9th C. fortress was the last stronghold of the Arabs in Spain.

AND...

We also visited the tomb of the King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel within the Royal Chapel as well as the Carthusian Monastery, visibly the finest example of Baroque art and architecture in all of the country. A great trip, indeed!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Click on the pictures to see complete albums:

Spanish Cooking Classes

In the home of our housemom, María José Rodríguez.

We had great fun this semester teaching our students how to make two of Spain's most typical dishes: Classic Mixed Paella and The Spanish Omelette.

The classes were given by our Masterchef friend, Pablo, son of María José, and were greatly instructive and highly entertaining. Thanks to everyone for filling them with truly memorable moments! We laughed from start to finish!

We hope you will make these dishes for your friends and family back home, sharing your experience in Seville for many years to come.

Sevillanas Dance Classes

At the Rocío Albéniz Dance Studio.

Our students had the opportunity to learn how to dance "Sevillanas", a style of Flamenco that is the best known folk dance of Spain and the most typical dance of Seville's April Fair!

In the months of February and March our two groups learned the dance. Shortly before the Fair we will have one last class in our own April Fair party!

UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Cultural Visits & Trips.

During this month we will have a guided visit to Seville's Fine Arts Museum and a day trip to the beautiful mountain town of Ronda.

Special Spring Holidays.

We look forward to celebrating Holy Week and The April Fair with our students!

Follow us to stay updated and visit our website to learn more about our programs!

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