

# The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

JANUARY 2023 EDITION

## IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

### STUDENT TRAVELS

Learn all about how our students made great use of the holiday week of the Immaculate Conception.

### FAREWELL PARTY

See pictures from our last get-together of the semester: Our Christmas/Farewell/Flamenco party.

### ICS AWARD

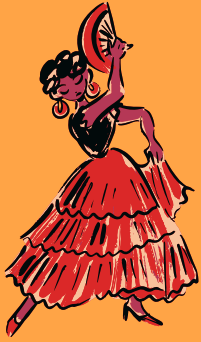
Read about the "Best Practices Award in Higher Education" that ICS has been granted as we celebrate our 40th anniversary as one of Seville's first Study Abroad Centers in the city.

### STUDENT CORNER

This month we share a most special blog: "Adieu to You, Fair Spanish Ladies", by Fall 1988 Miami Dade College alumnus, Alex Díaz-Granados. Alex is a professional journalist and we are honored to share his blog in our newsletter.

### UPCOMING NEWS

Fall semester ended with a bang, and we await our Spring semester students with great enthusiasm.



# Tempus Fugit: Farewell and Adieu to You, Fair Spanish Ladies - Sevilla, 18 December 1988



By Alex Díaz-Granados



A picture of me, in 1988.

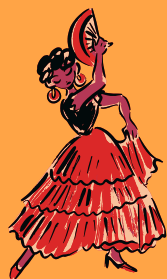
Another chilly day in Florida ...another weather-triggered memory brought on by low temperatures, beautiful morning skies, and a penchant for remembering anniversaries of events from the Land of Ago.

It's been 34 years since I last walked out of the apartment in the Sevilla neighborhood of Los Remedios, which is across the Guadalquivir River from the various places (the CCIS Center and the main campus of the *Universidad de Sevilla*) that I had gone to during the 12-week-long Semester-in-Spain Study Abroad program that had ended just a few days before.

Just like in 2022, December 18, 1988, fell on a Sunday. It was a gorgeous if chilly day as I lugged my trusty carry-on traveler's bag while Manuel, my landlady Josefa's husband, lugged my two heavy suitcases down the long flight of stairs to the "piso de abajo" of the apartment building I had called home for 88 days.

It was early in the morning, and I had already been awake for a long time. Josefa had prepared a farewell breakfast that included eggs, churros, and Spanish-style hot chocolate, so I was "good to go" for the Sevilla-Madrid leg of my return trip to "the World."

It was also a cold day; I don't think the temperature had reached the 50-degree (Fahrenheit) mark yet, so I was dressed in "layers," complete with a heavy overcoat, a knit blue-gray scarf that Josefa had given me in October and insisted I keep as a memento of my stay in her residencia, and a gray fedora (that I no longer have, sadly). I also wore the gloves that my journalism prof, Peter C. Townsend, gave me before I left Miami; along with the scarf, I still have those, though I rarely wear them here in Florida.



# Tempus Fugit



By Alex Díaz-Granados

The sky was still a dark shade of cerulean blue – the farther to the west you looked, it was still dark. In Miami, my ultimate destination, it was still 2 AM, and I hoped that Mom was getting a good night's rest. But the sun was coming up in the east, so the sky was like Joseph's coat of many colors, ranging from red-orange close to the horizon to pink, then blue. If there were clouds up there, I don't remember them.

I dimly remember sitting in the back of Manuel and Pepa's car as we made our way through the city to the airport, where I would board a plane that would take me to Madrid, where in turn I would get on another Iberia jet, this time bound for Miami.



My housemother's car



La Torre del Oro, or The Golden Tower

The Torre del Oro, La Giralda, and other landmarks that had been my guideposts during the 12 weeks that I had lived and studied in Sevilla – come and go outside my field of vision inside the compact car.

I was looking forward to returning to Miami. As great as my Semester in Spain experience was, I'd experienced homesickness, the frustrations of the slowness of what we now call "snail mail" (the Internet was still in its infancy then, so the Fall 1988 CCIS group did not have smartphones with digital cameras, or even

Internet access), plus I'd caught the Cold from Hell after getting caught in a deluge in the middle of Maria Luisa Park; it never deterred me from my studies or extracurricular activities and came and went, but that damn cold did not clear up till I was back in Miami. Add to that the loneliness that comes from seeing a lot of attractive young women...and not feeling confident enough to ask one of them out for a date, and you'll get some idea of the downsides – at least for me – that I experienced in Sevilla.

Plus, I couldn't wait to be in my house and in my own bedroom. It's a cliché, I know, but as anyone who has traveled anywhere, even if it's for a vacation or study-abroad experience, there's no place like home.



# Tempus Fugit

By Alex Díaz-Granados

And...yet, as we drove out of the city and onto the Autopista del Sur, I still felt regret that I couldn't stay longer. In my head I kept hearing the words of a sea chanty I'd heard in Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*:

Farewell and adieu to you, Spanish Ladies

Farewell and adieu to you, ladies of Spain;

For we're under orders for to sail for old England

And we may never see you fair ladies again.



The eternally beautiful Spanish Ladies

Obviously, if I could travel back to 1988, I don't know the exact mechanics of how that would work. Would I return to my 25-year-old self in "spirit form" and basically "take over" my own body while retaining my memories of 2022? Or would two versions of me - 59-year-old me and 25-year-old me - exist in the same city simultaneously? In the case of the latter, would I be able to avoid creating paradoxes or, even more important, the temptation to alter my past by warning my younger self about the future I left behind?

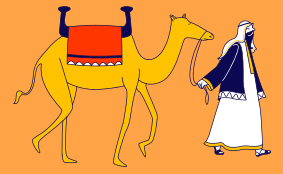


The Seville I will remember always

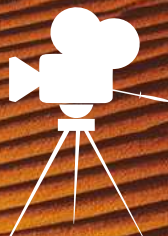
In any event, while I will accept the fact that we can't live in the past - or travel to it - and not wallow in a pool of sorrow or self-pity, I do get some joy from knowing that I once had happier times - and thus take comfort in the fact that I can still remember them.



# Our Globe-Trotting Students!



During the long weekend of "El Puente de la Inmaculada", most of our students took advantage of no school days to travel to the Sahara desert.



Click on photo to see video

Click on photos to see full picture album



# CHRISTMAS/FAREWELL/ FLAMENCO PARTY!



*Our End-of-the-semester party was great fun! All our staff, students, and housemothers said goodbye with great food, Christmas gifts, Flamenco dresses, lots of laughs and quite a few tears!*



Click on photos to see full picture album

# BEST PRACTICES AWARD IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

*1982 - 2022: 40 Years of Excellence in Study Abroad*



Introduction to the ICS video, by Hunter College student, Isabelle Kazakov. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMG0lhsjLT0>

NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) is a U.S.-based student affairs organization with more than 13,000 members at 1,400 campuses and 25 countries. Founded in 1919 at the University of Wisconsin, NASPA is an organization focused on professionals working within the field of student affairs in higher education. As the leading voice of student affairs, NASPA drives innovation and evidence-based, student-centered practice throughout higher education, nationally and globally.

It is with great pride that we announce that the International College of Seville has been selected as recipient of the NASPA 2023 Knowledge Community Award in the category of "Best Practices in International Higher Education Award: Study Abroad Programming" .

Each year NASPA grants awards of recognition for exceptional work in the field of student affairs and it is a true honor to be recipient of this award. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary as one of the first Study Abroad Centers in Seville, we can say without a doubt that at the ICS we have always believed in giving individualized attention to students in a supportive atmosphere. We have created a curriculum that embraces cross cultural understanding in an environment that students feel and remember as their "home away from home". Being granted this award of recognition for exceptional work in the field of student affairs honors both our history and our dedication.

# UPCOMING AT THE ICS

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*Spring semester  
arrival.*

Our Spring semester students will arrive on Wednesday, February 1.



*Welcome  
Week*

We look forward to receiving our new students and showing them the town in what we are sure will be a memorable Welcome to Seville Week!



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



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