Michelle Cipriano, MA & Dorothy Álvarez, MA, MBA
are senior lecturers of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages. Dorothy is a native of Puerto Rico and Michelle has studied and lived in Spain. Since 2002, Dorothy and Michelle have led a collective total of eight successful Ambassador programs to Costa Rica and Spain. They are very excited to provide this academic program in the Caribbean for Wright State students. As program advisors, both have witnessed the benefits of faculty led study-abroad programs, including improved language skills and cultural sensitivity, along with a deeper understanding of history and the arts. Professors Álvarez and Cipriano’s combined areas of research include: Spanish Language Children’s Literature, Hispanic and Spanish Literature and Cultures, Phonetics, Translation, Pedagogy, and Caribbean Studies.

Parque de Bombas Ponce

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WSU Ambassador Program
San Juan

Exploring Puerto Rico will provide WSU students the opportunity to study Puerto Rico’s rich culture, history, and gastronomy while being completely immersed in the Spanish language during a two-week stay in the Caribbean. Puerto Rico has been formed by many cultures: Taíno, Spanish, and African.

During the program, participants will visit historical places, museums, cathedrals, and unique eco-touristic sites, such as el Yunque, the only tropical rain forest in the United States, bioluminescent bays, and picturesque beaches. The students will participate in a cooking workshop so that they can learn about the many culinary influences of criollo cooking.

Meals and accommodations

While in Puerto Rico, students will be provided with 2-3 meals a day. Students will also have multiple opportunities to explore and try the local cuisine. Students will share rooms in hotels and hostels.

Eligibility

Eligible students will have completed the equivalent of Spanish 1020 before departure (placement test scores are an acceptable substitute), have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and one letter of recommendation from a university or high school teacher. All applicants will meet with the professors for an interview before being accepted into the program.

Cost and Enrollment Deadlines

The program cost is $1,800 and includes lodging, 2-3 meals a day, health and accident insurance, museum fees, travel within Puerto Rico, equipment rental, cooking and dance classes fees, and transportation to and from the airport. Not included are WSU tuition, airfare, and some meals.

The application deadline is March 15, 2017. A fee of $100 and a deposit of $250 are due at the time of application, both are non-refundable. The final payment for the remaining balance of $1550 is due by May 10, 2017. The UCIE reserves the right to adjust the program price up to 10%. Financial aid is applicable and scholarships are available.

Academic Credit

Students will register for three-credit hours in one of the following:

- **SPN 3990** Spanish Immersion Puerto Rico Ambassador Program (for undergraduate students who have completed intermediate Spanish, SPN 2020)
- **ML 3500** Ambassador Program Abroad (for undergraduate students who have completed beginning Spanish, SPN 1020)
- **SPN 3110** Spanish Conversation I (for undergraduate students who have completed intermediate Spanish, SPN 2020)
- **SPN 6030** Spanish Immersion Puerto Rico Ambassador Program (for graduate students and high school teachers)