

**Comments at Madrid 50th Anniversary Luncheon
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Introductory Comments

!Bienvenidos a todos! [Melissa Dinverno had no idea when she applied to be resident director what it would be like to organize two 50th anniversary celebrations for the same day! Melissa, we are all deeply indebted to you. But now you have the skills to plan the perfect wedding for your daughter—although I understand Lyra turns 10 this week so you have a little time before that will be necessary.]

It is my honor to extend my welcome to all of you, particularly President Michael McRobbie and First Lady Laurie McRobbie who are with us after an intensive period of commencement ceremonies. And a special welcome to David Zaret, IU's Vice President for international affairs who has visited the WIP program a few times. We are also grateful to WIP alum Ambassador Capricia Marshall for joining us here today and for being a keynote speaker tonight at the *Complutense* event. I will acknowledge others who are here in due time (but want you to get to your first course before too long!).

Given my long career sending students abroad, I speak with knowledge when I praise our Madrid Program. Its success is based on the efforts of many individuals, some of whom will be recognized today. Together you represent the more than 2,800 students and 43 different resident directors who have participated in this incredible program that was the brainchild of a couple of inspired professors back in 1965!

And, although I am responsible for **all** study abroad programming at IU, my heart has always been here in Madrid where I arrived in 1971, without knowing a soul. Like many of you, I attended classes through *Reunidas*, the consortium whose 50th anniversary we will celebrate tonight. My life has never been the same since! I can still re-experience those initial sights and sounds when I step out of the airport. My entire being was reawakened during that year of language and cultural immersion and further impacted by serving as the graduate assistant for the WIP program in 74-75 and 80-81. We are here together today to celebrate how the WIP program has given students and faculty the opportunity to become citizens of the world for more than five decades.

Introduction of President Michael A. McRobbie

During my long career, I only dreamed about a leader as visionary and energetic as President McRobbie. Indiana University has never had a president as dedicated to international education as he has been. And his presence here today shows his commitment to making our students global citizens. Since he will be making a speech this evening at the *Complutense*, I have invited him to give us just a few words of welcome. Please join me in recognizing President McRobbie.

Recognition of Institutional Representatives

This program has been successful due to the cooperative efforts of its institutional partners—Indiana, Purdue and Wisconsin. And in recent years we have also welcomed students from Tulane, a founding member of *Reunidas* that had its own program director for many decades. In fact, we are fortunate to have with us its two former directors—Joyce Greer Crespo, whom I met over 40 years ago, and her successor, Diane Bucy-- as well as Scott Pentzer, associate dean for Global Education.

And I am pleased that one of my predecessors at Overseas Study—Peter Sehlinger, former associate dean for international programs and professor emeritus of History—could join us here today. Thank you, Peter, for keeping this program going in the 1970s.

And now the representatives from our partner institutions will make a few comments, (speaking in the order they appear in the printed program). Dan Gold (UW), Brian Harley (Purdue) and Joyce Greer Crespo (Tulane).

Recognition of Resident Directors

The WIP program has always been administered by rotating faculty directors. They move here for a year, often with their spouses and families. They guide the students in all aspects of their lives along with our

talented staff who provides the program continuity. The combined contributions of these professors cannot be overstated which I was fortunate to rediscover when I reread their correspondence and reports when preparing a written history of the program.

We are delighted to have many faculty directors with us today. Three of them will then make brief remarks.

Juan Temprano, Wisconsin, 87-88 and 2000-01

Robert Arnove, IU, 89-90

Catherine Larson, IU, 92-93

Patricia Hart, Purdue, 99-2000

Guido Podesta, Wisconsin, 03-04

Iñigo Sánchez-Llana, Purdue, 05-06 and 17-18

Consuelo Lopez-Morillas, IU, 07-08 with her husband Professor Enrique Merino

Reyes Vila-Belda, IU, 10-11 and 13-14

Melissa Dinverno, IU, 16-17 and her husband & colleague Alejandro Mejias-López

Recognition of WIP Alumni and students

It is now my pleasure to recognize our alumni. First of all, let me welcome a few IU alumni who are here to share in this proud moment even though they didn't study in Madrid—Fred Perry our director for international alumni at IUAA joins them.

We were touched by how many WIP alumni responded to this event with interest and testimonials. Across the years they experienced different social, political and historical moments but there are certain enduring qualities about Madrid that they all experienced in the same way. They came here to learn and learn they did. Please join me in recognizing our alumni who were here as far back as 1968 up through 2016; many of whom have traveled far to be here!

And we are also joined today by the current group of program participants who will be recognized this evening at a special graduation ceremony at the *Complutense*.

Before we hear from some of our alums, I wanted to pause for a moment. Over the years we have been saddened by the deaths of former staff members, directors and alumni, some which were unexpected tragedies (like Marcia Wellstone who perished in a plane crash with her father Senator Paul Wellstone). But we have mourned even those who led long lives, like Leopoldo Collado and Pepe Escarpanter, our former assistant directors, and my own husband, Dan Quilter. And just recently our community celebrated the life of Bob Arnove's incredible spouse, Toby Strout, a bold leader and activist whom I met for the first time here in Madrid in 1990.

Let us now take a moment of silence for those Madrid participants whose memories and contributions we continue to honor in a variety of ways.

I have invited three individuals to share with us the impact of their Madrid experience.

Margo Persin participated in the WIP program in 68-69 and returned as the graduate assistant in 71-72. She received her PhD from IU in 1977 and then embarked on an academic career. She is currently Professor Emerita of Spanish at Rutgers University where she taught for over thirty years. Her scholarship has focused on contemporary Spanish poetry.

David Robinson participated in the WIP program in 81-82. He got engaged to his wife that year in Chinchon. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin and then worked internationally in Spain, South America, France, Brazil and Italy. He is currently an associate professor in the Scott College of Business at Indiana State University.

Max Eisenheimer is a spring semester participant in the program who is the second Wipper in his family to participate in the Madrid program. He walked part of the Camino de Santiago this year and recently completed the Madrid marathon. He is a Spanish major as well as a pre-med student at Wisconsin.

Recognition of Staff

While you have heard about the faculty and administrators who have kept this program going over the years, I can tell you that none of their efforts would have been possible without the administrative staff at IU and here in Madrid.

I'd like to first recognize **Laura Kremer**, our financial manager at Overseas Study who has been with us for over 25 years and manages 50 different accounts. Although this is her first trip to Madrid, Laura has kept money flowing here, working out the fluctuating exchange rates for pesetas and now euros with professional accuracy and diligence.

Here on site we have had a number of staff members who have worked side by side with our directors.

I wanted to first acknowledge our graduate assistants from the *Complutense* who have organized tutorials for WIP students, helping them succeed in their direct enrollment courses. Please help me thank Diana Checa, David Caro and Carlota Visier along with our current student tutors.

And although he isn't an official staff member, I would like to recognize **Ramón Garcia** who owns the bus company that transported our students safely across tens of thousands of miles over more than three decades. *!Gracias, Ramón, por tu profesionalismo y tu amistad!*

And now I need to thank the two individuals who work not only every day of the year on behalf of the program across many years but who also made this anniversary event very special.

Amy Olson, a WIP alum from 96-97, has been with the program for the past 17 years, first as an assistant and now as its full-time student services coordinator. Numerous students who completed our anniversary alumni survey cited Amy's role in helping them adapt to the program, particularly guiding them in their housing choices and their immersion into daily life in Madrid. One alum wrote, "Without her, I would not be where I am now." Thank you, Amy!

And now, our thanks turn to **Mamen Castaño**, our longtime assistant director who has been with the program for three decades. This is a special moment for her since she recently announced that she is retiring from her position this summer. One of the alums we surveyed cited Mamen as the person in Madrid who most impacted her, indicating that "she was like a mother to all of us."

Our resident directors have praised Mamen over the years for her guidance, wisdom, networks, historical memory and good judgment. Students have loved her for her counsel, her empathy, her assistance and her sharp wit. When I compiled a history of the program, I was struck by a line from Alda Blanco, the 1991 Wisconsin director, who wrote a simple sentence that captures everything I could say today about Mamen's accomplishments and that is, "The miracle is called Mamen."

While I promised Mamen that I wouldn't ask her to give a speech, I would like to call forward President McRobbie to help us close this anniversary ceremony with a special commemoration. [Mamen received the Indiana University Distinguished Service Award. The glass plate reads: *May 17, 2017, In recognition of your outstanding service to the Indiana-Purdue-Wisconsin Program in Madrid for the past three decades.* <https://honorsandawards.iu.edu/service/distinguished-international-service.shtml>]