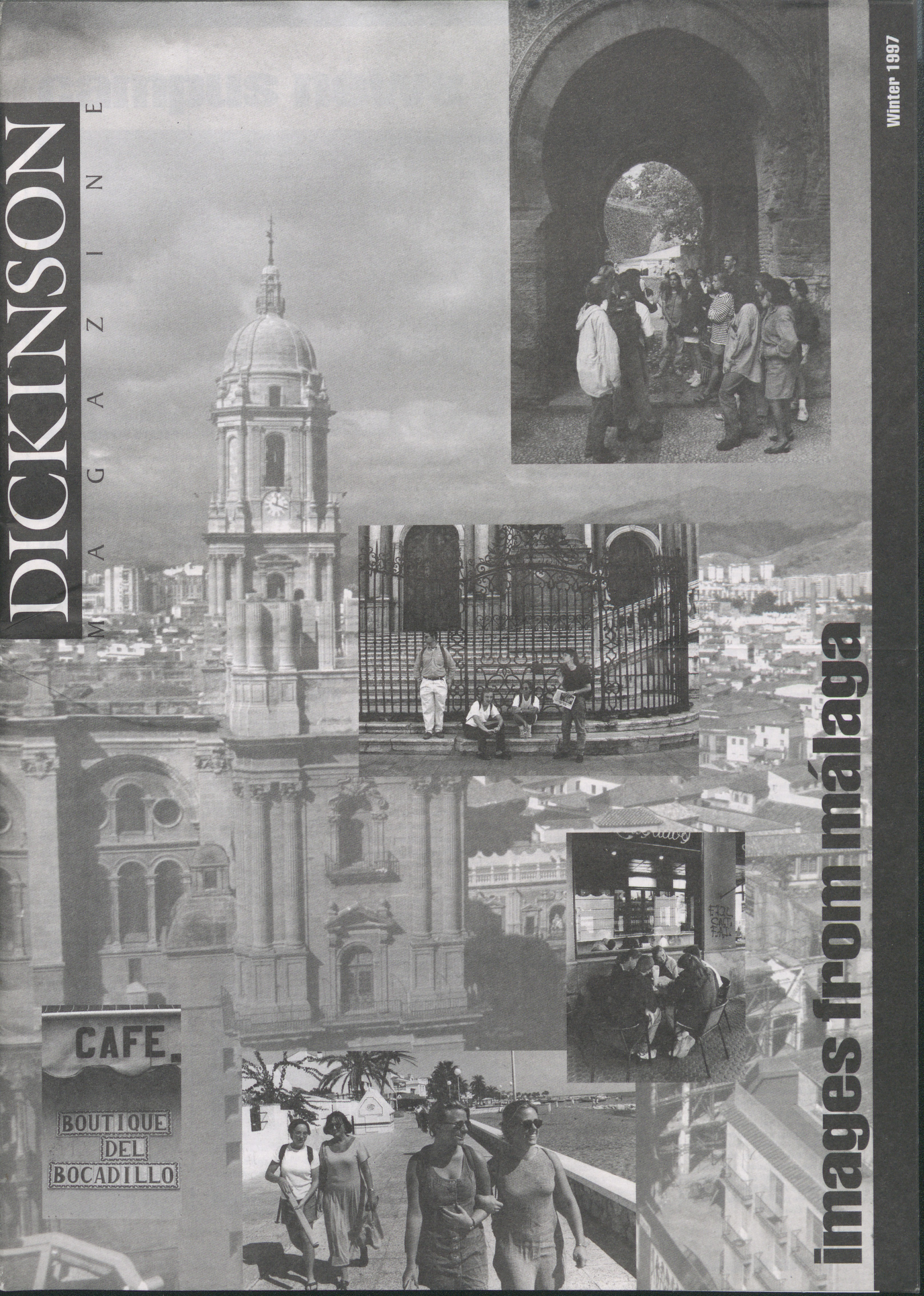


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*Celebrating a
decade of
educational
exchange between
Dickinson
and Spain's
University of Málaga*

*by Christine Graziano '99
and Megan Marschka '98*

Photos by A. Pierce Bounds '71

WALKING ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN, STOPPING AT a bodega to sample wine, exploring ancient castles, experiencing new people, cultures, and destinations ... all for credit! Well, not exactly, but Dickinson's Study Abroad Program in Málaga does provide students with the opportunity to spend a summer, semester or year on Spain's Mediterranean coast, while immersing themselves in life in the port city.

The Dickinson Program in Málaga, in conjunction with the University of Málaga's center for foreign students (or Cursos Para Extranjeros) has been giving students an introduction to Spanish life for 10 years, ushering more than 400 students through the program which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with events in both Carlisle and Málaga.

"The program allows a variety of opportunities for a student to integrate into Spanish life, but at the same time the students take classes which are compatible to the on-campus experience," said Grace Jarvis, professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Dickinson and current director of the program that sends some 25 students to Málaga during the academic year and another 15 to the Summer Language Immersion Program.

While some may feel that studying independently at a Spanish university would be the ideal method to learn the language and culture, Jarvis disagrees. "Many students are not equipped to do this, and would not get the same quality education that they would receive at Dickinson," she said. "Spanish universities are large, with individual classrooms holding 500 or more. Often professors don't show up for class, students get no individual attention, and strikes of professors can last for months."

Unlike University of Málaga students, Dickinson students take courses designed especially for them and taught by Spanish professors. These classes are much like those taught at Dickinson; they are small and require participation. To introduce students to the academic side of Spanish life, one class is taken at the university with Spanish students.

"Having to deal with the differences between Dickinson's classes and the university is part of the experience," Jarvis said. "The large numbers of students in classes and taking the bus are all part of the culture. There are easier ways to do it, but students don't always learn as much."

The university course also helps students integrate into the language. Jarvis explained that in any study abroad program which requires use of a foreign language, the main problem is keeping the students speaking the language. "It is natural for the American students to stay in groups. Even with the best intentions, people get tired and start speaking in English. The program needs to set up circumstances that make it difficult not to speak in the native tongue," she said.

In addition to classes taught in Spanish, students live with Spanish families, making it necessary to speak the language at home. They also take all meals with the family, allowing other cultural connections.

"Málaga is not just the university. It is the intellectual community, the cultural community, and the political community," Jarvis said. "Málaga is a small enough city to make very good contacts with the community. Dickinson is a known institution in Málaga. Students learn and practice culture, and instead of remaining tourists or visiting students, become residents of the city."

Not only is Dickinson known in Málaga; Málaga is known at Dickinson, due to the ongoing partnership between the two institutions. Each year, Dickinson brings two students from the University of Málaga to campus. They serve as teaching assistants for Spanish classes and live in La Casa Hispanica, the Student Directed Learning Community devoted to speaking Spanish and studying the cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples. The students also have the opportunity to improve their English skills while taking classes at Dickinson and travelling.

In addition to students, four professors from the university have come to Dickinson since 1985, including Salvador Montesa, former director of the university's Cursos Para Extranjeros. These exchanges enable Dickinson to maintain ongoing relations with Spain, ultimately allowing for more educational opportunities. Last year, Brian DeMarco '97 completed an internship with *El Sur en Inglés*, a Malagueñan weekly newspaper published in English. (See story, page 10.) Advocates in the Málaga community who support the Dickinson program are often an asset in securing internships abroad since obtaining "work" overseas can be difficult when businesses and organizations are hesitant to accept students without work permits.

DeMarco was one of nine students who spent the full academic year in Málaga and completed an internship. Students worked at foundations, including the Picasso Foundation and La Generación del

'97, a day care center, and a veterinary clinic. With the internships, students connected their two semesters' work and applied the skills learned in Jarvis' course on cross-cultural communications, such as negotiation and conflict resolution.

The combination of Dickinson classes, courses at the University of Málaga, and the internships provides immersion into many facets of Spanish life. Program participants have gone on to a variety of careers: one graduate is a doctor in New York City and doing his residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital, where Jarvis reported he uses his Spanish every day. Janet DeNapoli '87 is an English teacher in Spain.

"Students who have been educated in Spanish do everything that anybody who is smart, has critical thinking skills, and is ambitious does, but with more people," Jarvis said. "There are at least 18 million Spanish speaking people in the United States alone. By learning Spanish, these students are more than doubling the amount of people they can deal with in the world. That is valuable in any profession."

Events on both sides of the Atlantic marked the 10-year anniversary of Dickinson's Semester/Year in Málaga Program last spring, including a theatrical performance and reception at the Teatro Cervantes.

A performance of *Castings*, a musical by the theatrical troupe La Hora del Té Atroz, marked the occasion. Comprised of seven actors and actresses along with a production team, La Hora is directed by composer Antonio Meliveo, who also came to Dickinson in April and helped obtain the theater free of charge for Dickinson students, making the 10th anniversary celebration possible.

Castings is based on *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*, Federico Garcia Lorca's classic play read by most Spanish students. Each Dickinson student had also read the play, and the troupe made the work amusing for even those not familiar with Spanish.

"The comedy was enjoyable, even for a person like myself who could follow little of the language. The energy, physical precision, and timing of comedy can be considered an international language, and this company spoke it eloquently," said Professor Todd Wronski, Dickinson's representative of the dramatic arts and director of the Dickinson Humanities Program in Norwich, England.

Considered an intimidating London theater critic by the troupe, Wronski gave the performance a rave review: "The company attempted what I

continued next page



At left, the fountain at the Plaza de la Constitucion and a poster advertising a bullfight in Málaga. Top, Brandy Lorab, Dray Cafaro, Professor Grace Jarvis, Jen Gura, and Bill Bailey gather in the courtyard of the palace of Charles V, while Joy Welsh and Amy Johnson select a postcard of the old city for friends back home. Below, the group pauses for a portrait at La Alhambra in Granada.



Living, studying (and working) in Spain

A policy studies and Spanish double major, Brian DeMarco '97 never considered a career in journalism until his internship with *El Sur en Inglés*, an English language newspaper in Málaga.

With a concentration in international affairs, DeMarco had hoped to do a political internship, but when that couldn't be arranged due to the country's changing political circumstances, he opted to view Spanish politics through the media. In addition to preparing articles about local politics and the president's re-election efforts, he wrote about travel and Spanish attractions while helping out with layout, translation, and photo selection.

"It was interesting to see how a different culture operated within the Spanish culture," said DeMarco of the dynamics among the all-woman staff of two Spanish and three English writers. "Watching how the English women adapted to the culture was enlightening."

During his first day on the job, one of the Spanish writers suggested that he go to Britain to learn "real English" because "Europeans don't like Americans or the way they write." But in the end, the staff was pleased with DeMarco's writing — enough to have another American conduct an internship this year.

"Everyone said that they could tell an American was writing for the paper. They said I included a lot of 'Americanisms,' but I wouldn't relent and refused to spell things the way they wanted. 'Behavior' didn't become 'behaviour' even when the spell checker went ballistic," he laughed.

Because the internship included an academic component and was for-credit, DeMarco kept a journal and had weekly reviews with Grace Jarvis, professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Dickinson and director of the program. He also prepared a comprehensive paper at the end of the term about his experience.

"My internship with *Sur* really gave me a different look at Spanish life," he said. "We have the academic and family experiences, but having an internship, as in the States, gives a glimpse of professional life. I learned a great deal about myself and the world."



Above, the group at Ana Soto's newly opened Flamenco dance studio. At right, Mánolo Jiménez gives a charla (talk) on Flamenco guitar to students at the Dickinson Center.

from page 9

thought was the impossible — doing a musical adaptation of one of Lorca's darkest, most brooding plays. The result was impressive and at times hysterical, with an extended improvisational opening followed by a musical parody, featuring a 6-foot 2-inch Bernarda Alba played by a gifted comic actor in drag!

Students had the opportunity to invite members of their host families and co-workers from their internships to the production. In all, more than 700 people attended. After the performance, students and faculty gathered for a reception where Otto



Roethenmund, longtime friend of the College and trustee who lives in Marbella, Spain, gave a speech (in Spanish) praising the Dickinson ties with Málaga and the university.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the celebration continued on campus. Emphasizing the bonds between Dickinson and Málaga, Mark Aldrich, assistant professor of Spanish, invited Meliveo and novelist Antonio Soler to assist with his Texts to Film seminar. Students studied and compared novels and their film adaptations, including a film script of a scene from Soler's novel *Los héroes de la frontera*, and staged a production of their own at the annual Department of Spanish and Portuguese dinner.

"The class studied theory," Aldrich said. "We examined, for example, why so often viewers are disappointed, why a film doesn't live up to their expectations. We passed the point of 'I don't like this' to examining exactly what is done to the text to create certain impressions."

"Moreover, having the artists on campus added a dimension to our study," he added. "Students were able to read parts of the novel, read the script, listen to the soundtrack, and then ask questions about the process. It was wonderful to have those people who can explain the nuts and bolts of how one moves from a literary text to a film script with a soundtrack."

Also held on campus was a reception at the president's house to celebrate the program's 10th anniversary. The new director of the Cursos Para Extranjeros of the University of Málaga, Professor Inés Carrasco was greeted by former participants of the program on her first visit to Dickinson — the first of what will most likely be many as the Dickinson-Málaga partnership begins its second decade.



Bill Bailey's Spanish family: father, José Antonio; mother, Teresa; sisters, Carolina and Marta; brother, José Antonio; and grandmother, Maria.