



Newsletter of the Department of Modern Languages at the University of the Incarnate Word



www.uiw.edu/chass/academics/departments/modern-languages/

Volume 19, Issue 1 – Fall 2023

NEW MINOR IN SPANISH FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Department of Modern Languages is pleased to announce a new 21-hour minor in Spanish for Health Professions that provides basic, intermediate, and advanced Spanish courses designed to improve the oral and written communication skills and cultural awareness of health professionals with their Spanish-only speaking patients/customers. This new minor will benefit many UIW students, especially those studying health professions such as pre-Med, Nursing, Vision Sciences, pre-Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy, as well as other students pursuing health careers. Health professionals who speak Spanish have a better chance of getting hired and earning a higher salary in areas of high concentration of Spanish speakers because employers need them to communicate in Spanish with their patients/customers. This new minor continues the spirit of service of the first Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who came to San Antonio in 1869 to minister to the sick and the poor. It is compatible with the UIW Mission by training students to be proficient in Spanish when providing quality and accessible healthcare to the underserved.

Degree Requirements for the Minor in Spanish for Health Professions

Required Courses (15 hours):

SPAN 1311	Elementary Spanish I
SPAN 1312	Elementary Spanish II
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I: Oral Communication
SPAN 2315	Spanish for Health Professionals
SPAN 3XXX	Spanish for Pharmacy or SPAN 3XXX Spanish for Vision Science

Electives (6 hours):

SPAN 3301	Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition
SPAN 3319	Spanish Internship
SPAN 3312	Culture and Civilization of Latin America
SPAN 3XXX	Spanish for Pharmacy
SPAN 3XXX	Spanish for Vision Science

For more information about the new minor, please contact Dr. Amalia Mondríguez at 210-829-3894 or mondriagu@uiwtx.edu.

UPCOMING LANGUAGE COURSES – SPRING 2024

CHIN 1312	Elementary Chinese II	MW 4:30–5:45 PM
FREN 1312	Elementary French II	MW 3:00–4:15 PM and 4:30–5:45 PM
FREN 2313	Intermediate French II	MW 6:30–7:45 PM
GERM 1312	Elementary German II	TR 4:30–5:45 PM
GERM 1312	Elementary German II	Online – Asynchronous
HINDI 1312	Elementary Hindi II	Online – Synchronous (MW 4:30–5:45 PM)
IT 1312	Elementary Italian II	MW 9:00–10:15 AM
JAPN 1312	Elementary Japanese II	MW 12:00 – 1:15 PM and 1:30–2:45 PM
KORE 1312	Elementary Korean II	MW 1:30 – 2:45 PM and 3:00–4:15 PM
KORE 2312	Intermediate Korean II	MW 4:30–5:45 PM
SPAN 1311	Elementary Spanish I (11 sections)	
SPAN 1312	Elementary Spanish II (18 sections)	
SPAN 2312	Intermediate Spanish II: Writing – Prof. Liz Hernández	MW 1:30–2:45 PM
SPAN 2315	Intermediate Spanish for Health Professionals – Dr. Amalia Mondríguez	MW 3:00–4:15 PM
SPAN 3301	Advanced Spanish Grammar & Translation – Prof. Liz Hernández	MW 12:00–1:15 PM
SPAN 3311	Culture and Civilization of Spain – Dr. Amalia Mondríguez	TR 12:00–1:15 PM

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to **Dr. Amalia Mondríguez** for being recognized for 35 years of service at UIW during the 2023 Heritage Day Ceremony in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word on October 11, 2023!

From the UIW Community Newsletter (October 13, 2023):

Dr. Amalia Mondríguez, Professor of Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture, is extremely proud of her students' professional and personal achievements. She has watched them become Spanish teachers and professors, school principals, pharmacists, optometrists, physicians, and lawyers, among other wonderful professions. Her impact can be witnessed in each of her students, past and present, who live the UIW Mission in their everyday lives. Mondríguez has been recognized for this impact with several honors and awards over the years, including the Incarnate Word Mission in Education Palmer Award in 2009 and the CCVI Spirit Award in 2016. She was also featured in the book *Great Lives in History: Latinos*.



<https://www.uiw.edu/news/2023/10/uiw-reflects-on-history-and-celebrates-employees-on-heritage-day.html>

NEW PART-TIME FACULTY

Liwei Bai – Chinese

Liwei Bai is originally from Jilin, China. She attended the Northeast Normal University (Jilin, China), where she obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She taught Chinese as second language at several universities in Beijing, and then she moved to San Antonio and taught Elementary and Intermediate Chinese at UTSA for 4 years. In her free time, she likes to hike, travel, and workout. She is also in the San Antonio Dragon Dance group and has performed Dragon Dance in multiple events. She is very active in the Chinese Community Group and has lots of passion in promoting Chinese Culture. She's happy to be living in Texas, along with her husband and her two sons.

Martha Bronstein – Spanish

Martha Bronstein is originally from Mexico City; she grew up there and moved to the U.S. in 1992. She attended the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she obtained her M.A in Spanish. She also attended Texas A&M University, where she completed an M.A. in Counseling and Guidance. She has taught Spanish in several schools at different levels, from pre-K to high school. She also taught Spanish at UTSA and is currently teaching Spanish at UIW and San Antonio College. She also teaches Spanish and French privately. In her free time, she practices fencing, does yoga and meditation classes, and loves going for long walks with her dog Nova.

Liz Hernández – Spanish

Liz Hernández is originally from Caracas, Venezuela, but grew up in Texas. She attended the University of Houston where she obtained her Master's degree and worked on her Ph.D. studies, but hasn't finished her dissertation. She has taught at several universities and her last job was in Connecticut, where she taught language courses, Spanish and Hispanic American literature courses, and Spanish for Nursing and the Health Professions. In her free time, she likes to read, hike, travel and bike. She's happy to be living back in Texas, along with her husband, Tony, and their dog, Rusty.

Vaidehi Shukla – Hindi

Vaidehi Shukla is originally from India and has lived in the U.S. for the past 15 years. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree and Master of Arts degree in Sanskrit Language. She has a vast experience in teaching languages like Hindi and Sanskrit with diverse age groups and levels. She is a certified Yoga teacher and practices Ashtanga Yoga daily. In her free times she loves to go hiking, reading, and spending time with family.

Dr. Flavia Meterez – German

Dr. Flavia Meterez comes from a multicultural city – Timisoara (European Capital of Culture this year). She is a trained actress (<https://dqiet.de/en/home/> - the most recent project) and a visual artist, and has been working as an educator for almost 20 years. She has always been passionate about the education and development of the individual and is always happy to see the benefits that education ultimately allow humanity to flourish intellectually. She has taught art at the Architecture University in Bucharest, Romania, and also worked as a university lecturer in adult education in Romania for many years. In her professional life in Austria, she managed to face a new challenge in the area of training/coaching/consulting – advising people in difficult situations, accompanying young people and adults to clarify their current life situation, and to improve social problems and psychological stability. In the U.S., she started in an ICAP class, working with disabled children, helping them find their way to independence and self-confidence, a very beautiful and at the same time psychologically intensive mission, which offers on a very special professional satisfaction and makes you learn, reevaluate, and reconsider the values of life. Since July 2023, she is part of the German teaching staff of the

Texan Heritage Society in Austin, Texas. In August 2023, she began teaching German at UIW. She also teaches German online in Austria – ibis acam Wien (Austrian Institute). She has lived in 5 countries (Romania, Germany, France, Austria, and the United States), 13 cities (Oradea, Arad, Timisoara, Bucharest, Kandel, Karlsruhe, Mettmann, Lauterbourg, Austin, Baltimore, Cedar Park, North Potomac, and Vienna) on 2 continents (Europe and North America). She moved to San Antonio in October 2023. She is well-traveled, intellectually curious, and loves to meet new people and learn about their stories and mentalities. She is also very handy, does scuba diving and caving, loves cooking (she was a competitor in MasterChef Reality Show Romania 2012), and grew up bilingual (German and Romanian).

Yolanda Ibarra del Villar – Spanish

Eunhye Kim – Korean

STUDENT NEWS

From Professor Elaine Bryant, French Instructor:

News from UIW French includes 3 intermediate students who profited from our study abroad programs. Stephanie was in Strasbourg for the 2023 Spring semester. She reported that she enjoyed her fluency in French by translating for her fellow students and by talking to the Strasbourgeois and Parisiens. Stephanie is pictured on the right between two friends.

Two other intermediate students enthusiastically participated in the Art History session last summer, also in Strasbourg. The French program, as well as many others, benefit from the many study abroad opportunities.



And a note from **Bruno Fernández**, an international student from Mexico who took elementary and intermediate French at UIW with Professor Bryant:

Hello Professor Bryant:

I am very excited to tell you that I had such a great time during my summer in Strasbourg. I learned so much about the French culture and I was truly happy over there. I also practiced a lot of my French and I improved on my speaking abilities quite a lot. I was forced to go out of my comfort zone and actually engage with a lot of people only using French. I was able to visit not only France, but other European countries and I can say that I really enjoy the way they do life over there. I visited one of my friends that lives in Ambonnay, near Reims and his family didn't speak any English so I had to speak to them in French and I was actually defending myself quite well.

I just wanted to take some time to tell you that I am very grateful for everything that you taught me and that I am looking forward to returning to France.

Sincerely,
Bruno Fernández

FACULTY TRAVELS

Professor Esther Harris (Spanish) – Tampico hermoso

This summer I went to my hometown, Tampico, Mexico. It is in the southern part of the State of Tamaulipas. I spent a few days at the beach with my family and my husband, celebrating my mother's 90th birthday. It was a hot but beautiful day. My husband had to go back to the U.S., and I stayed longer.

Tampico has many attractions. Some people like to visit "el muelle" (dock) where tourists can observe the loading and unloading of enormous amounts of cargo. One can also see huge ships from different parts of the world. I always think how incredible it is to see a huge cargo floating on the water. But I have to say that the beach is the main attraction, enjoying the view of the *Golfo de México*. There are several hotels on the beach. The water can be warm during the summer. The swimming is amazing. One of the things that I do when I visit Tampico is to go very early in the morning and watch the beautiful sunrise. I have taken amazing pictures over the years.

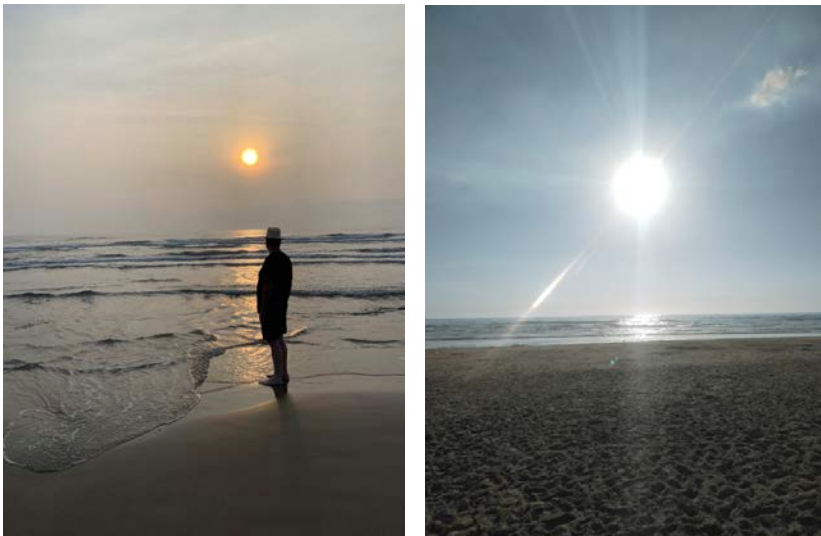
I would recommend that people walk around downtown, shop, eat some delicious ice cream, and have coffee at *Degas Café*. When the sun sets, the ambience becomes more enjoyable. I guess it is because it is not so hot. There are several places to visit that are close to Tampico. La Huasteca, as that region is called, is a beautiful and diverse place. To take a ride on the Río Pánuco and spend the day on the ocean is a great feeling.

Tampico has the best seafood. It is excellent and fresh. There are very nice restaurants, and for all budgets. When I was there, I took advantage of eating *jaibas naturales*, *sopa de mariscos*, *camarones al mojo de ajo*, and much more.

Tampico is more of an industrial city and there are foreign companies which do business with Mexico. There are many tourists, but they mostly are from the Mexican Republic.

I love my hometown, and I always love to visit family and friends.

Sunrise on Tampico Beach

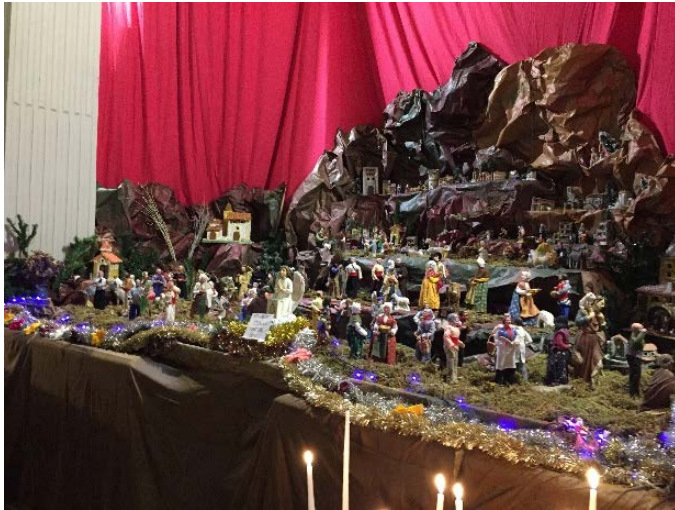


Downtown Tampico – The Municipal Building



Professor Elaine Bryant (French)

For the Christmas holidays, I am returning to the arrière-pays niçois to enjoy all of the goodies at the Christmas markets and the Crèches, Nativity Scenes, with santons (Nativity figures) hand-made locally. It has been a joy learning about the history of the area from the Sisters, always by the Nativities in the churches. They are generous with their time and knowledge of the area, and always curious about French in Texas and about UIW.



Dr. Flavia E. Meterez (German)

I traveled to Romania, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria & Italy this summer. It was a pretty spontaneous decision to travel – a project I made in Germany 2 years ago had finally the long expected German premiere (<https://dqiet.de/en/home/>) and I wanted to see it on the big screen together with my team - and a 5-week long trip.

Michael Tallon (Spanish)

In Summer 2023, Michael Tallon spent two months in Spain, visiting 11 cities: Madrid, Toledo, Sevilla, Granada, Valencia, Salamanca, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Pamplona, Barcelona, and Segovia. While in Pamplona, he attended the world-famous Festival de San Fermín and on Saturday, July 8th, ran with the bulls on Calle Santo Domingo.



FACULTY ACTIVITIES

In the summer of 2022, **Dr. Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz** organized a 6-credit study abroad program in Alicante, Spain. Students stayed with host families and took classes on Spanish cultural studies and advanced grammar. Besides attending classes, students went on numerous excursions up and down la Costa Blanca and visited Barcelona and Valencia. They also got the opportunity to learn how to cook a few Spanish delicacies and practice various watersports!



While in Spain, Professor Saxton-Ruiz held an event on literary translation with 2022 NEA fellow Layla Benitez-James.



Later that year, Professor Saxton-Ruiz published an anthology of Peruvian fiction in translation. The collection of short stories was published by Dulzorada Press and featured the most critically acclaimed authors of Peru of the 21st century. Below are some of the blurbs discussing the work.

"*Paciencia Perdida* does not make you lose your patience at all. Entering this kaleidoscope of contemporary Peruvian literature is an adventure and a risk. Lose yourself into this labyrinth and I am sure you will continue exploring our country's new voices. Like most Peruvians you will simultaneously enjoy and suffer as you start to identify with authentic life experiences from Peru."

-Alejandro Neyra, Peru's former Minister of Culture and author of *Mi monstruo sagrado*

"*Paciencia Perdida* is a true gift of a book that illuminates the wholeness and complexity of contemporary Peruvian literature. As part of the Peruvian English-speaking diaspora, I was entranced to read familiar voices and discover several new to me, and to feel, with each turn of the page, ever closer to home."
-Natalia Sylvester, author of *Chasing the Sun* and *Breathe and Count Back From Ten*

"The mission of *Paciencia Perdida* is to kill Mario Vargas Llosa, or if that seems too extreme, at least aggressively ignore him and everyone else stuck on the idea that he is Peru's only international literary treasure. Gracias a diosito, it was high damn time somebody do so! Chock full of creativity and wit, women who rank their sexual partners and pollo a la brasa, the tragic realities of feminicide and Peruvian adventures well beyond the Andes, slitting guinea pig throats and Motley Crue tee shirts, everyday racist insults and archeological sites as ancient as time, an utter lack of faith in government and tremendous hope for the future, and so much more. This is Peruvian culture in all its glorious and global weirdness. Translated with immense cultural skill by Gabriel T. Saxton-Ruiz, the point is not to bring Peru to you, the Anglo reader uninitiated into Peru's contemporary writer scene, but to transport you there. It's a trip worth the taking!"
-Shane Greene, Professor of Anthropology at Indiana University and author of *Punk and Revolution: Seven More Interpretations of Peruvian Reality*

Dr. Saxton-Ruiz presented his book on several occasions in New York City, Buenos Aires, San Luis Potosí, Dallas, San Antonio, and Lima. Below is a flyer announcing the presentation at the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL) de Lima.

Presentación:
***Paciencia Perdida, An Anthology of Peruvian Fiction* de Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz >>>>>>**

Miércoles 2 de Agosto
Auditorio José María Arguedas
8:00 pm

Participan:
Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz
Romina Paredes
Richard Parra

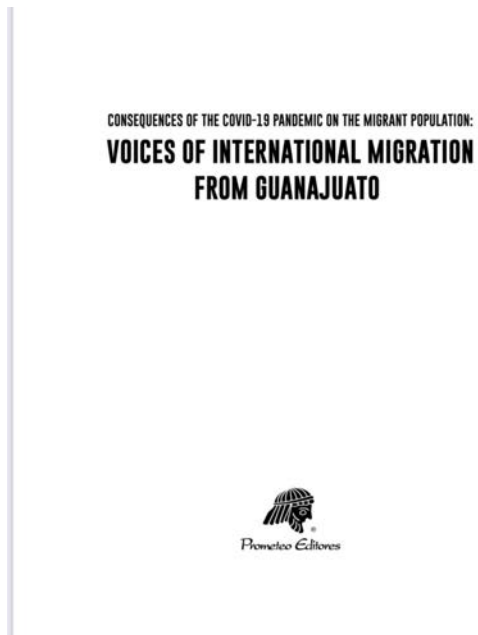
Organiza:

27 FERIA INTERNACIONAL DEL LIBRO DE LIMA

Duquerada

CANARA PERUANA DEL LIBRO

Professor Saxton-Ruiz also published a translation of the book *Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Migrant Population: Voices of International Migration from Guanajuato* through Prometeo Editores.



Diego Sínhue Rodríguez Vallejo
Governor of Guanajuato

Juan Hernández
Minister of Migrant and International Affairs of the State of Guanajuato

Susana Guerra Vallejo
Undersecretary of Hospitality and Interculturality

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Editorial design and cover

Dr. Gabriel Saxton-Ruiz
Department of Modern Languages,
The University of the Incarnate Word

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Guanajuato, Mexico, June 14, 2023

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He also published a chapter in the collection of essays, *Vivir la violencia en el Perú del nuevo milenio*. The title of his article is “Proyectos de resistencia: literatura peruana en traducción y mercado global.”

Lastly, Professor Saxton-Ruiz published a translation in the anthology *Daughters of Latin America* edited by Sandra Guzmán.

Guzmán visited UIW in October and was featured on Texas Public Radio.
<https://www.tpr.org/podcast/fronteras/2023-10-13/fronteras-new-anthology-highlights-the-exquisite-and-brilliant-works-of-latine-women-across-genres-and-generations>



In 2022, **Michael Tallon** presented “Foreign Language Anxiety and Cooperative Learning: A Pilot Study” at the UIW Virtual Research Week 2022; “The Effects of Foreign Language Anxiety on Spanish Heritage Students: A Pilot Study” at the NHLRC Fourth International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages (Virtual Conference); “A Comparison of Foreign Language Anxiety in Heritage and Non-Heritage Students of Spanish” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) 2022 Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and “Student Reactions to Using Technology in Foreign Language Classes” at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2022 Conference. In 2023, he presented “A Qualitative Study of Student Reactions to the Use of Technology in Foreign/Second Language Classes” at the UIW Research Week 2023; “The Use of Technology in Foreign Language Classes: An Exploratory Qualitative Study of Student Reactions” at the AATSP 2023 Conference in Salamanca, Spain; and “Spanish Students’ Beliefs about L2 Learning: Heritage v. Non-Heritage” at the ACTFL 2023 Conference in Chicago, IL. In 2022 and 2023, he reviewed papers for *Applied Linguistics*, *Journal of Spanish Language Teaching*, *Spanish as a Heritage Language*, *Heritage Language Journal*, and Cambridge University Press. In Spring 2022, he completed the UIW Title V FLIGHT Faculty Mentor Training Program and in Fall 2022 began teaching a section of UIW’s new First Year Experience Seminar course required for freshmen students. He continues to serve as a First Gen Faculty Member for first-generation college students at UIW. In Summer 2022 and Summer 2023 he once again served on the Meet the Mission Planning Committee.

DID YOU KNOW?

From The ACTFL SmartBrief (October 5, 2023):

Texas high-schoolers explore culture through mariachi

Some band students at Tuloso-Midway High School in Corpus Christi, Texas, are learning to play and sing mariachi music in a class focused on the musical genre from Mexico, a course that is helping some to connect to their culture and heritage. Antonio De La Rosa, the mariachi band director, says the class exposes students to an element of the local Hispanic culture and celebrates the language of music.

Full Story: <https://www.kristv.com/news/hispanic-heritage/mariachi-tierra-mia-inspires-students-at-tuloso-midway-high-school>

UIW DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES WEB SITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

Be sure to check out our web site (<https://www.uiw.edu/chass/academics/departments/modern-languages>) for information about our language programs and our faculty, previous newsletters, and other information! Also, find us on Facebook by searching for “**Temas hispanos – UIW**” Be sure to “Like” our page so that you can keep up with our departmental happenings and stay in touch with faculty and both current and former students!

About Our Department

The Department of Modern Languages at the University of the Incarnate Word, part of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, develops cultural awareness and language proficiency, opening the door to greater communication with the world.

Through courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Spanish, students of UIW's Modern Languages department learn how to interact with people across the globe. The department aims to provide the highest quality instruction while preparing students for life, leadership, and careers in a changing, multicultural world.

Students will learn to communicate effectively, use ethical decision-making skills to evaluate the consequences of personal behavior, think critically and creatively, and understand the ways humans have been influenced by culture, religious and ethnic traditions. Language courses are designed to develop skills in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing, and greater cultural sensitivity. Students come to understand how to control grammar and vocabulary and demonstrate overall proficiency. They learn under instruction of exceptional faculty with deep expertise in areas including language acquisition, linguistics, language, popular culture, and literature.

Additionally, with UIW's two campuses in Mexico, UIW-Strasbourg in France and more than 140 study abroad locations in six continents, students have ample opportunity to study abroad and immerse themselves in the culture and language they are studying.

The department also introduces international languages and culture to the University community through special events and *tertulias* (informal conversation groups), guest lectures, and interactive experiences, such as an *el Día de los Muertos* community altar.

If you have any comments about this newsletter or would like to include information in the next newsletter, please contact Michael Tallon at tallon@uiwtx.edu or 210-805-5891.

*"Own only what you can always carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people.
Let your memory be your travel bag."*

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Russian Writer, awarded the 1970 Nobel Prize in Literature
