

## Program Highlights

**Russian Program:** PSU has retained its status as a funded program in The Language Flagship. Because of budget cuts, the competition for Flagship Programs was particularly sharp this year, and the number of Russian Flagships was cut from eight to four. For the grant period 2024-2028, PSU will join Indiana University, University of Georgia, and University of Wisconsin-Madison as one of the four Russian Flagship programs in the whole United States. In July 2023, the Flagship Program welcomed Ms. Rose Lewis as our new Program Coordinator.

**Spanish Program:** Isabel Jaén Portillo, Professor of Spanish, organized the [Hispanic Poets Bilingual Miniseries](#) (May 2024). The Miniseries was offered in connection with the “Lovesickness Poetry Lab” in the course Spanish 399: Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Mental Health. The lab bridged early modern and contemporary views of love and melancholy, as expressed in poetry; it connected PSU’s students and the PSU community to the Portland and Oregon community of Hispanic and bilingual poets. The Miniseries hosted Oregon-based poets Juan Cervantes, Jorge Porrata, Ximena Keogh Serrano, and Valentina Ortiz. It was sponsored by PSU’s World Languages and Literatures Department and its Spanish Program, and was open to PSU and the community.

The course Spanish 342: Early Modern Colonial Culture and Literary Expression (proposal by Prof. Enrique Cortez and Prof. Isabel Jaén Portillo) was approved by the PSU Faculty Senate in April 2024 to be part of the Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement. This course explores power dynamics and systemic oppression during the early modern period with a focus on the struggle of

Black, Moorish, Indigenous, and other populations and on intersectional experiences related to gender in the Iberian Peninsula and Spanish America.

**Phi Sigma Iota:** On June 12, the PSU Chapter of **Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honor Society** inducted fifteen new candidates. Tim Nidever, Teaching Assistant Professor of Latin, delivered the keynote speech honoring the inductees. Below are the new members, who are all B.A. students majoring in the language except where noted:

### **Applied Linguistics**

Margaret Clark (also Russian minor)

Erin Clarke

Shelley Tennison (M.A.)

### **French**

Sophie Jones

### **German**

Alexander Gill

Danny Helton (minor)

Nadia Isom

Nina Martin (minor)

### **Japanese**

Nautica Abu-Zubaidah (minor)

Shizuka Fukuo (M.A.)

Kyra Aramori

**Russian**

silver fox (minor)

Akane Hansen (minor)

**Spanish**

Gudelia Contreras Flores (M.A.)

Bailie Salcido (M.A.)