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Episode 23: Taylor Matthew Ashley

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Transcript

Christina Torres:

Hi everyone and welcome to Futures in Languages, a podcast showcasing stories from UCF's Modern Languages and Literatures Department alumni. I'm your host, Christina Torres, and today we'll be talking with Taylor Matthew Ashley. He graduated from business management school at UCF in fall of 2012. He took many classes in Spanish in the Modern Languages Department and also has his MBA from UCF graduating in spring of 2015. Thank you so much for joining us today, Taylor.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah. Thank you, Christina.

Christina Torres:

Yay. So I did a little bit of reading about you before today's podcast recording session and I just was so excited and we'd started chatting a little bit before this recording session about all of the really cool things that you've been able to do after studying Spanish in the Modern Languages and Literatures Department. But before we get into all of that, could you tell us a little bit about yourself, maybe where you're from?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure, absolutely. And thank you again for having me. So I was born in the formerly small town of Naples, Florida, now a booming metropolis, and to a pretty large family, mostly dominated by my Cuban close-knit family that continued to grow over the course of my young years. I grew up with five siblings, six of us total, two of my sisters in Texas, south Texas. And yeah, went to a small Catholic school for my upbringing, I was a rambunctious kid. I think one thing that probably growing up super close, my great-grandparents, both from Cuba, they raised me while my mother was working my father was in the Navy and that's where I'd say my origin of my bond, my roots came from. There is a little sadness to it, but there's redemption in it, which led me to my language journey. That was so I grew up bilingual, especially being with my grandparents during the day. But when I started school, I basically developed a bit of shame of being in an English speaking school and not understanding what home was and what outside of home was. And that developed in me having a disdain for Spanish. I was embarrassed and that persisted, even though I took Spanish classes, my entire education, I never wanted to speak it until I came to UCF and everything changed.

Christina Torres:

Gosh, I feel like your story is one that I relate to a lot because growing up my family is Puerto Rican and my sister and I also grew up bilingual, also grew up with very close relationships to our grandparents who really mostly just spoke Spanish. So in order for us to communicate with them, we had to speak Spanish. And I like to tell the story to my students now too about how, and really socio-linguistically like young children even understand what the dominant, and I'm using really what the dominant language in a speech community is. And we know that in Florida, especially at the time that we were growing up, English was the dominant and still continues to be the dominant language. Although Spanish has definitely increased in the years since then. So it made sense. And my sister and I definitely resisted the Spanish-only policy in our house for a very long time.

And there was this pull between the home language and the school language and a bit of tension, let's say there. But I also took Spanish, all the way from Spanish one through AP in school because there really wasn't a great placement test for heritage speakers. So I would always treat that like, well, I take an English class and I speak English and I'm going to take a Spanish class and I speak Spanish. And that's just a way to continue to develop the language in the literacy skills. But I agree with you, it took me a bit when I was older to really appreciate the heritage language for all of its usefulness and obviously the strong connection to home and to identity as well. Is that what I hear you saying?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

A hundred percent, yeah.

Christina Torres:

Okay. Awesome. Well, thank you for sharing how you found your way to studying Spanish as a heritage speaker in your Cuban background. I typically ask folks what they've been up to since graduation, but I have a list of all of the really cool things that you've done. So just to give our listeners a little bit of background, I understand that you did Peace Corps, you did AmeriCorps Vista, you were a youth outreach coordinator in the Bowell Center for Service and Volunteerism. You were also an executive director at the International Friendship Center in North Carolina. And now you're an internship coordinator at the main business school. You also studied abroad in Cuba. So I want to unpack this a little bit and let's go ahead and just start off with where did you start after graduation?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure. After, oh my gosh. It's a wild journey. So as life goes, you never know where it may take you. I had three pronged approach. It was join the Peace Corps, pursue an MBA or go sailing in the Caribbean, learn to sail, work on a ship. Yeah, aka I was ready to adventure and not know what was to come. I met my wife and at UCF with, at a international student party that we had at our house and that rerouted everything and we're celebrating our eight year anniversary.

Christina Torres:

Oh, congratulations.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah, thank you. So I share that to basically say that the journey became intertwined and as my wife and I re-planned and schemed what our life would be like after graduation maintaining both of our goals and our shared goals, it rerouted everything quite quickly. So it's funny, I always say I decided to pursue an MBA at the time instead of the Peace Corps, knowing that we could join the Peace Corps together. And that was our plan. So there went the next couple of years to basically align our timelines. Katie was just a year and a half behind in school. So off went the MBA continuing at UCF I was able to intern and Global Perspectives as the Latin American correspondent. Another thing I never would've planned, but that just was an amazing experience to be an advocate and to bring the news of what was going on current event-wise and various Latin American countries. Following that, we joined the Peace Corps. We went to Nicaragua. Yeah, it was so cool. It was great. I was serving in a high school in a couple classes, all in Spanish, teaching entrepreneurship, co-teaching entrepreneurship with local teachers there while my wife was at working in the maternal clinics in a small village just in the south of Nicaragua, 20 miles north of Costa Rica. There is a unfortunate piece. We weren't able to complete our service, but we can always touch on that later.

Christina Torres:

We could, do you have any memorable stories? I'm sure you have so many memorable stories. We could talk for a whole hour about Peace Corps if I understand every time I talk with Peace Corps volunteers. But do you have a memorable story that sticks out to you from that time that you'd like to share with our listeners?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah, I do. I will try to share it and hopefully this is just what immediately what comes to mind. So there was a lady in our village, she was the lady who didn't come from much, she had her home, a roof over her head, and she had a small fruit and vegetable stand. This particular lady being a food person, a lover of food, I'm always attracted to, especially a grandmother's, the style of cooking I try to emulate. So I would go visit all the time and sometimes she'd prepare hot dishes too for the community, mostly from pigs. She would take the things that nobody really had much use for, like the head and all the insides, and she would make kind of lemonade with lemons. She would take all of it and prepare Murcia. It was absolutely delicious. They put mint in the Murcia in Anika, which I thought was really nice, and rice like the Colombian style.

And I was so fascinated. I just struck up a relationship with her and wanted to learn. So I guess the memory I have was going to her house at 7:00 AM one morning to learn how to break down a head of a pig and how to make Murcia. And it was the full process. And what makes me, I'll never be able to forget this. Also because as soon as I was riding my bike home after that experience, which was super profound and left such an impact in so many ways. But this is the abridged version. I got a call from my stepfather who also raised me, and he had let me know that my mother had just suffered a stroke.

Christina Torres:

Oh, I'm so sorry.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

In Naples. Yeah. Because of technology, we were able to find that out, not like the old Peace Corps days. So it was this, I don't know, it just cleaning the head of a pig like intimately. While my mother at the time was suffering a stroke that was caused from her head. Just one of those memories I'll never forget. My mother's doing great, she's an amazing woman. And when we left the Peace Corps, we were able to support this lady's business. Our departure came quick, but we were able to leave some funds to help her be able to continue her business, to support her family. So I'll never forget her.

Christina Torres:

And isn't that really what these programs like Peace Corps are all about, is creating connections with the local community and then empowering them to really continue what you're able to notice our projects that are of interest to them. So to encourage and then to really step back and see after you leave, what is it that happens once you're gone too? And it's always so rewarding to hear the stories of how folks have continued to succeed and have been able to grow in their skills and in their businesses. In your case. And in my case, when I was abroad, I taught teachers. So for me it's really fulfilling to hear their teacher stories now all these years later. That sounds like a really intense and meaningful experience, which I'm assuming you used a lot of Spanish for. Is that correct?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

The entire time.

Christina Torres:

Yeah. Yeah, awesome. Great. So you did the Peace Corps and then where did you go next?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure. Yeah, it was wild. We came back earlier being like, where are we? Where we're supposed to continue in our plan, grandiose plan of life to be in the Peace Corps for the next 27 months. So we came back, we were unfulfilled in that sense of a sense, a service-based mentality and to not complete service to the end was we knew there was more. So we got back to the drawing board as we do all the time, and we set our site on AmeriCorps. That seemed to be a domestic quick opportunity we could jump right into. So we were able to, well, we applied and got placed in the Southwest, another Spanish speaking place. We got to spend two months in South Texas with my younger sisters, my father and my stepmother. Also a Spanish speaking environment. And my father ended up passing away a few years later. So it was just one of those amazing opportunities to have the most intimate time with him before. But then we were ready, we packed our bags, we flew to Puerto Rico for a little bit and then made our way to the Southwest where we completed conservation work service before making our way to the beautiful state of Maine.

Christina Torres:

Awesome. And for those who are listening and maybe haven't heard about the program, AmeriCorps, could you give us a little brief summary on what the goals of this program are and what attracted you about these goals?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure. So AmeriCorps, it is for those of you familiar with Peace Corps, it is a similar approach but it's domestically focused and also in the US territories as well. So there's a variety of service opportunities ranging from three months to a year, even working in disaster relief with NCCC. There's AmeriCorps Vista, there's the food core there. There's many aspects, but really it brings together folks from the states that have a mentality to provide service. It started in the 1930s again when we had our Conservation Civilian Core building and establishing an infrastructure that lasts till today and it lives on to today. What I love is it just brings us super culturally and regionally and all the dimensions of diversity together for a common goal here to support our community, our people. And there's something for everybody. That's what I love about it

Christina Torres:

From my conversations with folks who have done AmeriCorps in the past, was one of the things that they've said is that it just gives you an opportunity to learn about different slices of America that maybe you hadn't already seen or maybe been exposed to or maybe even considered as working environments beforehand. Do you have any comments that you'd like to say in response to that?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah. Oh my gosh. I mean, as far as exploring new places, my we're explorers. We started that back at UCF. I always go back to UCF because that's for kind of a lot of transformation occurred, but there were still so many aspects of the United States but never traveled to growing up in Florida. You're so deep down in Florida that it takes so long just to get out unless you hop on a flight. Yeah. So the Southwest,

it's funny, I heard more about Utah, the Grand Canyon, the different national parks, Zion, Bryce Canyon from travelers abroad when traveling in Asia, Latin America. They tell me, oh my gosh, you have to go to Bryce or Zion, why am I hearing more about this from people from other countries than our own? So that's what put it on the map. This opportunity to give us the chance to visit a small slice.

It was like a travel as two dimensional. It's drawing a little pencil line across the globe in a, but to shade in a place, it takes time to get more exposure. That's what it gave us. This place for example, we found that the Spanish community, the agricultural backbone of Southern Utah and the labor force were largely Mexican and Central American. So going there to work amongst mostly folks who didn't speak Spanish in our conservation core we were the ones going to the bodega, getting all the food, bringing it back it started to create bonds between our AmeriCorps volunteers and the Latin community, hurricane, as they say Utah. And another place we've been able to travel back to one of our students in my wife's lab here is from that place of Utah. And she's just so amazed at how does anybody in the world know about this place? And we say AmeriCorps. It's a small world.

Christina Torres:

It's a nice way to establish those connections. And I hear you saying, and correct me if I'm wrong, that you were really a language broker between the AmeriCorps group and the local community. Is that correct?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

A hundred percent. We'd come back from an eight day hitch, as they say working in back country aspects of our public lands. And we'd get back in. First thing I'd want to do is go get a couple pounds of beans and get some. And every time we kept bringing our volunteers with us, cause they're fascinated, they loved it. And by the end of just a three month stay there, the amount of students that were taking upon themselves to go and kind of break down the barriers that were going into the stores themselves and supporting that local business was, I didn't think about it at the time, but looking back, it really was building bridges.

Christina Torres:

Yeah. And just out of curiosity, could you just explain for our listeners, what was your job when you were, or your main assignment when you were in the AmeriCorps?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure. So that aspect of AmeriCorps, the Conservation Corps was working on plant restoration projects. So removing invasive plant species from, again, public lands, which could be Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest, as well as the national public or National Park Service. So we go in and remove, we'd also restore habitats for, it was quite amazing for the boreal towed population to keep them from being endangered. So you had to plant willow trees that you'd cut from the beaver environment, put 'em in water, let them grow roots, come back a week later, put 'em in old beaver habitat to bring the beavers back to dam the water, to bring the toads back, the coolest.

Christina Torres:

That's so cool. And did you get to work in the National parks then, I'm guessing? Yeah. Oh, what a beautiful place. That's amazing. Oh, I do have Utah National Parks on my to-go list personally. So just your story is encouraging me to make that happen sooner rather than later.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

It's just a hop skip and a step

Christina Torres:

Hop, skip and a step. Oh gosh. So you did your AmeriCorps and then out again, out of curiosity, what did you do next?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

So that was our time that both Katie and I were, so I had completed my master's degree before at UCF, as you mentioned, my MBA. So I felt adequate. Whereas my wife on the other hand, she is a plant pathologist

Christina Torres:

Oh cool.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Researcher for cooperative extension. And so her aspirations are pursuing the PhD aspect is almost a requisite in her path. So the wild blueberries called us to Maine. We, at that time, me being an extremely flexible human can make the most out of any opportunity. Katie had the graduate school aspiration, and there's a moment where, so during our AmeriCorps time Katie was applying for graduate schools that would take her on for a fully funded program. And it came down to the University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, and the University of Maine. All intriguing places that we never would've thought we'd be. Really, it came just the opportunity, the allure of a completely new environment. We had never been to New England. The main wild blueberries being a cultural heritage crop of North America was that you just couldn't beat it. So that brought us here and where we are today and extremely happy, and now we're boarded by French speaking lands. And that's the journey that I'm currently in.

Christina Torres:

That sounds like a lot of really cool moments, seasons in the career that led you to where you are now. And I always encourage my students going through undergrad to keep in mind opportunities will present themselves and you know, might take some twists and turns in your professional journey, but take those twists and turns and it's okay if you're not in one job forever. It's okay to switch and to continue to explore and to grow, which is what it sounds like you've been up to for the last couple years since graduation.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Absolutely. So the space I work in now and was exposed to as an undergrad at UCF as a work study student in the experiential learning office, they support internship support. So if there's any current listeners that are students, definitely reach out to the experiential learning office and your career services. But I like to phrase it here as the career evolution and taking it really one step at a time and not overthinking it and just trusting in your gut, your instincts and whatever's ahead of you. Aiming for where you're aiming want to have a target to aim for, but sure things aren't all linear.

Christina Torres:

Yeah, I like that you said that things aren't all linear and I think that sums it up really nicely. So Taylor, I understand that you studied abroad or you led a study abroad in Cuba. Can you tell us a little bit more about that?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Sure. And I'll just mention this too, before that I participated in a study abroad direct exchange in Barcelona as a student then was able to, yes, I was able to take a few students to Cuba 2019 in the late summer of 2019 to film a documentary.

Christina Torres:

Oh, cool. And what was the documentary about?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Ooh, it was almost twofold. I would say one was daily life of youth, basically how they interact and play in and pass time together in Trinidad, in the south central Cuba. And the other part which was quite fun, was to document and record a local band there. So that was everything from recording small music videos and clips to also following them to their at times prohibited busking experiences. And that was just phenomenal. They were actually returning back. These students had gone with a larger group before about a year and a half before. And this trip was the follow up to go deeper. That's where I got to be the trusted representative of the University of Maine.

Christina Torres:

Oh, that's awesome. To be able to lead folks there. And so then you've had several study abroad moments, including Barcelona and Cuba. Is there anything you'd like to share with us about your experience in Barcelona?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah, the funniest thing I would say is well, I guess it all, so everything in my life transformed at a specific moment. It was in Barcelona where this happened and it was the right before my fall semester of my first year of undergraduate school. And I just had this overwhelming feeling of gratitude and appreciation for family life, culture, food really everything, just gratitude. And that's where a lot of my goals that set forth going back to UCF created. And one was language learning, becoming fluent again in Spanish. And the other, two more, one was going to Cuba, going to visit and trace the roots to Cuba. And then the third was going to study in Barcelona. And this all happened at that moment in so I guess the funniest part about it was showing up to Barcelona not knowing that Catalan was the language, the heritage language and the language in which the Catalonians prefer to speak. My thought was I'm going to go to Barcelona to enhance my Spanish language, and I did, but not in Barcelona. So that was probably one of the funniest things. The other thing that is just one of many, many things, but I ended up staying in kind of doing some work exchange at a hostel for the entirety of my experience there. I was in Barcelona for about five months and then went off about after that onto the Camino, the Santiago. But I got to stay under the same roof, commune with others by eating food, cooking traditional Cuban meals, learning their dishes with people from 65 different countries.

Christina Torres:

Wow, that's awesome.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

That to me is definitely one of the most when I look back, enriching experiences and things I share with others about of benefits of exploring your backyard, but also places that are unfamiliar.

Christina Torres:

And out of curiosity, where did that fall in your timeline? When was Barcelona?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah, that was, okay. So is there any current students listening? I waited till the end to both do my study abroad experience and my internship experience. So it led to a wild journey, but I did that. So I graduated in December of 2012. I went abroad January, 2012, if that makes sense. So the spring semester.

Christina Torres:

So then you spent spring and summer, then over in Spain. Gotcha.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Yeah, Spain in Europe. And then I smelled my mother's black beans and felt homesick for the one and only time so far in my life and immediately came back to get some of those beans

Christina Torres:

That's important. And food really just is a way to just connect to our roots and also to share with others. I have similar experiences of cooking. For example, first Thanksgiving abroad with colleagues over in Bangladesh and I invited everybody over and made some food and we did the best we could with the ingredients that we had available to us, but just this idea of here is Thanksgiving and here and everyone was just sitting around and really it was a nice opportunity for exchange and for sharing and a little bit of nostalgia. Obviously we missed our families, but I really remember that holiday. And it sounds like you had a similar experience with the sharing of food. Maybe not necessarily Thanksgiving all the time, but just the sharing of food. And imagine you had a good amount of cross sharing of food with the 60 plus nationalities represented in that hostel.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

An immense amount. My favorite thing at every Cuban dish I would make bean based, my three close friends from India would be like, this tastes exactly like a dish from India. And I, at first I'd be like, this is Cuban, what are you talking about? And I came to find out that as I got to learn Indian cooking, well there's differences but so many similarities and the beans are the glue to the social fabric of the world. It's something I believe. But I'm curious, Christina, what did you prepare for those folks in Bangladesh?

Christina Torres:

Oh, for my Thanksgiving? Well, we had a toaster oven that was rather large that we borrowed from a colleague, so we were able to make two small-ish chickens. So we roasted the chickens and then we couldn't use anything pork based because of the local culture. So we did potato based stuffing, we used as best we could, oregano, vinegar, that kind of mix. I don't know if you're familiar with that Puerto Rican spice mix, but we did the best we could with garlic, onion, oregano, did some mashed potatoes as best we could and did some local vegetables as best we could. It was remarkably similar to something

that we might find here in the States but maybe the cooking process was a touch different because again, we didn't have an oven to use, but I just remember everybody sitting on a floor in cushions because we didn't have a very furnished house, so we just arranged cushions in a circle. All of us sat, all of us ate with plates on our laps and just had a nice chat about food and family and community and what that means to all of us and what we are grateful for. That tradition of going around the table and saying something you're grateful for. We did that with everyone. I have just a fond memory of that experience in that year too.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

That sounds awesome. That's the thing with food, it's so special that that's something that I think is the common identity of my language journey, I would say through food and an easy way for me to learn language is because it's connecting passion.

Christina Torres:

And yeah, that's been a theme too in this alumni podcast is focusing use language and explore language in an area that brings you curiosity and joy and passion. So if you're very passionate about food and cooking, talk with folks or listen to podcasts or watch shows about food and cooking. And even in your story with the Nicaraguan woman and how you were there cooking with her, it sounds like those are opportunities for you to use your Spanish and also to draw those community connections, which seems so important because now you are an internship coordinator for the main business school and it seems like your journey has been a lot about service oriented engagement and how to engage with your community and how you use language also as a tool to engage with the local community. Could you just briefly for our listeners, share with us maybe a typical day for you and your job now?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Oh my gosh. All right. Typical day. It's all over the place, but I see it 100% as a service to our students, to our community, to the economy of Maine, to the economy of the globe. A typical day. Well, yesterday was a good day, so it's all over the place really. So we're planning on taking 10 students to Montreal just next week. So meeting with some students to just casually check in about the trip. We started a new international business and culture club so spent the evening at Walmart buying about \$300 of groceries to support one of our student members preparing a Filipino meal for our culture fest coming up next week. Aside from that, giving a one hour workshop on how to leverage LinkedIn as a tool for job searching, internship searching and networking and career exploration. Yesterday was Wednesday, running over. Well, actually I enjoyed a nice bowl of beans, corn and corn beans, Tash, and traditional dish.

And I think one thing is constantly when I'm connecting with employers, so I'm here to serve all students no matter what their passions are but the ones that I really connect with and I'm looking to advocate for students our international students. And so working with employers to familiarize themselves with the eligibility of our students, both undergraduate and graduate, working with our students on a one-on-one basis not just international students, but all to break down demystify, as you said earlier, the process of searching to gain professional experience as a student. It's a lot. We also got a bunch of networking cards for students, so I have to get that all delivered. We have a cool thing. So as an undergrad at UCF working in the experiential learning office I got exposure to this nature of work and I just wanted to be able to provide that back to our students now. So I was able to hire a team of four students to be in a similar role that I was in. So it's almost like a full circle experience, but to sum it up, it is all over the place in a great way.

Christina Torres:

That sounds like every day is something new, which is cool. And I know something a lot of folks are looking for. If you can, I do have one last quick question for you before we sign off for today, and I appreciate you taking the time to chat with us. I know that you studied in the Spanish program in modern languages and literatures. How did that Spanish program, and you've touched on this, prepare you for now, but really I also am curious, what advice would you offer someone who's interested in studying Spanish or another language?

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

Well, first of all, I think on the advice piece is the passion and the curiosity and the interest, but going back to how it I guess the, it's crazy. It laid a foundation, as they say with language. Once you learn one language, it becomes easier to learn others and the pedagogy and the approach that I had basically coming in from what I'm going to start from the elementary side and just build a foundation through Spanish. It was amazing. It brought me, it was great being a business student, but being able to be connected with language learners was a more diverse academic space that I didn't quite have in my other classes. So that was amazing. It provided the foundation to learn Spanish and to build upon it. It connected me with amazing faculty because of them I was able to go visit the hometown of where my family in Cuba's from.

I remember the day just going to the teacher, I heard, you can go volunteer in Cuba and she said, you know what? I have another opportunity for you. So it really laid a foundation. Since then, I've been taking Portuguese classes here and also have been taking now intermediate French classes. Yeah, it's hard. It's not easy. The Portuguese is fun and I really enjoy it. The French is tough, but we're bordered by French speaking province too in Canada, both Quebec and New Brunswick bilingual. So the motivation's there to learn it and the resources are here. I would say that if I didn't take those classes in and at UCF, this would've been a lot more unfamiliar this practice. But because of that, you kind of get the flow of the foundational aspect to it, and then where it really takes a leap and gets deeper.

The advice I have is you always hear that it's like anything in life. You may not know where it goes, but it truly opens doors like figurative and imaginative doors. If you are someone who wants to connect with others on a both superficial and deep way, language is one of the best ways to do it. And as a student universities are one of the aspects that they have, and UCF has an amazing program is to provide the resources for you. I always say that question, if you have a superpower, what would it be? My response is always I wish I could understand and speak every language in the world so they could have the chance to just sit down and have a solid connection because language is, it's a gateway. You could speak universally with non-verbal cues and still connect, but there's something about the language that humans have stuff to share in a languages, the channel in which it can be done a lot of times.

Christina Torres:

I think that's just really well said, Taylor. Thank you. We can just say, you didn't hear it from me. You heard it from Taylor, one of our awesome alumni. Thank you for sharing your experience with us and thank you for inspiring our listeners to imagine themselves in the spaces that learning a language can take them in their career, which as you said, doesn't have to be linear.

Taylor Matthew Ashley:

That's right. Thank you, Christina, and to the entire UCF community, and I owe it to you all. Thank you.

Christina Torres:

Thank you for listening to this episode of Futures in Languages. I'd like to give a shout out to Da Video Guy for our intro and outro music downloaded from freesound.org. I'm Christina Torres, and our featured guest today was Taylor Matthew Ashley. Tune in next time to hear more alumni stories from Modern Languages. For more information about Spanish and other language programs in the Modern Languages Department, please visit our website at mll.cah.ucf.edu.