

# Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Northeastern Illinois University

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## Welcome from the Chair

On behalf of the approximately thirty faculty members in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, I wish to welcome you to NEIU and to encourage you to explore the many resources that we can provide you in the area of language instruction and literary and cultural studies. We currently offer majors in Spanish and French and minors in Spanish, French, Italian, and Korean. We also offer two or three semesters of coursework in a variety of other languages, including Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

If you are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, you may complete six of the nine hours you are required to take in the Humanities by enrolling in our basic language courses (see the most recent "Schedule of Classes" for a complete list of these courses).

You will quickly discover that the study of another language and culture can be one of the most rewarding and transformational experiences of your life. The ability to speak, read, write, and comprehend another language is a valuable asset in today's global workplace. Foreign language students are often able to utilize their language skills in both the public and private sectors. Some become teachers. Others become medical or social service professionals. Others still pursue careers in banking, law, computer science, tourism and hospitality, journalism, publishing, diplomacy, and the like. The opportunities are limitless!

In today's very competitive workforce, your understanding of and sensitivity to cultural nuances combined with a solid command of another language can greatly enhance your chances of landing an exciting and challenging job.

What are the keys to success? Achieve a high level of competency in the target language. Form clear career goals early on and work hard to achieve them. Hone your cultural awareness skills. Develop expertise in another field of study in addition to foreign language.

The Modern Language Association has produced a brochure entitled "Why Learn Another Language: Knowing Other Languages Brings Opportunities." The brochure is available from its website [www.adfl.org](http://www.adfl.org) under the rubric "Resources for Departments." Check it out!

I invite you to stop by the department office in the Classroom Building, 2040, for additional information about major and minor requirements.

Best wishes,  
John S. Geary, Chair  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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## Eye on Culture....



## Special points of interest:

Inspired by the archeological discoveries of Roman civilization, nineteenth-century Italian craftsmen carved cameos from shell, agate, lava from Mr. Vesuvius, coral, ivory, malachite, and other materials. These cameos, like little sculptures, often depicted mythological figures such as Athena (very left) and Apollo (right of left). Most of the cameos were carved in the town of Torre del Greco outside Naples.

## Faculty Spotlight....



DR. ANGELINA PEDROSO

During her 42-year career as an educator, Dr. Angelina Pedrosa has helped students of all backgrounds complete their studies at Northeastern Illinois University. A native of Havana, Cuba, Dr. Pedrosa earned her doctorate in civil and criminal law from Havana University. In the United States, she attended Chicago State University and Loyola University.

Dr. Pedrosa has been very active in the Hispanic community and has been involved with numerous professional and civic organizations. She has served as Commissioner of the Illinois Commission of Human Relations; Chair-

person of the Council of Faculties of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities of the State of Illinois; NEIU's liaison to the United States Department of Education's national network of Hispanic post-secondary students; Vice-President of the Cuban Bar Association of Chicago; and member of the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Council.

Over the course of her long and varied career, Dr. Pedrosa has received many awards and honors, including the Outstanding Educator of America Award, a Community Leader of America

Award, and a Women Achieving Excellence Award from the YWCA.

She has been honored by the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, the Mexican-American Business and Professional Women's Club, the Second Annual Statewide Human Relations Conference of Illinois, among other local, national, and international organizations.

Dr. Pedrosa has a passion for working with students from diverse backgrounds and promoting the study of her native language and its many different cultures!

## It's all about our students....



Nancy Murillo (left) is the first student to complete the M.A. degree in Latin American Literatures and Cultures at Northeastern. The program was approved by the State of Illinois in August, 2004. For her M.A. thesis Ms. Murillo chose to study the plays of the Mexican author Sabina Berman whose works are reflections on the evolving themes of gender, identity, and power in Mexican society. Ms. Murillo is currently a Reference Librarian

in the Ronald Williams Library at NEIU. In addition to assisting students at the reference desk, she serves as the library liaison for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Her particular area of interest is Information Literacy, which entails teaching students to define a research need and to effectively access, evaluate, and integrate information into their work.

Ms. Murillo feels that the M.A.

program in Latin American Literatures and Cultures offered her the opportunity to expand and deepen her knowledge of and appreciation for Latin American literature and culture and the Spanish language. "The professors in the program helped open my eyes to new ways of approaching and discussing literature in the context of cultures rich in history, humanity, and paradox." Congratulations, Nancy!

## Introducing our Lab Director



Tom Griffin (left) manages the World Languages Resource Center. He majored in French and minored in Spanish as an undergraduate student at NEIU. A staunch advocate of technologically-based instruction, Tom is excited about the new lab and its capabilities: "This state-of-the-art WLRC allows the faculty to reserve class time for technologically enhanced lessons. It also allows students to work inde-

pendently. 38 new Dell PCs feature X-class teaching and class management software. Instructors can broadcast VHS, DVDs, CDs, Internet, audio, video, text, and Power Point to any student's computer screen or headset. Students can engage in group discussions and listen to language exercises much like traditional cassette language labs, but the instructor can monitor their activities and their speech over

the network. The instructor's desk has international DVD and VHS players to show imported videos and a document camera to show books, photos, and objects. Using the CAN-8 virtual language lab server and software, instructors can create lessons and quizzes with audio, video, text, and graphics. Students log in to view the lessons, record their answers, and instructors log in to evaluate responses."

## Fall Foreign Film Fest

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will kick off the 2007-2008 school year by hosting a Fall Film Fest in the new World Languages Resource Center in Williams Library. A series of full-length films in a variety of languages will be shown on alternate Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Here is the fall lineup:

**September 12:**

"La meglio gioventù"—part I (Italy)

**September 19:**

"La meglio gioventù"—part II

**September 26:**

"Fresa y Chocolate"(Cuba)

**October 10:**

"East-West" (France/Russia)

**October 24:**

**To be announced**

**November 7:**

"Todo sobre mi madre"(Spain)

**November 28:**

"Carandiru" (Brazil)

**December 5:**

"Devils on the Doorstep"(China)

**Plot Summary**

**"La meglio gioventù"**

This award-winning film (2004), directed by Marco Tullio Giordana (right), is a six-hour, made-for-Italian-television saga about two brothers, Nicola and Matteo, who struggle to transform Italian society while wrestling with gut-wrenching personal dilemmas and ideological conflicts. The movie critic David Edelstein writes: "This is the sort of movie you'll recommend to friends and they'll go, 'Six hours! Are you nuts?' and then call you up and thank you in the middle of the night." A must see film!



## International Day 2007

Every November the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures sponsors "International Day," an event that celebrates the many languages and cultures represented at NEIU. Student clubs prepare ethnic culinary delights that are sold for a nominal price in Alumni Hall. The event also highlights the artistic and creative talents of NEIU's students through song and dance. Performing at last year's event were

the Polish Club, the Chinese Club, the French Club, the Spanish Club, the Assyrian Club, the Ensemble Español, the Indian Student Association, Hillel, the Korean-American Student Association, the Capoeira Club, the Black Heritage Gospel Choir, and the Folklore Group of Montessori Music Academy. Admission is free to students, faculty, and staff.

This year's event will take place

on Thursday, November 15, in Alumni Hall from 11:00 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m.

As always, there will be an international fashion show with prizes awarded for the most impressive ethnic costumes so don't forget to dress up for the event! Consider joining one (or more) of NEIU's ethnic clubs. They're a great way to meet other students with similar interests and to learn about other cultures!

**Save the date:**

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY**

**November 15**

**Alumni Hall**

**11:00-3:00**

## Language Placement Testing

Students who intend to sign up for a Spanish or French class are strongly encouraged to take a language placement test prior to enrolling in the class. The computerized test is administered in the World Languages Resource Center on the 4th floor of Williams Library. The Center Director, Mr. Tom Griffin, will be happy to assist you.

Once you have completed the test, you will receive a score and

a recommendation for enrolling in a course at the appropriate level. If you place in a course at the 200-level or above, you may be eligible to receive retro credits if you are a student in the College of Arts and Sciences and you enroll in and complete the recommended sequence of courses with a grade of B or better.

Additional information about this policy is available outside the

Department Office in the Classroom Building, room 2040. Please stop by and pick up one of our flyers. You may also pick up information sheets about our major and minor requirements and career opportunities for foreign language majors. The Department maintains a bulletin board with postings about study abroad opportunities, internships, and post-baccalaureate programs. Check it out!





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Classroom Building 2040



**Arabic**

Osama Abu-Eledam, Instructor

**Chinese**

Amy Liang, Instructor

**French**

Dorette Klein, Assistant Professor  
Mary Ellen McGoey, Associate Professor  
Pamela Czech, Instructor  
Galina Galinsky, Instructor

**German**

Alfred Schoepko, Instructor

**Italian**

Battista Galassi, Instructor  
John Geary, Associate Professor

**Japanese**

William Schoen, Instructor

**Korean**

Moses Myung, Instructor  
Kyu Young Park, Instructor

## Language faculty and staff

**Polish**

Czeslawa Kolak, Instructor

**Portuguese**

John Geary, Associate Professor

**Russian**

Galina Galinsky, Instructor

**Spanish**

Lucrecia Artalejo, Associate Professor  
Denise Cloonan, Associate Professor  
John Geary, Associate Professor and Chair  
Lucía Lombardi, Associate Professor  
Angelina Pedroso, Associate Professor  
Eusebio Rodríguez, Assistant Professor  
Vicki Román-Lagunas, Associate Professor  
Esther Santana, Associate Professor  
Karin Alfaro, Instructor

Elisa Baena, Instructor

Roslyn DeLeón, Instructor

Battista Galassi, Instructor

Vicente Guzmán, Instructor

Carlos Lebron, Instructor

Flora Llacuna, Instructor

Emily Masó, Instructor

Carmel O’Kane, Instructor

Kathleen Petefish, Instructor

Patricio Rizzo-Vast, Instructor

**Staff**

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