

# World Languages & Cultures

Spring 2022 Newsletter



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Dear Friends, Faculty, Students, Staff, and Alumni of World Languages & Cultures,

This Fall 2021, we were delighted to welcome you back for in-person classes after a year that tested our resolve and fortitude. As we reflect on the lessons learned, let us focus on how we overcame many obstacles, how we picked ourselves back up after disappointments, after loss, after grief, and we adapted under seemingly impossible circumstances. On behalf of all of us at NEIU, we look forward to a Spring semester with increasing in-person campus activity and more opportunities to interact in our learning communities.

Wishing you a safe and happy 2022,

Dr. Denise Cloonan Cortez, Chair of World Languages & Cultures

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**Poetry! Podcasting! Community Advocacy!**  
**Introducing thematic tracks in NEIU's Spanish major**

Over the coming years, WLC's Spanish major will be rolling out a track system that builds coursework for four major career foci: Community Leadership; Creative Writing; Literary and Cultural Studies; and Linguistics and Translation. These tracks will have a buffet of new courses that students may choose from. Examples of new courses include:

- SPAN 251: Oral Skills for Public Speaking and Podcasting
- WLC 340: Latina/x Feminisms and Social Media Activism
- SPAN 312: Spanish for Immigrant Advocacy

This semester, Emily Masó taught the first SPAN 251 course. Check out their podcast [here](#) and keep an out for more new and exciting courses like the ones above.

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LALC Students Awarded Competitive Research and Creative Activities  
Scholarships

Join us in congratulating Pedro Pablo Marín (Dr. Brandon Bisbey) and María Cristina Zhunio (Dr. Sarah Bey West) for the recognition of their projects. Marín is working on the creation of a podcast entitled [Xochipilli](#) and Zhunio is working as a research assistant on Bey West's forthcoming book.

[Click here to listen to Xochipilli on Spotify](#)

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Meet our New WLC Graduate Assistants!

Andrea will be assisting with culture and language events, and Milenis is our graduate coordinator of the language lab in the library.



Mi nombre es Andrea Ramirez, nací en Guanajuato México, orgullosa de mi cultura y mi lengua. Me considero una mujer que le encanta aprender y compartir lo aprendido. Me siento feliz de ser parte del programa Graduate assistantship. La educación para mí ha sido importante y considero que no hay edad para adquirirla, lo más importante es la persistencia y la actitud. El departamento de WLC de NEIU

ha hecho la diferencia de cómo veo mi cultura y mi idioma original, después de mi BA, ahora soy parte del programa de MA. Hablar más de un idioma no debería tener nacionalidad, debería ser un orgullo no cualquiera lo logra. Orgullosamente Span-glish.



Hola, mi nombre es Milenis Arias. Estoy en el programa de la maestría de Literatura y Culturas Latinoamericanas. Además soy miembro de la sociedad nacional honoraria hispánica Sigma Delta Pi. Si han ido al laboratorio de idiomas ubicado en el cuarto piso de la biblioteca Ronald Williams, me encontrarán allí ya que trabajo como asistente de pregrado. Algunas de mis funciones laborales incluyen ser el supervisor del examen OPI/WPT y proporcionar un área informativa para que los alumnos de NEIU puedan explorar de múltiples culturas.

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WLC alumna Gabriela Buitrón (BA in SPAN NEIU; PhD Span UC Boulder, currently serving as an instructor at Binghamton U) just published "Cracks as Portals of Change: A Reading of Disasters in Juan Villoro's Novel *Materia dispuesta* (1997)" an article available in the *Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*.

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# WLC Alumni Achievements

Stella Kuwonu publishes her first book, [30ANS: When Everything Fails at 30](#). Born in Togo (West Africa) and growing up in two cultures, Stella shares a fun-filled, funny adaptation of her own life story, including the taboo issues mostly not talked about in her culture. She recently completed her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Spanish, and she also speaks Ewe and French. Last fall, Kuwonu visited NEIU to talk about her novel.

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## Attention K-12 Teachers!

### **Convenient, Flexible Endorsement/ Masters degree Options**

WLC is proud to announce graduate endorsement and MA cohort programs especially designed for K-12 Spanish teachers. These cohort programs will travel to any district location, and also incorporate synchronous and asynchronous classes to facilitate K-12 teacher participation. Courses can be delivered through 8-week or 16-weeks programs, and commitment can be as little as one year. For more information, please reach out to Dr. Cloonan Cortez. We are happy to answer any questions you may have and work with your district's representative to make your Spanish endorsement or Master's degree a reality.



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Have news to share in our newsletter? [Email us!](#)

