



THE POLYGLOT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE
WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES DEPARTMENT

MAY 2023 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 1

Word from the Chair

As these words go to print, we are uncertain about what the future will bring. Because of a lack of funding from the State, Eastern is suffering one of its worst financial crises yet. Our Department, along with others, has been told to tighten its belt – a merger with another department is possible. We have also been asked to pare down the number of languages we teach. As a result, starting this fall, we will no longer be able to offer Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Japanese language or culture courses. That means our students will not be able to access our richest resource, our colleagues & their expertise. Therefore, we must bid a sad farewell to our adjunct faculty Angela Chen, Mary Gallucci and Mizuho Aussicker, all of whom have always given generously of their time and have been with us for many, many years. A liberal arts university that teaches only two languages (French & Spanish)??

Another change, a positive one, is that we have been slowly revamping our Spanish curriculum to attract more majors, though a curriculum revision is a daunting task. Our first step was to create the minor in Medical Interpreting in Spanish, which, as of today, already boasts 16 students! This year, we continued this project by modifying some courses and creating three new ones, namely, Spanish for Business, Spanish for Health Services and Spanish for Social Services. These courses will serve as the focal points of three new concentrations of the same names, designed to provide students with a set of skills to make them more marketable in today's competitive world. Our outreach to the other departments involved has been successful, and we hope to have the main curriculum revision approved in the fall 2023, and implemented by the beginning of the 2024 academic year.

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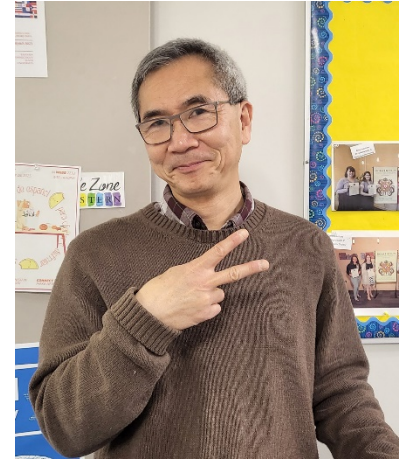
[Year in Pictures](#)

In this issue of the Polyglot, you'll find recaps of the events we hosted and sponsored, such as *Hecho en PuelTo Rico*, *The Power of Latinidad in a Fractured World*, *International Mother Language Day*, our *Alumni Forum*, our

Guest Speakers series, and of course, our annual *Induction Ceremony* to the Spanish Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi. We are also featuring a ceremony in which one of our student workers, Sophia Gonzalez, among others, was given an award for her dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion, anti-racism and social justice.

Some final words, as the year ends. In our departmental office, we have assembled an incredible team as is shown by everyone's commitment and unique talents. They have produced social media content, established links with the community and coordinated numerous events. We hope we are able to stay together. I want to express my thanks to our student workers, Natasha, Diana & Sophia, to our tutors, Andrés, Jessica, and Julianne, to our cheerful and tireless University Assistant, Lisa Centola, and finally, to all our dedicated colleagues, Akram, Angela, Farida, Jaya, Magda, Mary, Michèle, Mizuho, Nancy, and Robert. See you next year.

-Dr. Kin Chan, Department Chair



Peace out. (You can tell from my facial expression that my students cajoled me into this modern visual salutation.)

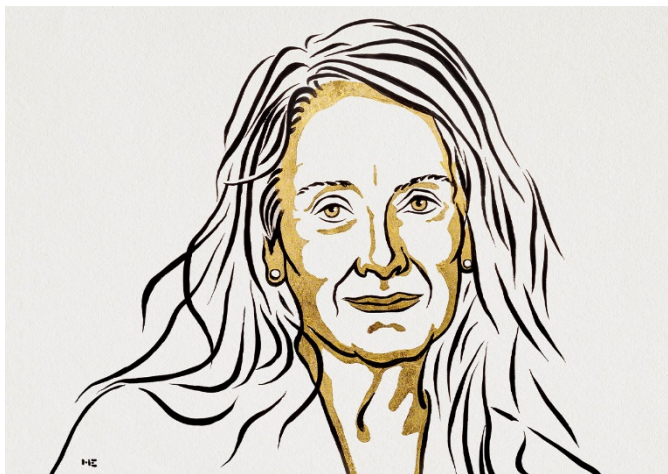
Annie Ernaux: First French Woman to Win the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature

This fall, the Swedish Academy awarded French author Annie Ernaux the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Ernaux is a prolific writer, having authored over 20 books and dozens of articles over the past several decades. She is best known for her autobiographical novels, descriptive language and thoughtful feminist commentary on society. The Nobel Committee bestowed the prestigious award on Ernaux "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."

The award was heralded by Eastern's Dr. Michèle Bacholle, a French and Francophone literature scholar that has dedicated much of her research to the work of Annie Ernaux. Bacholle has met with and interviewed Ernaux on multiple occasions and explored her texts, writing style, and commentary in numerous articles, conference presentations, and two books, the latest being *Annie Ernaux de la perte au corps Glorieux* (2011).

In September 2022, just before the Nobel announcement, Bacholle was invited to the University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada) to discuss body politics in Ernaux's work. Then, this April, she was invited by the Director of the



Annie Ernaux. Image courtesy of Nobel Prize Outreach. Illustrator: Niklas Elmehed

La Maison Française at Wellesley College to give a talk about Ernaux's work. Bacholle tailored her presentation to the students' curriculum and used *I Remain in Darkness* (1997), Ernaux's journal as she visited her mother in the hospital's Alzheimer's unit, to examine the transpersonal expression of mourning in *A Woman's Story* (1987). Both talks generated rich discussions.

Bacholle continues to bring her scholarship and the writing of Ernaux to her students at Eastern as well. This fall, students in her FRE/WST 331 *Perspectives in Women's Issues* class read and analyzed selected Ernaux works. After the Nobel announcement, Bacholle remarked to her students that she was

thrilled about the award because, “it's more than recognizing [Ernaux’s] work, it's also recognizing and seeing and understanding the experiences of poor people, of women and girls that are forced into sex (*A Girl's Story*), that abort, that go through breast cancer, that love a man obsessively and are not ashamed to be desiring women (*Simple Passion*).

For those curious to explore Ernaux’s work, Bacholle offered a few suggestions:

“There are two very touching narratives about her parents: “A Man's Place” (1992) and “A Woman's Story” (1991), the latter written immediately after her mother's death. Soon, they will publish in English “Look at the Lights, My Love,” a very true and astute observation of supermarkets and class divisions. All her books, except for “The Years,” are around 100 pages; Short reads in a “flat style” at the crossroads of literature, sociology, and anthropology, giving much to reflect on as she exposes classism, racism, sexism.

Bravo et merci Annie Ernaux!

Hecho en PueLto Rico

By Natasha Durand '25

This fall, Eastern hosted a presentation of *Hecho en PueLto Rico*, a one-man touring comedy about self-discovery and pride of one’s homeland. The show was created, written and performed by Ángel Vázquez, one of Puerto Rico’s most well-known performers.

Working with the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology and Social Work and the Theater Performance and Media Program, the World Languages and Cultures Department was a supporting sponsor that helped bring this engaging performance and an accompanying University Hour talk to our campus.

Vázquez modeled this creative work, a story of a student preparing to leave Puerto Rico, on his own experience as a young man. As the main character arranges to leave the island, he unearths his cultural roots and stories about noted men and women in the Island’s history, such as José de Diego, Julia de Burgos, Eugenio María de Hostos, and Roberto Clemente. Vázquez’s comedic flair with heady topics, like the promise and the pain of migration from the Island to the Mainland, has been heralded as the show toured the US, including a performance at Lincoln Center.

Natasha Durand, a student worker in the World Language and Cultures Department and someone that calls San Juan, Puerto Rico home, was intrigued by the idea of the play, and especially the ‘L’ in the title of the monologue, which makes a play on the Puerto Rican Spanish pronunciation of the syllable-final ‘r.’ It was her initial interest in the play and its title that prompted her to attend the performance. Natasha offers her reflection on the play:

When I first saw a poster for the *Hecho en PueLto Rico* play by Ángel Vázquez, I was a bit confused. In my time living here in the US, I have never seen any play or movie based on or around Puerto Rican culture, so it was shocking to see the poster around campus. Initially, I thought that the show was going to be



Ángel Vázquez, writer and performer of *Hecho en PueLto Rico*



Hecho en PueLto Rico, 2022.

someone either making fun of Puerto Ricans or just spreading misinformation about Puerto Rican culture and history. To my surprise, it was neither of those things.

It was billed as a comedic play about important historical Puerto Rican events and figures. It did offer laughs, but in a way, it ended up being depressing for me. All the people highlighted in the play accomplished wonderful things, like helping free countries from dictatorships, writing intricate and beautiful poetry, and sharing their knowledge across the world. But most of these people suffered and died in traumatic ways, and often ended up being forgotten. The tragedy and the lost memory is what saddened me. My people, who were able to do so many remarkable things, were forgotten by the world.

Throughout the play, Vázquez spoke about the deeds and accomplishments of Puerto Rican people like Roberto Clemente, Pedro Albizu Campos, and Eugenio María de Hostos. He spoke about how selfless and kind these public figures were. But most importantly, he spoke about how proud they were of being Puerto Rican, which is something I have always struggled with myself.

Most Puerto Ricans are taught from a young age that the goal is to go study to the US and eventually go there to live a good life. I was taught there was little to be proud about when it came to our heritage and that is why we needed to leave. For so many years I believed that until, I went to university here in Connecticut. This play was a great reminder to me and others that one should be proud of being Puerto Rican. There is a sense of pride that comes from knowing what our country's predecessors did for us to get to the place that we are today. That is why this quote from the play *"In order to know who you are, you have to know your history,"* really resonated with me because I forget to be proud of being Puerto Rican.

The Power of Latinidad

By Diana Gonzalez Gutierrez '25

In November 2022 Eastern welcomed back award-winning Colombian American poet, speaker, and actor [Carlos Andrés Gómez](#) for a special performance. This special presentation was made possible with the support of the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS()), Eastern's Intercultural Center, Eastern's Office of Equity and Diversity, and the World Languages and Cultures Department. Diana Gonzalez Gutierrez, a World Languages and Cultures Department student worker, attended the event and offers this review:

Carlos Andrés Gómez is not only a great writer and poet, but he is also a great person. That much is clear to me after attending his program accurately titled, "The Power of Latinidad in a Fractured World." My friends and I weren't sure of what to expect walking in, besides some



Carlos Andrés Gómez

spoken poetry, but we were pleasantly surprised by the interactivity and immersiveness of this event. Carlitos, as he told us to call him, did not come to talk *at* us, but *with* us about Latinidad and its significance in the world we live in. We didn't just talk about Latinidad, but self-identity, in a broader sense, and not just for those who identify as Latinx.

As a Latina myself, I found Carlitos' program very relatable and heartwarming. From Día de los Muertos and honoring the dead to machismo and marianismo, to inclusivity and racial discrimination, Carlos' hour-long performance was a perfect representation of the Latin-American diaspora experience. His poems touched on a wide range of Latinx issues as well as American ones and explored that unique space where someone in the middle of two worlds (sometimes even more than just two) lies.

"I am from a place beyond place, a place from once you're from there, you can never leave because it exists beyond dirt and flesh, beyond your linear and limited concept of time...You could never understand what I am or where I, where so many of us, are from."

"Where are you really from?" - Carlos Andrés Gómez

Student-led Fundraiser for Haitian School Continues

Continuing an annual tradition, Dr. Michèle Bacholle challenged her Fall 2022 FRE/WST 331 *Perspectives in Women's Issues* class to a learn-by-doing assignment. After their course work introduced concepts such as maternal mortality and infant health and the positive impact women's education can have on family economics, the students created and led fundraisers for a girls' secondary school in Las Palmes, Haiti.

This year's FRE/WST 331 class organized three separate fundraisers: a DIY holiday ornament sale, an "empowering women" sticker sale, and a Crocs jibbitz sale. These events were a success, collectively raising \$257.71 and elevating awareness about the importance of women's education. These funds will cover the annual tuition fees for more than one young woman to attend the College Jean Bruny in Les Palmes, Haiti.



Students Andrew David and Zoe St. Michel sell DIY ornament packages, Fall 2022.

Despite the current dire political situation in Haiti and consistent fuel and food shortages, the College Jean Bruny school is in session. Its classrooms and teachers offer its students vital support and optimism for the future. Under the direction of Dr. Bacholle, students at Eastern buoyed that sense of optimism with these fundraisers.

Tutoring in the Digital Age

By Jessica Saffiotti '23

In today's age of technology, students are always looking for new ways to interact online rather than in-person. Some may think that this means that the time of tutors and out-of-class study sessions has come to a sad end. However, many students are using new technology to interact.

As a Japanese tutor, I created a forum space on an app called Discord for the JPN 110 language class. Using this technology, students were able to ask each other or myself questions at any time. Discord was able to create separate rooms for different kinds of questions, such as for study sessions, homework questions, or general questions about content. There was also a place for students to use a voice-chat, so they can study together without having to be in the same room or even the same building! This online technology not only allowed us to interact whenever we needed to— it also provided an easy place to send each other with links to other technology or videos that might help each other with our learning process. While many believe that technology is the end of the social age, the truth is that technology only adds more opportunities for communication.

International Mother Language Day

This winter, the World Languages and Cultures Department was approached by the Intercultural Center, the Office of Equity and Diversity, the J. Eugene Smith Library and Dr. Sarah Tasneem, a professor in the Computer Science Department, about a collaborative celebration of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day (IMLD), celebrated worldwide on February 21, is a UNESCO-sponsored event that highlights and celebrates language diversity and multilingualism, with a focus on promoting inclusive societies.

While the World Languages and Cultures Department had acknowledged IMLD day with social media posts in the past, this year's collaboration marked the first ever IMLD event at Eastern. As part of the festivities, and using NPR's Story Corps format as an inspiration, the World Languages and Cultures Department sought to capture the voices and viewpoints of Eastern's multilingual community with short video interviews.

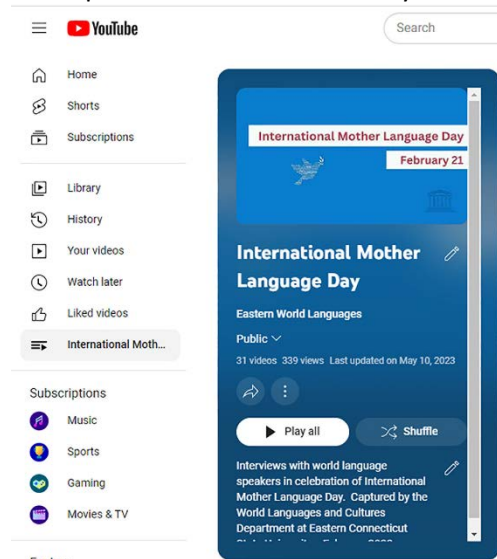
The Department recorded over 30 interviews with students, staff and faculty. We were fortunate to capture an impressive range of the world's languages. Seventeen different languages, including multiple dialects of Spanish, are represented in the inventory of interviews. Those languages are spoken on five different continents and

belong to six different language families. Our inventory of languages spoken by people at Eastern includes some of the world's most widely spoken languages, such as Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish, French, and Arabic, as well as endangered languages such as Tamazight (Berber). The voices and messages of our multilingual community are accessible via a [YouTube Playlist](#).

We presented a collection of these interviews on Tuesday, February 21 at the Student Center Café as part Eastern's collaborative celebration of IMLD. The Intercultural Cultural Center featured games and other interactive activities, Dr. Tasneem recorded a history of the origin and significance of IMLD, and the J. Eugene Smith Library prepared and disseminated a Library Guide on language diversity. Many students, faculty and staff stopped by the Café to learn more about IMLD and remarked on the number of languages that were



Recording an interview for IMLD.

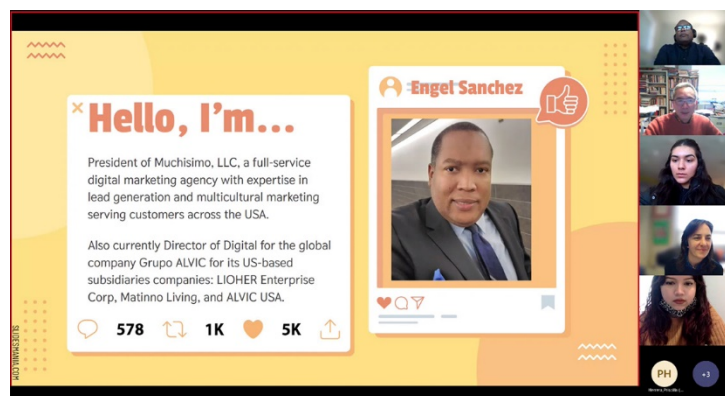


represented at Eastern. We are happy to have highlighted so many mother languages and to have allowed our participants to show how proud they are to be bilingual (or multilingual!).

All coordinating partners are looking forward to collaborating again for IMLD next year. Stay tuned for an update in the 2024 Polyglot.

Guest Speakers – 2022-2023

Each year, the World Languages and Cultures Department invites professionals from various industries to talk (virtually or in-person) to students about their fields, careers and about how they use their language skills. These talks help prepare students for future careers by offering real world perspectives and valuable contacts.



Screenshot of guest lecture with Engel Sanchez, March 2023.

This year, current students specifically requested that the Department seek out attorneys or legal advocates and social media professionals, the latter to support one of the Department's newest courses, SPA 365: *Spanish for the Digital World*. Fortunately, the Department was able to make connections with experts in both of those fields and hosted two interactive guest lectures this spring.

In March, Engel Sanchez, the President of Go Muchismo, a Florida-based digital marketing agency that focuses on Hispanic and multicultural marketing, connected with student via a virtual presentation and talked about the field of digital marketing. After giving a brief overview about the distinguishing features of marketing to the Hispanic community, Sanchez highlighted typical business practices such as lead generation and website design with several case studies from his portfolio. Students asked questions about career development and preparation, and looked for day-in-the-life profiles of digital marketers.

In early April, Nilda R. Havrilla, Esq., of Connecticut Legal Services (CLS), a non-profit private law firm dedicated to helping low-income individuals and families, visited campus for an in-person talk about the legal field in general, and about her experience in legal aid and housing advocacy in particular. Attorney Havrilla currently serves as the Litigation and Advocacy Director for CLS and has over 18 years' experience handling housing matters before administrative agencies, state court, and federal court. She offered students an overview of legal aid services in Connecticut, highlighting the role and value of Spanish language skills in the field. Drawing from her wealth of experience, Attorney Havrilla described the rewards and challenges of her work. Students were thoroughly engaged with her presentation, asking questions and following up with her after the formal talk.



Nilda R. Havrilla, Esq. talks to students, April 2023.

Afterwards, Attorney Havrilla remarked, “I absolutely loved the discussion and thoughtful questions. They [the students] are a very impressive group. One student has already reached out with questions about volunteering!”

The World Languages and Cultures Department will continue to bring speakers to campus to enrich the educational experience of our students. If you would like to suggest a speaker, please reach out to us at WorldLanguages@EasternCT.edu.

Alumni Forum

Continuing a recent annual tradition, the World Languages and Cultures Department hosted our Alumni Forum, a virtual meet-up and conversation between alumni and current students in March. This year, we welcomed back alumna Kelly Sheehan as the featured speaker.

The Alumni Forum is a cherished tradition that provides our current students with relevant and meaningful beyond-the-classroom guidance from program alumni and also serves an opportunity for faculty and friends of the Department to stay connected with graduates after they leave Eastern.

Kelly graduated from Eastern in 2018 with degrees in Spanish and Business Administration, as well as a minor in French. She is currently a sheltered English teacher in a Connecticut high school and is pursuing her Master’s degree in Education.



Screenshot from Alumni Forum, March 2023.

Consistent with her time as a student at Eastern, Kelly was a dynamic and forthcoming Forum speaker. Her charisma and approachability broke through the typical stale impersonality of a videoconference meeting and created the warmth and familiarity that is characteristic of the World Languages and Cultures Department. The conversation was free-flowing and wide-ranging as Kelly shared personal stories and reflections about her educational journey and career. She spoke of her extraordinary experience studying abroad in Spain, and recounted highlights (and lowlights) of her years teaching English as a second language in Ecuador. Students were keen on Kelly’s accounts and perspective, asking thoughtful questions about selecting and applying to graduate school, and soliciting tips on learning multiple languages. Kelly, in turn, happily obliged with insightful and practical advice.

We look forward to continuing this tradition next year. To all our alumni: feel free to reach out and connect at WorldLanguages@EasternCT.edu or on Instagram [@EasternWorldLanguages](https://www.instagram.com/EasternWorldLanguages). We would be thrilled to feature you as an Alumni Forum panelist.

Sigma Delta Pi

Once again, the World Languages and Cultures Department hosted its annual initiation ceremony for Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, on Saturday, April 29.

Three students, Priscilla Herrera '24, Breanna Macías '23 and Samantha Roman '23, were welcomed into Eastern's Nu Chi Chapter this year. Each of these students excelled in their studies of Spanish and Hispanic culture. Now that Breanna and Samantha have completed their undergraduate studies, they are looking to pursue opportunities in the education field. Priscilla will return to Eastern in the fall to complete her coursework in Spanish and Elementary Education.

The initiation ceremony was officiated by Dr. Kin Chan, who serves as the Honor Society's advisor, as well as by officers of the Nu Chi Chapter, Julianna Gray '23, Elisabeth Graves '22 and Ashley Smith '21.

Distinguished guests, Dr. Sonia Cintrón-Marrero, Professor Emerita, and Dr. Carmen Cid, Dean Emerita, also participated in the initiation rituals.

A highlight of this year's ceremony was the fact that a number of alumni, including Jennifer Green '14, Kelly Sheehan '18, and Jaran Smith '20, returned to campus for the event. As they celebrated the successes of the new Nu Chi miembros and reconnected with classmates and professors, they helped reinvigorate the community feel of the World Languages and Cultures Department after several years of Covid-related distancing.

This sentiment was echoed by Ashley Smith, "It was a beautiful ceremony, and it was heartwarming to see my professors and peers again. I am honored to be a member of Sigma Delta Pi and am so proud of all the inductees; I know how hard they worked for it! It truly is a special occasion to not only celebrate the students, but also to reconnect, share experiences and admiration for the Spanish language. I love hearing how my peers, and also the current students in the major are using or are planning to use the Spanish language in their daily lives. This event further emphasizes how the language can bring people together."

The Department hopes to see more familiar faces in upcoming years. Former Sigma Delta Pi miembros are always encouraged to join in the festivities. If you are interested in joining us in 2024, [email](#) the Department or look for your email invitation next spring.

Joy and Justice Award – Sophia Gonzalez

This April, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology & Social Work (SACSW) hosted its inaugural Joy and Justice Awards Ceremony.

The Joy and Justice Awards, sponsored by the SACSW Department's Anti-racism Committee, celebrate and recognize those in the SACSW Department that have distinguished themselves through their work on projects of diversity, equity and inclusion, anti-racism and social justice. Any student (or alum) within the SACSW Department is eligible for recognition.



Sigma Delta Pi ceremony, April 2023.



Sophia Gonzalez interviews Professor Bacholle for IMLD.

This year, Sophia Gonzalez, an Anthropology minor and World Languages and Cultures (WLC) Department student worker, received the Joy and Justice Award for on-campus engagement due to her work on the WLC Department's International Mother Language Day interview project (A summary of International Mother Language Day at Eastern is presented above in this Newsletter).

Sophia was instrumental in and critical to the development and execution of the WLC Department's International Mother Language Day interview project: she was part of the conversation when we developed a set of standard interview questions; she was instrumental in setting-up our interview space, designing the stylized back drop, coordinating with University Relations to borrow recording equipment, and carefully staging the equipment to best capture consistent video frames; and Sophia also worked with other office staff to schedule and record interviews with faculty, staff and students.

As the social media lead in the WLC Department, Sophia designed posts and stories for the Department's social media profile to boost interest in the interview project and in the International Mother Language Day as a whole. As a Spanish speaker, she even participated in one of these interviews herself, sharing why speaking Spanish is important to her.

Once the videos were recorded, Sophia diligently worked to upload them to YouTube and troubleshoot the myriad—and time-consuming—issues encountered while creating English-language captions for the presentation. After all her work to help prepare for the event, Sophia was on hand in the Student Center Café on February 21,



Sophia (far left) pictured with other Joy and Justice Award honorees, April 2023.

answering questions about International Mother Language Day and the World Languages and Cultures Department's interview project. She demonstrated extraordinary dedication and initiative to make IMLD successful.

Sophia, along with four other Joy and Justice Award recipients, were celebrated with an evening ceremony and reception on April 20. Dr. Chan, along with faculty and friends from SACS Department, joined in the award festivities.

Thank you and congratulations to Sophia!

La Mesa de Español Returns In-person

The 2022-2023 school year marked the return to an in-person format of the Department's weekly get-together for Spanish conversation. Due to the pandemic, the weekly round table had been held in a virtual format for the past two years. Both the advisor, Professor Chan, and students alike were thrilled to be able to sit face-to-face once again and practice speaking Spanish.

This year's conversations included complex topics like cancel culture, health and aging, and the relative nature of happiness, as well as lighter fare topics such as regional slang, and food and music preferences.

The Department extends its sincere gratitude Dr. LaMar Coleman and the Office of Equity & Diversity for their support of this program, which helped to make these weekly meet-ups a must-do on students' busy calendars. ¡Gracias!



La Mesa de Español, May 2023.

Commencement Invocation

By Jocelin Crisantos '23

This year two Spanish majors, Jocelin Crisantos and Breanna Macías, were selected to deliver the Invocation at the University's Commencement in May. Jocelin provides a remembrance of the event:

Presenting the Invocation at graduation was an honor and an amazing experience.

Throughout our 4 years at Eastern, Breanna and I consistently attended Sunday Mass and were active members in the Windham community, acting as Catechists for Sunday school. As such, we became close to Father Larry, a member of Eastern's Foundation of Campus Ministry (FCM).

This spring we were asked by the Director of FCM if one of us would be comfortable delivering the Invocation at Commencement. We were honored, but we could not choose. All our college experiences have been with one another, and it would not have felt right having only one of us give the speech.

I spoke to one of my mentors, Dr. Indira Petoskey, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, about our issue and she encouraged me to speak to President Nuñez. After setting up a meeting and speaking with President Nuñez and other Commencement planners, it was agreed that Breanna and I could present the Invocation together. Delivering the speech together felt right. The process taught me to be more resilient and to never give up; there is always a way!

Delivering the Invocation was a great honor, especially since both of our parents came into this country to give us a better life. Considering Breanna and I are both first-generation graduates, I hope to inspire future generations. Being in front of hundreds of people delivering the speech only made me feel more empowered and full of pride of my heritage.



Jocelin Crisantos '23
Breanna Macias '23

Invocation

Alumni Update

Jacob Paciotti '21 – After leaving Eastern with degrees in Spanish and Biology, Jacob discovered his love of teaching. He is enrolled in Connecticut's Alternative Route to Certification Program to be a K-12 science teacher. He is currently student teaching and substitute teaching in Connecticut schools.

Shaheera Khan '21 – Although Shaheera was not a WLC Department graduate, she was an integral part of the WLC Department for four years in her role as a student worker. After graduating from Eastern with a Sociology and Criminology degree, Shaheera graduated with an MA in International Crime and Justice from John Jay College this May, and recently presented her capstone research project at a conference for the UN Office of Drugs and Crime in Vienna, Austria.



Shaheera Khan '21

Jaran Smith '20 – Jaran is working locally as an Educational Program Assistant in the Department of Animal Science at UConn. He was able to join us for us this year's Sigma Delta Pi ceremony.

Kelly Sheehan '18 – After spending a couple of years in Ecuador teaching and earning TEFL/TESOL certifications, Kelly recently returned to Connecticut. She is currently working as a sheltered English teacher at New London Magnet High School, teaching core curriculum to students with limited English proficiency, while pursuing a Master's degree in Education. Kelly is also an ESL instructor with New London's Adult Education Program.

Jacqueline (Suárez) Balser '14 – Jacqueline works for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch as a Probation Officer.

Jennifer Green '14 – It was wonderful to see Jennifer at this year's Sigma Delta Pi initiation ceremony. She is currently working as a Communications Specialist for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, a position that includes English-to-Spanish translation.

Shawn Godaire '06 – Shawn has been living and working in Panama City, Panama for the past six years. He and his wife, Alejandra, whom he met while studying abroad in Mexico, are enjoying time at the beach and life in Panama City. They enjoy traveling around Latin America but hope to make it back to Eastern for the next Sigma Delta Pi ceremony.

Aimee Cotto '01 – Aimee is a Spanish teacher in the Richfield Springs Central School, NY.

Alma Ramos-Gilbert '97 – Alma, a Communication major and Spanish minor, is currently a therapist in private practice in Nebraska.

Silvana (Maiolo) Panucci '82 – Silvana is currently working as a 7th grade Social Studies teacher for Groton Public Schools, and plans to retire at the end of this school year. Silvana describes her time in public education as “the most wonderful career!”

Christi Moraga – Christi is staying busy in retirement as a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Director of Events at the Alliance Française de Hartford, a curriculum committee member of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education and an exhibitor coordinator for the annual conference of Connecticut's Council of Language Teachers ([CT COLT](#)).

The World Languages and Cultures Department likes to stay in touch with alumni – please give us a shout at WorldLanguages@EasternCT.edu.

Photos from the World Languages & Cultures Department 2022-2023



Welcome Back Ice Cream Social, Fall 2022.



French tutor Julianne Martin (right) helps student, 2023.



Food day in Prof. Aussicker's JPN 216 The Japanese World class, Fall 2022.



Student presentations in Prof. Dahmani's FRE 116 Introduction to the French-speaking World class, Fall 2022.



End-of-the-Year Party, May 2023.



Vol. 4 Issue 1 of the Polyglot – written, designed and edited by Lisa Centola, University Assistant

World Languages & Cultures Department

Eastern Connecticut State University
Webb Hall, Room 223
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226-2995
860-465-4571

WorldLanguages@EasternCT.edu

 @EasternWorldLanguages