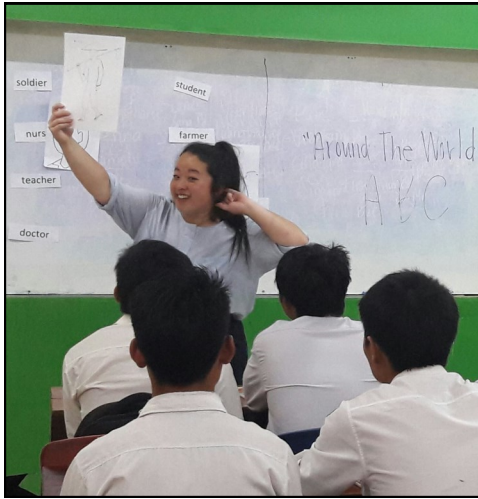


# CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the World Languages Department at UNW, 2016-2017

## TEACHING IN LAOS

Nou Chi Xiong, a junior ESL education major at UNW, spent her summer in an unusual way. Through ELIC, an English teaching organization that brings teachers to China and surrounding countries, she spent a month in Laos teaching English, connecting with her team and students, and exploring her parents' homeland. Coming from a Hmong family, she has always had a



heart for the people of Laos. She also has a passion for teaching, which was instrumental in her experience. Nou Chi was able to use strategies from her education classes and share her knowledge with others on her team.

The time in Laos brought many challenges for Nou Chi. She was one of the youngest people on her team, and many of the other volunteers were experienced teachers. Her family was also worried about her decision to go to Laos, since her parents had left the country during a war and had not been back or had much contact with the people. However, these challenges ended up making her experience richer. Though she did not have teaching experience like others on her team, she did have knowledge from her classes and creativity. Because she had less experience, she was more able to be flexible and try new things in her classroom. Though Nou Chi's family was worried about her, she was able to communicate with them while she was gone and begin to better understand her parents' experiences. She also had a chance to meet family members that she had never met before! During breaks from teaching, she was able to spend time with her aunt, and was even able to share the gospel with her aunt's family before she left. Though there were many challenges during her time in Laos, she is incredibly grateful for her experience, and excited to go back someday. "Why would I not go back?" Education, especially for minority groups, is not easily accessible in Laos, and Nou Chi would love to help provide more opportunities.

## CAREER CHOICES

*Recent grads share about their lives after college.*

I began my studies passionate about a career in education and passive about a career in Spanish. Northwestern required me to add an emphasis, so I tentatively added Spanish to my course load. After I finished the emphasis, I had become so enamored with the Spanish program that I decided to add a minor. My advisor then suggested adding the Spanish education major in addition to elementary education. I was hesitant to push back the start date in my own classroom, but it was definitely the right choice. Double majoring in education was not easy, but it made me more marketable than I could have dreamed when applying for a teaching job. Being licensed in elementary and Spanish education meant that principals were tracking me down at the Minnesota Education Job Fair, that I had interviews at nearly every school I applied for, and that in May I landed my dream job teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion School! I teach in 100% Spanish every day, and it is pure magic what students are able to learn and produce in Spanish while learning regular content. I will forever be grateful to the faculty at Northwestern for giving me the extra push and inspiring me so that I can inspire every student.



—Molly Barry ('16)



Currently, I am teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Lakes International Language Academy (LILA), a Spanish and Chinese immersion school in Forest Lake. For me, choosing a job came very naturally. I student taught in third grade at LILA last fall, before becoming a substitute teacher after graduating in December. Shortly after interviewing for a full-time position I received an offer for my dream job and accepted the position nearly instantaneously. The Spanish and elementary education programs, combined with the phenomenal professors at UNW, prepared me extremely well to have my own classroom. Although the classwork was very rigorous, lesson and unit planning now come very naturally to me. Being a first year teacher is a ton of work, but with the help of my third grade team and the preparation I have received from Northwestern I am successfully teaching 22 students!

—Alicia Stroeing ('16)



**CONNECTIONS**  
is a publication of the  
Department of World  
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of Northwestern—St. Paul for  
the following:

**MAJORS**

- ESL Education*
- Spanish Education*
- Spanish*
- ICS/English Teaching*
- ICS/Spanish*

**DUAL LICENSURE**

**MAJORS**

- ESL/Elementary*
- ESL/Spanish*
- Elementary/Spanish*
- ESL/CALE*

**MINORS**

- Spanish; TESOL;*
- Modern Languages;*
- Chinese Studies;*
- International Studies*
- and all  
language students.

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**LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLUB ADVISORS**

The language clubs at Northwestern host events and provide opportunities for cultural experiences. Anyone can join! If you would like to join a club or receive information about events, please contact one of the advisors listed below.



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Program Coordinator of ESL Education



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ▶ Spanish Senior Capstone Presentations – December 7
  - ▶ Chinese Language Day – February 2
  - ▶ Russian Language Day – February 23
- ▶ Spanish Praise Chapels – January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26

**UPCOMING CLASSES (FALL 2017)**

- ▶ Spanish I
- ▶ Intermediate Chinese
- ▶ Spanish II
- ▶ Russian Language and Culture