

CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the World Languages Department at UNW, 2017-2018

SERVING IN SPAIN

Last summer, Sarah Gerten, a recent UNW Spanish graduate, volunteered at Manatiales de Vida, a Christian camp nestled in a mountain valley in Málaga, Spain. She spent two months meeting with attendees and learning the approach to ministry. She plans to return as a full-time program director.



Sarah's time overseas affirmed her call to international ministry. She began studying Spanish during her freshman year. "I had no idea what I wanted to do with it, I just knew that I really loved learning the language."

By sophomore year she felt called to camp

ministry, but it wasn't until she spent her senior semester in Spain that she knew what God wanted her to do with the next stage of her life: "I felt like God was saying 'go use the gifts that I have given you and proclaim the Gospel to the nations,'" she said.

Even so, her time in Spain proved personally challenging. At the camp, she was one of the only native English speakers. "There were times when I simply did not know how to communicate what I needed to with my coworkers. It humbled me... but gave me a lot more empathy for people who come to America not knowing any English." It was also difficult for her to see how "small and scarce" the churches were. Because of this, many of the children who attended had no Christian friends. Manatiales de Vida changed that. "The kids that came to camp this summer left with new friends. It was incredible to see," Sarah reflected.

When she begins work in Spain, Sarah hopes to touch individuals spiritually through relationship building. She also hopes to inspire the camp towards long-term outreach into the local community.

Sarah encourages current Spanish students to cherish their time at Northwestern and embrace the challenge: "Persevere and work hard, because it's absolutely worth it." She also emphasizes getting involved in the Spanish-speaking community. "God has you studying Spanish for a reason. Be open to however He wants to use you and your abilities."

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE

English Language Teaching in Japan

Kensuke Okutani, a senior marketing major at UNW and a graduate of Chiba Eiwa Christian High School in Japan, wanted to connect other high school students to Northwestern. As an international student, Ken based his senior marketing project on the value of experiencing cultures from different perspectives as a means that God can use to impact others.



Through Ken's proposal, Jonell Pacyga, the ESL Education Licensure Coordinator for the UNW School of Education, spent a week at Chiba Eiwa collaborating with four of the high school's English teachers. Jonell engaged with students personally and introduced new technologies and methodologies to the classroom.

With God's help, the trip benefitted all involved. Many students said that it was "the best class ever" and that the exchange of language and culture caused them to think more about God and how they can use English to increase opportunities in their own lives.

But God was not done!



Rachel Lanahan is a 2010 ESL Education graduate serving as an English teacher in Tokyo, Japan. At a Christian New Year's conference in 2007, she was challenged to surrender her life to God. She didn't hold back. "My call was very clear; words straight to my heart. 'Go to Japan and teach English.'" Rachel chose Northwestern's ESL Education

accredited licensure program, which allows her to teach in public schools in the US or abroad.

While prepared, Rachel's transition to Japan was difficult at times. "My first night in Japan was horrible... I was disoriented, stressed, and wanted my mom more than anything... But I know I am where God wants me. That means I trust that the person I am... is the person that God intends to use in this place at this time."

After connecting with Jonell on her summer trip, Rachel was offered a position teaching English at Chiba Eiwa High School, allowing Kensuke's vision to continue as she begins serving where Jonell left off.



CONNECTIONS

is a publication of the Department of World Languages at the University 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.



CHINESE

Prof. Hongna Bystrom: hrbystrom@unwsp.edu



RUSSIAN

Dr. Matthew Miller: mlmiller@unwsp.edu
 Department Chair



SPANISH

Prof. Kimberly Cronen: kmcronen@unwsp.edu
 Prof. Mark Lindberg: malindberg@unwsp.edu



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Dr. Feng-Ling Margaret Johnson:
fmjohnson@unwsp.edu

Prof. Jonell Pacyga: jlpacyga@unwsp.edu
 Program Coordinator of ESL Education



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Chinese Language Day – February 1
- Russian Language Day – February 22
- Spanish Language Day – November 16, 2018
- Spanish Praise Chapels – February 7, February 28, April 4, April 25
- ESL Education Chapels – January 31, February 21, March 19, April 18
- Spanish Senior Capstone Presentations – To Be Announced

UPCOMING CLASSES (FALL 2018)

- ▶ Beginning Spanish
- ▶ Beginning Chinese
- ▶ Intermediate Spanish
- ▶ Russian Language and Culture (Fall 2019)