

# THE CURRENT SAUCE

SEPTEMBER

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Photo by Tyra Jones

BY NINA OVALLE

Every college student faces the hardships of paying for their higher education. Students that don't get help from financial aid are hit the hardest and international students find themselves at the midst of this struggle.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana offers international students three programs to study under: bilateral agreements, the International Student Exchange Program or as transfer students.

Students studying under bilateral agreements directly exchange their place at a home university for one at NSU. For tuition, they are only required to pay the amount they would owe to a home university but are required to pay for their own housing.

In comparison, the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) and transfer students exchange their place at a home university for someone else's

spot at NSU, a student from NSU that is studying somewhere other than NSU. ISEP students pay the full NSU tuition.

Lauren Jackson, director of financial aid, shares that most international students rely on scholarships to pay their tuition.

"International students that are here on an F1 Visa are not eligible for federal student aid, the only thing they could apply for through the university would be scholarships," Jackson said.

International students are eligible for all university scholarships, including academic scholarships, unless they do not meet the individual requirements.

"Only true entering freshman that meet high school eligibility requirements will be offered academic scholarships, (or) our foundation office can offer scholarships to, not just entering freshman," Jackson said.

Valentina Herazo-Alvarez, interim director of the international student resource center and study abroad, shares specific scholarships international students typically receive.

"There's not much financial aid for international students, most international students coming in get scholarships from CAPA; while athletic scholarships are like a full ride, CAPA students are left to pay the rest out of pocket," Herazo-Alvarez said.

Alessandra Coneo, a business and communication major, first came to NSU as an exchange student from the University of Cartagena in fall of 2022.

"I always wanted to do an exchange since I started my degree in Colombia, but COVID came and ruined my hopes of studying in another country," Coneo said. "I wanted to study in the US to practice my English, so when I saw this trade with NSU, I really wanted to be here."

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Read how NSU is working towards recruiting more Hispanic students and the resources they provide for Spanish-speaking households.

Photo by Naydu Daza



### 03-04 ARTS & LIVING

In this set of stories, learn more about NSU's Spanish club and the community they create and meet the Puerto Rican professors sharing their heritage.

Photo by Jayda Gee



### 05 SPORTS

The Current Sauce sat down with the Lady Demon's Soccer team to get their reaction on Spain earning the FIFA Women's World Cup title.

Illustration by Naomi Adams



### 06-07 VIEWPOINTS

Find out how Destin Lopez traced her roots and read about the Editor-in-Chief's struggle with her cultural identity.

Photo by Destin Lopez





NEWS



Photos by Tyra Jones

coneo speaks about the benefit of doing an exchange program.

“With an exchange program, you must pay the tuition from your home country. Also, I got a scholarship to live in Varnado, it was very helpful because I came from a public institution where I barely pay a fee that is about ten dollars,” Coneo said.

After her first year at NSU, Coneo became a transfer student to complete her bachelor’s as a double major.

“When I transferred here it was different, we had to pay full tuition from NSU, without the out-of-state fee,” Coneo said.

Once she officially transferred, Coneo found more difficulty when paying for school.

“At the same time, it is still hard to pay what is left thanks to the devaluation of the Colombian peso, for us we’re against an ‘expensive’ U.S. dollar,” Coneo said.

Currently, Coneo receives scholarships from the media team of the Spirit of Northwestern marching band, as a photographer for the Potpourri yearbook team, as the Purple Media Network social media manager and from the NSU foundation.

“Without financial aid and scholarships, it will be impossible to pay the full tuition for some international students,” Coneo said.

Jorge Andres Vargas Martinez, business administration major, is from Cartagena, Colombia and came to NSU in Fall 2021.

“I am not enrolled in an exchange or

study abroad program, but I like to learn about every country, tradition and culture,” Vargas said. “Thanks to the relation and the agreement between this university and my high school, I was able to apply for a scholarship and a position to be a member of the Spirit of Northwestern marching band.”

Vargas enjoys the culture at NSU and expresses his love for the community.

“Since I came here, I noticed that this university has a large international and exchange student community, and they have a lot to contribute to this campus and town,” he said. “Our energy, culture, traditions and smiles are what represent what we are and how much we love this university.”

Vargas wanted to give back to NSU and sought to be a Freshman Connector for the summer of 2023.

“I got an opportunity from NSU, and I wanted to give back to this university, so I got a chance to be a connector and oriented other students during their transition from high school to college,” Vargas said.

Vargas and Coneo expressed gratitude for their opportunity to study at NSU. Coneo shares that though she is grateful, financial aspects of studying are always on her mind.

“I would say as international students we are so grateful that NSU offers scholarships for us, but also, our parents, and family are working so hard to pay for our studies, it’s something that is always on our minds.”

Photos by Tyra Jones



Photo by Naydu Daza

DAVID BERROCAL AND LAURA CABARCAS ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

# NSU embraces diversity as they recruit students

BY KALLIE BOURGEOIS

Northwestern State University of Louisiana welcomes Hispanic students looking to excel in academics and have a memorable college experience.

Hispanic students make up about 5.79 % of the student body population, according to the NSU Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan released in 2022.

Taquita Bell, director of admissions, said that students who meet the necessary requirements will certainly feel at home here and treated like family. She said it is great for students to come here to not only get an education, but to share their culture.

“We have increased the number of international and Hispanic students here at NSU,” Bell said. “There are a lot of opportunities here and just getting the information out there so that future students are aware of what we have to offer, and we will do whatever we can to welcome new students.”

Isabel Juarez, junior communication major, has earned an associate degree in general studies from NSU. It’s because of NSU’s dual enrollment program that she decided to attend the university.

“I really liked it, so me and my friends decided to stay and actually attend NSU in person,” Juarez said.

Juarez shares what she thinks the school should do for Hispanic students during Hispanic Heritage Month to foster a welcoming environment.

“I think NSU could host a gathering for Hispanics just so that we can all get to know each other more,” Juarez said.

As immigrant families come to the United States and their kids grow up and make the decision to attend higher education, it’s schools that actively recruit Hispanic students will allow Hispanics to make an informed decision.

Vanner Erikson, director of recruiting, said that the recruiting office goes the extra mile to ensure that they create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students from every walk of life.

“As it relates to Hispanic students, they are larger within the Texas geographic region, and we’ve doubled down our efforts there in order to increase our student population,” Erikson said.

He explained that the office has recently translated all their recruiting materials into Spanish to help with translation in predominantly Spanish speaking households.

“We make it our mission to go to each and every school in Louisiana. Our recruiting model has also spread over the course of the years to East Texas, DFW and Houston areas,” Erikson said.

Erikson explains that it’s one thing to recruit a student, but the main objective is to retain students here at NSU.

“NSU faculty and staff view recruiting and retention as everyone’s job, not just the office,” Erikson said. “If students want to help, come back with us to their high schools, or recommend a student to us - that goes a long way!”

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The Current Sauce is the official student-run newspaper for Northwestern State University. The content and stories within the paper may not necessarily reflect the views of administration, faculty and staff.

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I WAS SURPRISED

By Jessica Craft  
I was surprised to see you standing there  
Perfection through and through  
Sweet smile and soft hands  
To wipe away my tears  
I was surprised to see you standing there  
You took my breath away  
All dressed in black you looked  
Ready to go and dance  
I was surprised to see you standing there  
On such a warm summer night  
It's been three weeks from then  
But it still gives me fright  
was surprised to see you standing there  
For just a month before  
On a warm summer morning  
We laid you down to stand no more.



Photo by Madelyn Murphy

(L-R) Yohaselly Santiago Rodríguez and Daniel Rivera Vázquez are married professors at NSU who love sharing their heritage.

Professors at NSU embrace their heritage and cultivate cultural understanding

BY MADELYN MURPHY

Yohaselly Santiago-Rodríguez and Daniel Rivera-Vázquez have been married for 13 years and have worked together at Northwestern State University of Louisiana for the past five years.

“We had similar interests and values, plus we had some friends in common. I think these were some of the main things that led to us developing a relationship,” Santiago-Rodríguez said.

Santiago-Rodríguez is from Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico while Rivera-Vázquez is from Ponce, Puerto Rico. The couple met in primary school and began dating in high school.

Rivera-Vázquez has been working at Northwestern State University of Louisiana since 2017, as an associate professor of chemistry with a doctorate in applied chemistry and a specialization in materials chemistry.

He begins his day early with lectures and preparing for laboratories, then spends his afternoons teaching a chemistry class or working with his research students. Outside of work, he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing video games or staying home to relax.

Santiago-Rodríguez is an assistant professor of chemistry with a doctorate in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. She has been working for NSU since 2018.

She spends her weekdays busy with teaching classes and labs or mentoring students for their research projects. Outside of office hours, she relaxes by doing yoga, loves spending time with family and enjoys cooking - a hobby both her and her husband share.

Between semesters, they also enjoy traveling together.

“We either go visit our family across the US and PR or explore a different country. Spending a few weeks in a different country and immersing yourself in the culture is an amazing

experience,” Santiago-Rodríguez said. At work, at home and everywhere in-between, the two find that their heritage plays a significant role in each day of their lives.

“At work, every now and then we meet a Hispanic student with whom we would interact in Spanish, share stories or simply go over the course material in a language that is more comfortable for us. Outside of work, the way we interact with others is shaped by our background,” the couple agreed.

Although there are moments of misunderstandings through communication with those of different cultures, it is worth having those conversations. The two professors are thankful for their friends and coworkers who will gladly talk with them through the obstacles that their different cultures arise.

Being at NSU, Rivera-Vázquez has realized many people across different cultures share similarities in their upbringing and background.

Talking to his friends, Rivera-Vázquez gets a sense of how many similar experiences they had growing up, despite the cultures each of them came from. He believes understanding others and realizing their similarities has allowed him to grow as a person, even as the couple did not move to the United States until they reached their thirties.

“I guess success and failure looks (and feels) about the same across all cultures,” Rivera-Vázquez said.

One must be willing to take the risk of failure in order to succeed, no matter how uncomfortable it makes them.

“Moving to another country can be intimidating, scary and overwhelming, especially if you are not fluent in the local language or have not been there before,” Santiago-Rodríguez said. “However, you should not let fear stop you from experiencing new things.”

Santiago-Rodríguez teaches and inspires those of a Hispanic heritage (or those of any culture) to overcome cultural barriers. Overcoming these obstacles allows the student to learn from others and share their culture.

“It is such an amazing thing when you can sit down with people from different backgrounds, and just talk,” Rivera-Vázquez said. “You gain different perspectives, insights into other people’s struggles, customs, values and more.”

With this, Santiago-Rodríguez encourages others to embrace diversity.

“Celebrate our differences and similarities because this is what makes us who we are,” Santiago-Rodríguez said. “It’s very interesting to discover what things different cultures have in common, an example being food and customs.”

Here in Louisiana, the celebration of Mardi Gras is surprisingly similar to the Puerto Rico Carnival, which takes place in the couple’s hometown.

“We celebrate it on the same days, actually, and it ends right before Ash Wednesday, just like Mardi Gras, and the foods in Ponce are similar to gumbo and jambalaya,” Rivera-Vázquez said.

He shared that he found it nice to see Louisiana had so many similarities to Ponce, Puerto Rico. “If I had to go somewhere in the U.S., I think this was the best,” he said.

The diversity and similarities across different cultures can help people appreciate other customs better.

Rivera-Vázquez wants Hispanics students to never shy away from who they are.

“Be confident in who you are and where you come from,” he said. “Culture is something to be proud of, not something to lose or hide!”

Photo by Madelyn Murphy



Vejigante Mask - The mask of the Puerto Rico Carnival, a celebration in Puerto Rico which takes place during the same time as Mardi Gras.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING



(L-R) Laila Salas, Natalia Olvera, Donald Mckinnies and Chase Brazil meet to plan events for Spanish Club this semester.

Photo by Jayda Gee

# NSU's Spanish Club celebrates and creates community

BY KEVIN THOMAS

**F**inding a place to celebrate culture and identity during your college years allows students to embrace their identities. The Northwestern State University of Louisiana Spanish Club aims to do just that.

Members of the club get students in touch with their culture or even learn more about Spanish heritage. It allows those that are interested to practice Spanish with others.

Donald Mckinnies, a senior majoring in electrical engineering technology, is the president of the Spanish club. For Mckinnies, Spanish club is a big part of his life being that he is half Spanish and Nicaraguan, he is very invested in getting in touch with his culture.

"Being in the Spanish club has allowed me to get in touch with my culture while also being able to connect with others on campus," Mckinnies said.

He wants to focus on bringing people from all over the university into the club to learn Spanish from people who are able to share their knowledge of their culture. By doing this he has made it his mission to host as many events as

they can to bring students together.

"We do not want people to be afraid to join the Spanish club just because they don't know how to speak Spanish, we just want to help people to get in touch with the culture and learn with us," Mckinnies said.

Loteria (bingo) has been one of their most popular events that brought people together to bond and learn more about Spanish culture. Along with this they have even held a potluck where everyone was allowed to bring in a different Spanish dish for everyone to enjoy.

Laila Salas, a senior psychology major with a minor in Spanish, holds the position as the historian and the social media manager. She was introduced to the club when her friends told her to come check it out and join.

Although Salas was born in Louisiana, her family lives in Mexico and takes the advantage of being able to visit every summer. For her, the Spanish club has allowed her to stay in touch with her culture, even when being away from her family.

"Something that I miss about not being home is the authenticity, most places here don't have the same taste, so I miss the authenticity of the food," Salas said.

One of the events that was able to give her back that real taste is when they partnered with the Hispanic Student Journalist Association to sell Hispanic food and drinks.

"At that event they had horchata and it was so good and it brought me back to having authentic food," Salas said.

But it's not just about the food that helps with the authenticity, it's the community that they most enjoy. Members valued their organization as it allows them to reconnect and meet people that have the same interest as them.

Natalia Olvera, the secretary of the Spanish club and senior education major, has found a great community within the club. Finding this club when she transferred from a community college gave her the welcoming community she was searching for. "I come from a family where my dad is Mexican and my mom is Salvadorian so my heritage is a big part of my life, so I wanted to find a community that was able to let me get out and explore and it just feels like a big family," Olvera said.

While the organization is doing great at bringing the people together it does not have all the resources that they wish they had.

"We do not have a ton of funding so we have to try to make the most of what we can when it comes to events. So having people join would allow us to fund more events," Olvera said.

The club's main goal this semester is to encourage more students to join the club no matter their race, gender or their knowledge of Hispanic history. They want to provide an open space for all NSU students to experience something new.

The club hosts meetings every other week on Mondays or Tuesdays, with a fee of \$25 where all proceeds go towards the club for events and other items.

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**We do not want people to be afraid to join the Spanish club just because they don't know how to speak Spanish, we just want to help people to get in touch with the culture and learn with us**





Illustration by Naomi Adams

## Sports at a Glance:

Football: First Home game vs. Stephen F. Austion at Turpin Stadium Sept. 16 starting at 6 p.m.

Cross Country: Rice Invitational Sept. 8 Women's at 6:45 | Men's at 7:10 p.m. in Houston, Tx

LSU Invitational at Lake Charles Toyota Cowboy Stampede Sept. 23 8:30 a.m. at Lake Charles, La

Volleyball: Home Game vs. Southeastern Louisiana Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. in Prather Coliseum

Home Game vs. Louisiana Tech Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. in Prather Coliseum

Home Game vs. UL Monroe Sept.16 at noon in Prather Coliseum

NSU vs. University of New Orleans Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in New Orleans, La

Home Game vs. Nicholls Sept. 23 at 1 p.m. in Prather Coliseum

NSU vs. Texas A&M-Commerce Sept.26 at 6:30 p.m. in Commerce, Tx

Soccer: Home Game vs. Southeastern Louisiana Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. in Lady Demon Soccer Complex

Home Game vs. UIW Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. in Lady Demon Soccer Complex

NSU vs. Texas A&M-Commerce Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. in Commerce, Tx

BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

For fanatics of the game of Soccer, having the privilege of their country to hold a World Cup

Title - either the Men or Women's team - is an honor. The everlasting impact of this win resonates across the world, and even into Northwestern State University of Louisiana's own Soccer team.

"The whole country of Spain came to a freeze, frantic during the game and throwing a party in the streets when Spain won," Coach Ian Brophy said.

Coach Brophy explained how important the game is for not only women's soccer but also Spain as a whole. He talked about how important it is for his own heritage to get notice not only from the men's side, but also the women's as well. Gaining recognition at any sport is something the country of Spain lives for and wants more of, he said. Isabella Ruggiano, a junior forward for NSU's team, talked about how it is important for women's soccer to be on the big stage and getting the recognition that they deserve in comparison to the men's side of things.

"For Spain to win for their country is definitely an inspiration to not only us, but worldwide as well," Ruggiano said.

This year became historic for Spain as the Women's team brought the title home for the first time ever. "Great world cup especially since our

goalkeeper is from Spain so we always root for her and hope they win for her," Emily Mougia, junior midfielder for NSU, said.

The win inspires people and teams globally, and it gives NSU's own team a model to look to.

"I only just started watching the Spanish team in the last three games but watching them move the ball so frequently and gracefully is the type of soccer we want to play, so it is nice to see them win it all with that style of play," Emme Fernadez, graduate student and forward for NSU's team, said.

As the team talked about how Spain were the underdogs and how the U.S. were favorites coming into the world cup, Coach Brophy discussed the landscape of soccer and its cultural impact. Coach Brophy said how basketball, football and men's soccer are all feeling the European influence and how diverse the sports scene is becoming.

This could make the environment for American born athletes difficult as now they are competing with not only the American competition, but also the flow of talent coming into American sports from the outside.

"It's more positive for the game and the competition for the game of soccer and for me it allows me to up my game and makes me better," Ruggiano said.

The lady Demons share the same sentiment about how this flow of cultural talent only brings the best of the team and makes the team want to practice more and play more to reach that next level.

Spain's historic moment of winning their first world cup in front of the 1.9 million record breaking attendance shows the pride that is sweeping not only women's soccer but all sports.

Credit: freepik.com





## VIEWPOINTS



**Growing up, the only other people I knew with my last name were my father, his parents and daughters and George Lopez.**

Photo by Destin Lopez

BY DESTIN LOPEZ

**C**an you claim an ethnicity of a culture that you have never experienced? Or should you stick with what you know for certain?

Growing up, the only other people I knew with my last name were my father, his parents and daughters and George Lopez.

I liked my last name, because I saw it on the television most nights at 3 a.m., and to a young girl, that was really cool, and it gave me a sense of comfort as the only person with my last name in the house that I grew up in. I grew up in a mixed household and was shamed constantly for having a different father and last name, yet I persevered.

In fact, my last name did not really bother me until around 2015, when the presidential race was a hot topic. One candidate was very vocal about his hate for Mexican immigrants and how he was going to send them back to their home country and keep them there. This was the first time I realized that my last name was common in Hispanic countries. Nobody had ever discussed this with me, and I was always told that we were Cajun French and white.

Kids in junior high are already mean enough, and suddenly, I was being told by them that I was going to be ‘sent back to Mexico,’ where they would build the wall and I would not be

allowed back. I was confused because I knew that I was born and raised in Southern Louisiana and had been in the same school with the same kids since Pre-Kindergarten. This was their version of spewing hate that they thought was funny since they heard it from their parents and on TV constantly.

When I brought the question of whether or not we were Mexican to my grandparents, I was told no, kids were just mean, and that just because our last name was Lopez does not mean that we were Hispanic. They did not know why it was our last name.

This left me with more questions that I tried to figure out for the rest of high school. I felt like a hole was missing from my identity. I was surrounded by people who were adamant that we were not anything but Cajun, but also facing backlash from southern people who assumed I was Mexican.

Once I moved out of that horrible house, and came to college, I really started to work on figuring out my family tree. I had taken a class where we made our ancestry tree for two weeks, but I couldn’t get anything past my third great grandparents on my Lopez side. My grandfather’s dad passed away when my grandfather was young, and it left a lot missing for my grandfather, who had the same questions that I did about our ancestry.

Finally, about two years ago, after months of research, I found the history

of my seventh great grandfather, Gabriel Lopez, who came from Axarquía, Spain with 81 other people, including his brother, Juan Lopez, to discover and develop Nueva Iberia in 1778, which is now known as New Iberia.

Once my seventh great grandfather started a life in Louisiana, he immediately immersed himself in the French culture of the state, including naming his kids common French names. While I don’t know why he chose to do this, I imagine that he wanted to conform for some reason. I like to believe this is the reason they also stopped speaking Spanish.

From my seventh great grandfather all the way to my father today, no Spanish culture was shared. No Spanish recipes, no family stories, no Spanish language, and no speaking of Spain at all. This is why my grandfather was shocked to learn that his fifth great grandfather immigrated from Spain.

New Iberia is proud of their Hispanic origin, and still has a parade every year to celebrate the founding families. Each family holds up a banner representing their last name, and there is one for Lopez. I like to imagine that I have a lot of cousins there, since they all descended from Gabriel and his brother, and I hope to go down there one year to experience the parade.

This is a really long-life story, all to explain why I have this predicament: If I am filling out a form, do I mark

Hispanic and white? When people learn my last name and ask me if I am Spanish (which happens often), do I say no? Do I say yes, and explain how my ancestors came from Spain 245 years ago?

How can I say that I am Spanish, when I know that I have not experienced any of the culture, and that my family has shunned any sign of being Hispanic out a long time ago? Besides my grandfather, none of my other family members on my father’s side want to talk or believe anything about being Hispanic and anything else besides Cajun and white. (While Louisiana is a mixture of a lot of different races, living in the deep south will teach you that some people are still not accepting of anything but their own race.)

I feel a sense of guilt if I say yes when someone asks me if I am Hispanic. This is a mixture of not knowing for sure if I was growing up, and feeling like I cannot connect to the culture, and therefore shouldn’t claim it. I know that other people may have gone through a problem like this. At the end of the day, I will keep researching my family history and try to learn what I can about the culture, and what my ancestors went through when they came to Louisiana.

While I may not feel Hispanic, I can be knowledgeable about the culture and my family history, and hopefully I can learn ways to incorporate parts of it into my life.





Photo by Jensen Adams

Recently, I got my U.S. citizenship, and while most celebrated their new title of citizen, I felt guilty

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Feeling like you don’t belong to either culture when you want to be both.

# Ni de aquí, ni de allá: The complexity of identity

BY LIA PORTILLO CANTARERO

For the first nine years of my life, all that I ever knew of the world was Honduras. Spanish is my first language, and for nine years that is the only language I thought, spoke and understood.

My whole life was Honduras, and it still is Honduras.

However, the years that I have been living in the United States are starting to be more than when I lived in my home country. In some ways I feel American, sometimes I feel Honduran but most of the time I feel neither.

What many immigrants that are children don’t talk about is the assimilation that we are subject to in the school system. You either conform to succeed or you genuinely struggle. For me, it was a combination of the idea of success, the fact that I lived in an English household and the societal pull to fit this new image and world I was living in that stripped some of my Honduran heritage.

This is not to say I regret the choices that I made, because if it weren’t for them, I wouldn’t be here. Instead, I want to portray how these choices have given me a complex look at my cultural identity.

I still have an accent in English. I’m okay with that. But it was when every summer I returned home to visit my mom and family that they started correcting my Spanish because I didn’t practice it enough that I realized my cultural shift.

Many of my English-speaking friends do not believe me when I tell them I

have an American accent in Spanish. They look at me crazy, but I do.

When I came to college and started meeting international students, they couldn’t believe it when I told them I was born in Honduras and lived there. My mannerism and thoughts are a weird mix of southern Louisiana and Honduran manners.

Often, I tell people I’m from southern Louisiana. A little town called Galliano is located 70 miles south of New Orleans. My northern Louisiana friends believe me when they hear me say southern phrases. But when I interview people from the Bayou, they tell me I sound nothing like them.

For the past few years, I’ve been playing a game of tug of war trying to figure out who I am.

I always and notoriously introduce myself as Honduran as often as I can. But I can’t deny the thoughts and awareness that were shaped by my other half of my childhood living in Louisiana. I try as much as I can to be both, to feel like I belong to both, but that’s never the case.

I’m bicultural even though I don’t like the way that word feels in my mind. It’s hard to accept two cultures without feeling like you’re neglecting one.

Recently, I got my U.S. citizenship, and while most celebrated their new title of citizen, I felt guilty. I feel like wanting to be identified as Honduras takes away the struggle and years it took to make me a U.S. citizen, but I also feel like I have nothing else to prove that I am Honduran.

There are parts of my childhood memories that are slowly getting erased as I grow older and those are my only Honduran memories. All the involvement in Honduran holidays and the contests I did at school to celebrate my heritage is becoming a photo forgotten in my photo app.

I can’t call myself Honduran-American. I was not born here, and I no longer have Honduran citizenship.

I often think that immigrant children

and first-generation children have the same struggle. We feel like we’re not from our home country or are parent’s home country, but we also aren’t from the U.S.

It’s a sacrifice of belonging we take to achieve success. To me, these are the unspoken truths of the American Dream.

Feeling like you don’t belong to either culture when you want to be both.

Photo by Sayda Cantarero



All the involvement in Honduran holidays and the contests I did at school to celebrate my heritage is becoming a photo forgotten in my photo app.





KEVIN JUAREZ SHOWS OFF HIS OUTFIT FOR BAND PRACTICE DURING BAND CAMP.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ALESSA CONEO



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
WASH OFF THE PAINT FROM COLOR CHAOS.



A MINI VACATION WITH NSU STUDENTS POSING AT SAN  
JUAN, PUERTO RICO.



ALESSA CONEO IS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA THAT LOVES NSU.

# NUESTRA GALERIA

(OUR GALLERY)



SENIOR RECITAL FAREWELL.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHOW THEIR SCHOOL PRIDE AFTER A MESSY EVENT.



STUDENT MEDIA STUDENTS RELAX AND TAKE A PHOTO AT THE END OF  
THE YEAR BANQUET.