

# THE CURRENT SAUCE



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### NEWS

Learn about the Spanish historical influence in Natchitoches. From historical trails to sites and paths that cross state lines, this news story connects Natchitoches to its Spanish roots.

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### ARTS & LIVING

The taco truck you've probably seen at NSU events is a Hispanic-owned family business, read about the origins of La Casa Del Taco. The Human Resources director at NSU was actually the first in her Hispanic household to graduate college, meet Veronica Biscoe.

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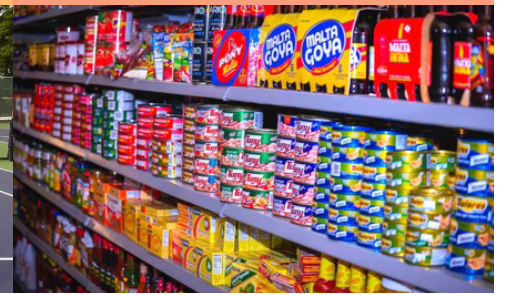
### SPORTS

Did you stay up to date with the 2024 Paris Olympics? If not, here's a list of the four Latina athletes that made it to the podium for the U.S. NSU fosters a vibrant international athletic community, in one story we feature coaches and athletes of Hispanic heritage making their mark while talking sports.

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### VIEWPOINTS

Read our Hispanic Heritage Month column where we ask people at NSU about Hispanic heritage. Also in this section, we analyze how corporations take advantage of heritage and appreciation months.



# Natchitoches aims to highlight the city's Spanish heritage

BY NINA OVALLE

The city of Natchitoches was established in 1714 as the first French colony of Louisiana and is known for its strong French heritage but lying underneath the surface there are many other cultures in Natchitoches history.

Heritages in Natchitoches are continually preserved by the efforts of Cane River National Heritage Area (NHA), a non-profit organization that works to preserve the culture of the Cane River region, and the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), tourist information center of

Natchitoches. One of those cultures being preserved is the Spanish influence in Natchitoches.

Within their efforts to preserve Natchitoches culture, several of the historic sites which Cane River NHA oversees follow the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, a national historic trail following the settlements and missions of the 18th-century Spanish colonial era in Spanish Texas into Natchitoches.

At historic sites such as the Los Adaes State Historic Site, which is Louisiana's state historic site of the 18th century capital of Spanish Texas, Spanish history is preserved today by programs such as El Camino Real day which will be held on Oct. 19, 2024.

Nicole Connell, communication and marketing manager for the Natchitoches CVB, explained that the office will be working to promote the event through social media campaigns, press releases and with collaborations with their tourism partners. She hopes visitors will come to the area to embrace the area's history.

"Events such as El Camino Real Day invite visitors

to our area to explore our rich history and learn more about our deep cultural roots," Connell said.

This event will sponsor activities to promote the El Camino Real throughout the Caddo region on historic sites spanning from Natchitoches to Nacogdoches. Sites for the event in the Natchitoches area will include Los Adaes, Fort Jessup and Fort St. Jean Baptiste.

"Experiencing El Camino Real Day will provide visitors and locals with a glimpse into the life of those who traveled through our area in the 1800s," Cornell said. "As the inaugural El Camino Real Day is celebrated, we hope that visitors will enjoy a trip back in time in the oldest city in the Louisiana Purchase."

Rhonda Gauthier, a retired cultural recreation and tourism representative for Louisiana State Parks and

volunteer for the Cane River NHA, explained the historical significance of El Camino Real and Los Adaes.

"El Camino Real is the royal road, and the royal road was part of a trading network, so once the Spanish got here at Los Adaes, they began trading with Natchitoches," Gauthier said.

The trading network created by El Camino Real allowed for fraternization between the French and the Spanish, which created a population increase and led to more trade between families. As the Spanish came into the area, they fostered cultural diversity in historic Natchitoches.

"This was a multiethnic site. When I say multiethnic, you had people here who were part Black who were slaves brought in, you had the American Indians slaves brought in who were Apache



Photo by CJ Paligo  
Rhonda Gauthier works on a costume, showing what priests wore in Los Adaes' time. Los Adaes was built by the Spanish, to stop French incursion. By the 1730s though, there was intermarrying between the Los Adaes people and the people of French Fort St.



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Photo by CJ Paligo.

Los Adaes was once the capital of Texas, between 1721 through 1773. The Spanish and Indian people established routes in Louisiana, Texas and Mexico. Highway 6 follows a great part of one of these trails.

and then the French women married the Spanish men and the Spanish men married French women – it was multiethnic as a whole,” Gauthier said.

The Spanish heavily influenced the culture of the area. “Downtown Natchitoches is basically all Spanish; some architecture is Spanish, you’ve got family connections, social connections, the church played a big role ... even today, you have people who were what the historians call the arisaños, people that live here those of Los Adaes or those of Adeas,” said Gauthier. “The descendants are living here still in Natchitoches, and in the family connections you have the Spanish history, in the names there’s Spanish names, the catholic church has a lot of Spanish influence also, and in the legal Spain when they got to Louisiana and even here in Natchitoches they set up the police jury that set up laws which are still in place today.”

Though the Spanish heritage and influence in Natchitoches is not well-known by the community, the Cane River NHA is actively working to change that.

“Cane River National Heritage Area just helps out by us being here and doing programming to let people be aware that the cultural heritage is still here,” Gauthier said. “We keep the building clean and we give tours and we’re here for any visitors who want to come out.”

Los Adaes is also open for school field trips and educational opportunities made by appointment. Gauthier feels it important to keep teaching the history of these places as it plays a crucial part in preserving heritage.

“We just make tourists aware, tourism- you know- we talk about the Spanish influence, the French influence, the German influence, all the different ethnic groups that make Natchitoches,” Gauthier said.

Similar to the Cane River NHA, the Northwestern State University of Louisiana’s Creole Heritage Center

advocates for the preservation of history of all cultures. Kent Peacock, assistant professor of history and NSU’s Creole Heritage Center director, talked about the importance of keeping heritage of any origin alive.

“I see this in the classes that I teach often; one of the ways that people get really into history or feel connected to who they are and who their ancestors were is when they actually see it,” Peacock said. “Then people will have that kind of connection and fuller understanding of both themselves but also of the past.”

Peacock feels that the Natchitoches community should have the opportunity to feel that sense of connection to Spanish history.

“I think all of our historic sites in the area need to represent the actual history and the people that are here, so I think that any of the sites that we can tell the story of those who have Hispanic heritage, certainly we absolutely need to include that in those sites,” Peacock said.

In Natchitoches, with sites like El Camino Real, visitors can gain a connection and understanding about a broader history as well.

“The El Camino Real in particular is here in Natchitoches, but it goes all the way into Texas so it’s kind of like it’s not just about the local history of Natchitoches and the surrounding areas, but it helps see this broader history as well,” Peacock said.

Peacock believes there are reminders of history all around. From street names to architecture, members of the community and visitors can find ways to connect with the Spanish heritage of Natchitoches.

“In terms of the Spanish connection, it really is including that as many places as we can,” Peacock said. “The French history and heritage of the area is kind of mostly well known, so maybe that means we need to focus a little bit more on the Hispanic heritage for a while to kind of get people up to speed.”

Events like El Camino Real Day and historic sites like Los Adaes allow for visitors to not only learn about but connect with the heritage of Natchitoches.

“I think just in general Spanish history isn’t as well known, and Hispanic history isn’t as well known, so maybe we need to do a little bit of a job to make it known,” Peacock said.



Photo by CJ Paligo.  
Los Adaes State Historic Site is Louisiana’s state historic site of the 18th century capital of Spanish Texas.

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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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<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/EsULucF/currentsauce>



**W**hat started as a family leaving their home country in hopes of a successful future is now a thriving small business.

Marcela Restrepo is an owner of La Casa Del Taco, an authentic street taco truck located in Natchitoches, La., who moved to Louisiana from Colombia in 2016. Her husband, Benjamin Restrepo, and her 2 children, Mateo Restrepo and Isabella Restrepo, moved with her. Despite her worries upon arrival, she strived to overcome the challenges she faced because of the moving process.

As both a wife and a mother, Marcela Restrepo wanted to provide for her family.

“My husband was the one working and I was in the house, so I was like, ‘I’m ready to get out, I just can’t sit here in the house and wait for you to come home to go to the store with you,’ because my English-I really couldn’t pronounce the words,” Marcela Restrepo explained. “So, I started working in cleaning houses, and after that I was taking care of the older people.”

Once she found work, Marcela Restrepo was rewarded in more ways than one. Not only did she make money, but she also learned more of the English language through the people she worked around.

As with most things, Marcela Restrepo first faced challenges before receiving the rewards.

“The language - it was very hard. It was very hard to bring my kids to something new without barely supporting them, and I don’t have a family here,” Marcela Restrepo said. Her initial struggle to grasp speaking in English seemed to be her largest obstacle. Marcela Restrepo lacked confidence in public because she was fearful, she would go outside

## Local woman and her family bring a taste of **Colombia** to Natchitoches

BY MADELYN MURPHY



Photos by Madelyn Murphy. Marcela Restrepo stands in front of her family-owned business, La Casa Del Taco

and make a mistake when talking to people, she said. She didn’t want this fear to impact her children’s lives.

“I know when I was planning to come here, it was not going to be easier because I knew. But in order to be a better mother and bring a better life for my kids, it’s a challenge that I have to face and overcome,” she said.

Marcela was determined to find a solution to each problem she faced. To help her children learn English, many household items were labeled with stickers of the

English term for them, although she herself could not yet fully understand. In addition to the difficulty of the language, Marcela Restrepo faced the difficult task of balancing her time between her job and her children. Just as her own mom did, she wanted to contribute to the house and still be there as a mother.

“My mom’s always been like an entrepreneur, an independent woman. So, she always found out the way to provide, but be there,” Marcela Restrepo said. “When my mom was living with me, she’d always be working with food

in Colombia, so I was like, you know what, we have to make something.”

This soon became a reality when Marcela Restrepo and her family worked together to form La Casa Del Taco.

The now small business started as a little tent set up at Cane River Green Market with a limited amount of space to cook food. When customers’ demand for the food increased, they purchased a little trailer.

“There were a lot of people trying to order. So, to give that many orders faster, we had to have a bigger grill, we had to have more space,” Marcela Restrepo said. Not only did La Casa Del Taco require more space for equipment, but it also required more room for cooks. Marcela Restrepo, her husband, her son and her daughter all help out for the taco truck.

“We have to get out so early because we make everything fresh, so we’re up at about five and we make the queso, we make the salsa, we fry the chips. I make sure I got the generator, make sure we got gas - we have to just basically prep everything before,” Marcela Restrepo explained.

While they prepare some items in the morning, each dish is made using fresh ingredients and prepared on the spot when a customer orders, Marcela Restrepo said. The menu varies according to special events, but it typically has beef or crawfish empanadas, vegan empanadas, tacos, quesadillas, birria tacos, quesabirria, taco bowls, white queso loaded nachos and more. Taking the time to ensure each dish is to each customer’s liking is just one of many quality aspects of La Casa Del Taco.

“We make it with love. It is a local business, family business,” Marcela Restrepo said. “I like Natchitoches because it’s kind of a small town, and also the community has been nice to us and I think it’s a great place to start.”

Although there were hardships leading Marcela Restrepo and her family to Natchitoches and creating La Casa Del Taco, her business now flourishes. Today, La Casa Del Taco is now a staple vendor for Northwestern State University of Louisiana’s Demon Day event, “No Time for a Siesta, We’re Having a Fiesta.”

To others who have left their home countries in search of success, Marcela Restrepo provided them with advice.

“When you have struggles, first you have to set your goals, and then work hard. Every time that you have that kind of hard moment and struggle, that’s being part of the process to be better,” Marcela Restrepo shared. “Because when we struggle with something, life is telling us that we have to work and we have something to take, notice later and it’s gonna be a moment in our life that we just transcend.”

Marcela Restrepo encouraged the community to visit La Casa Del Taco, which is located in the parking lot of Basic Health & Fitness at Williams Ave. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information, visit their Facebook, Tiktok, Instagram or contact [thehouseofthetaco@gmail.com](mailto:thehouseofthetaco@gmail.com) for catering or private events.



Photos by Madelyn Murphy.



(Right photo) Marcela Restrepo sits behind the wheel of her family-owned taco truck

(Left photo) Marcela Restrepo stands with her daughter, Isabella Restrepo, who was 8 years old when the business first opened.



THE CURRENT SAUCE

# How a first-generation student became the Human Resource director at NSU

BY ISABEL JUAREZ RUBIO



Photo by Chris Reich. NSU celebrated first-generation student day by hosting a panel of NSU first-generation faculty, alumni and students led by Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education.

Louisiana. Previously to this role, she was the Director of University Planning, Assessment and Equal Employment Opportunity. She has also been teaching as an adjunct instructor for the College of Education's Teaching, Leadership and Counseling Department since Fall 2006.

"Mija, we knew you could do it," said Biscoe's proud family members as she walked across the stage at the University of Texas at Austin to receive her undergraduate degree in psychology.

Biscoe acquired a full-ride scholarship for her freshman year, sophomore year and some of her junior year of college. She was also able to acquire other local scholarships from her hometowns of Devine, Texas and Pearsall, Texas along with grants.

"That scholarship meant everything, it was everything, honestly. My family didn't have the money, or have an account set aside for me to go to school," Biscoe said. "There was a little one, but like I said, my family life was kind of rough, so my mom would use some of what was put away to keep the lights on so to speak."

As a first-generation student, Biscoe had to persevere. Not only did she get her undergraduate degree, but she also got her Master of Arts in clinical psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake years later.

"I was very dedicated to studying because I knew that my family could not afford college," Biscoe said.

Like many first-generation students, Roni faced struggles. Her perseverance and intelligence allowed her to focus on what was important: school.

"I didn't have a car until I graduated college," Biscoe said. "Because doing the school work was easy, it was trying to make the dollars that was hard."

Biscoe recognizes the strength and effort it takes to be a first-generation student.

"I think that what happens with people who are first-generation, it's nothing to do about their intelligence or brain power, it's how you figure everything else out," Biscoe said. "Like how do we figure out how to go to college, not come out with a huge debt, and still care for our family because that is part of who we are, you know, family ties."

Biscoe feels coming from a big family-oriented household has made her more grateful. This has also made her appreciate the people who have helped

her become who she is. With this, she tries to help other people, specifically students, as much as she can.

"You have to pay it forward too, you got to pay it because somebody out there helped me. I cannot be greedy," she said.

Biscoe also said that she was blessed to find people like those who helped her in her life, and she hopes to pay back as much as she can and be a blessing for other struggling students.

"Don't let this be the end. Keep going," Biscoe recalls her mother telling her as she crossed the stage at the University of Texas.

This is now the advice she gives to every struggling student, especially when they are first-generation Hispanic students. Regardless of their small town, background or origin, Biscoe says anyone can achieve their dreams.

"Because if I can do it, you can do it too," Biscoe said. And if you need it in Spanish, "porque si yo pude, tú también vas a poder."



Photo by Chris Reich. Veronica Biscoe spoke during the first-generation panel in the Fall 2023 semester and shared her experience as a first-generation student.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

Sept. 16

Digan Cheese  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Kyser Brickway

Sept. 22-28

Hispanic Heritage Rock  
The Rock

Oct. 3

Latin Fest  
6 p.m. - Seven Oaks Stage

Oct. 14

Game Night  
6 p.m. - Collins Alumni Pavillio



# Hispanic athletes that made history for the US olympic teams in the 2024 Paris Olympics

BY KALLIE BOURGEOIS

This past summer, the 2024 Olympics in Paris brought history to nations worldwide. With athletes achieving world records and countries winning Olympic medals for the first time. 13 Hispanic athletes around the world took home the gold, including two athletes for the U.S.

According to NBC News, Hezly Rivera, Diana Taurasi, Daniella Ramirez and Anita Alvarez were the four Latina Olympians to compete for the U.S. and made it onto the podium.

At only the age of 16-years-old, Hezley Rivera earned gold in women's artistic gymnastics at the Olympics this year as the youngest member for the U.S. gymnastics team. The Oradell, New Jersey native placed 20th on the uneven bars and 46th on the beam as a first-time Olympian.

With Rivera's parents being born in the Dominican Republic, she honors her backgrounds for both countries. The gymnast carried her roots with her to Paris to represent her Latin American heritage, as stated in an article by Remezcla. Rivera wants to grow the community and wants younger Latinas to be able to look up to her, she explained in the article.

Early in her career for U.S. Gymnastics, Rivera's emerging talent rose through the ranks to be where she is today, as stated by Team USA. In 2022, she placed third in all-around at the Winter Cup, helped USA win gold at Deutscher Turner-Bund (DTB) Pokal Team Challenge in Stuttgart, Germany, placed second in all-around at U.S. Classic where she also won gold on

balance beam and sixth in all-around at National Championships where she earned bronze on floor exercise.

In 2023, Rivera won all-around at Winter Cup and first on beam and floor, was named to Junior World Championships team and helped the U.S. finish second where she won silver on floor exercise in Antalya, Turkey.

During her senior debut this year, Rivera earned third place in all-around at Winter Cup and tied for first on beam, sixth in all-around at National Championships and fifth in all-around at Olympic Trials and tied for first on beam.

Argentinian Diana Taurasi represented the U.S. women's basketball team by winning her sixth gold medal in her final Olympic Games in Paris.

Her father was born in Italy and raised in Argentina, while her mother was a native Argentinian, as stated by Team USA. Even though her family immigrated to Chino, California before she was born, she has been carrying her Hispanic roots for a while as an Olympic athlete.

Her career started in 2004 at the Olympic Games in Athens where she received her first gold medal for the U.S. team. Taurasi then earned five more medals in 2008 in Beijing, 2012 in London, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, 2020 in Tokyo and her final medal in Paris this year.

During her two years at the World Championships, Taurasi earned bronze in 2006 and gold in 2010. The fluent Spanish speaker was named four-time USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year and nicknamed

"White Mamba" by Kobe Bryant, former Los Angeles Lakers forward-guard and two-time gold medalist for the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.

She explained that growing up in an Argentinian household made her who she is today, according to Cronkite News. From the language, the music and the food, Taurasi embraces her heritage as she competes and reminisces on her life growing up in a Latino household.

While not all athletes brought home gold medals this year like Rivera and Taurasi, in the swimming scene these two athletes helped bring back hardware in the past 20 years.

Teammates Daniella Ramirez and Anita Alvarez earned silver this year in Paris for the U.S. Artistic Swimming team.

Ramirez is a third-generation synchronized swimmer behind her grandmother, mother and sister, while her father and brother were both swimmers and divers. According to Team USA, the Venezuelan American represented her family's American dream by competing in Paris this year as a first-time Olympian.

Some of Ramirez's career highlights include the World Junior Championships in Budapest in 2018 with the Free Routine Combination, the Pan American Games in Lima in 2019 and the Pan American Games in Santiago.

From her time at the World Championships in 2022, she earned fifth for team highlights, sixth for team technical routine, seventh for duet technical routine and ninth for team free routine.

Alvarez returned to the Olympics after passing out in the pool at the World Championships two years ago. In 2022, the Buffalo, N.Y. native earned 6th for solo technical routine, seventh for duet technical routine and solar free routine and ninth for team free routine, as stated by Team USA.

She earned her first silver Olympic medal for Team USA in Paris, while previously receiving ninth for duet in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and 13th in Tokyo in 2020.

These four olympians, Rivera, Taurasi, Ramirez and Alvarez, not only have a love for their sport, but represent what it means to honor their lineage.

Photo Credit: "2024 US Classic Introductions 04" by FloweringDagwood is licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Hezly Rivera, Dominican gymnast, brought home gold for the U.S. gymnastics team.



Photo Credit: "Diana Taurasi 2" by Lorie Shaull is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Diana Taurasi, Argentinian basketball player, earned her sixth gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



Photo Credit: "File:Nado sincronizado.jpg" by Marcelo Alves Lima is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Anita Alvarez, synchronized swimmer, returns to the pool to earn silver after accident two years ago.



# NSU's Hispanic heritage in Lady Demons Soccer and Tennis

BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

**N**orthwestern State University of Louisiana has players and coaches across all its sports that represent different countries and identities. These international players represent more than just their sport, but the country that fostered their athletic growth.

The Lady Demons soccer and tennis teams have Hispanic roots from coaches and players that shape their traditions, cultures and customs.

Ian Brophy, women's head soccer coach, explained how he lived in a Spanish household and how his identity impacted his life growing up.

"I am half Cuban and my mother is Cuban and half Spanish, so I grew up in a multilingual household," Brophy said. "I first learned Spanish, then English was kind of a second language."

Brophy said he isn't very outward about his culture, but he tries to incorporate it into his coaching to bring unity to the team.

"My food and tradition is something I try to bring to my players," Brophy said. "Last year, I cooked the players an appetizer from my family's traditions." While this isn't what his job consists of as a coach, the bond of sharing his culture with the team is valuable to him, he said.

Bringing different cultures to the team, whether it's coaches or players, provides them with more insight so they can grow, bond and understand one another.

"Talking to kids from different backgrounds and countries

while learning about their lives is always something positive to add to the team," Brophy said.

Brophy acknowledged that top international players don't receive as much popularity as American-born players.

"I'm not a marketing specialist, but I believe some international players are more marketable than others," Brophy said. "There should be more international talent across the sports media world."

Many international players chose the opportunity to continue their athletic career in a different country. This move is not to reject their culture, but to enhance their game. Marcos Morelli, women's head tennis coach from Argentina, explained how moving to America gave him more opportunities.

"There are more benefits for coaches, different equipment and treatment, which is better for international players," Morelli said. "I would say here things are more packed into one and definitely more accessible than in other countries."

Maria Farina, sophomore industrial engineering major and tennis player, explained how she keeps her culture and heritage from Buenos Aires, Argentina alive.

"I love to listen to music from Argentina and Spain," Farina said.

Similarly to Farina, Sophie Garcia, junior computer information systems major and tennis player, who is also from Buenos Aires added how she reminds herself of home.



Photo by Chris Reich  
Ian Brophy who is the Lady Demons soccer head coach unites his team by giving them a taste of his heritage.

"I really like to cook," Garcia said. "I love any chance I can to cook Argentinian and Spanish food."

For some, representing a country and playing a sport can add pressure to someone. However, Garcia explained how it motivates her to perform better in games.

"I would say it is more easy-going and doesn't add pressure," Garcia said. "It does add more of something extra. I don't take it as personal as that, and only see games as one goal: to win."

Garcia explained how difficult it is for international student athletes to transition from their country to America.

"In other countries, you don't have coaches and equipment at the same

place you practice at," Garcia said. "You go to treatment somewhere else by taking a bus. The bus then takes you to other workouts."

In addition to this challenge, she addressed the language barrier she faces while competing.

"Now coming to America, English was not my first language and I'm still trying to learn," Garcia said. "You learn to deal with all of that and you still have to perform at a high level."

Despite these barriers, players and coaches work to make their teams the best. What matters is the growth of their teams and the unique perspective each player brings to NSU.



Photos by Lalaina Wood.  
(Left photo) Sophie Garcia, Marcos Morelli and Maria Farina are all from Argentina.  
(Right photo) The Lady Demons tennis team fosters players from different countries.



# HISPANIC SONG ARTISTS CROSSWORD

The goal of a crossword puzzle is to fill in the grid with the correct Hispanic Song Artist. All the descriptions describe a specific singer.

**Across**

- Doesn't know when she'll "see you again"
- Killed by the former president of her fan club
- Mr. Worldwide
- Collaborated with Justin Bieber, slowly
- From the block

**Down**

- Hips don't lie
- Puerto Rican singer that can go a Summer Without You
- An ex-husband of JLO
- Third album titled "motomami"
- Wrote "ella baila sola"

## Introducing Zines

Argus is creating a new series! Each month, a mini magazine will be released that corresponds with the larger theme for the magazine. If you are interested in submitting, follow our social media theme announcements and send your submission to [argusnsu@gmail.com](mailto:argusnsu@gmail.com). The zines will be available for students to take on our bulletin board in Kyser as well as tabling events. Only a limited amount will be made, so make sure to keep up with our releases!

Questions? Email [argusnsu@gmail.com](mailto:argusnsu@gmail.com) or stop by the Argus Office Kyser 316G.



Comic Strip by Stephani Bradley



# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WORD SEARCH

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Spain
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

W	O	U	H	V	S	B	Q	Q	E	E	L	I	H	C	L	E	H	O	B
V	Q	A	U	C	D	U	O	L	Q	L	Z	Q	J	F	N	D	C	A	F
E	J	I	Y	I	Y	X	C	X	J	A	S	I	P	Q	B	I	Y	B	S
N	P	V	E	L	F	Y	X	A	A	A	O	A	I	X	X	Q	U	U	P
E	A	I	C	B	A	A	G	G	Y	C	Q	Q	L	E	P	V	L	C	A
Z	R	L	U	U	E	U	S	A	Y	R	I	S	M	V	Y	W	F	Y	N
U	A	O	A	P	N	G	A	G	T	W	A	R	Q	S	A	W	C	N	A
E	G	B	D	E	I	U	R	R	M	R	G	E	A	T	B	D	Y	M	M
L	U	Z	O	R	U	R	U	U	G	X	U	I	B	T	V	I	O	W	A
A	A	M	R	N	G	U	D	E	U	I	A	A	G	F	S	J	B	R	R
O	Y	N	G	A	L	B	N	I	K	J	T	P	I	L	T	O	W	U	S
C	N	I	R	C	A	T	O	U	Y	K	E	J	E	B	D	J	C	Y	S
I	Q	C	G	I	I	Q	H	Z	O	A	M	O	X	J	M	L	B	R	V
R	C	A	R	N	R	J	Q	Y	S	W	A	O	E	N	G	O	W	S	H
O	E	R	A	I	O	G	L	F	Q	R	L	K	A	N	T	C	L	N	G
T	F	A	B	M	T	B	H	J	R	Z	A	D	F	I	E	R	N	O	L
R	Z	G	R	O	A	M	P	L	C	O	E	F	H	A	N	N	Y	W	C
E	H	U	G	D	U	Z	Y	V	S	R	B	L	K	P	C	K	R	D	L
U	V	A	T	J	Q	U	W	Y	C	W	D	X	M	S	A	H	U	B	F
P	W	L	A	M	E	P	E	R	U	G	N	Y	L	K	S	Q	L	Z	Z



THE CURRENT SAUCE

## Cultura NSU: Reflections on Hispanic culture from students and faculty

BY MADELYN MURPHY AND LIA PORTILLO



Jorge Vargas  
Senior  
Business Administration Major

Question:  
"What is your favorite dish from Colombia?"

Answer:  
"So we have rice, in Spanish it's arroz, and I like arroz de coco, which is coconut rice - with fried fish."



Breanna Goodman  
Freshman  
Nursing Major

Question:  
"Why do you think people should celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?"

Answer:  
"I think people should celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month because it's a culture here that's becoming more popular, and I just think it's a really good culture - really fun- and I feel like it should be more known."



Valeria Mendieta  
Junior  
Business Major

Question:  
"Who is your favorite Spanish song artist and why?"

Answer:  
"My favorite singer is Feid because his music makes me happy."



Angela Saldivar  
Senior  
English Major

Question:  
"Why do you think it's important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?"

Answer:  
"I think it's really important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month because as a person who is a first-generation American, I really want to celebrate my parents' culture and my own culture here in the United States."



Valentina Herazo-Alvarez  
Director of International Student Resource Center and Study Abroad

Question:  
"When you think of Hispanic heritage month what first comes to your mind?"

Answer:  
"My family."



Kierra Nelson  
Junior  
Communication Major

Question:  
"Who is your favorite Hispanic song artist and why?"

Answer:  
"My favorite Hispanic artist is Shakira. She's very well-known, I'm sure, a lot of y'all know, but I like how she is very diverse with her music, a lot of people can vibe to her music - it's not just Hispanics -everybody around the world. She's a very good artist and very inspirational."

## Hispanics are more than just a diversity check during our month

BY LIA PORTILLO



Photo Credit: <https://images.app.goo.gl/9bnxqKugXn9V8kdF7>  
Visiting a local Hispanic store and support Hispanic-owned businesses is one way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

We're more than just a month.

Whether you're Hispanic, Asian, Native American or of African American heritage, these months are meant to celebrate and recognize minority groups in the U.S. Not for big corporations to profit from these "themes" to seem like they're inclusive.

We're more than just a theme.

We are artists, writers, workers and more. Our sacrifices and journeys are a testament of who we are as people and the contribution we bring to the U.S.

These heritage/appreciation months are a moment for all of us to reflect on the specific group being featured. Yet, companies take advantage of our spotlight during heritage/appreciation months to make more money.

Marketing and branding for heritage months acts as a double edge sword. Sometimes the branding can help business owners that are of that specific heritage group be noticed, but often these marketing techniques are used to continue to mass produce products and assign a theme to it.

Certain corporations mass produce items with a "Hispanic" palette just so an average consumer feels they're supporting that specific heritage or they are "inclusive." In reality, big corporations use these months to target specific ethnic groups and generate more money.

One way we should celebrate this month is to buy from businesses owned by Hispanics/Latinos or whichever heritage we're celebrating. This can be as simple as going to a local restaurant owned by someone of Hispanic heritage or doing research before making your next purchase.

However, many brands do try to invite collaborators of a specific heritage for the heritage/appreciation month they're trying to celebrate. Additionally, some companies make donations to causes that promote or help a specific ethnic group in need.

For brands that actually try to be inclusive and feature artists of a specific group they want to support, in the


face of backlash, they may diminish their efforts. The most recent example was Target's LGBTQ collection this past summer. According to Forbes, a specific clothing designer featured at Target caused controversies, as his own designs on his personal website had the slogan "Satan respects pronouns." Target's selection of their collection did not feature that design, but customers were enraged Target would feature an artist who created such designs.

This has led Target to reevaluate the way they feature groups during heritage and appreciation months. "The hope is that as Target reevaluates the mix of its own national brands versus the ones of external partners for these heritage months, they don't move in favor of featuring more of their own products, as a way to try to avoid backlash," the Forbes article read.

The negative response from consumers could prompt corporations like Target to be more controlled and possessive of their branding and manufacture their own "heritage" or "appreciation" collections. This negates the whole idea of featuring and appreciating that minority group.

This is why, during this Hispanic Heritage Month, you should opt to shop local and directly benefit hispanics or latinos in the community. Their labor is essential to the American economy, and from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, take the opportunity to give Hispanic businesses amor.

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MEDIA  
NETWORK**



**SCAN ME**