

MSSP NEWSLETTER



News & updates from Multicultural Student Services & Programs

SUMMER 2021

VOLUME 37

ADMISSIONS WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR!

ANNA HERNANDEZ-HUNTER



Anna was born and raised in Central California, moved to Oregon in 1991. Graduated from WOU in 1996. Shortly after started working at WOU as an Advisor in MSSP. In 1997, she became the MSSP Director. In July 2021, Admissions welcomed Anna as the new Admissions Director. She is married to Robert and has four sons, Elias, Alex, Adam, and Evan. Hobbies she enjoys are reading and crafting.

MSSP 2021-2022 STAFF

LUANNE CARRILLO-AVALOS AKAANCHYA PRADHAN
Director Assistant Director



Let's
Welcome
Our New
Roles at
MSSP!

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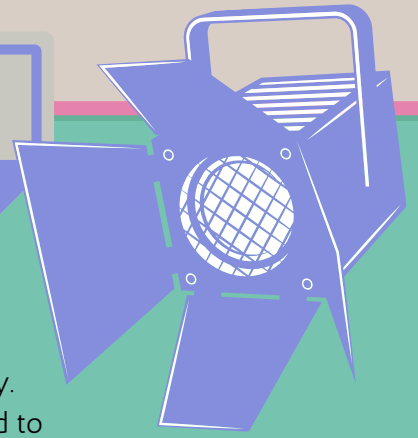
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In July, MSSP welcomed Blanca Miranda Aguilar to their team as the new Program Advisor and Coordinator. Blanca was born in Guanajuato, Mexico raised in Arroyo Grande, California and moved to Salem, Oregon in 2014. Blanca graduated from Western Oregon University earning her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with focuses in Education and Social Science. As a first generation college student, historically underrepresented ethnic background, and a former On-Track participant she loved being part of MSSP, MSU, MCR, SEP, and Upward Bound. She enjoys spending time with her two year old son, Raphael, and her family. Blanca is excited to have returned to her home away from home! She is also excited to be working with MSSP.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

La Donna L. Forsgren, '02



Major at WOU: Theatre Arts

Minor at WOU: History, with a focus in women's history.

Hometown: I grew up in Youngstown, Ohio and moved to Independence, Oregon at age ten.

Favorite memory at WOU: My favorite memories are performing in theatre productions at WOU. Being involved in theatre making allowed me to hone my craft, cultivate wonderful friendships, and have a better understanding about the world around me.

What was the most exciting aspect of college? Since I began college at age sixteen, the most exciting aspect of attending college was living more independently, in the dorms. I had a really great roommate from Japan and she shared her experiences and some of her culture with me. I also shared my experiences as a Black girl living in the U.S. We bonded right away and this cultural exchange changed my perspective about the world around me.

What resources did you use to be successful at WOU? I received a Diversity Achievement Scholarship to allow me to attend college. However, as a first-generation college student and GED recipient, I didn't really understand the rigors of academic life. The Student Enrichment Program provided the additional support that I needed. When I considered graduate school, I received additional mentorship and support from Letitia Erckenbrack. She helped me determine which graduate program to apply to and how to complete admissions applications.

Word of advice for underrepresented students coming to WOU: There have been so many people in my life who have said, "You won't be able to [insert a goal]." My advice is to keep that as background noise. You are the star of your life story. Make goals, take steps to fulfil these goals, and surround yourself with positive mentors who support your efforts. Perhaps most importantly, lift while you climb. Black women who came before me created space for me. Now, I have the opportunity—and, I feel an obligation—to do the same for other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Your current employment: I am the Rev. Thomas J. McDonagh, C.S.C. Associate Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre at the University of Notre Dame.

How has your experience and education at WOU shaped your life after college? My mentors at WOU continue to serve as a pedagogical model. I consider it a privilege to teach and guide the next generation of artists, intellectuals, professionals, and activists. I carry my compassion for others, love of African American theatre, and intellectual curiosity into the classroom. I understand that many of my students will never pursue a career in theatre. Yet, when they leave my classroom, I hope they have cultivated greater empathy for others, a deep appreciation for art, and more curiosity about the world around them.

Your favorite quote: In her essay, "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female" (1968), the Black feminist activist Francis Beale writes: "To die for the revolution is a one-shot deal; to live for the revolution means taking on the more difficult commitment of changing our day-to-day life patterns."

Share anything interesting about yourself. I grew up below the poverty line and dropped out of high school to take care of my niece. When she was old enough to attend public school I applied for and was awarded WOU's Diversity Achievement Scholarship. After graduating from WOU in 2002, I went on to earn my MA in Theatre and Media Arts from Brigham Young University ('05) and Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama at Northwestern University ('12). I literally would not be where I am at today without receiving a Diversity Achievement Scholarship and having a network of support at WOU.



“There are things we don't want to happen, but have to accept. Things we don't want to know, but have to learn.

And people we can't live without, but have to let go.” -

JJ, Criminal Minds

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.”

Albert Einstein

MSU 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD



- **President: Blanca Jimenez**, she/her, is on her 3rd year studying Psychology and Public Health. Her hometown is Portland, Oregon and she enjoys shopping, rugby, and activism. When asked why MSU she answered "MSU has opened me the doors to many opportunities and I will forever appreciate everything I have gained from my MSU family". She is most excited to organized cultural events on campus and showcase the beauty of our diverse students.

"She was powerful not because she wasn't scared but because she went on so strongly, despite the fear." - Atticus



- **President: Elyse Rodriguez**, she/hers, is on her 3rd year studying Psychology. Her home town is Hubbard, Oregon and she enjoys watching Netflix, going on adventures, and activism. When asked why MSU she answered "MSU became a home for me my Freshman year, and I am so grateful for the opportunities and memories I've had". She is most excited about creating new memories and plan events throughout the year.

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated" - Maya Angelou



- **Vice-President: Makana Ripley**, she/they, is on their 3rd year studying Communication Studies. Their hometown is Hilo, Hawaii. She enjoys advocacy, activism, and all the food. When ask why MSU she answered "as I go into my 3rd year as part of the MSU family I'm so grateful for all of the opportunities, friends, and experiences I have gained because of it. MSU is home". They are most excited to see how creative the team and members will be this year when planning events and activities for the WOU community.

"Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others" - Suzy Kassem



- **Social Media Coordinator: Gheraldy Bobadilla-Cruz**, he/him/his, is on his 2nd year studying Education with Social Science concentration. His hometown is The Dalles, Oregon. He enjoys photography, gaming, and running. When asked why MSU he answered "I want to meet new people and help break cultural barriers to bring people together". He is most excited to see the community come together through the events we plan.

"If you don't like your destiny, don't accept it. Instead have the courage to change it the way you want it to be" - Unknown



- **Membership Coordinator: Arlette Tapia**, she/her, is on her 3rd year studying Social Science. Her hometown is Gervais, Oregon. She enjoys shopping, Netflix, advocating, and eating. When asked why MSU she answered "I made great connections with MSU students and advisors, they have opened great opportunities, and makes me feel at home". She is most excited about making a connection with new students and organizing annual events that will bring the community together.

"Always believe that the impossible is always possible" - Selena Quintanilla Perez



- **Membership Coordinator: Sangato Rogelio Dominic Letisi**, he/him, is a Sophomore studying Exercise Science with an emphasis in Physical Education. His hometown is Salem, Oregon and enjoys working out, rugby, anime, football, Pokémon, and most importantly eating. When asked why MSU he answered "During my 1st year at WOU, as a Diversity Scholar, I was required to attend MSU online. MSU has been a fun and enjoyable way for me to meet new people during the pandemic and get more involved". He is most excited about returning to in person classes and definitely ready for Rugby to start back up to show case his abilities.

"If you think you are beaten, you are; If you think you dare not, you don't. If you'd like to win, but you think you can't, it is almost a cinch you won't. If you think you'll lose, you've lost; for out in this world find success begins with a fellow's will its all in the state of mind". - Water D. Wintle



- **Treasurer: Elizabeth Salazar**, she/her, is on her 3rd year studying Criminal Justice. Her hometown is Salem, Oregon and she enjoys Soccer, puzzles and reading. When ask why MSU she answered "MSU allowed me to meet new people, which I consider part of my family. I want others to understand and experience the same bond". She is most excited to see the impact we can create on our community and in the process create memorable experiences.

"You only live once but if you do it right, once is enough" - Mae West



- **Treasurer: Angel Cruz**, he/him/his, is on his Senior year studying Education with a concentration in Math. His hometown is Lincoln City, Oregon and enjoys skating, traveling, hiking or being outdoors, music, and learning new things. When asked why MSU he answered "I want to get involved in MSU because I wanted to be more aware and involved of the many divers actives or events that drove me to join the team". He is most excited to have more in-person events and college experience this coming year.

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but can start where you are, and change the ending" - Unknown

MCR 2021-2022 COORDINATORS



- **Carlos Martínez Rangel**, he/him/his/él, is a Senior studying Secondary Education. His hometown is Salem, Oregon and he enjoys listening to music, going to the gym, playing video games with friends, and watching Horror movies. When asked why MCR he answered "because the MCR Program allows me to explore and develop new skills and I am able to meet and interact with students from different backgrounds". He is most excited about in-person classes this fall.

"Ponte las pilas" -Unknown



- **Blanca Jimenez**, she/her, is on her 3rd year studying Psychology and Public Health. Her hometown is Portland, Oregon and she enjoy going on late-night adventures with her roommates and explore new places. When asked why MCR she answered "I am part of MCR because I am aware of the positive impact it creates for underrepresented students and I want to continue making a difference". She is most excited about being able to plan and organize fun events for the mentors and mentees.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair" -Shirley Chrisolm



- **Moshe Martinez**, he/him/his, is on his 3rd year studying Computer Science. His hometown is Independence, Oregon and enjoys Tennis, exercising, playing music, and thrifting. When asked why MCR he answered "I enjoyed being in the program my 1st year and I enjoy helping diverse students succeed in college and have a strong support system". He is most excited for getting to meet new people and host some fun activities.

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long to the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us" -Hellen Keller

TEACHER PREP STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



ARE YOU STUDYING TO BE A TEACHER?

TPSSS IS A NEW TRIO PROGRAM ON CAMPUS THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR FUTURE TEACHERS.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

IF YOU ARE:

- FIRST GENERATION
- LOW INCOME
- AND/OR HAVE A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY VISIT

WOU.EDU/TPSSS

APPLY NOW



CONTACT VIA EMAIL: TPSSS@WOU.EDU OR VIA

PHONE: 503-838-9304.

SPRING TERM HONOR ROLL

Congratulations

Alison Acosta-Vega
Aliyah Favela
Alondra Bocanegra Guerrero
Alondra Villalvazo
Alyssa Duron
America Flores
America Sepulveda Valenzuela
Ana Becerra
Ana Cortes Escobar
Anayeli Manriquez Gonzalez
Andrasis Navarrete Villegas
Andrew Freeman
Angela Mendoza
Antonia Morales
Ashley Duran-Fajardo
Beatriz Trujillo-Martinez
Blanca Jimenez
Blanca Munoz Villareal
Brenda Plata-Hurtado
Brisa Ochoa-Baez
Brisney Ochoa
Callia Ham
Camille Rickis
Carlos Fonseca Jr
Carlos Martinez Rangel
Carolina Garcia Chavez
Cesar Torres-Ibarra
Chantel Rumenapp
Charcy Ramos Lopez
Ciclali Santos Alvarado
Claire Rickis
Claire Graves
Cristina Olivares
Cruz Lopez
Crystal Maciel-Maciel
Daisy Garcia Herrera
Derek Maiben
Desirae Williams

Diana Herrera Gonzalez
Diana Huerta Cortez
Dulce Gallardo-Rosas
Eduardo Perez
Elizabeth Carbajal
Elizabeth Salazar-Cervantes
Elyse Rodriguez
Eny Gonzales Lopez
Eric Cortes
Eric Joe Evangelista
Erika Escobar
Erika Gonzalez-Moreno
Erika Leon
Esmirna Tencos Mendoza
Fabiana Vasquez
Fatima Custodio Cisneros
Fatima Manzano-Lopez
Felicia Martinez
Felipe Ortega Ramos
Fernando Salazar
Gabriela Enciso
Gisell Alfaro Ortiz
Gloria Rosas Alcantara
Hayden Campos
Ibeth Gomez
Jacob Maiben
Jacqueline Cach Briceno
Jasmine Grijalva
Jasmine Rojas
Javy Cantu
Jay Solis
Jeanette Betancourt Garcia
Jennifer Arellano-Franco
Jeronimo Flores-Palafox
Jesus Villa
Jhonary Pimienta
Johnny Martinez-Isaac
Jorge Tavizon
Jorge R Ruiz Ruiz

Jose Alaniz-Benitez
Joselyn Mireles-Garcia
Julie Prado
Juan Carlos Perez
Kaitlin Poe
Karen Silva Hardin
Karissa (KJ) Smith
Kiara Wehrenberg
Leslie Cruz
Leslie Avila Ponce
Litzzy Martinez Lopez
Lizbeht Marquez Gutierrez
Logan Carlos
Lorena Huerta
Lourdes Iniguez Gudino
Luis Olvera
Luis Calderon
Madison Griego
Malia Napoleon
Manuel Vasquez
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Marcos Espinoza Gomez
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Maria Solis
Maria Victoria Guijon
Maria Crystal Flores
Maria Guadalupe Montejano
Marian Llontop
Mariana Contreras
Mariela Cruz Vazquez
Marilyn Pentecost
Mathew Leon Guerrero
Mayra Herrera
Melissa Whitley
Mia Sierra
Micheal John Naputi
Mirella Barrera
Mishelle Quevedo-Leon

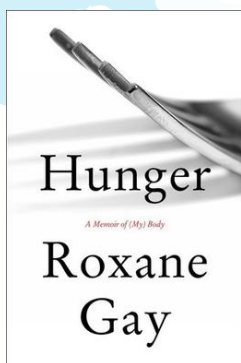
Moshe Martinez
Nataly Navarro
Nick Brandon Cabacungan
Nicole Hoey
Odalys Lemus-Sanchez
Olivia Orozco
Orlando Alvarez Flores
Osaze Ogeide
Paulina Montejano
Rachel Joya
Rebecca Ocampo
Robert Gowdy
Roman Munoz
Rosibel Cruz Sanchez
Rosy Madrigal Rodriguez
Ruben Ramirez Alvarez
Ruby San Miguel Morales
Salma Betancourt
Samantha Escorcia
Samila Sevugan
Sandra Garcia Torres
Sean Martinez
Shyann Ah Nee
Sofie Fashana
Sonia Castaneda Felix
Tyler Creach
Valeria Garibay Maravilla
Valeria Jacome
Vanessa Vargas
Veronica Mendez
Yahaira Meza
Yasmine Robles
Zachary Cole
Zuleima Lopez
Zurisahi Aguilar



MSSP RECOMMENDATIONS



BOOK

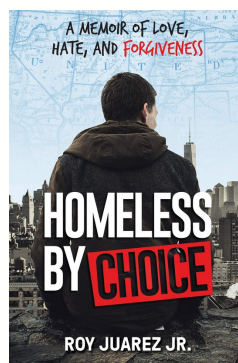


SUMMARY: *Gay gained weight in the wake of her trauma, as both a means of comfort and of protecting herself from the world, and describes the book as being about "living in the world when you are three or four hundred pounds overweight, when you are not obese or morbidly obese but super morbidly obese.*

Trigger Warnings:

- Sexual Abuse
- Rape
- Mental Health
- Fatphobia
- Emotional Abuse

BOOK



SUMMARY: *This riveting memoir journeys through Roy's decision to live homeless once again, but this time, Homeless by Choice, with a mission to inspire youth to never give up on life, their dreams and understand the power of higher education. This journey would lead him to uncover the hidden issues that plague America's youth.*

HORCHATA

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup of white rice
- 2 cinnamon stick
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/2 heavy whipped cream milk
- 1 evaporated milk
- 1 concentrated milk
- 2 liters of water



METHOD:

1. Begin by soaking the rice and cinnamon sticks in a bowl of water all night, or at least for 5 hours so that the rice softens slightly.
2. Blend the rice, cinnamon sticks, and water until the grains of rice are completely ground.
3. Strain the resulting liquid into a pitcher, and add the vanilla extract, sugar heavy whipped cream, evaporated, concentrated milk, and liters of water.
4. Mix well until everything is well combined.
5. Serve with ice. Enjoy!

MISSION

The office of Multicultural Student Services & Programs is committed to the recruitment, retention and graduation of historically underrepresented & underserved populations by providing educational opportunities and outstanding programming for ethnically and culturally diverse students. MSSP strives to enrich the undergraduate experience and foster a supportive environment for students of color to live, learn and grow as active members of the Western Oregon University community and as individuals.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Personal Guidance, Advising, and Advocacy
- Academic Advising and Support to Develop an Academic Progress Plan
- Mentoring
- Referrals to University and Community Resources
- Cultural/Social Activities & Events
- Student Recognition and Graduation Celebrations
- Facilitate the Successful Transition of 1st Year Students

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MSSP CONTACT INFORMATION



EMAIL: MSSP@WOU.EDU



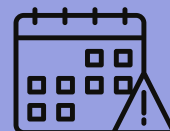
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LIVE CHAT WITH US
[CLICK HERE](#)

WWW.WOU.EDU/MSSP

UPCOMING CALEDAR HIGHLIGHTS



- August 30-31: MCR Training
- September 6: Labor Day
- September 6-17: Destination Western
- September 20-24: New Student Week/Cultural Connections
- September 27: Fall term classes begin!