



New STANZA Executive

A new Executive was elected at the NZALT conference in Auckland in July. Gloria Vazquez who has been serving as vice president is STANZA's new president. Gabriela Maldonado has taken on the role of vice president and Annelies Mead that of treasurer. In order to meet the needs of our growing community, there are two new roles: secretary/communications officer and membership officer. Victoria Zapata is our secretary/communications officer and Kerri Williams is our membership officer.

We would like to acknowledge Cheryl van Dijck who has served as STANZA's president for the past 12 years. Her dedication to Spanish teaching in Aotearoa has been outstanding and we are very fortunate that she will continue to be part of STANZA's executive team alongside Maria

Lamberto, Constanza Tolosa and Virginia Frontán.

We would also like to thank Virginia Frontán for her expert management of the STANZA website www.stanza.org.nz.

Gracias to our members for their support and contributions this year. We are here for you and because of you, so feel free to reach out with questions, ideas and suggestions. We would also love to know about what you are doing in your schools and institutions.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our website www.stanza.org.nz is where you will find information on upcoming events, professional development opportunities and practice NCEA-style exams.

Enjoy reading this newsletter!

In this newsletter you can expect:

New STANZA Executive Team

Para la agenda
Upcoming events

¿Qué hubo?
Past events

Paola Iasci, **New Spanish Advisor**

¿Conoces a...?
People you might like to meet!

Experiencias: A study trip to Auckland

Artículo: La Inteligencia Artificial (AI) en el aula

Contactos

President: Gloria Vazquez - gloria.vazquez@aut.ac.nz

Vice-President: Gabriela Maldonado - gmaldonado@kristin.school.nz

Secretary/Communications Officer: Victoria Zapata Gil - victoria.zapatagil@acgedu.com

Treasurer: Annelies Mead - annelies.mead@education.govt.nz

Membership Officer: Kerri Williams - kwilliams@kerikerihigh.ac.nz

Webmaster: Virginia Frontán - virginia.frontan@acgedu.com

Para la agenda

Professional Development Seminar for Spanish teachers in New Zealand

Come along to the exciting professional development seminar for current Spanish language teachers "**Integrando tecnología, creatividad y bienestar en la clase de español**" organised by the Spanish Programme of the University of Canterbury in conjunction with the Spanish Teachers Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (STANZA) that will take place on **1 and 2 November 2024** at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch

We have put together a programme of innovative workshops with a holistic approach exploring how technology and AI, creativity, and well-being can ignite the Spanish language classroom for a future-ready learning experience (programme attached).

This is a free event so places are limited, please register early. Catering is provided. Note that all the workshops will be delivered in Spanish.

For more information on the programme and to register, visit [the University of Canterbury website](https://www.stanza.org.nz).

Video Competition!

We are excited to announce the **2024 Spanish Video Competition** for students in **Years 7 to 10**.

The theme year is "**Things I Like / Las cosas que me gustan**", and students are encouraged to approach this theme creatively, using a variety of formats such as stop-motion or performances. The competition aims to showcase students' language skills and creativity.

Key details:

- **Deadline:** Wednesday, 20th November 2024
- **Prizes:**
 - 1st place: \$100 for celebratory end-of-year treats.
 - Runners-up: \$75 reimbursement for end-of-year treats.
- **Submission:** Upload the video to Google Drive and share the link with Cheryl van Dijck (cheryl.VanDijck@stcuthberts.school.nz).

For more information, email Cheryl at cheryl.VanDijck@stcuthberts.school.nz

2025 Membership

We have the following types of membership:

- **Secondary - Early Bird (\$100 early bird until 31 March). It gives access to mock examination papers.**
- **Secondary - Full Price (\$125 full price from 1 April). It gives access to mock examination papers.**
- **General (\$30).**

All teachers of Spanish in the same institution are included in the same membership.

Visit www.stanza.org.nz to renew your membership.

Jornada de Profesores de ELE 2025

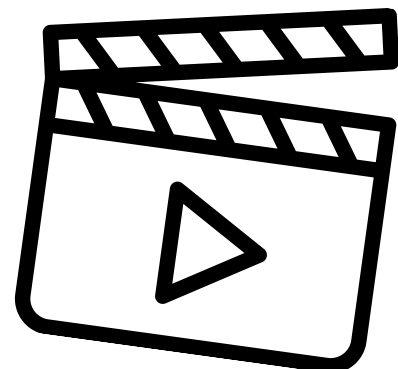
A great PD opportunity to start the year! Join us for a full day of exciting and practical workshops and networking activities for teachers of Spanish in New Zealand.

When: Friday 14 February

Where: AUT City Campus

Cost: \$80 for STANZA members; \$100 for non-members.

Please pay by Direct Deposit to account number 02-0524-0157121-097 BNZ. Use your name as a reference for our records.



¿Qué hubo?

Term 1

Jornada de Profesores de ELE

Una vez más, a principios de año, comenzamos el año escolar con la Jornada de Profesores de ELE. Esta vez, el evento se llevó a cabo el viernes 16 de febrero y, por primera vez, lo hicimos en el campus del centro de AUT.

Como todos los años, logramos reunirnos un buen número de profesores con muchas ganas de aprender cosas nuevas, compartir recursos que nos funcionan en nuestras clases y más que nada, con la ilusión de tener un día interesante, divertido y de inmersión total en español.

Una de las mejores cosas de este evento anual es que nos brinda la oportunidad de conocer a nuevos colegas y de reunirnos con algunos de los que solemos ver en ocasiones especiales como esta. Como de costumbre, este año contamos con profesores de diferentes partes del país, incluyendo la Isla Sur.

La Jornada incluyó temas muy interesantes y actuales como la Inteligencia Artificial,

Mātauranga Māori, ideas pedagógicas y actividades que podemos usar en la clase, además de un taller participativo donde compartimos actividades e intercambiamos ideas. Lo bueno de las sesiones es que fueron interactivas y relevantes para todos.

Para comer, entre otras cosas ricas, tuvimos la famosa paella que disfrutamos cada año. Después de la Jornada, nos fuimos de copas y tapas al Mezze Bar donde charlamos, reímos un buen rato y terminamos el día estupendamente.

En general, fue una Jornada de mucho éxito donde aprendimos bastantes cosas nuevas, conectamos con otros profesores, hablamos español por los codos y nos lo pasamos genial. Como siempre, agradecemos enormemente el esfuerzo de los colegas que imparten todos los talleres y os animamos a que participéis en la próxima Jornada del 2025.



Term 2

20th National Spanish Debating Competition: A Celebration of Language and Talent

The National Spanish Debating Competition celebrated a major milestone this year, marking its 20th edition. What began as a modest two-team event between King's College and Auckland Grammar School has grown into a prestigious tournament, showcasing the linguistic talents of students from across the country.

This year, 16 teams competed in the Open category, while 12 teams participated in the Junior division, which is open to students in Year 11 and below. Organised by STANZA and hosted by last year's champions, Kristin School, the event offered a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with their peers from different schools and demonstrate their skills in innovative and creative ways, all while debating entirely in Spanish.

The day started with a series of morning debates, followed by a shared lunch where students mingled and exchanged ideas. In the afternoon, tensions mounted as the finals took place, leading to thrilling and well-fought rounds in both the Open and Junior categories.

In the Open competition, Kristin School defended their title and claimed first place, with Rangitoto College and Auckland Grammar School taking second and third, respectively. In the Junior division, Rangitoto College took home the top prize, followed by ACG Parnell in second and Auckland Grammar School in third. Charlotte Stokes from ACG Parnell was recognised as the Best Speaker, a well-deserved accolade for her outstanding performance.

The competition will take a break next year due to organiser María Lamberto's sabbatical. However, the spirit of debate remains strong, and we look forward to the next competition in 2026!



Spanish Quiz Evening

El quiz de español fue un éxito, involucrando y desafiando a estudiantes de todo Auckland. En mayo, Takapuna Grammar School organizó el segundo concurso de español para estudiantes de Y12 y Y13 en el que participaron más de 80 estudiantes de 14 escuelas.

El evento cubrió una variedad de temas, incluyendo geografía, música, comida, personajes famosos y deportes. Todas las instrucciones, preguntas y respuestas se dieron en español.

El concurso fue competitivo y divertido. Los estudiantes trabajaron en equipos para responder preguntas dentro del tiempo establecido. El evento también ofreció la oportunidad a los estudiantes de interactuar con compañeros de otras escuelas.

Para complementar, los estudiantes disfrutaron de una cena de pizza y aperitivos y dulces latinoamericanos, lo cual ayudó a crear un ambiente agradable.

El concurso ha demostrado el valor de involucrar a los estudiantes en experiencias de aprendizaje de idiomas inmersivas. Esperamos continuar con esta iniciativa y promover la educación del español en nuestra comunidad el año que viene en Term 2, comunicaremos información relativa a la fecha antes del evento.



Term 3

Speech Competition

The very first STANZA Speech Competition was held in 2003 at the University of Waikato. Now, twentyone years later, students are able to submit their entries digitally, which means we normally have up to 60 contestants, this year from Invercargill to Kerikeri.

We are always pleased with the quality of language and presentation. With so many digital tools available now, favourite speeches are often those which use the language the students are learning in their classrooms. Speeches should be engaging, and it is always a pleasure to see the confident delivery of our students.

These events cannot happen without the very hard work of our teachers and the willingness of some of our students to go the extra mile. Thank you to all of our participants.

We hope to see even more of you next year!

2024 Winners:

Level 1

First: Eden Rosadi, Selwyn College

Second: Eunice Manansala, Rangitoto College

Third: Alex Zhang, Kristin School

Level 2

First: Carly Fear, Rangitoto College

Second: Mina Dijkstra, Selwyn College

Third: Hayley Bloch-Jorgenson, Kerikeri High School

Level 3

First: Alex Reid, Selwyn College

Second: Lily Wilson, Westlake Girls High School

Third: Babet Doherty, Otago Girls High School

Scholarship

First: Paula Quintana, James Hargest College

Second: Orlando Aguilera, Rangitoto College

Third: Fiorella Palacio Sotoma, Northcote College



XXII Latin America and Spain Film Festival (LASFF)

This year, the festival was again a huge success, screening 7 films from different countries and a range of genres to suit everyone's taste.

This was the 6th festival held at AUT in Tāmaki Makaurau, and organised by Gloria Vázquez and Elba Ramirez, both Senior Lecturers at said institution.

The selection of films was excellent, and the event's popularity continues to grow every year. This year, we had over a thousand people attending the festival.

As in previous years, we had several groups of students from different schools com to some of screening with their teachers to enjoy the whole experience.

The festival included an Opening Gala Night with special food and drinks, and a Closing Ceremony with many spot prizes donated by different supporters in our community, including STANZA.

Overall, it was a popular and enjoyable event with a great selection of films which showcased the rich linguistic cultures of Latin America and Spain. The popularity of the festival continues to grow every year, and we are certain that with the steady increase of people from Latin America and Spain in Tāmaki Makaurau, this Festival will continue to be one a highlight for our community in our beautiful city and in the country.

The festival is a great opportunity to strengthen ties both within and between Latin cultures and the wider variety of cultures present in Aotearoa.





Paola Iasci Asesora Técnico Docente

Queridos lectores:

Me presento: Soy Paola, la nueva Asesora Técnico Docente del Ministerio de Educación, Formación Profesional y Deporte de España. Mi oficina se encuentra en Wellington, en los locales de la Embajada Española, y desde luego podéis contactarme a través del correo electrónico para cualquier información que necesitéis.

Estoy a disposición de la comunidad hispanoparlante y, especialmente, de los docentes de español en Nueva Zelanda para colaborar en lo que surja. ¿Y qué puede surgir? Estoy pensando en oportunidades de formación, cursos, talleres didácticos, eventos culturales —como el Festival de Cine Latinoamericano (LASFF)—, visitas a centros educativos donde se enseñe español para realizar actividades conjuntas, participación en eventos y certámenes, entrega de premios y cualquier otra ocasión para conocernos, compartir conocimientos y buenas prácticas, y promocionar el estudio y uso de la lengua y cultura españolas y latinoamericanas en general.

Acabo de asumir el cargo que dejó libre mi predecesora, Clara Gómez, y necesito un tiempo para adaptarme al ritmo de trabajo y a la vida en Nueva Zelanda, tan diferente a la que conocí en Italia (de donde soy originaria), en España (donde he vivido los últimos 32 años) e incluso en Suiza (donde ejercí como profesora de español en el programa ALCE de Ginebra justo antes de llegar a Wellington). Por supuesto, si tenéis alguna necesidad en cuanto a formación, actualización profesional o difusión de lo que hacéis en las escuelas y en las aulas, no dudéis en comentármelo.

Desde aquí, puedo asesoraros y poner a vuestra disposición los recursos que tenemos. Estoy abierta a propuestas de actividades y planeo ponerme en contacto con vosotros cuanto antes para que me podáis dar ideas de colaboración. Toda propuesta es bienvenida, especialmente si se trata de poner en valor nuestro idioma y nuestra cultura en un mundo globalizado y en un momento histórico en el que saber hablar varios idiomas es cada vez más importante para el entendimiento entre los pueblos y la cooperación internacional.

Estoy orgullosa de formar parte de esta comunidad y pondré todo mi esfuerzo para que siga creciendo y prosperando.

Ngā mihi,

Paola



asesoria.nz@educacion.gob.es



UN VIAJE DE ESTUDIOS A AUCKLAND

por Anita Vennel, profesora de español en Havelock North High School

Del 11 al 13 de septiembre llevé a 8 estudiantes de español a Auckland para una experiencia de inmersión.

El primer día, cenamos en el restaurante mexicano, Frida, donde los estudiantes pudieron conversar en español con el personal. Aprendieron una nueva palabra chilena: "Wena".

Nos alojamos en el Attic Backpackers, en el centro de la ciudad, desde donde pudimos caminar a todos nuestros destinos.

Los siguientes dos días visitamos a Gloria Vázquez en AUT para un recorrido y una clase interactiva en español y a Eduardo Piñeros en la Universidad de Auckland, donde conocimos los cursos de español ofrecidos allí y aprendimos sobre Colombia.

Gloria nos organizó entradas para el Festival de cine Latinoamérica y España (LASFF), donde vimos Cinco Lobitos, una película española.

También creé una búsqueda del tesoro en el App GooseChase para que los estudiantes pudieran explorar el centro de Auckland y completar "tareas" divertidas.

Finalmente, visitamos la Galería de Arte de Auckland para ver algunas obras de Picasso y Dalí. Los estudiantes se lo pasaron de maravilla. Muchas gracias a todos los que nos recibieron. Realmente fue una experiencia inolvidable para todos.





Kara Morrison

Tui Tuia | Learning Circle

As a facilitator for Tui Tuia | Learning Circle's Languages team, I feel privileged to work with language teachers across Aotearoa. With over a decade of experience teaching Spanish at both primary and secondary levels, I'm passionate about helping educators create engaging and authentic learning environments for language students.

We know that language teachers play a vital role in guiding our students on their journey to becoming global citizens, and it's essential that they receive the support needed to thrive. Focused, ongoing professional development and collaborative opportunities empower teachers to adapt in ever-evolving classrooms. These are the opportunities we offer at Tui Tuia.

In my role, I connect with language educators to share fresh ideas and practical strategies that inspire both teachers and students. Language learning goes beyond vocabulary and assessment grades; it's about building cultural connections and igniting curiosity. This year, I lead two year-long GROW programs: one for multilevel classes and another for a cluster of Spanish teachers. Supporting teachers in achieving better outcomes for their students is the best part of my job.

At Tui Tuia, we emphasize collaboration, encouraging teachers to share their experiences and challenges, and to work through strategies to progress learning outcomes. Our PLD programs and workshops are designed to provide practical tools for creating engaging and effective lessons and integrating technology. I encourage all teachers to participate—your insights will enhance our community and benefit everyone involved.

Together, we're building a vibrant community that enriches our skills and supports our students' learning. For more information about our courses and how we can support your professional growth, visit [Tui Tuia | Learning Circle](#).

¿CONOCES A...?

We'd like to introduce you to colleagues who we think you might like to meet, if you have haven't already!



MARIA LAMBERTO

NZALT Excellence in Teaching Award

Congratulations to María for receiving the NZALT Excellence in Teaching Award during the NZALT conference in July 2024.

María has worked as a Spanish teacher in Auckland for over two decades. In her current position as Spanish teacher and Head of the Languages Faculty (for seven years) in King's College she is recognised for her innovative and energetic teaching as well as her active participation in many service roles in the school. Outside of her school duties, María has been a committed member of several regional and national panels involved in changes to the languages curriculum and assessment. She has also been a convenor of the Cambridge assessment cluster as well as an expert in the Spanish Scholarship exam.

Over the years, María had led Spanish teachers through her involvement in STANZA in different capacities, including her many years as president. Under her leadership, the association grew past the 100 members and received a competitive NZALT grant to develop a website. She organised the first Spanish Immersion Weekend for teachers in 2006 as a way of supporting those teachers new to the teaching of Spanish, especially those who did not feel confident speaking the language.

María also developed and still leads the annual National Spanish Debate Competition where 24 teams of talented students of Spanish come together for an intense day of debating demonstrating their proficiency and critical argumentative skills. More recently, María started organising immersion opportunities for students near Auckland with colleagues from Hamilton and Rotorua.



La Inteligencia Artificial (AI) en el aula por Constanza Tolosa



Ya todos conocemos las promesas y limitaciones de la inteligencia artificial (IA) en la educación. Entre las promesas se destacan las posibilidades que ofrece para aprendizajes más adaptativos, dinámicos y personalizados. Sin embargo, se han identificado retos éticos como la posible pérdida de la privacidad de los datos y la limitada transparencia en los algoritmos, así como retos de equidad ya que se debe asegurar que las herramientas sean accesibles para todos los estudiantes.

Para la enseñanza de lenguas, algunas de las aplicaciones más innovadoras de la AI son: (1) el reconocimiento de voz y la traducción automática (ya existente hace años); (2) la disponibilidad de tutores o asistentes virtuales (chatbots) que pueden interactuar con los estudiantes de manera similar a un humano; (3) la creación de simulaciones de conversaciones y situaciones reales.

He participado esta semana en dos foros de AI en la enseñanza de idiomas y estas son las recomendaciones principales para el profesorado:

- privilegiar el proceso sobre el producto (eso ya lo venimos haciendo, creo yo)
- explorar con los estudiantes los retos en la interpretación de textos creados por AI y en la identificación de ideologías y sub-textos
- fomentar el desarrollo de habilidades de pensamiento crítico. Por ejemplo identificar la veracidad y confiabilidad de lo que AI produce; reflexionar sobre quién se beneficia al entregar una tarea escrita por AI.

- reflexionar sobre qué es aprender y aprender lenguas en particular. Por ejemplo, mientras AI puede ayudar con el aprendizaje repetitivo de vocabulario, sólo los humanos pueden usar ese vocabulario con creatividad, emoción y humor.

- promover en los estudiantes el uso de su voz personal en su trabajo y luego colaborar en grupos de pares con sus producciones originales.

- reflexionar sobre la representaciones culturales que produce AI que tiene tantas limitaciones dados sus fuentes de origen basadas, en su mayoría, en textos producidos por angloparlantes. ¿Qué tanto las culturas diversas donde se habla español alimentan lo que se produce con AI?

Estos dos enlaces pueden ser de interés para profundizar más. Si alguien quisiera algo más académico, me pueden contactar c.tolosa@auckland.ac.nz

<https://www.unesco.org/en/digital-education/ai-future-learning?hub=32618>

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/technology-topics-students-should-understand>

