

Lila Wells Guzman, B.A. French, B.A. Spanish, Class of 1973

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“Be flexible... You never know what opportunities will pop up.”



Being a WKU Modern Languages alumni isn't the only achievement Dr. Lila Wells Guzman has under her belt. This WKU alumna studied French, German, and Spanish during her undergraduate career. Since graduating as a Spanish and French double-major in 1973, she has gone on to obtain a PhD in Spanish from the University of Kentucky, as well as become a published writer as the author of the Lorenzo series. The books are a product of Dr. Guzman's long-term interest in Spain's role in the American Revolutionary War, as well as the rarely told story of Bernardo de Galvez (Galveston, Texas's namesake). These novels, following the story of a young boy and the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution as a whole, were published by Arte Publico Press in 2001 and remain in print today. Guzman has published books in both Spanish and English.

Dr. Guzman greatly enjoyed her time as a Modern Languages student at WKU. She recalls fond memories of her language classes, and upon graduation felt ready to continue into the next stage of her career, saying, "The department did a great job. I was well-prepared." When asked to give a piece of advice for current students pursuing careers within the international realm, she provided the wisdom, "Be flexible. I taught at the Defense Language Institute while in the Navy. You never know what opportunities will pop up."