Dear friends and colleagues,

As some of you may be aware, Western has had a partnership with the University of Holguín (UHO) in Cuba for more than 20 years, which includes an annual conference in Cuba in late April on language, communication, culture, and Canadian Studies, known as WEFLA.

Last year, WEFLA was cancelled for reasons we know all too well, and this year, our Cuban colleagues are organizing asynchronous virtual participation of international presenters. Exact details remain to be worked out, but some means of contributing a presentation will be arranged.

WEFLA is an important annual event for international academic connections for the UHO as well as faculty and students from other Cuban universities. Participants from Canadian universities help make participation by Cuban faculty and students possible through payment of hard-currency registration fees. This year, our support is as important as ever, as it will support the UHO's telecommunications infrastructure to make virtual participation by Cubans in a mixed virtual/on-site event possible.

The call for papers can be found at the following link: [www.wefla.org.](http://www.wefla.org.) While the deadline indicated there has passed, they are still accepting proposals for the next few days (until March 20). If you and/or your students are interested in participating, please send an email ASAP to Jeff Tennant <jtennant@uwo.ca>  with a title for your paper, however tentative.

As regards the registration fee ($50USD), in order to save each participant the high cost of an international bank transfer, we suggest making arrangements locally to gather fees from several participants and send the funds to the UHO in a single bank transfer.

Thanks in advance for your support of virtual WEFLA 2021 and here's hoping we can meet with our Cuban colleagues in person at WEFLA 2022!

Warm regards,

David Heap <djheap@uwo.ca>