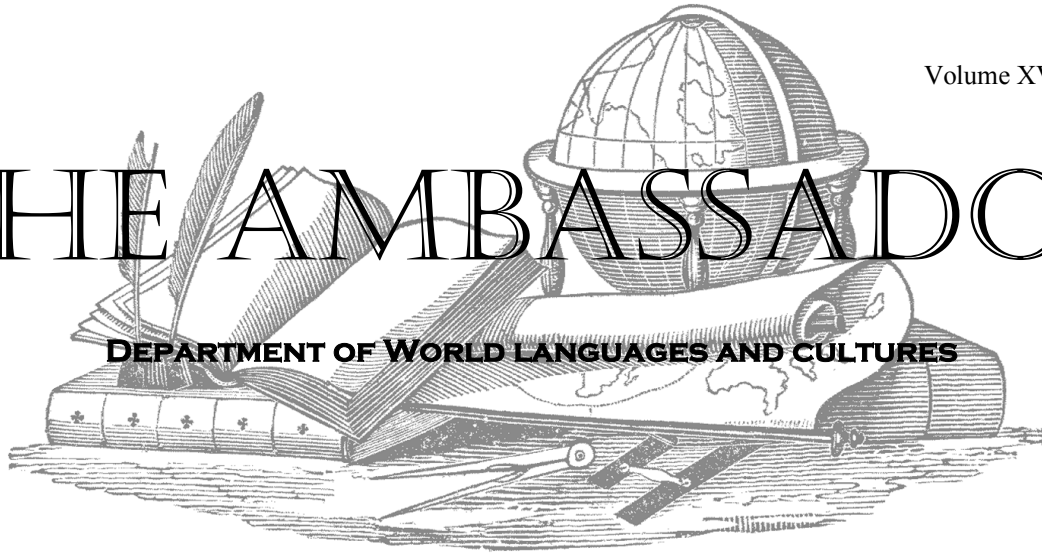


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



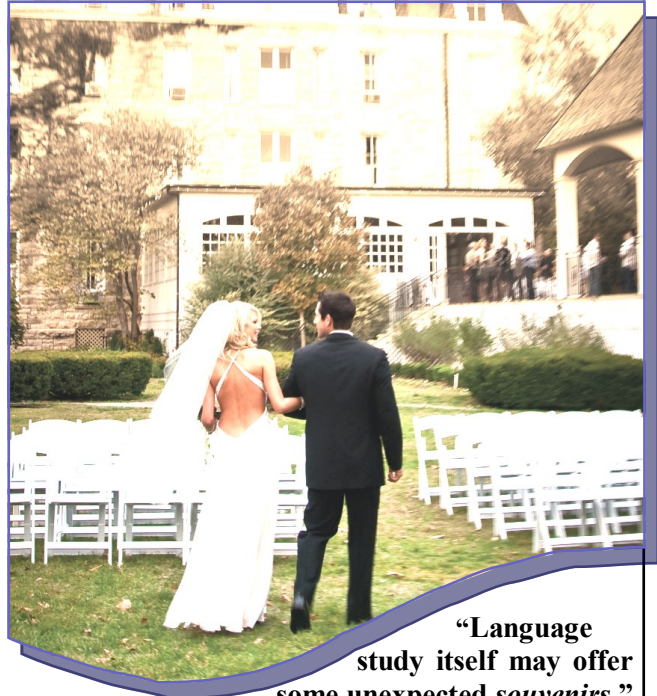
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

INTERNATIONAL SURPRISES

Last fall I wrote about why studying abroad is a way of improving your language skills, enjoying new foods and cultural experiences, coming to a deeper understanding of others and perhaps more importantly, a better understanding of yourself. But study abroad and even language study itself may offer some surprises or unexpected “souvenirs.”

One of our students studied in Mendoza, Argentina for a year, and became very good friends with a fellow there. They maintained a bi-national, come and go relationship for two years, when the distances and differences became too much. Another studied in Chile, where she became very close to a family and after visits back and forth, married one of their sons. They remain happily married in the U.S. Another student studied abroad, but after graduation moved on to service in Nepal. Yep, you guessed it: she married her Nepalese boyfriend.

I was reminded of these surprising “recuerdos” of international life when a more recent graduate visited. Jude Krushnowski used a partner program to improve his Spanish. He communicated in Spanish via Internet to his partner, who aided his Spanish while he helped her English. It took four years and many visits back and forth, but on August 30, 2013 Jude married his Peruvian partner, Fiorella Borges Rodríguez. Needless to say, Jude is quite fluent in Spanish now. Though not without challenges, language learning and study abroad may have unexpected rewards...



“Language study itself may offer some unexpected *souvenirs*.”

Linda Ledford-Miller

Inside this issue:

- Faculty Activities
- East German Film Series 2013
- LAS Film Series
- Meet the NewTAs
- Alumni News
- Studying Abroad

Literature and Politics

Dr. Jamie Trnka returned to The University in August after spending her sabbatical year in Maastricht, The Netherlands. During her time there, she completed her book, *Revolutionary*



Subjects: German Literatures, Geoculture, and the Limits of Aesthetic Solidarity with Latin America, which explores the relationship of literature and politics in the global Cold War.

Building on previous research on Chilean involvement in East German film, her work this summer focused on the production and popular reception of the film *April has 30 Days* (1978). The result of collaboration between East German film maker Gunther Scholz and exiled Chilean author Carlos Cerda, the film tells the story of a single, working mother in East Berlin and her short, passionate relationship with her Uruguayan exile neighbor. She will present findings from the initial stages of her work this Fall at the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association.

Sherlock Holmes Redux

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller will give a paper on *The Reinvention of Sherlock Holmes*,



Consulting Detective: Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes, at the Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, to be held in November. The paper will be based in part on her book chapter, *Robert Downey, Jr. as Detective: Sherlock Holmes Redux*, due out next year. She is also working on the revision of her invited essay on "Paseo de la Reforma: Writing of Privilege or Writing of Conscience?" for a special issue of *Diálogo* on Teaching the Works of Elena Poniatowska in 21st Century Frames. Her translation from Portuguese of excerpts of *O Ano Sabático* by João Tordo (*The Sabbatical Year*) has appeared in *Palabras: Dispatches from the Festival of la Palabra*. Other projects for the near future include a paper on "The Expatriate Experience as a Voyage of (Self) Discovery: the novels of Harriet Doerr" and an essay on "Art as Identity: *Arte menor* by Betina González."



The Value of 'Hero'

Dr. Joseph Wilson

continued working on his article on the *ecphrases* in Vergil's *Aeneid* 1 and 6; he has received the galley proofs for correction for his contribution to a book collection on the island of Corfu in Homer's *Odyssey* and Apollonius of Rhodes' *Argonautica*. He has been at work on another project on the end of Plato's Republic, one that emerged from various papers given at the MPSA meetings over the last few years.

His most interesting new project is one that Dr. Champney and Wilson have conceived on the chronic devaluation of the word "hero" in contemporary society. Wilson has proposed a series of essays on the topic, Champney from his view as a political scientist and liberal pragmatist, Wilson's from his perspective as a classicist with strong politically conservative leanings. Wilson will take the current hyperbolic use of the word and concept of hero as a symptom of the sycophantic narcissism that Lasch identified years ago in his magisterial *Culture of Narcissism*.



From English to Spanish

Dr. Bob Parsons translated to Spanish (for subtitles) the documentary

film *Of Memory and Los Sures* (*De la memoria y los Sures*), an English language compilation of oral histories of longtime residents of Los Sures, a NY neighborhood of historically Puerto Rican families. The film was featured in the 2013 annual Rincón International Film Festival in Rincón, Puerto Rico. He also translated Cuban writer Ángel Santiesteban-Prats' story "La luna, un muerto y un pedazo de pan" ("The Moon, a Dead Man and a Piece of Bread") to English. The translation is to be included in the anthology of Spanish American writings *Palabras: Dispatches from the Festival de la Palabra*, co-edited by Hank Willenbrink and Yamile Silva.

Mark your calendar!



Puppets and Pedagogy



Dr. Habib Zanzana completed and submitted an article titled, *Puppets and Pedagogy: The use of Bloom's Revised Taxonomy to Model Hispanic Puppet Theatre as an Integrated Platform*. He is awaiting editorial comments from reviewers of *Hispania*, a refereed journal that is considered the top in the field. He is also finishing an article on Francophone literature

that focuses on space and national identity in the Maghreb. The essay is titled, *Writing and Rerouting the Self in the Modern City: Movement, Space and Sexual Politics in Contemporary Writing of Abdellah Taïa and Rachid O*. He will be sending the manuscript to *Women in French*, a refereed journal that publishes scholarship on French and Francophone literatures and cinema.

Petitions by Women



Dr. Yamile Silva published two articles in peer-reviewed journals and was invited to write a chapter for the book *Women and Gender in the Early Modern World*, edited by leading scholars Rocio Quispe and Mónica Díaz, which has been published by Ashgate Publishing by this year. Dr. Silva has submitted a book review that is under consideration for publication in the

peer review journal *Letras Femeninas*. Additionally, she is currently co-editing an anthology with Dr. Hank Willenbrink, Department of English and Theatre, of Spanish and Portuguese writers who attended the Festival de la Palabra. Besides, she is collaborating with Dr. Mary Berg (Harvard University and Brandeis University) on an anthology of previously unpublished petitions by women written to Spanish authorities in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. In March 2013, her proposal "Si escuchas los acentos de una mujer: estrategias de justificación en Ana Manuela Mozo de la Torre (1815)" was accepted to be part of the special issue on Women Writers in the Caribbean Tradition in the journal, *Cuadernos del Caribe y de Hispanoamérica*. She recently received an invitation to write a chapter on the influence of the Baroque in Hispano-American Colonial Writers.

MOVIES

EAST GERMANY FILM SERIES (more info. page 4)

October 24, 2013 *The Rabbit is Me* (Dir. Kurt Maetzig, 1965, b/w, 118 min). Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

October 29, 2013 *Trace of Stones* (Dir. Frank Beyer, 1966, b/w, 138 min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

October 31, 2013 *Just Don't Think I'll Cry* (Dir. Frank Vogel, 1965, b/w, 91 min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

LATIN AMERICAN FILM SERIES (more info. page 4)

September 24, 2013 *Machuca* (Dir. Andrés Wood, 2004, 121 min). Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

October 22, 2013 *No* (Dir. Pablo Larrain, 2012, 115min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

November 19, 2013 *Nostalgia for the Light* (Dir. Patricio Guzmán, 2010, 90 min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

OTHER EVENTS

November 4, 2013 *What's New and What's Not: Chilean Elections Forty Years After The Coup*, a talk by Dr. Lisa Baldez from Dartmouth College. LSC 133 Large Lecture Hall, 6pm.

November 19, 2013 *8th Annual TA Talk / Luncheon*. A special occasion to meet and listen to the presentation from the three Teaching Assistants currently in the World Languages Department: Charlotte Jade (France), Teresa Hernández López (Spain), and Yasmine Elsis (Egypt). This event is free and open to all but reservations are required. For more information contact Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center, at marie.karam@scranton.edu.

MOVIES ABOUT POLITICAL REPRESSION OR MADE UNDER CENSORSHIP



EAST GERMAN FILMS

- THE RABBIT IS ME
- TRACES OF STONES
- JUST DON'T THINK I'LL CRY

LAS FILM SERIES

- MACHUCA
- NO
- NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Nostalgia for The Light, on the left, and *Just Don't Think I'll Cry*, two of the movies shown this semester.

Pinochet's Chile

September 11 is a very prominent day in history and not only in the United States. On the same day, in 1973, the democratically elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende, was overthrown by the Chilean armed forces led by General Augusto Pinochet. The U.S. government, which had collaborated in the *coup d'etat*, officially recognized the *junta* government installed in power under Pinochet. 15 years of military dictatorship ensued during which the civilian government was abolished and the *junta* initiated a brutal repression of any political activity it did not deem fit. The *coup d'etat* and the repressive dictatorship that followed are the subject of the films that will be shown this semester at the University of Scranton in the Latin American Film Series Fall 2013.

The 3 movies explore, respectively: 1) the situation in Chile shortly before Pinochet's military *coup* through the story of two friends, one of them very poor and who is integrated into an elite school attended by the other (*Machuca*, 2004); 2) the referendum organized in 1988 to decide Pinochet's permanence in power (*No*, 2012); 3) and the search for loved ones killed by the regime (*Nostalgia for The Light*, 2010).

The 'Rabbit Films' Revisited

Contrary to many assumptions, the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961 brought with it a sense of openness to experimentation in the arts. In part because so many previous limitations on free expression had been justified by the state as necessary defenses against Western imperialism, artists initially believed that the Wall would open a new space for discussions about how to improve socialism. Consequently, films produced in the early 1960s enthusiastically took up issues surrounding the everyday life in the East.

In 1965, the leadership of the Socialist party shocked the artistic community by rolling back reforms and making prominent examples of films they believed had gone too far. These films came to be called "Rabbit Films," after the title of Kurt Maetzig's film, *The Rabbit is Me*. Some of the films were rehabilitated in the following decades, but others were not widely screened until after the fall of the wall in 1989.

The films emphasize the perspectives of young people who share the ideals of socialist society, but struggle with the practical implementation of those ideals and the limits on individual freedoms they engender.

FROM FRANCE, EGYPT, AND SPAIN TO SCRANTON



From the left, Charlotte Jadde, from France, Yasmine Elsis, from Egypt, and Teresa Hernández López, from Spain.

Every academic year the World Languages Department welcomes Teaching Assistants from the Fulbright program. This year it is no different. These are the new TA's in their own words:

¡Hola! I am **Teresa Hernández López** and I will be working as a Spanish TA this year at the University of Scranton. I come from Segovia, a beautiful little town in Spain, just an hour away from Madrid. I graduated in English Studies, but after having the experience of being a Spanish language assistant in Edinburgh, Scotland, I became very interested in having a career in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. I love traveling, meeting people from different countries and learning about other cultures, and I really enjoy teaching! I am very happy with this great opportunity to get to know more about the American culture and way of life. Spanish is a wonderful language that will open the door of many cultures and traditions for you. I will be glad to tell you more about Spain and its varied culture, so feel free to talk to me any time if you are interested! Languages are all about sharing and I am willing to learn more about my own culture by seeing it from the point of view of someone who is not from Spain. ¡Nos vemos!

Bonjour! My name is **Charlotte Jade** and I teach Elementary and Intermediate French. I come from

the marvelous capital of France, Paris, where I just finished my Master's Degree in Linguistics & Foreign Language Teaching. I have a background in liberal arts and several Bachelor's Degrees in topics that fascinate me: History, Literature, Philosophy, and World Languages and Cultures. My most recent experience abroad was last semester in Edinburgh, UK, where I taught French and organized cultural events at the French Embassy in Scotland.

Now I am in Scranton! This year is a great occasion to explore American culture; I truly love travelling, meeting people from other countries and discovering new cities. I enjoy swimming, running, and hiking, but also baking and going to the café with my friends. I am looking forward to engaging in all these activities here, while exchanging ideas with you and sharing our points of view. Alors, à bientôt (see you around)!

Yasmine Elsis, TA of Arabic, is from Belbeis, a small town in Egypt. She is eager to teach different aspects of the Egyptian culture like food, occasions and celebrations, clothes, history, etc. She constantly hopes that Egypt will calm down soon; and when it happens, you'll definitely enjoy visiting Egypt with its warm weather, light-hearted people, very delicious food and amazing monuments.

6TH SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE



In the photo, the participants in the 2013 Summer Program

In June 2013, Drs. **Marzia Caporale** and **Virginia Picchietti** co-directed the 6th annual Summer Study Abroad

in Florence, Italy. participating in this program resided in apartments located in the historic center of Florence while taking courses at the Italian government-accredited *Istituto*

Students *Europeo*. Students took 3 one-day academic trips to the Chianti region, Venice, and Siena. They also enjoyed free time one day each weekend, in which they were able to take trips to other destinations, such as Rome.

FACULTY-LED INTERSESSION COURSE IN TAIWAN

A faculty-led travel courses to Taiwan, Asia, will be conducted this intercession. An information session was held on September 11. Learn Chinese-Taiwanese philosophy, language, and culture firsthand on site in Taiwan, a tropical island-nation and one of the major learning hubs in Asia. **Participating students can earn up to 6 credits: 3 credits in Philosophy and 3 credits in Chinese Language.** The trip will be led by **Dr. Ann Pang-White** (Philosophy) and **Ms. Allison Lai** (World Languages and Cultures). All are welcome.

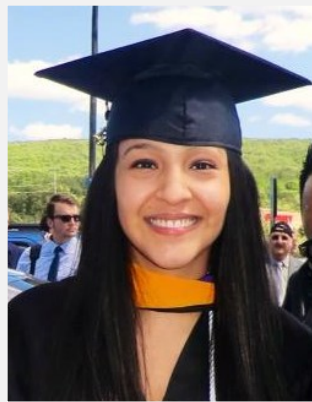
16TH ANNUAL MEXICO INTERSESSION PROGRAM

From January 6 to January 26 2014, the World Languages and Cultures and the Political Science departments of the University of Scranton will held the 16th annual Mexico intercession program. This cultural journey, led by university professors **Dr. Yamile Silva** and **Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller**, features home stays with Mexican families and courses in Spanish language and Mexican political culture at the Universidad Iberoamericana, a Jesuit institution located in the beautiful colonial city of Puebla, Mexico
In Puebla, the students stay with families selected by the International Division of the Universidad Iberoamericana. This gives the students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Spanish language outside of the classroom. The price for this course is \$3,150, while tuition at the University of Scranton is at 1/3 the normal price.

‘OLD’ FACES IN NEW PLACES: NEWS FROM OUR FORMER STUDENTS



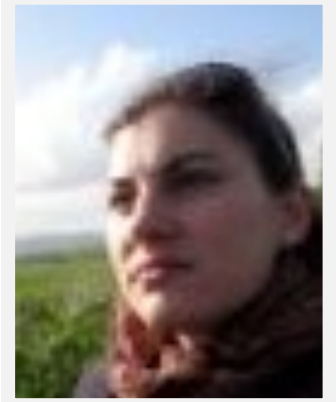
Julia Hawley



Emily Diaz



Paulina Maida



Kimberly Friend

Julia Hawley graduated in 2012 with a major in Hispanic Studies and a concentration in Latin American Studies. She works at the Lackawanna County Courthouse, various law firms, businesses, and schools as a translator/interpreter. She is also pursuing a MBA at Marywood University. “My knowledge of the Spanish language has given me many interesting work opportunities”, she says.

Emily Diaz graduated in 2013

double majoring in International Business and Hispanic Studies. She is enrolled in the Damco International Graduate Program for a logistics company in the A.P. Moller Maersk Group. She recently traveled to Dubai for her first international module.

Paulina Maida graduated *summa cum laude* in 2012 with a double major in Biology and Spanish. She is a medical student at Temple University and uses her language skills

while volunteering at the Puentes de Salud clinic and coordinating Temple’s Medical Spanish elective.

Kimberly Friend (2007; ILB/ Spanish with a Portuguese minor) worked in the business field for a while. Dissatisfied with the cubicle life, she became a flight attendant for Delta due to her two foreign languages. She’s traveled the world, but now she’s in law school at Boston University.



Happy faces around a very international food table at the 2013 Fall Pot Luck party.

THE DEPARTMENT FALL POT LUCK PARTY GATHERS AGAIN COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

The departments of World Languages and Cultures, and Latin American Studies have been holding pot lucks early in the fall semester and during finals week of the spring semester for well over a decade. And so it happened this year on september 14. The fall pot luck allows old friends and colleagues to see each other after three months apart,—often countries apart!— and meet our new folks— Grad assistants and Fulbright Foreign Language teaching assistants. During the work week we seldom have time for a cozy chat, but during the pot luck we can converse in as many languages as we know and eavesdrop on others. It’s always a lively gathering, with the added advantage of a wonderful selection of foods from the world’s cuisines, from American deviled eggs to Colombian *empanadas*, Italy’s eggplant *parmigiana* to Mexico *pollo al mole poblano*. And let’s not forget the desserts—Yummy!

BELOVED SECRETARY JOYCE KNOTT RETIRES



From the left, professors Robert Parsons, Linda Ledford-Miller, and Habib Zanzana, with the World Languages Department secretary, Joyce Knott, and professor emeritus Tom Kamla.

some older professors, fixed in their ways and attitudes, felt threatened by them and had no interest in learning how to use them even for routine word-processing tasks. The nature of Joyce's duties changed too, and she soon became the department's processor of words. She was beset upon by old-school professors bearing documents in other

IT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD at the University of Scranton when Joyce Knott became the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures' first full-time secretary in 1987. At that time the department occupied the east wing of the third floor of St. Thomas Hall and shared the services of the History department's full-time secretary. Only three young teachers, now graying, senior professors, remain with Joyce from that era in our current department of World Languages and Cultures.

This was Joyce's first full-time job at the University and it was no easy assignment. Her previous employment on a part-time basis at the University Bookstore could not have prepared her for the eccentric mix of characters in Foreign Languages and Literatures and the clashes of personalities and cultures that played out every day in the department.

The 1980s was an era of rapid technological change. Personal computers, quite unsophisticated by today's standards, were becoming commonplace throughout academia, and while most members of the University community were excited by their potential,

languages, peering over her shoulder as she worked to decipher their handwriting, and insisting on multiple printouts and revisions in a seemingly never-ending process of editing and reediting. It was a situation Joyce managed with grace and aplomb, most of the time.

Over the years the composition of the department has changed, but Joyce's friendly and outgoing presence has been a constant. During her years as department secretary, Joyce and her husband Jim raised a beautiful family and now enjoy seven adorable grandchildren. She is well liked and respected throughout the community. Her office management skills and her remarkable ability to develop contacts and cultivate friendships throughout the university have served the department very well over the years. Joyce was honored on October 5th at a departmental party at Bob and Maggie Parsons' house, where department members congratulated her and wished her and Jim all the best in their new adventures as snowbirds, splitting their time between Scranton and Florida. We will all miss you, Joyce!