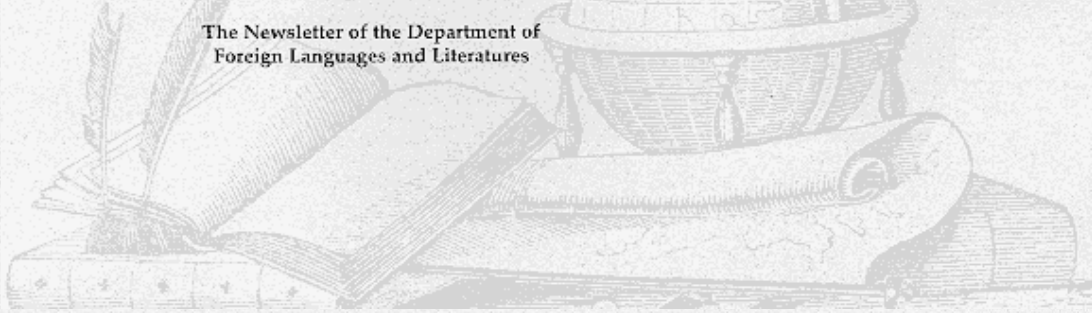


THE AMBASSADOR

The Newsletter of the Department of
Foreign Languages and Literatures



The University of Scranton

THE AMBASSADOR Spring 2000

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
352 St. Thomas Hall Scranton, PA 18510

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[Dr. Virginia Picchietti](#)

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NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

KARIM GARCIA

Hola Profesora, le escribe Karim, ojalá que se acuerde de mi. Le escribo para saludarla. Espero que todo le este hiendo bien, a su famili a, y en sus clases.

Yo estoy muy bien, estoy trabajando con una compañía japonesa, en la cual he podido tomar un curso de japonés. Es un poco difícil, pero me gusta.

Además, voy a regresar a la universidad en enero para seguir educación especial.

Bueno me alegro de saludarla. Cualquier cosa ya sabe mi dirección de correo electrónico.

Chao.

LISSA SASSO

Since graduating in May, Lisa has been teaching Spanish at a public high school in northern New Jersey. Next year, the school is bringing Italian into its World Languages Department. Lisa will be teaching two Italian courses and one Spanish course, and will seek certification in Italian. She is very excited about teaching Spanish and about the prospect of teaching Italian.

ROBERT MAPES

Mrs. Karam,

So that I can be immortalized in the Ambassador, I will share all information with you. First of all, I am a teaching assistant in Vienne, France at Lycée Galilée. I guess I should give a bit of a job description hold 12 hours of conversation classes a week. I don't give grades, although I can give a strong recommendation for what I think the students deserve. I also have to do such things as taping myself so the teachers have an archive of our wonderful American accent. I like the job, however, I am finding myself without much to do because I only work 3 days a week. Lots of time to travel and to lose all the weight I gained in college. Well anyway, I am happy computing.
Rob

Mrs. Karam,

Greetings from Ireland. I am ending my three week Christmas break which I spent in Ireland tomorrow. I am having a blast over here. There isn't much to do in the town where I work so I usually go stay at my friends' house in the Alps on weekends. Not too shabby. Anyway, I would love any sort of resources you could send me. My students are not very advanced in English so any articles have to be at a pretty basic level. Anyway, my time on this computer is almost up, but I will be sure to stay in touch with you. Tell everyone I said Bonjour!
Rob

CHRIS WARREN

Hello Everyone, As you can see they weren't kidding about the volcanoes. This one is called Aqua and has been dormant for centuries. Pecaya, another volcano, which is a healthy distance from Antigua, erupted last week spilling out Volkswagen size chunks of lava for a couple of days. Antigua is a beautiful city and is saturated with tourists who, I believe leave here with a false impression of this country. The real Guatemala is a lot more bittersweet than this city lets on. I am very happy here, although I am a bit lonely - I know that some letters or e-mails would help remedy that problem. My street address is Avenida Desengaño #22 Antigua, Guatemala. I've rented a small white house with a nice garden for the year, and yesterday I bought a used mountain bike with front shocks, which is the only way to get around on these streets. Alles gote, Chris

PROFESSOR AND TA'S FAREWELLS

DR. LETICIA McGRATH

I am Dr. Leticia McGrath and I am completing my second year here at the University of Scranton. In the fall my husband, who currently teaches Spanish at King's College, and I are moving to Statesboro, Georgia where we will join the faculty at Georgia Southern University. I recently completed my Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky; my specialty is 18th and 19th Century Spanish literature with an emphasis on drama. I wrote my dissertation on the dramas of Joaquín Dicenta, a late 19th - early 20th century Spanish dramatist. Perhaps the most exciting change in my life is the impending birth of our first child this summer. My husband and I are looking forward to starting a family. My departure is bittersweet because I will certainly miss my many friends and the wonderful students I met while at the University of Scranton.

MARGARITA MARTÍNEZ

My name is Margarita Martínez. I am a Spanish assistant from Guadalajara, México for the Foreign Language Department. Learning a language can be one of the most fascinating experiences when you have the opportunity to interact with the culture of that foreign language. Teaching my own language and interacting with people and students from the University of Scranton has been enjoyable and it has enriched my many experiences here. I am

very glad for this opportunity, and I hope that you can enjoy learning any language as I enjoyed yours, English!!!!

NADIA SOUDANI

My name is Nadia Soudani. I am from Paris, France. This year, I am the French teaching assistant at the University of Scranton. I am also doing research for my master thesis on the political debate over racial and ethnic classification in the census.

MARTIN BETHKE

“You have been accepted to be the German teaching assistant at the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA.”
“Scranton, PA? Where the [blank] is Scranton, PA?”

What started out as one of the bigger geographical confusions of my life - even though I traveled through the U.S. several times and lived in Rochester, NY, for one year - has turned out to be one of the most interesting and exciting experiences I have encountered so far.

After finishing My Masters Degree in U.S. history at the University of Kiel, Germany, I thought that this would be the right time to spend another year abroad. After having had a wonderful year in Rochester in 1987/88, I thought that going to the U.S. again would not only be a sentimental trip revisiting places of my past but also an opportunity to see the U.S. educational system from a different perspective: the perspective of the teacher. Fortunately the university of Scranton turned out to be what I expected and sometimes even a little bit more than that. The administration, the professors, my colleagues in the foreign language department and, above all, the students made living, teaching, and researching here more than worthwhile. The appreciation, open-mindedness, and intellectual curiosity I encountered helped to make teaching a very easy task and benefited not only me but hopefully the students also.

It will be with great sadness that I will leave Scranton, PA, at the end of May - going to San Francisco for a month will hopefully help me cope with it - and I just hope that no matter how tight the budget is, another German TA will be given the opportunity to live and teach at the University of Scranton and find out that after all - and checking the atlas - Scranton, PA, is worth a stay. Thank you everyone and Auf Wiedersehen.

Martin Bethke &nb sp; mbethke@hotmail.com

FACULTY NEWS

NJEGOS M. PETROVIC

During spring break of 1999, Dr. Petrovic, professor in the Foreign Language Department, in cooperation with Dr. Kallianiotis, from the School of Management organized a 9-day travel tour of Greece marking the University's eleventh annual visit to Greece. Thirty-three students and seventeen faculty members and their spouses participated in this very pleasant and successful adventure. The highlight of the visit included sightseeing of Athens' Acropolis, National Archaeological Museum, a four-day classical tour with tops in Mikines, Epidavros, Olympia, Delphi and the monastery of Osios Loukas as well as a full-day cruise of three sunny Greek islands, Poros, Aegina and Hydra.

A similar visit is being projected for spring break of 2000. All students, faculty, alumni and members of their families are cordially invited to join us for our twelfth visit of enchanting Greece. Further information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Petrovic at this office in St. Thomas Hall, rm. 357 or by telephone: (570) 941-7778.

Dr. Petrovic was also a participant in the International Conference on The Myth in the Literature of the Slavic

People at the University Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan, Poland from September 23-27, 1999. He presented a paper entitled The Language and Style of Ivo Andric at the plenary session.

Dr. Petrovic gave a lecture entitled Kosovo/Serbian Point of View for the students and faculty at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, Pa, Monday October 4, 1999.

DR. ROBERT PARSONS

This January Dr. Parsons, of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department, and Dr. Kocis of the Political Science department, took a group of 18 students to Guadalajara, Mexico, for the Third Annual Intersession Trip to Guadalajara. The trip was for three weeks. Students stayed with Mexican families and take Spanish courses and culture/politics courses at UNIVA University. In the 1998 Intersession 24 students participated and in 1999 there were 16.

DR. VIRGINIA PICCHIETTI

In June 1999, the University of Scranton sponsored its first Summer Program in Italy. This year's trip was based in Florence from June 2 to June 22. The program, coordinated with Widener University, was organized by Dr. Virginia Picchetti (Italian, University of Scranton), Dr. Josephine Dunn (Art History, University of Scranton), and Dr. Tom Cragin (History, Widener University). In Florence, students completed courses in Art History, Italian Culture and Society, and Italian History. Students were also enrolled in language courses at the Koine Cultural Institute. Students had the option of living in an apartment or with a family. The program featured daily excursions to some of Florence's most famous sites. Students and faculty also took day trips to other nearby cities, including Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa and Lucca; and spent two days in Rome.

SERVICE TRIP

Father Brendan Lally, S.J. has initiated an annual service program BRIDGES TO EL SALVADOR open to all faculty and staff at the University of Scranton. The first team visited El Salvador in June 1999 and had opportunities to meet with a broad spectrum of groups in El Salvador including faculty and administrators from the UCA (Universidad de Centroamerica) to the Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador, health workers, war-wounded, teachers and leaders in Christian Based Communities.

For details on BRIDGES TO EL SALVADOR or student opportunities for study or service in El Salvador please contact co-director of the program Marie Karam at (570) 941-4296 or email at Karamm1@uofs.edu.

AWARDS

The Department of Foreign Languages received a regional award from the Scranton area Postmaster in recognition of outstanding service to the Hispanic community. Programs cited in the award were the After school Children's Tutoring program which assists students limited in English proficiency K-5 in a weekly homework program with a U of S tutor and the evening English classes for adults staffed by volunteer faculty and students. For information on either

program contact Marie Karam at (570) 941-4296 or email at Karamm1@uofs.edu.
