

University of Scranton

The Ambassador

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Foreign Languages and
Literatures

THE AMBASSADOR

The University of Scranton
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
301 O'Hara Hall, Scranton, PA 18510

Vol. 9, Summer and Fall 2006

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The department is happy to welcome **Jamie Trnka**, Assistant Professor, of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, to the University of Scranton. Trnka was selected for the position from among more than seventy candidates in a national search. Jamie, who studied at the University of Cologne and the University of Essen in Germany, joined the department in August 2006. She is scheduled to defend her doctoral dissertation in November.

Congratulations to **Tom Kamla** who completed his last year of full-time teaching in 2005-2006. He will have a year-long terminal sabbatical in 2006-2007 and will be considered formally retired from the University of Scranton, with emeritus status, beginning September 2007.

Sergio Ramírez-Franco, Assistant Professor, of Lima, Peru, completed his first year of teaching at the University of Scranton. Sergio successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh in April 2005. Among his impressive accomplishments in his first year is an edited volume of critical essays on the Peruvian writer José María Arguedas. Included in the volume is one of his own essays. Sergio also organized and chaired a panel on "Indigenismo y globalización" at the Latin American Studies Association's meeting held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He presented a paper at the same conference. Sergio spent most of the summer of 2006 in Lima, Peru.

The seventh annual faculty and staff Bridges to El Salvador trip took place June 3-10, 2006, and the first ISP sponsored student service trip to that country took place in August. Both the faculty/staff trip, led by **Marie Karam**, Director of the Language Learning Center and **Lee Penyak**, Chair of Latin American Studies, and the student trip, led by **Ron McKinney, S.J.**, are working on initiatives in the impoverished village of Las Delicias near San Salvador. SEED (Scholarships to Establish Educational Development), which is the focus of the faculty effort, raises funds throughout the year to educate, clothe, feed and provide medicine and medical care for all the children of Las Delicias. The focus of the student trip was finishing construction of a modest home (a concrete block structure with a roof) for one of the village's oldest residents. Please contact Marie Karam for information on initiatives to educate the children of Las Delicias at karamm1@scranton.edu. **Linda Ledford Miller**, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and department Chairperson, and **Bob Parsons**, Professor of Spanish, are among Foreign Languages and Literatures faculty who have participated in the Bridges to El Salvador program since it was initiated in 1999 on the 10th Anniversary of the assassinations of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the Universidad Centroamericana.

In Spring 2005 Karam received a \$4,000 Education for Justice Grant to hold a campus event on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006 to showcase the powerful film Voces Inocentes (Innocent Voices), a child's perspective of the Civil War in El Salvador. Her grant funded a trip to campus for the screenwriter of the film, **Oscar Torres**,

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who attended the viewing, hosted an open question and answer session afterwards, and spoke in several classes. Over 200 people attended the presentation and several hundred more saw the film at Bishop O'Hara High School on Oct. 5. Torres also gave a public address on Thursday evening, Oct. 5, in the fifth floor Heritage Room of the Weinberg Memorial Library. He discussed several films he is currently working on in Mexico and Peru as well as several TV projects. Read more about Torres's recent success with the film *Innocent Voices* at www.innocentvoicesmovie.com

Linda Ledford-Miller reports that she had a fabulous summer, probably the summer of a lifetime, spending almost two months away. She gave a paper in China ("On the Coffee Trail: Helen J. Sanborn's *A Winter in Central America and Mexico*," at the IV International and Interdisciplinary Conference Alexander von Humboldt and Zheng He, Xi'an, Peoples Republic of China, June 12-16, 2006) and two in Spain ("De la periferia al centro: Los mayas de Guatemala en narrativas de viaje del siglo XX," at the VIII Congreso Internacional de Caminería Hispánica, Madrid, Spain, June 26-July 1, 2006, and "A Invenção da Mulher em O Testamento do Sr. Napumoceno da Silva Araújo de Germano Almeida" at AATSP, Salamanca, Spain, June 28-July 2, 2006). She did a week of research in the libraries of Barcelona, and visited the Foro Europeo, a business school in Pamplona, and St Louis University in Madrid, to review their study abroad programs for our students. For vacation, she spent a week in Tibet and a week in Morocco (dusting off her long-dormant French).

In May, **Virginia Picchiatti** presented a paper entitled, " 'Witnessing' the Holocaust in Nelo Risi's *Andremo in città*," at the joint conference of the American Association of Italian Studies and the American Association of Teachers of Italian in Genova, Italy.

Bob Parsons served as a chaperone for the service trip to Durán, Ecuador, June 2 to June 12, sponsored by the University's Center for Social Action and Service Initiatives. Twelve students and another University chaperone, **Anne Marie Stamford**, Assistant to the Provost, participated in the trip. Parsons also traveled to Monterrey, Mexico, October 4-7, 2006, to attend the Tenth Annual Conference of the International Society of Luso-Hispanic Humor. In addition, he will be in Managua, Nicaragua, November 15-19, 2006, to present a paper on Argentinean author Mempo Giardinelli at the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies.

FACULTY LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Bob Parsons and **Kevin Nordberg**, of the Philosophy Department, conducted the Ninth Annual Intersession Study/Travel Tour to Guadalajara, Mexico in January 2006. The highlight of the Guadalajara trip is a weekend tour of Mexico City which includes excursions to the Chapultepec palace, the famous Anthropological Museum, and the pyramids of Teotihuacán. Thirteen students participated in the 2006 trip. Two of them, Alexa Vacaro and Jennifer Romero, did service at Los Pinos

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orphanage near Guadalajara. A third student, Becky Prial, did service at Juntos por un Caminar, a rehabilitation facility for handicapped children. The service options were initiated in the 2004 trip. The Tenth Annual trip will also be conducted by Parsons and Nordberg and will take place from January 3 to January 23, 2007. This year 16 students have signed up for the trip.

Joyce Hanks accompanied a group of students and another professor from Ursinus College to Sénégal, West Africa, over Intersession 2006. University of Scranton ILB French major Allison Martyn also made the trip, designed to acquaint students with this major Francophone culture. Activities took place in Dakar, Gorée Island, and the area in and around Saint-Louis, and included university lectures, home stays, and visits coordinated with student and professor research interests. In addition, Hanks spent part of the summer of 2006 in Mérida, Mexico, and in western Canada, in connection with her research on Jacques Ellul.

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

The Department is pleased to announce the three new Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (here for one year under the sponsorship of the Institute of International Education, a division of the UN in New York) for 2006-2007. They are, in Spanish, Fulbright **Ms. Gisela Tregnaghi** from Argentina; in French, **Ms. Lyna Kauv** from France, and in Arabic, Fulbright **Ms. Delia Bedewy** from Egypt.

GAs, or Graduate Assistants, are degree-seeking graduate students with a teaching assistantship from the University of Scranton who are normally here for 2 to 3 years. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has three GA lines, one and a half in Spanish, one in Japanese, and a half line in French.. The Spanish positions are held by **Ms. Emily Abrahamson**, an ESL Master's student from Boston College and a certified K-12 Spanish teacher and **Mr. Germán Zárate**, our TA from 2005-2006 from San Juan, Argentina. Both Emily and Germán expect to complete their MAs in English as a Second Language (ESL) this year. **Ms. Christine Pednault-Berthelot**, of Canada, is a GA for French this year. Christine will be tutoring in the LLC and organizing Francophone events. **Ms. Mariko Kurokawa**, our first GA from the prestigious Sofia University, with which the University of Scranton now has an exchange agreement, begins her second year as a GA and teacher of Japanese here and also expects to finish her MA in ESL this year. In addition, we are offering Chinese for the second year in 2006-2007. The course is being taught by **Ms. Hailing Zhao** from mainland China. Hailing is a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Education's ESL program.

In addition, we would also like to welcome **Ms. Frances Hergan** to the department as an adjunct Professor of Italian and Mrs. Ruthann Schornstein as adjunct Professor of American Sign Language. **A hearty welcome to all to the department and the University of Scranton!!**

Sadly, the department has lost one of its most reliable and popular teachers. **Maggie Martínez**

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returned to her home in Zapopan, Mexico, near Guadalajara, in early August. There is some possibility that Maggie will return to the Scranton area in the near future, and we all certainly hope that happens. In any case, the entire department wishes her the very best in her future endeavors and thanks her for her years of faithful service to the department and the University.

After one year as a TA in FL&L and a second year with a shared graduate assistantship in the Department of Education and FL&L, **Aracely Hernández** has also returned to her home in Oaxaca, Mexico. Aracely completed her graduate work in ESL in June 2006.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Belén Mourelo, an instructor in the FL&L department in the late 1990s, was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at the Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College branch campus in Reading, PA, in Spring 2005. Congratulations Belén!!!

Marella Feltrin-Morris, who replaced Virginia Picchietti on her full year sabbatical in academic year 2003-2004, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in August 2005. She has accepted a three-year renewable position as Assistant Professor of Italian at Ithaca College. Congratulations Marella!!!

DEPARTMENT NEWS, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Department held its tenth annual “**Immersion Day**” for regional High School

students on Wednesday, March 22, 2006. This activity, organized by **Linda Ledford-Miller** with help from other department members, introduces students to the Foreign Languages department and University life by bringing them on campus for a day of language learning related activities. This year more than 50 High School students participated in a variety of activities.

The annual **Alpha Mu Gamma** Foreign Languages Honors Society initiation ceremony was held on Thursday, April 20, 2006 in Room 509 Brennan Hall. This year, for the first time in more than 20 years, the tradition of holding the ceremony in the evening with a dinner was broken, and the initiation took place at the noon hour with a luncheon. **Richard Bourcier**, Professor Emeritus of French, organized the ceremony and **Linda Ledford-Miller**, Department Chairperson, organized the luncheon with the assistance of the department secretary **Joyce Knott**. Serving as President was **Ms. Kimberly A. Friend** (Spanish). Secretary and Vice-President was **Ms. Eleonor DeLuna** (Psychology, Spanish minor). The following students were inducted as full members: **Daniella Carolla**, Italian; **Gemma Castro**, French; **Gina Maria Giollo's** membership was upgraded from associate to full, Italian; **Lisa Criscera**, Spanish; **Chelsea DiDonato**, Spanish; **Christopher Fernandez**, Spanish; **Jed Fisher**, Arabic; **James Gavern**, Russian and Spanish; **Laura Kral**, French; **Christopher Lucas**, Spanish; **Ericka Marengo**, Spanish; **Allison Martyn**, French; **Laura Penn**, Spanish; **Gerard Piazza**, Arabic; **Katherine Prizeman**, Spanish; **Richard Santosdiaz**, Spanish; **Sharon Secola**, Spanish; and **Maria Stampono**, Italian. In addition, FL&L faculty member **Sergio Ramírez-Franco**

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was inducted as a departmental faculty member. **Lee Penyak**, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Latin American Studies Concentration, and **Sébastien Moulin**, a former TA in French and a French teacher at Bishop O'Hara High School in Dunmore, were inducted as Honorary Members.

The department continues to have a very strong association and supporting relationship with the Latin American Studies Concentration. Together the department and the concentration sponsored eight films from Latin America or related to Latin American topics in 2005-2006. The fall semester's films were "The Last Supper" (9/13/05), "Cilantro y Perejil" (10/12/05), "Voces inocentes" (11/17/05) and "Ojos que no ven" (12/6/05). In the spring the LASC and FF&L sponsored "Like Water for Chocolate" (2/16/06), "House of the Spirits" (3/23/06), "Missing" (4/26/06) and "Spoils of War." (5/11/06). The Fall 2006 series was organized by **Sergio Ramírez-Franco** around the theme of Hispanic women. The fall films are "Juana la Loca" (9/25/06), "Yo la peor de todas" (10/24/06), "Eva Perón" (11/15/06) and "La vendedora de rosas" (12/7/06). Other LASC sponsored events include concerts by classical guitarist Charles Truitt (11/18/05) and the Cuban trio "Ángeles en la tierra" (4/27/06), a talk on "Women and Feminism in Mexico" by Profesora Isabel Lázaro Bueno (9/26/06), a concert and dance show by the Eduardo Tami Trio, "Tango: Politics, Passion and Culture of Argentina" (9/28/06), and a concert by classical and jazz guitarist from Barcelona, Mr. Francesc de Paula Soler (10/7/06). The latter two events were funded by a Diversity Initiatives grant from Campus Ministries.

VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE LEARNING INITIATIVES

Marie Karam offered a course at the request of the Scranton School District, Spanish for Teachers, and arranged for tutoring of a local elementary Hispanic student. Her involvement in service related to Bridges to El Salvador, including encouraging the participation of student staff in the Language Learning Center, is on-going. Under Karam's direction student workers at the Language Learning Center do tutoring of Hispanic grade school children on a regular basis to assist them with their homework. The LLC tutors adult ESL students who are both grads and undergrads at the University.

In Fall 2004 **Bob Parsons** offered a service learning course for third and fourth year Spanish students. The content of the course focused on the Hispanic immigrant experience and the 20 students who enrolled in the course worked directly with members of the growing Hispanic community in the Scranton area through local service-providing agencies. The course is being offered again in Fall, 2006 and 15 students are currently enrolled and participating in a variety of service-related activities in such agencies as SCOLA, Employment Opportunity and Training Center (EOTC) /Family Matters and the regional Project Headstart centers.

Parsons translated a brochure for Mercy Hospital entitled "Mercy Health Partners: Patients First" in spring 2006. In addition, he is working on a large translation project, the translation of all official documents for the regional Project Head Start agency, with the help of colleagues and students. Linda Ledford-Miller continues to engage in translation for Spanish and Portuguese. **Habib Zanzana** will be offering his translation course during 2007-2008 and will also involve

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his students in service projects relating to the translation of documents.

secondary level at Tunkhannock Area High School.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Cristina Alonso (Education/Spanish, 2006), former student supervisor of the Language Learning Center, is now a graduate student in Special Education at Centenary College.

Leslie Angleró (Spanish, 2004) continues working as an Academic Counselor at the University of Phoenix, where she is also working on a Masters Degree, and where she hopes to be joined by Virginie Le François, French TA at the University of Scranton in 2003-2004.

Kate Biersbach (French 2001) began work in Fall 2005 towards a Master's degree in International and Political Economy and Development at Fordham University. She received a scholarship for intensive French study in Sénégal, West Africa, for Summer 2006.

Rebecca Brown (Biology/German minor, 2006) is attending medical school in Erie, Pa. She hopes to specialize in child leukemia.

Tomasina Cicco (Secondary Education/Spanish, 2006) is teaching Spanish full-time at the

Nick Costanzo (ILB/Spanish, 2006) has accepted a position with Deloitte in Manhattan in the securitization department at the World Financial Center.

Laura Daniels (Management/Spanish, December 2004) is working at Enterprise-Rent-A -Car in the management trainee program. She is also volunteering at a local community organization called La comunidad hispana, teaching ESL classes to recent Mexican immigrants who know little or no English. Laura hopes to go to graduate school next fall but is undecided as to her field of study.

Sarah Dillmuth (International Studies/Spanish, 2006), has been accepted in the Peace Corps and will be posted to Mozambique, Africa.

Chelsea DiDonato (Biology/Spanish, 2006) is attending medical school in Philadelphia.

Kim Friend (ILB/Spanish, 2006) has taken a position as Physical Securities Processing Administrator at Swiss American Securities in New York City. She was also accepted into the MBA program at Foro Europeo in Pamplona, Spain. Foro Europeo has deferred her acceptance and she may begin graduate work there next year.

Lauren Gobbo (Secondary Education/Spanish, 2006) is now a full-time Spanish teacher at West Chester High School in New York.

Elliott Gougeon (German, 2003) recently completed his graduate work in German at the

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Master's Level at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he will continue in the Doctoral Program. He presented a paper titled, "The Rise of the Complementizer Phrase in the Heliand," at an International Conference on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May. Elliott was also recently informed that he has been selected for a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for the 2006-07 academic year which provides tuition and fees and a \$15,000 stipend. In addition, he was offered a

Teaching Assistantship for Fall 2006 and was also asked to teach a course in German in summer 2006.

George W. Griffen (German, 2005) completed his Fulbright year in Bonn and began a Masters program in German Studies this fall at Bowling Green University. The first year of the program will be spent in Austria at the University of Salzburg.

Kevin Hauck (Biology, Spanish, SJLA, 2006) is attending Temple Medical School next year. Kevin would like to specialize in internal medicine and infectious disease and work with HIV/AIDS patients. He hopes to eventually put his Spanish experience to good use working as medical volunteer either in Latin America or in Hispanic communities in the United States. Kevin received the first Award for Excellence in Latin American Studies from the Latin American Studies Concentration in May 2006.

Lucie Iuzzolino (Spanish/Italian, 2003) has been teaching Italian and Spanish at the Albertus Magnus High School in Rockland County, NY since September 2003. She has recently received a *Robert A. Reddy Post-Graduate Scholarship*

with the Catholic Council of Electrical Workers, Local Union #3--IBEW, AFL-CIO, to pursue graduate studies in foreign language education.

Dan Kiers (Communication/Spanish minor, 2006) has accepted a one-year volunteer position with Rostro de Cristo in Durán, Ecuador, near Guayaquil.

Nick Lazor (Spanish, 2001) is in his fourth year as a Spanish teacher at Jim Thorpe Area High School in Jim Thorpe, PA. Nick also serves as the coach/faculty advisor for the school's newly-formed Olympian Hip-Hop Dance Team.

Loni Lukatch (Spanish, 2002) currently resides in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. This fall, she will begin her third year of instruction at Crestwood High School in Mountaintop, Pennsylvania, where she teaches Spanish - levels one, two and three, and serves as Junior Class Advisor. Loni graduated from Bloomsburg University in December, 2003 with a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She is pursuing a second Masters degree in Classroom Technology from Wilkes University, beginning classes this fall. Loni also teaches Spanish to elementary school children in the Scranton area and works at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in downtown Scranton on weekends.

Rosa Manganaro (Spanish, 2005) is in her second year of graduate studies at the University of Scranton in Education.

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Rachel Marascalco (Spanish, Theology/RS, 2003), is in graduate school at Georgia State University pursuing a Masters in Nonprofit Management.

Sarah Martin (Spanish, 2003) completed her MA in Romance Languages (Portuguese and Spanish) at the University of Georgia in May 2006. She worked again as a Bilingual Assistant to the Portuguese Immersion Program at Middlebury College in Vermont in summer 2006, and returned to UGA in the fall to begin work on her PhD in Romance Languages.

Mike Morcom (ILB/Spanish, 1994) and **Danielle Morello Morcom** (Spanish/Philosophy, 1995) welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth Marie Morcom, into the world on September 16, 2005.

Nicole Mortellito (ILB French 2000), a contractor for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, was asked to serve as an election observer in the January 8, 2006, legislative and parliamentary elections in Haiti.

Angela Naro (Secondary Education/Spanish 2006) accepted a job as a Spanish teacher at Union-Endicott High School in New York state beginning Fall 2006.

David Nihen (Accounting/Spanish 2005/ 5th year MBA 2006) began a new job in September 2006 at Price Waterhouse Coopers as an Assurance Associate in the consumer industrial products and services practice (CIPS).

Danilo Ramírez (Spanish/Communications, 2001), is teaching Spanish at Montville High School in New Jersey and pursuing a Masters degree in Education. He is also an assistant coach for the freshman football squad, class advisor for the Class of 2010 and the advisor for the World Languages Club. Danilo spent most of the summer of 2006 in Rome, Italy, studying Italian.

Peter Secola (Psychology/Spanish, 2004) is working toward his PhD in clinical psychology at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California. He also volunteers as a teacher of ESL to immigrants.

Kate Spring (French, 2006) started work toward her MA at Middlebury College in summer 2006 and presently studies in Paris.

Clare Strockbine (Spanish, 2004) spent the past two years working as a volunteer with the Rostro de Cristo program in Durán, Ecuador, near Guayaquil. She returned to the US in June, 2006 and is now working full-time at the Romero Center in Camden, NJ.

Katie Stroh (French/Theology/RS, 2006) has decided to join a religious order this Fall in New York and dedicate her to life and work to Christ by becoming a nun.

Alumni – If our information about your activities is out of date, or if you know of the activities of other alumni that we haven't included here, please let us know. You can write to Bob Parsons at parsonsr1@scranton.edu, Habib Zanzana at zanzanahl@scranton.edu, Linda Ledford-Miller at ledfordl1@scranton.edu, Joyce

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Hanks at jmh381@scranton.edu, Marie Karam at karamm1@scranton.edu, Tom Kamla at kamlat1@scranton.edu, Joe Wilson at wilsonj1@scranton.edu, or Virginia Picchietti at picchiettv1@scranton.edu.

Philosophy, Universidad Federal da Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, Fall, 2006.

Brandon Dragone, International Business, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Fall, 2006.

OUR STUDENTS ABROAD, 2005-2006

Kathryn Ailtmar, Secondary Education/ Spanish, AIFS, Universidad de Granada, Spain, Spring, 2006.

Laila Essmidi, International Studies/Spanish, Universidad de Granada, Spain, Fall and Spring, 2006-07.

Jessica Gondola, Modern Languages, Spanish, Universidad Pontificia, Santiago de Chile, Spring, 2006.

Christopher Lucas, Secondary Education/ Spanish, Universidad de Granada, Spain, Fall 2006.

Elizabeth McDyer, Political Science, Philosophy, Spanish, CEA, Universidad de Granada, Spain, Spring, 2006.

Stephanie Ramirez, Modern Languages, Spanish, CV Starr Middlebury Schools Abroad, Sunderland Language Center, Montevideo, Uruguay, Fall and Spring, 2006-07.

Stephanie Pichs, International Language Business, Spanish, Universidad Pontificia, Santiago de Chile, Spring, 2006.

Richard Santosdiaz, International Language/ Business, Spanish, CIEE Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, Fall, 2006; Belgium, Spring 2007.

Bridget Rooney, Modern Languages, Spanish, Universidad Pontificia, Santiago de Chile, Spring, 2006.

Amy Shanahan, Modern Languages, Spanish/ Communications, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Fall 2006.

Julie Custer, Environmental Science, Spanish,