

THE AMBASSADOR

FALL— 2009

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Department of World Languages and Cultures

Notes From The Chair Dr. Ledford-Miller

**POINTS OF INTEREST
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Friday, September 4th was a busy day for me. I had a busy day of teaching and then a difficult conference call, so I arrived a few minutes late to the annual Fall Convocation. When Prof. Steven Casey began reading the citation for the John L. Earl III Distinguished Service Award I knew almost immediately that I was to be the recipient. “Since 1985, this year’s winner could be found in a local court or jail, a hospital or church, serving by translating for our community.” The real giveaway was *jail*.

I *have* spent a lot of time in or near jails and holding cells—more than most without any criminal record! An anecdote: I arrived here in August of 1985. I was unpacking in my new office—a cubby hole on the fifth floor of St. Thomas—and the operator patched a call through from the State Police. They sent a police cruiser to pick me up and took me to the holding cells at their barracks in Dunmore, where I interpreted while they questioned a migrant worker whom they had arrested on suspicion of a brutal murder in Florida. I had to explain his rights and ask various questions. An interpreter only interprets; she or he does not add or subtract. (By the way, in the profession *interpretation* refers to oral work, while *translation* refers to written work.) The young man was clearly frightened and protested his innocence. The police were awaiting fingerprints from Florida and until then he was being held without bail. I was unavailable when the police next needed me, and Dr. Parsons completed the work with the fellow, who was in fact innocent of the crime. But of course by then his group had moved on from the tomato fields of Newton Township to some other state, leaving him without work or transportation.

I have been called at 2 am on a Saturday morning and picked up by the Olyphant police. I have been to the holding cells of Scranton’s old police station. I have indeed been in courts and hospitals. I was once called at home to do an on-the-spot interpretation from a local hospital’s operating room, by phone, nurse to me, me to patient, me to nurse. (A bit clumsy, indeed.) I was once with a Scranton police detective in a shaken baby case and I was proud to see one of my own students across the table from me as the interpreter for the parents and their lawyer.

Translation and interpretation are tremendous responsibilities. I am grateful that my skills have been of service to others, and I am pleased and humbled by the recognition of the Earl Award for Distinguished Service.



World Languages and Cultures Faculty & Staff Activities

Marie Karam

20th Anniversary of Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador

The University of Scranton Department of World Languages and Cultures and the University of Scranton Bridges to El Salvador program is honored to welcome Rev. Rodolfo Cardenal, S.J., former rector of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) to give an update on the current reality in El Salvador to those interested on Tues., Oct. 27, 12pm in 228 Brennan Hall Theater. Fr. Cardenal addresses the entire campus community on Wed. Oct. 28, 12pm in the Houlihan McLean Center to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs of the UCA, their housekeeper and her daughter, murdered by a government death squad, Nov. 16, 1989. Fr. Cardenal will speak on the legacy of the Jesuit martyrs and the tens of thousands killed during the 12 year civil war 1980-1992.

VIDEO CHATS from El Salvador

Rev. Dean Brackley, S.J., professor of Theology at the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in El Salvador, and Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center and Bridges to El Salvador at the University of Scranton, have produced several talks by Fr. Brackley, S.J. taped at the UCA in El Salvador and available to all interested during this important 20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs. Each talk is approximately 12 minutes.

1. OVERALL INTRODUCTION- <http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/uca.rm> to videosUniversidad Centroamericana / UCA- El Salvador (9 min.)

Unique aspects of this young Jesuit University explained including the legacy of UCA martyrs killed in 1989 “Greetings from El Salvador and the community of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) your sister-university in the global Jesuit education network. Thanks to friends at the University of Scranton these brief video messages provide an overview of the reality of El Salvador and summary accounts of two dramatic issues, Religion in El Salvador and Migration. We hope that these snapshots can help our friends in the U.S. learn more about this reality, with characteristics, in some ways, so typical of most countries in the world. We also hope in this way to strengthen even more the ties that bind us in the work to build a more human world.”

2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW: EL SALVADOR- http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/country_overview.rm

“This video provides an overview of the social, economic, political and cultural reality of the Central American country of El Salvador, which is in many ways “average and “typical” among poor countries. On the other hand, the country is characterized by extraordinary injustice, as well as the extraordinary faith, hope and generosity of many inspiring people.”

3. RELIGION: EL SALVADOR - <http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/religion.rm>

“This video provides a summary description of the religious drama of El Salvador, a country where everyone believes in God, but where ideas of God and faith clash dramatically. El Salvador is justly famous for the many heroic Christians who spoke out in defense of the poor and who even paid with their lives for their commitment.”

4. MIGRATION: EL SALVADOR TO U.S.- <http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/migration.rm>

“This video summarizes the extraordinary drama of migration from El Salvador to the United States. It explains why people leave and how very many are being deported back.”

SEED Program Reaping Benefits

The University of Scranton Bridges to El Salvador (1999-2009) was pleased to host Larry Parr, lay Maryknoll missionary working in El Salvador to campus on Fri, Sept. 11. Mr. Parr gave a detailed presentation on the benefits of a scholarship program founded by U of S Bridges to El Salvador over 5 years ago. The SEED program (Scholarships to Establish Educational Development) funds education and related expenses for students K-college in the remote and impoverished village of Las Delicias. Mr. Parr was most impressive in discussing the long-term benefits of SEED via the older students who return and invest in the younger students in their struggles to improve their lives. SEED certificates are the sole support of this program. To purchase a SEED scholarship/ gift certificate contact Marie Karam, U of S SEED Coordinator at karamm1@scranton.edu.

Faculty Activities (continued)

Jamie Trnka The University of Scranton will host its Third Annual East German Film Festival this November 9-11. Dr. Trnka will introduce three films in the series *WENDE FLICKS: Last Films from East Germany*. Organized by the DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in collaboration with The Wende Museum, the film series commemorates the great turning point – the *Wende* – that took place in Germany 20 years ago. In the chaos and excitement surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification, many films by the last generation of East German directors were never subtitled or even screened outside of Germany until now.

Habib Zanzana-Dr. Zanzana attended a Summer Institute organized by the National Capital Language Resource Center on the Teaching of Arabic in Washington, DC. in July 2009. The Institute is a joint project of Georgetown University, the George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics. Dr. Zanzana has added first-year Arabic (Arabic 101 and 102) to his teaching portfolio at the University of Scranton. He is enjoying teaching beginner Arabic students and is now involved in the creation of puppets for a special Arabic puppet show at the end of Fall 2009. Come Spring 2010, Dr. Zanzana will organize the Second Annual Arabic and Persian Instructional Film Series with features from Lebanon, Egypt, Iran and North Africa.

Virginia Picchietti -In June 2009, Dr. Caporale and Picchietti led the second-annual Summer Study Abroad in Florence, Italy, with thirty students. Students enrolled in courses in Italian language and on Dante, participated in guided tours of important Florentine sites and museums, and took guided excursions to such locations as Lucca, Cinque Terre, and Venice.

Marzia Caporale – Organized a very successful musical event for University of Scranton students, local High School students and the community at large. Nearly 200 high school students attended this event. *C'est si bon* has been touring American theaters and Universities bringing traditional French music, from Edith Piaf to Charles Aznavour, to enthusiastic audiences across the country.

Maria Englot- Events with an international theme are always wonderful ways to bring together people of different cultures and countries of origin, fostering acceptance and understanding. A community prayer service was recently held at St. Jude's parish, a very special sense of unity and peace prevailed throughout the evening. There was an "International Recitation of the Rosary". Each of the five "mysteries" were prayed in: Indian, Italian (led by Maria Englot and her friend Gina Laezza), Polish, Spanish and English. The prayers were offered in different tongues, the congregation was truly united during this evening of worship.

Robert Parsons ran the twelfth annual faculty-led study abroad course to Guadalajara, Mexico in the 2009 Intersession along with **Kevin Nordberg** of the Philosophy department. The three week trip features home stays with Mexican families and courses in Spanish and Mexican culture and politics at UNIVA (the Universidad del Valle de Atemajac). The trip also includes a number of interesting excursions in and around the greater Guadalajara area in the state of Jalisco, including a visit to a large traditional Mexican *hacienda* that is now an important tequila farm and factory, and the recently discovered circular pyramids known as Guachimontones. The highlight of the Guadalajara trip, however, is the weekend tour of Mexico City that includes excursions to the Chapultepec palace, the famous Anthropological Museum, and the pyramids of Teotihuacán. 16 students participated in the 2009 trip. The Thirteenth Annual trip will also be conducted by Parsons and Nordberg and will take place in January 7-27, 2010. **Robert Parsons** is currently in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he is participating in a faculty exchange program with the Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo (UEES). He will return to Scranton in early November.



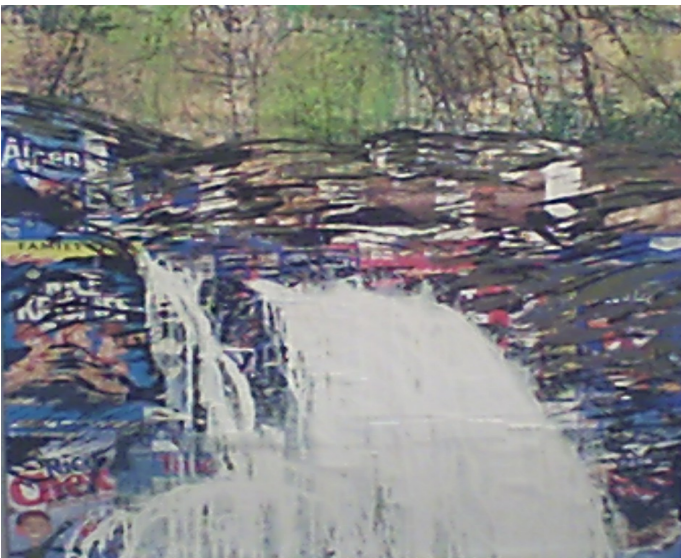
Landscape In Situ:

Paintings by Andrés Álvarez



Something that I have found humorous throughout the exhibition is that people who live in Scranton (whom I like to call my friends) are always telling me how surprised they are that I am a "real artist". I am not sure what that means, but I take it as a compliment. I have to say that I was surprised that I found the time to paint during my year in Scranton due to my work as a Spanish TA. Though I would not say that having a degree in Fine Arts from Colombia is what makes me a true artist. Instead, I think the need to create all the time is what gives me that name, but I do not feel any more special than other people who create really nice things to build a better society. In the end, art is about going beyond and being honest and sincere about what you care about. I care about nature and about my friends wherever they are. I thank them immensely for all their help last year. Many people made it possible for me to finish the paintings on time: students, friends and colleagues at the Department of World languages and Cultures were always helping me with the cereal boxes and their enthusiasm. My supervisor Dr. Ledford-Miller was always supportive and patient. My teacher and manager of the Hope Horn Gallery Dr. Miller-Laning was always interested and encouraging, and my friend Eva Piatek, also a student at that time and now a University of Scranton graduate, wrote the wonderful essay for the exhibition.

You can view Andrés's art work in Hyland Hall at the Hope Horn Gallery.





Special Feature

Meet Our Newest Faculty Member- Dr. Silva



I am a Ph.D. candidate and I hold a M.A. degree from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I was born in Bogotá Colombia, where I studied Modern Languages and Literature at the Universidad de los Andes. My current research focuses on the dimensions of epistles written by women who emigrated to the Río de la Plata region during the XVI and XVII centuries. My final purpose is to analyze how Spanish and Spanish-American women constructed themselves as active participants in the colonial order. Thanks to the support of some grants, I have been

able to do research in the *Archivo de Indias* in Seville from where I have obtained most of my research corpus. I have delivered papers at national and international meetings in several areas of Hispanic Literature, on topics such as Latin American and Spanish Women Writers.

Finally, I have taught Spanish language and literature courses at different institutions such as the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Smith College and Colby College.

Dr. Silva

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Jasmin Rivera (ILB/Spanish, 2003), the former student supervisor of the Language Learning Center, is now working at The Institute of International Education as Executive Assistant to the CFO. Jasmin began her new job in early August, 2009.

Rachel Marascalco (Spanish, Theology/RS, 2003) is currently working as an Account Executive for United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta where she oversees a variety of fundraising campaigns. She will be marrying Joseph Berchmans on Dec. 12 in Atlanta, GA and they will also have a ceremony in Chennai, India on January 16.

Celeste Gregory (International Studies/French, 2001) began graduate studies at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management in Sustainable International Development in fall 2008. In that program students complete all coursework the first year and during the second year complete a practicum with a development organization. Celeste was selected for one of 20 Fellowships (out of an original applicant pool of approximately 500) with Catholic Relief Services. Starting in August 2009, she began a one year working term in the CRS Burundi office with the monitoring and evaluation staff. During that time she will also research and write her Master's thesis on conflict sensitive approaches in monitoring and evaluation.



A Teaching Assistants Story

My story with Scranton started in 2004 when I was granted the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantship. I was thrilled to spend a year in the USA and to teach my mother language Arabic. In a time of a lot of misunderstandings between Arabs and Americans, it was my responsibility to become an ambassador whose mission was to share my cultural values inside and outside of the classroom by joining clubs and becoming involved in the community. For example, thanks to the Foreign Language department events, I was able to make many presentations where I talked about Tunisia and the Arab world.

I was also blessed to have many outgoing students with whom learning Arabic has become more meaningful and enjoyable. I was also engaged in graduate classes which enriched my postgraduate studies and enhanced my professional development. I am still grateful for the permission I was given to administer the empirical part of my MA thesis among the students of the Department of World Languages and Cultures. Without this permission, I would have never been able to graduate in 2008.

Moreover, attending classes on foreign language teaching and American culture, I was able, once I came back home, to both speak English fluently and have a first-hand experience about the USA, its culture and its people. Now in Tunisia, using such knowledge in my everyday English classes, the small faces of my middle school pupils enlighten once I bring back my memories of the States.

Being a knowledge lover and seeker, I am also pursuing my postgraduate studies. My PhD topic is related to enhancing English language teaching in Tunisia at the secondary level.

Since life is never one way oriented, it was the acquaintances and friendships I had in my beloved Scranton which made my year abroad. Well if I don't count seeing the snow for the first and probably last time.

Zeineb Amri from Tunisia. I am an English teacher and a PhD student.

Graduate Assistants

Jackie DeFlippis- My name is Jackie DeFilippis and I am from Morristown, New Jersey. I graduated from the University of Scranton in 2008 with a B.S. in Counseling and Human Services. After graduation, I spent 3 months doing missionary work in México City and worked as a therapist for a child with autism after my return to the US. I am now working as a Graduate Assistant of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures while studying for my Master's Degree in the School Counseling program. My ultimate goal is to be a bilingual School Counselor. I am most passionate about traveling and experiencing other cultures and my biggest dream is to see all of Central and South America... And of course, Spain!

Anisa Gharbi-My name is Anisa Gharbi and I am a Graduate Assistant for Arabic and French in the World Languages and Cultures Department. I grew up on the Eastern Shore in a place called Salisbury, Maryland (half an hour from Ocean City). Concerning my cultural background, I consider myself Arab American since I'm half Tunisian. I have a passion for traveling, learning new languages and creating interfaith dialogue and understanding. In 2008, I completed my undergraduate degree at Salisbury University (MD) in psychology and received my minor in Spanish. In addition to working as a GA, I am also a Graduate Student in the Community Counseling Program. My career objective is to work as a College Counselor or in a Women's Center.

Joseph Rubino- This is my second year as a Graduate Assistant in the World Languages and Cultures Department. I really have enjoyed this experience greatly. Working in the World Languages and Cultures Department has giving me the opportunity to meet and work with such wonderful people. I am originally from Long Island and graduated from Hofstra University. I have been living in the Scranton area for a couple of years now. My goals upon graduating is to open my own counseling practice and help as many people as I can. I will see you in the O'Hara lab, and have a great year!!

World Languages and Cultures

TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2009-2010



From Left to Right: Kei Hinohara, Maryam Alkhawaja, Marion Denis, WanWan Zhou, Estefanía González

Kei Hinohara. I am from Tokyo which is a very busy place. Everywhere you go there are many people. I like the city, however, for it has a very interesting culture including underground music and people wearing very strange clothes. I have a master's degree in literature from a University. I specialized in American nature writing and eco-criticism. Now I am teaching Japanese at the University of Scranton. In my Japanese courses, I met many American students who are really interested in Japanese culture such as animations and music. I am sometimes so surprised to find out these students know much more about Japanese modern culture than I do. It is certainly true that their being in my courses makes my teaching experience here so fun. I am happy if I can help many people here know more about Japanese culture through this experience.

Maryam Alkhawaja- I am 22 years of age, originally from Bahrain. I am the new Arabic TA for this year. I spent most of my childhood in Denmark under political asylum because my dad is a human rights activist. We moved to Bahrain in 2001 after my dad was told he will not be arrested upon arrival. I graduated with a BA in English and a minor in American Studies. I am also a human rights activist, and had the opportunity to speak in front of US Congress last year about the absence of religious freedom in Bahrain. I am working towards a career in journalism or political activism. I am sure my year in Scranton will be a great one and I look forward to meeting as many people as possible.

Salam

Marion Denis - I am the new French TA for this academic year. I come from Brittany, a beautiful region in the north-west of France. I live in Saint-Malo, a very touristic city, famous for its history, architecture (walled city) and pretty beaches. It is located 3 hours from Paris and very close to the Mont-Saint-Michel, sometimes called the 8th wonder of the world! I studied American and English literature and history in Rennes (a very pretty city as well, you can see that I am very proud of my region!), and graduated last year. I graduated in England, in Exeter, where I spent a year in a study abroad program. I also began my Master and wrote a small thesis on McCarthyism. This is my first time in the United States, and so far I love the experience!




Teaching Assistants (continued)

Wanwan Zhou from China. People in China call me Zhou Wanwan, because we Chinese think family is important for a person, so we put family name in front of the given name. There are around 100 commonly used surnames. However, there is no special list of given names, as in English. Chinese people can choose any of the 86,000 Chinese characters for their given names. But don't let the sheer number of characters scare you away from studying Chinese. Only 3,500 characters are commonly used in our daily life, and a well-educated Chinese person can master 6,000 to 7,000 characters. My hometown in China is Shandong Province, the birthplace of the greatest Chinese philosopher Confucius. As a coastal province in east China, Shandong is not far away from Beijing and is located in opposition to Korean Peninsula and Japan. I have been a university teacher in Shandong University for three years, which is the second established university in Chinese history. This is my first time to the U.S and I hope to share my culture with you and learn American culture and language from you at the same time.

Estefanía González - I am from Guadalajara, Jalisco México. Jalisco is well known for the production of



Tequila and its beautiful Mariachi music . I have a BA in teaching English as a Foreign Language and I've taught English in Guadalajara for five years, both in Language Institutes and at Universities. Now, I'm eager to teach you my native language and culture and willing to help you in anyway I can. I am teaching Spanish 101 and I'm also taking Linguistics for teachers and Subject Methods as my graduate subjects. I love going to the movies, hanging out with family and friends, and I have such a big sweet tooth. In the future I would love to obtain a Masters in Linguistics or anything related to secondary language acquisition so that I could become a researcher in the field and/or a teacher trainer.

THE AMBASSADOR

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