

THE AMBASSADOR

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Dear alumni, students, faculty, and friends:

Welcome to what promises to be another exciting new year in the Department of World Languages and Cultures!

For those of you not yet familiar with our current programs and course offerings, let me tell you that our department proudly houses courses in 11 languages, complementing the University of Scranton's commitment to global outreach and engagement with others across all regions of the globe.

Research shows that studying another culture and language enables people to connect more deeply with others and to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture. Additionally, foreign languages provide a competitive edge in career choices as perspective employers frequently seek candidates who are able to communicate in a second language. Therefore, if you have not done so already, please check out the many course listings and diverse co-curricular activities that our department has in store for this year.

We are especially thrilled to welcome Fulbright teaching assistants from five different countries during this academic year. They will be teaching classes, organizing film series, coffee hours, and cultural presentations about their countries and traditions. Our wonderfully talented and diverse group includes: Ms. Khadiga AboBakr (Arabic instructor, Egypt), Mr. Lukas Rackow (German instructor, Germany), Ms. Clara Fabbri (French instructor, France), Ms. Alessandra Abate (Italian instructor, Italy), and Ms. Sarah Romero Avella (Spanish instructor, Colombia). We also welcome this year a new Chinese Instructor from Taiwan, Ms. Hsiang-Ling (Charlize) Wang, as well as former Fulbright from Japan Ms. Minori Koga, now in a new position as Graduate Assistant.

As always, our faculty has been engaged in multiple projects related to teaching, scholarship, and service throughout the year and the summer. Dr. Ana Ugarte led the first faculty-led study abroad in Peru during the first summer session; Dr. Silva conducted the annual Study Abroad in Spain while Drs. Zanzana and Caporale co-led the 12th annual Study in Florence Summer program. More detailed information about faculty-led trips and faculty scholarship is featured separately in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the WLC department, from the faculty to our wonderful students, to the Language Lab work-study helpers and tutors. We are especially grateful for the help of Graduates Assistant and Lab “go to” person, Laura Freedman, and of course Lab Director Hannah Jackson and department secretary JoAnne Jurkiewicz. Our department thanks you wholeheartedly for your hard work and efforts.

Have a wonderful 2019-2020 academic year!

Dr. Marzia Caporale
Professor of French and Italian
Interim Chair

Faculty Scholarship (Continues on page 4)

Dr. Ana Ugarte

Last Spring, the department of Romance Studies at Duke University invited Dr. Ugarte to give a talk on her scholarship, entitled “Caribbean Scientific Fictions: Laboratories and Prosthetic Storytelling in the Works of Adal Maldonado and Maielis González Fernández”. She discussed her current research on Caribbean and Latinx science fiction through the lens of disability studies.



Dr. Ugarte also organized a panel on the intersection of biopolitical theory and Latin American Literature at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Boston. She presented a paper on Rita Indiana’s latest novel, discussing the role of biopolitics in conceptualizing and representing Cuba’s revolution.

In addition, Dr. Ugarte’s most recent article was accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Revista de Géneros y Sexualidades* as part of a special issue on disability studies. The article’s title is “Literary Hubris, Eco-Autism and Empathy in Sabina Berman’s *La mujer que buceó dentro del corazón del mundo* [*The Woman who Dived into the Heart of the World*]”. The novel she discusses in this article is an autobiographical fiction narrated by a woman with Asperger syndrome. Dr. Ugarte explores a narrative idiosyncrasy in Berman’s project that she calls literary hubris, that is, an overconfidence in the powers of the literary medium to accurately represent the specific alterity of the character.

Lastly, Dr. Ugarte continues to work on the creation of a Health Humanities concentration, a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This concentration will emphasize the integral role of the humanities and community based-learning in shaping and transforming healthcare, health, and well-being at The University of Scranton.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

Dr. Zanzana presented a paper at the Intersections/Intersezioni Conference in Florence, Italy, in May 2019. His talk focused on contemporary Italian cinema and examined “Art and Nonlinear Temporality in Alice Rohrwacher's *Lazzaro Felice*.”

In September 2019, Dr. Zanzana participated in a conference organized by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese on the theme of Social Justice. The event took place at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and his paper was titled, “Justice for All Disabled: An Analytical View of the Intersection of Disability, Human rights, and Empowerment in Contemporary films of Spain and the Americas.”

While abroad, Dr. Zanzana took Advanced Italian at the *Istituto Europeo* in Florence, Italy. He also began studying Portuguese at the *Luso School* in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2019. He quickly became very fond of “pasteis de nata,” a custard-filled Portuguese tart that is simply delicious. Muito bom!

Dr. Marzia Caporale

Dr Caporale recently published an essay titled “Preserving Memories, Celebrating Lives: War, Motherhood, and Grief in Scholastique Mukasonga’s *La femme aux pieds nus*.” In *Art and Healing: Essays in Memory of Chantal Khalisa*. Ed. Gerise Herndon, Beatrice Gallimore. University of Nebraska Press. She also recently completed an article entitled “Recasting the Gaze: Self-perception and Body De(con)struction in Nelly Arcan’s “*La honte*”” which will appear in the journal *L’Esprit créateur* in 2020.



Drs. Zanzana and Caporale (left) participated in the 2019 MLA International Symposium which took place in Lisbon, Portugal from July 23 to July 25.

*Dr. Zanzana presented a paper entitled “A Voice Against Sexual Violence: Marginalization, Otherness, and the Demand for Social Justice in the Tunisian Film *La belle et la meute* (Beauty and the Dogs).” Dr. Caporale’s paper was entitled “When the Subaltern Speaks: Overcoming Otherness in Darina Al Joundi’s Theater.” Their presentations were part of a panel on Female Francophone story-tellers.*

Summer Study Abroad in Florence

By: **Dr. Marzia Caporale**

Drs. Caporale and Zanzana organized and co-led the 12th Study in Florence annual Summer Program from June 1-29, 2019. Twenty-two students from many different disciplines (the humanities, the sciences, professional studies, business and economics) participated in the program, taking classes in Florence for four weeks, visiting local historical sites, and travelling to destinations such as Venice, the Cinque Terre, the Chianti region, and Rome. In this academic program, students can earn three or six credits, choosing one or two classes:

- Italian language (ITAL 295) all levels – 3 credits
- Dante's *Inferno* and the Florence of his Times (HUM 296 – in English) – 3 credits

Language classes were held in the morning while the Dante class took place in the afternoon, Monday through Thursday. Friday mornings were dedicated to group cultural visits such as the Roman theater and baths in Fiesole, or the Medieval Renaissance palace Palazzo Davanzati.

This year students also traveled to the Amalfi coast visiting world-known sites such as the Island of Capri, the coastal town of Positano, Mount Vesuvius and the ruins of Pompei.



Summer Study Abroad in Peru (Continues on page 7)

By: Dr. Ana Ugarte



TRAVELING FROM ONE WORLD'S BELLY BUTTON (THE USA), TO ANOTHER WORLD'S BELLY BUTTON (CUSCO), TO LEARN ABOUT HEALTH

Cusco or *Qosqo*, like many other names of locations throughout the world, means “the world’s belly button”, or the center of the world, in Quechua. It is a beautiful colonial city in the heart of the Andes and the former capital of the Incan empire. This summer, Cusco was also the Study Abroad destination for 15 students from the University of Scranton who registered for Spanish classes as well as the course “Perspectives of Health, Healthcare, and Well-Being in Latin America”.

Dr. Julia Guzmán from the Department of Occupational Therapy and Dr. Ugarte from World Languages and Cultures successfully designed and taught this class, the first of five pilot courses that will be part of the NEH funded project to develop a Health Humanities concentration. In order to improve their communication skills in the language and to foster intercultural competence, this faculty-led program included classes such as Peruvian Literature and Culture, Spanish for the Health Professions, and Intensive Conversation.

Overall, the program was able to unsettle, if not deconstruct, ethnocentric visions of health and culture, allowing the students to learn about diverse cultures of health in Cusco, a different world’s belly button. The course “Perspectives of Health, Healthcare and Well-Being in Latin America” examines different elements that are constitutive of a person’s health identity, from the theory and practice of the indigenous concept of *Sumak Kawsay* (good living or living in plenitude) to the ancestral knowledge of medicinal plants. In



their roundtables, meetings, and online posts, students discussed the confrontation between Western biomedicine and indigenous healing practices, the relationship between power and medicine, the history of eugenics and forced sterilization in Peru, discourses of disability, and issues of health and human rights. The class took an interdisciplinary approach, combining historical, literary, and anthropological readings as well as analyses of cultural texts, including short stories, films, and art.

Students also participated in a number of activities, such as visits to both rural and urban healthcare centers; talks by traditional healers and healthcare practitioners; visits to archeological sites; and a "Natural Healing" workshop. The experiential learning component in the context of the Study Abroad experience amplified, complicated, and brought to life the readings and discussions in ways that we did not anticipate!



New FLTAs, GAs and Instructors (Continues on pages 9-11)

Alessandra Abate

Position: Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant

Origin: Catania, Italy

Language: Italian

Biography: Ciao! My name is Alessandra Abate. I was born and raised in Sicily, a beautiful island at the bottom of Italy. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Languages and Literature and a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature with a focus on Canadian Lit. My favorite writer is Margaret Atwood. In Sicily, I am an English and Italian TA and a student advisor at the University of Catania. I am very excited to share my culture with the Scranton community and to travel around the U.S.



Clara Fabbri

Position: Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant

Origin: Paris, France

Language: French

Biography: Bonjour tout le monde! My name is Clara, and I am so happy to be a Fulbright teaching assistant here at The University of Scranton! Although my name sounds Italian, I have lived in Paris my entire life. I have a bachelor's degree in English studies and a master's degree in gender studies. Last year, I studied at the University of Austin, and I absolutely fell in love with the town! Although I have not been in Scranton for that long, I can already tell I am falling in love with this place as well! During my free time, I love to play the flute, and I am currently learning how to play the guitar.



Khadiga AboBakr

Position: Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant

Origin: Egypt, Palestine and Sudan

Language: Arabic

Biography: Hello! My name is Khadiga, but most people call me Diga. My mother is Palestinian, my father is Sudanese and my paternal grandmother is Egyptian, so I can proudly say I grew up in a multicultural environment! I fell in love with English at a young age, which is why I decided to major in it. I started my teaching career six years ago and have been a supervisor and teacher trainer for several reputable training centers. Before coming to Scranton, I worked at the American University in Cairo. I am a very sociable person, so if you happen to run into me, do not hesitate to say hi!



Lukas Rackow

Position: Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant

Origin: Bochum, Germany

Language: German

Biography: Hallo zusammen! My name is Lukas Rackow, and I am from Bochum, a city in the west of Germany (for any soccer fans, you might know our neighbor city, Dortmund). I graduated this year with a Master's Degree in English, History and Latin and have worked as an English teacher for the past three years! I do a lot of volunteer work in my free time, and I have been a Boy Scout since childhood. I love experiencing new cultures and getting to know new people from different backgrounds, so I am very excited for this unique opportunity to share my culture with you while also learning about the U.S. and its culture, history and amazing people! I look forward to meeting you this year. Wir sehen uns!



Sarah Romero

Position: Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant

Origin: Chía, Colombia

Language: Spanish

Biography: ¡Hola a todos! My name is Sarah, and I am the Spanish Teaching Assistant. Before coming to Scranton, I studied English Philology at Universidad Nacional de Colombia and worked in my hometown, Chía, as an English teacher. Colombia is a beautiful, biodiverse country filled with hundreds of breathtaking landscapes. Did you know that there are over 60 native languages in Colombia? If you are interested in learning more fun facts about Colombia, or if you are interested in practicing your Spanish, be sure to contact me! I would be more than happy to share more bits and pieces about my culture and myself with you!



Hsiang-Ling (Charlize)

Position: Chinese Instructor

Origin: Taiwan

Language: Chinese

Biography: What brought me to Scranton? “The Office,” of course. Just kidding! My passion for teaching is what brought me here. I love motivating students to advance their knowledge of not only the Chinese language, but also the Chinese culture. The Department of World Languages has the perfect atmosphere to do just that! My other passion in life is traveling! Traveling allows me to make connections between what I have learned in cross cultural/ intercultural communication classes and real life. So far, I have traveled to over 25 countries. I am very friendly, so feel free to say hi when you see me around campus or stop by my office to chat! My advice for students would be to take advantage of the many opportunities the department has to offer, and to join our global-friendly community!



Laura Freedman

Position: Graduate Assistant

Origin: New Jersey

Language: French

Biography: Hello, everyone! My name is Laura Freedman, and I am the graduate assistant of the Language Learning Center. I was born and raised in North Jersey, and I just graduated from the University of Scranton in May 2019 with my Bachelor's in journalism and electronic media and minors in French and business analytics. The University of Scranton truly is my second home, which is why I decided to stay an extra two years to pursue my Master's in Business Administration. I absolutely love traveling! I have been to Ireland, England, France and Italy, and I am excited to be going to Australia this January!



Upcoming Semester Events (Continued on page 12-13)



The 2019-20 Humanities Forum

A Domestic Archaeology of Repatriation

Cristina Rivera Garza

One of the foremost writers in the Spanish language, and one of the most interesting experimental writers in America, Rivera Garza has published 6 novels, three collections of stories, five collections of poetry, and three non-fiction books. Her books have been translated into multiple languages, including English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Korean. Rivera Garza, Distinguished Professor of Hispanic Studies, was born in Matamoros, México and has lived in the United States since 1989. She studied urban sociology at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and received her Ph.D. in Latin American history from the University of Houston. In 2012, she received a doctorate in Humane Letters Honoris Causa from the University of Houston, where she directs the Spanish Creative Writing Program. She is the recipient of, among other awards, the Roger Caillois Award for Latin American Literature (Paris, 2013) as well as the Anna Seghers (Berlin, 2005) and International Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz awards for her novel, *No One Will See Me Cry* (University of Northwestern Press, 2001). Her novel *The Taiga Syndrome* won the 2019 Shirley Jackson Award.

Wednesday, September 11 at 5:30 pm in DeNaples 405

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The 2019-20 Humanities Forum

In between Ethnic Heritage and Italian Identity: The Rise of Hip-Hop in Mainstream Italy

Lisa Dolasinski

Lisa Dolasinski is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian at Dickinson College. She holds a PhD in Italian Studies and a minor in Gender Studies from Indiana University. Lisa works primarily on contemporary Italian cinema and culture, and is particularly interested in the topics of migration, aging, and masculinity. Her refereed journal articles interrogate the fluid sexual and racial identities of migrant protagonists onscreen. She currently serves as an assistant editor for *gender/sexuality/italy*, an online peer-reviewed journal that publishes research on gendered identities and the ways they intersect with and produce Italian politics, culture, and society. Lisa has taught and designed Italian language and culture courses at all levels of instruction, including classes on Italian cinema and migration, at Dickinson College, Indiana University, Youngstown State University, and the University of Pittsburgh. She is co-author of *Paese che vai*, an innovative E-book used in the fourth-semester Italian language and culture course at Indiana University that draws on a vast archive of authentic texts in order to combine language apprehension with the attainment of intercultural competencies. Along with preparing a monograph for publication, tentatively titled *Screening 'Sterile Masculinity': On Male Migrants, Italian Men, and the Future of Italy*, Lisa is presently working on a project that investigates representations of aging in Italian cinema.

Thursday, November 7th at 7:30 in Brennan 228

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<p>French movie night O'Hara 322 7pm</p>		<p>Amélie, a young Parisian waitress, has one goal: make other people's lives better. Her life changes when she meets a mysterious man named Nino. This movie was nominated for five Oscars in 2002.</p>
		<p>This musical from 1987 is about two sisters who try to find love. It has been a great inspiration for the writer of La La Land.</p>
<p>Amélie Poulain September 14th September 15th</p>	<p>Les demoiselles de Rochefort October 22nd October 23rd</p>	<p>Huit Femmes November 11th November 13th</p>

ITALIAN MOVIE NIGHT
O'Hara Satellite Room
7 PM

La ragazza del lago
(The girl on the lake)
September 17th
September 18th

The body of a young woman is found in a small and quiet town in North Italy. A detective from the nearby main city is called to solve the mystery.

Perfetti sconosciuti
(Perfect strangers)
October 22nd
October 23rd

Seven long-time friends get together for a dinner. When they decide to share with each other the content of every text message, email and phone call they receive, many secrets start to unravel.

Benvenuti al sud
(Welcome to the south)
November 19th
November 20th

Overwhelmed by his wife, a postal worker from Northern Italy feigns disability to request a transfer to Milan. When he's unmasked, he is sent to a tiny village near Naples for two years.



Italian Game Night

Tuesday, September 24
Leahy 235 (Kane Forum)
6-8 p.m.

Learn some Italian while enjoying light refreshments and playing Italian card games, Monopoly and Pictionary! All are welcome to this event, and no registration is required!

For more information, contact
Alessandra Abate at
alessandra.abate@scranton.edu



World Languages and Cultures Open House

The Language Learning Center (O'Hara 306)
Thursday, October 3
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Enjoy light refreshments while getting to know our faculty, this year's Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants, our classes/ programs and how learning a world language can expand your career opportunities!

For more information, contact
Dr. Marzia Caporale at
marzia.caporale@scranton.edu

Language Learning Center

By: Hannah Jackson

The Language Learning Center, located in O'Hara 306, offers language learning support for students and community members learning Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, and more. Services available include language conversation hours, a computer lab, language tutoring, a database of language resources, and more. The Language Learning Center also offers English as a Second Language tutoring to adult English learners in the community and hosts several events for local students and community members such as the TA Meet & Greet event for teachers, the annual TA Talks, and various cultural events hosted by our Fulbright TAs and WLC faculty. Are you curious about how the Language Learning Center can help you improve your language skills? Contact Hannah Jackson at Hannah.jackson@scranton.edu or 570-941-4711.

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