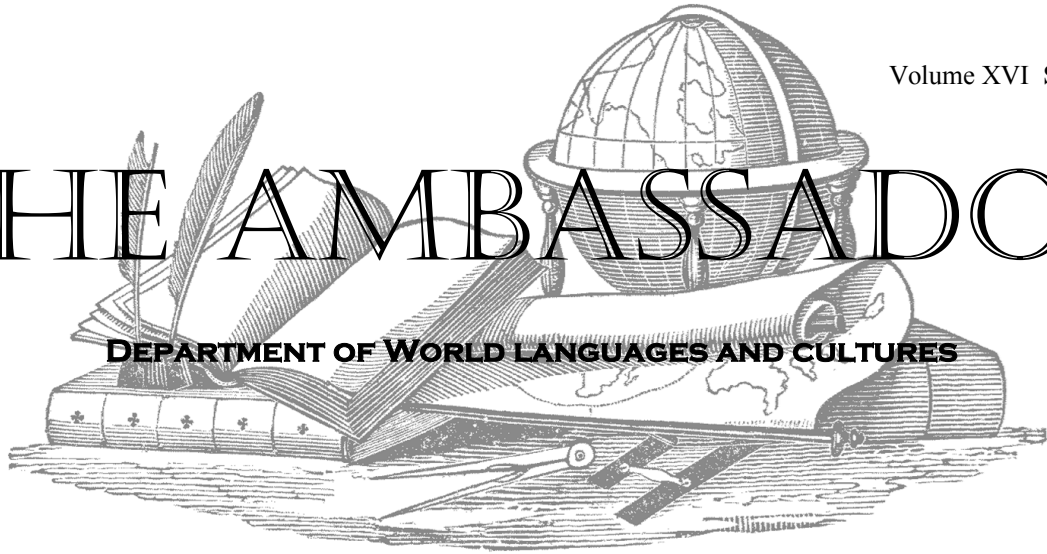


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

HOPE IN THE FACE OF HEAVY RAINS?

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog of the eponymous town, saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter. We were suffering below average, often frigid temperatures, so we were not surprised. Six more weeks? That must mean that spring begins on March 10th. According to the calendar, the vernal equinox, and hence the first day of spring, is March 20th this year.

Spring has many meanings: to leap or jump up; a resilient coil that retains its shape; the season of transformation, when the first crocuses defy vestigial winter with brilliant color. The darkness of winter gives way to a gradual dominance of light. Like Persephone we arise from the underground. We cast off our wooly layers for lighter clothing. We have a new “spring” in our step, a sense of renewal, a new hopefulness.

But how do we maintain that hopefulness in the face of heavy rains and muddy clothes? And more importantly, in the face of the sluggish economy and the difficult job market our students face whether looking for summer jobs or the first job after graduation? To quote Howard Zinn, “the future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” Let us live our present with hope and compassion as we move toward creating a future. And remember the words of the Dalai Lama: “Happiness is not something that comes ready made. It comes from your own actions.”

Linda Ledford-Miller



Six more weeks of winter? This relative of Punxsutawney Phil does not think so.

Inside this issue:

- Alumni and former TA news
- Italian Film Series
- LAS Film Festival
- 8th TA Talk / Dinner
- Modern Languages Award
- Studying Abroad

'OLD' FACES IN NEW PLACES: NEWS FROM OUR FORMER STUDENTS



Jude Krushnowski



Rebecca Schmaeling



Holly Pratesi



Eric Smith

Jude Krushnowski graduated in 2010 with a double major in Psychology and Spanish. He is currently working as a TSS, technical support staff, for an autistic child, and investigating graduate programs in TESOL. He would eventually like to relocate to Peru with his limeña wife, Fiorella.

Rebecca Schmaeling graduated *summa cum laude* in 2013 with a double major in International

Communication and Political Science, and a minor in Spanish. Nowadays she is in Madrid on a Fulbright grant, working as an English Teaching Assistant. "When I'm not doing that, I get to do a lot of travelling," she says.

Holly Pratesi graduated *magna cum laude* in 2013 with a double major in Criminal Justice and Philosophy, and minors in Spanish and Mathematics. She is now a student at Brooklyn Law School in NY: "I have

been hired as a research assistant for a professor and I will be interning this summer for a matrimonial law firm."

Eric Smith graduated *cum laude* in 2013 with a double major in Spanish and Secondary Education-Spanish and a concentration in Latin American Studies. He is currently teaching Spanish at Scranton High School and translating at a local hospital. "I am very happy to use the language skills I acquired," he states.

LETTER FROM LONDON

Dear Dr. Linda and Ms. Marie, I meant to write to you a month ago, when I knew that I got awarded a scholarship from the Chevening scheme to study a Masters degree in London School of Economics. I will be in the department of Social Policy and Development which is one of the oldest and highest ranking departments in the world.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you both, first for giving me a lifetime opportunity and selecting my application to teach at the World Languages and Cultures department and for being a second family for me, I have learnt a lot from both of you. My year at Scranton qualified me to get this competitive scholarship. I am really thankful.

London doesn't look like Scranton, they are both so different but as much as I loved Scranton, I am now in love with this vibrant city. I look forward to meeting you again. Please remember, you have a family in Amman-Jordan, and now in London, whenever you are around here I would love to see you. Much love and respect!



Hebba Al Nasser was a Fulbright TA from Jordan at the World Languages Department in 2008-2009.

MODERN LANGUAGE AWARD 2014



The Department of World Languages and Cultures gave this year's departmental award in the category of Modern Languages to the student **Ciro Saverino**, (in the photo, during a study trip to Mexico) in recognition of his outstanding academic performance and his contributions to the community. Mr. Saverino will be graduating in May with a double

major in Secondary Education-Spanish and Hispanic Studies, and a concentration in Latin American Studies. He is currently student teaching at North Pocono High School (Moscow), and preparing to find a job as a high school Spanish teacher in New Jersey or Pennsylvania for the Fall. .

8TH ANNUAL TA TALK / DINNER



The 8th annual TA TALK/ Dinner sponsored by the Department of World Languages and Cultures was held on Mar. 11 in Brennan 509. Teachers, students and administrators from over 75 area schools were invited to enjoy entertaining and informative cultural presentations by the teaching assistants and Fulbright Scholars from abroad currently teaching in the Department: **Natasha Brea** from the Dominican Republic (center in pic), **Teresa Hernández López** from Spain (left) and **Charlotte Jade** from France. Funded by the University of Scranton Diversity Initiatives, this event, organized by **Marie Karam**, Director of the Language Learning Center, promotes understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures. In addition, over the past eight years these TA TALKS have served to initiate collaborative partnerships with area elementary, intermediate and high schools which invite the TAs to their schools to give presentations.

Mark your calendar!



MOVIES

LAS FILM FESTIVAL (more info. page 5)

March 25 *The Fish Child* (Dir. Lucía Puenzo, Argentina, 2011, 96 min). Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

April 2 *La Yuma* (Dir. Florence Jaugey, Nicaragua / Mexico, 2009, 90 min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

ITALIAN FILM SERIES (more info. page 5)

March 26-27 *The Night of the Shooting Stars* (Dir. Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, 1982, b/w, 105 min.) O'Hara 307, 7pm.

April 30 *El Alamein—The Line of Fire* (Dir. Enzo May 1 Monteleone, 2002, 117 min). O'Hara 307, 7pm.

GERMAN MOVIE AND LECTURE (more info. page 4)

April 10 *Return to a Foreign Country* (Dir. Christoph Schuch, 1997, 83 min.) Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall 228, 7pm.

INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES (more info. page 8)

March 28 *Shun Li and the Poet* (Dir. Andrea Segre, Italy 2011, 102 min.) Weiberg Memorial Library 305, 7:30 pm.

OTHER EVENTS

April 12 *Africa: Art, Memory, Culture*. The DeNaples Center 4th floor. Events from 10 am to 5:30 pm. Registration from 9:30 am. (see page 8)

April 22 *World Languages Teacher Workshop*, coordinated by Marie Karam, director of the Language Learning Center. Brennan Hall 509, 8 am-2pm. (more info. page 4)

April 29 *Tasty Taiwan: The History and Culture of Taiwan through Food and Film*. TDC 401, 6pm. (more info. page 8)

May 1 *DIY Sky Lantern Workshop and Outdoor Concert*. DeNaples Center Patio and Dionne Green, 5:30-8:30 pm.; rain location: TDC 406 and 401.

ALPHA MU GAMMA HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY '04



In the photo, the 2013 inductees of this National Foreign Language Honor Society.

The induction ceremony and luncheon of the Theta Iota Chapter of the Foreign Language National Honor Society, Alpha Mu Gamma

will take place in The DeNaples Center 405 on **Thursday April 24**, 11:30-1:00. Inductees will receive their certificates of membership and society pins; graduating seniors will receive their gold honor cords.

Requirements for a full membership are two consecutive A's or A-'s in language courses (in the same language) at the Composition and Conversation (311-312) level or above, and a GPA of at least 3.0.

ANNUAL LANGUAGES TEACHER WORKSHOP

The annual World Languages Teacher Workshop will be held on **Tues. April 22**, 8am-2pm in Brennan Hall 509. Over 100 language teachers from area middle schools, high schools and universities have been invited to this event. The purpose of the workshop is to update teachers on current theory, classroom technology, and effective teaching strategies which promote real language proficiency.

Workshop coordinator, **Marie Karam**, Director of the Language Learning Center, has designed the introductory session to reveal to the participants what their particular strategies are for planning and developing speaking skills: *How to Put the "Personal" Back into Interpersonal Communication.*

FILM AND LECTURE: THE NAMIBIAN CHILDREN OF EAST GERMANY

Guest lecturer Victoria Rizo Lenchyn (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) will speak on the topic of "Remembering Socialist Internationalism, National Liberation Movements, and Colonialism in the Former East Germany and Namibia," on **Thursday, April 10**, at 4:30 in Pearn Auditorium. Her lecture will be followed by a rare public screening of the film *Return to a Foreign Country*, one of a number of documentary films about nearly 500 Namibian children raised in East Germany at the behest of the SWAPO leadership. The children were intended to return to Africa as adults and contribute to the educated, internationally experienced socialist leadership of the country. When East Germany ceased to exist in 1990, they were summarily returned to their country of birth under much-changed political circumstances.

(More info. page 3)

COMING OF AGE IN LATIN AMERICA AND MEMORIES OF W.W. II IN ITALY



LAS FILM FESTIVAL

- AFTER LUCIA
- THE FISH CHILD
- LA YUMA

ITALIAN FILM SERIES

- ROME, OPEN CITY
- THE NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING STARS
- EL ALAMEIN - THE LINE OF FIRE

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
(MORE INFO. IN PAGE 3)



El Alamein - The Line of Fire, on the left, and *La Yuma*, two of the movies shown this semester.

LAS Film Festival

The Latin American Studies Film Festival is centered this semester in the transition from childhood to adulthood in the Hispanic countries. The festival began February 11 with **Después de Lucía** (México, 2012), a film about the relationship between Roberto and his 17 year old daughter, Alejandra. Roberto is depressed after his wife's death in a road accident and decides to leave Puerto Vallarta and live in Mexico City. Alejandra tries to help him, but a difficult situation arises at the new school: she is a victim of bullying by her new classmates. She decides "to take her mother's place and does not say anything about her situation, so as to protect her father." (Wikipedia) March 25 will be the date for the screening of **El niño pez** (Argentina, 2011), a desperate love story between two young girls of extremely different social backgrounds who, unable to find a place for their love, are pushed to commit a crime. (IMDb) **La Yuma** (Nicaragua/México, 2009), will close the festival April 12. This film tells the story of a young woman who dreams of transcending her bleak life in the slums of Managua by becoming a boxer. (Wikipedia)

Italian Film Series

This series looks at townspeople to gather World War II in Italian for safety inside the cathedral. Mistrusting the Germans, the film's protagonist Galvano Galvani leads part of the populace toward the American liberation forces. In **El Alamein-la linea del fuoco** (2002) the harrowing story of a priest who joins forces with Italian Partisans in the struggle against the Nazi occupation of Italy. **La notte di San Lorenzo** (1982) will be shown March 26 and 27. It is based on the massacre of townspeople inside the cathedral of a Tuscan village in retaliation for the death of a British soldier. The Nazis and their Fascist allies mine the town of San Miniato and tell the townspeople to gather for safety inside the cathedral. Mistrusting the Germans, the film's protagonist Galvano Galvani leads part of the populace toward the American liberation forces. In **El Alamein-la linea del fuoco** (2002) the harrowing story of a priest who joins forces with Italian Partisans in the struggle against the Nazi occupation of Italy. **La notte di San Lorenzo** (1982) will be shown March 26 and 27. It is based on the massacre of townspeople inside the cathedral of a Tuscan village in retaliation for the death of a British soldier. The Nazis and their Fascist allies mine the town of San Miniato and tell the townspeople to gather for safety inside the cathedral. Mistrusting the Germans, the film's protagonist Galvano Galvani leads part of the populace toward the American liberation forces.

TAIWAN, JANUARY 2-18 : DIARY OF A TRAVEL COURSE



From the left, Professor Allison Lai, and her students Mitchell Ramic, Chad Fu, Joseph Ehrenreich, and Gregory Wagner.

Introduction

During the winter intersession of 2013, a group of students from the University of Scranton took a travel course to Taiwan. The group consisted of ten students from different grade levels with different majors. The one similarity between all ten students taking the travel course was their interest in Taiwan. The travel course was led by two professors. Professor **Ann A. Pang-White** taught the Chinese Philosophy & Culture course. Professor **Allison Lai** taught the Chinese Language & Culture course. The travel course was split into two weeks and each week had a different phase. The first phase was a cultural excursion. The excursion lasted about 6 days and was a tour of the Island and Taipei. The second phase initiated the courses offered and each student took the appropriate classes they signed up for. During the first week of the travel course to Taiwan the group took a cultural excursion around the Island. The purpose of the excursion was to get a macro understanding of Taiwan through its natural features and significant temples.

The tour took five days; each day presented a new excursion. On this excursion the tour group visited SunMoon Lake, where they took a boat to explore and

view the beautiful scenery surrounding the lake. The tour included a visit to the city Kaohsiung where the group took a walk along Love River and the exciting Lio Ho Night Market. The night market was great, and gave everyone the opportunity to try traditional Taiwanese food like Blood Cakes and Stinky Tofu (smelled bad, but overall tasted good). The group visited popular stops along Taiwan's scenic east coast such as Little Yeliu, Stone Steps, and Sanxiantia. On the last day of the tour the group visited Taroko Gorge. The tour guide brought the group to two suspension bridges that



Taipei 101, the second tallest building in the world.

overlooked the gorge. After the extended tour ended, the group went back to Taipei.

Phase 2



The second phase of the travel course was held at the National Cheng Chi University (NCCU). For the philosophy course, Professor Pang-White distinguished the 3 main philosophies in

Taiwan: Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism. For Professor Lai's course the material was more hands on. Each class required the students to participate in projects that involved speaking the language in real life situations. After classes ended, the professors took the students to various locations in Taipei that related to what they learned in class. The travel course ended with the pleasurable experience of making sky lanterns and setting them off in to the night sky. Every member of the group enjoyed the Taiwan Travel Course.

Mitchell Ramic



Prof. Lai with the students who travelled to Taiwan.

SUMMER IN FLORENCE 2014



In June 2014, **Drs. Picchiatti and Caporale** will lead the Summer Study Abroad in Florence, Italy. This program offers three courses, Italian Language, Dante's Inferno and the Florence of His Times, and Italian Culture through the Image. In addition to daily classes, students have weekly lectures, and weekend trips to places as Venice.

TRAVEL COURSES IN CARTAGENA

The World Languages and Cultures, the Latin American Studies, and the Women Studies departments are offering two 3 credit courses in Cartagena, Colombia: Introduction to Caribbean Studies, and Spanish immersion class. Students may take one or both courses. For more information, contact Dr. **Sharon Meagher** (LSC 211), or Dr. **Yamile Silva** (O'Hara 307).

16TH MEXICO PROGRAM

The departments of World Languages and Cultures and Political Science ran the 16th annual Mexico intersession program from January 6 to January 26. The travel/study course, led by professor **Yamile Silva**, featured home stays with Mexican families for the four participating University of Scranton students (Daysi Carreto, Ashley Dole, Julie Dragonetti, and Santiago Parra) and courses in Spanish language and Mexican political culture at the Universidad Iberoamericana, a Jesuit institution located in the beautiful city of Puebla. The trip included a number of interesting excursions. Among these were a half-day tour of nearby Cholula that featured a climb to the top of the world famous Cholula pyramid, and weekend trips to the southwest city of Oaxaca.

IN PAST TENSE

LORDE AND THE AFRO-GERMAN MOVEMENT

The movie *Audre Lorde—The Berlin Years 1984-1992* (Dir. Dagmar Schultz, 79 min., 2012) was shown March 6 in the Pearn Auditorium. This film explores a little-known chapter in the life of poet and critic Audre Lorde, who served as a mentor to Black German women and helped to ignite the Afro-German Movement that continues to make important strides in thinking about a multicultural Europe. The event was co-sponsored by the Jane Kopas Women's Center, where **Dr. Jamie Trnka** served as faculty liaison for the month of March.

YINGYANG: THE WAY OF WAYS

On March 4, at the TDC, **Dr. Robin R. Wang**, Daum Professor of Philosophy and Director of Asian Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University, gave a talk titled "Yinyang: The Way of Ways". Dr. Wang was a cultural consultant to the 2010 film *Karate Kid*.

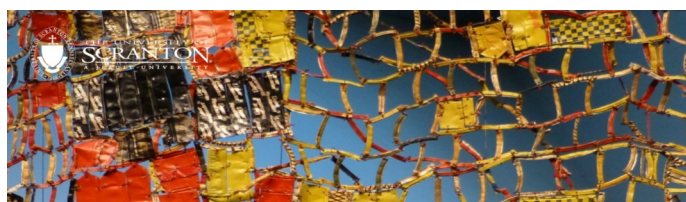
BILINGUALISM AND FICTION WRITING

Dr. Betina González, an award-winning Argentine writer and one of the most prominent literary figures in Latin America today, talked about "Bilingualism and Fiction Writing" on February 17 at the LSC. During her lecture, she referred to the art of translation, and to the influence writers like Vladimir Nabokov and Marcel Proust have had on her own literature.



SHUN LI AND THE POET

Friday March 28 is the date for those who want to see the acclaimed movie *Shun Li and the Poet*. This Italian film deals with the friendship between a Chinese woman and a fisherman in what has been called "a silent dialogue between different cultures". The screening will be at 7:30 PM, Weinberg Memorial Library 305. **Professor Allison Lai** will lead a discussion following the film.



Africa: Art, Memory, Culture

April 12, 2014

Registration begins at 9:30am
The DeNaples Center 4th floor

Featured:

- 10:00AM Clement Price, Rutgers, History
 - 11:15AM Patrick Goodin, Howard University, Philosophy
 - 1:15PM Lowery Stokes-Sims, International Curator
Museum of Art and Design, NY
 - 2:30PM Dr. Mwangi wa Githinji, University of
Massachusetts Amherst, Economics
 - 4:00PM Wine and Cheese Reception
 - 5:30PM Nego Gabo
Performing Troupe
- For more information on the symposium and to register, please visit our website: <http://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/equity-diversity/africanstudies.shtml>
Symposium Contact:
Dr. Annie Hounskou, Philosophy, Art History
570-941-2429
annie.hounskou@scranton.edu
- Sponsored by a University of Scranton Diversity Initiative Grant.

