



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

Vol. 7, No. 2. Summer and Fall 2004

Faculty Editor
Robert A. Parsons

Faculty Secretary
Joyce Knott

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Joe Wilson, Professor of Classics, gave papers during 2003-2004 at the Hawaii International Conference on A

Joyce Hanks, Professor of French and Spanish, spent more than three months in France during her Spring 2003 sabbatical continuing her work on the bibliography of Jacques Ellul (1912-1994), a French historian, political scientist, sociologist, theologian, and professor of law. Joyce has published several book-length bibliographies on Ellul and has another (probably two volumes) scheduled for publication in 2005. She has also begun a biography of Ellul, whom she knew and interviewed several times before his death. In addition, she was the editor of a 2004 journal issue dedicated to Ellul, which she also translated to English.

Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center (LLC), presented a workshop at the University of Scranton for area high school foreign language teachers in March 2003. The all day workshop featured PowerPoint presentations in the morning session on the National Standards for Teaching Foreign Languages, Lesson Planning, and Teaching and Technology. Teachers also enjoyed afternoon immersion sessions in Spanish and French taught by teaching assistants **Aracely Hernández** from Mexico and **Sebastien Moulin** from France. Due to the warm reception and positive feedback by area teachers the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department hopes to make this an annual workshop.

Marie has also been involved for the past five years in the University of Scranton's Bridges to El Salvador program.

THE AMBASSADOR

There are also opportunities for students to study in El Salvador. Interested students should go to the website [www](#)

Students interested in a summer service trip to El Salvador should contact: [CRISPAZ.org](#)

The Summer 2004 Bridges to El Salvador program took place from June 14th to the 22nd under the directorship

Virginia Picchietti, Associate Professor of Italian, recently published Relational Spaces: Daughterhood, Motherhood, and Sisterhood in Dacia Maraini's Writings and Films. Virginia had a full year sabbatical in 2003-2004 to work on a second book on Italian cinema. She spent the Spring 2004 semester at the Scuola Nazionale del Cinema in Rome.

Habib Zanzana, Associate Professor of Spanish and French, had a sabbatical for Spring 2004 to work on a poetic version of Cervantes's Don Quijote de la Mancha for use in the foreign language classroom. In April Prof. Zanzana presented his lyrical rendition of the chapter in which Don Quijote fights windmills to a group of students and faculty of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. He also showed short film clips comparing versions of the famous windmill episode by world renowned film producers.

After attending a National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar on Caribbean Theatre and Performance in Summer 2003 at the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Río Piedras, **Linda Ledford-Miller**, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, returned to assume the duties of Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for the 2003-2004 academic year, the first of a three-year term.

Bob Parsons, Professor of Spanish, stepped down as department Chairperson after 14 years in that position at the beginning of the Fall 2003 semester. He continues as a full-time faculty member. In Fall 2004 Prof. Parsons is offering a service learning course for third and fourth year Spanish students. The content of the course focuses on the Hispanic immigrant experience. The service component will link students to the growing Hispanic community in the Scranton area through local service providing agencies.

Marella Feltrin-Morris, who replaced Virginia Picchietti on her full year sabbatical, will be returning to Binghamton University to complete her doctoral studies. Prof. Feltrin-Morris did an outstanding job this past year at the University and both Department faculty members and students thank her and wish her all the best in the future. Here are her reflections on the past year and words of farewell:

"I have just reached the end of my teaching appointment at the University of Scranton. I was hired last Fall to replace as by university administrators and members of the community. I hope that I was able to convey the enthusiasm I feel for proud to have taught at the University of Scranton this past year and I will always cherish the many memories."

We are sad to report that **Njegor Petrovic**, Professor of Comparative Literature and French, passed away on

THE AMBASSADOR

July 8, 2004, after a courageous battle with cancer. Prof. Petrovic was a member of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures since 1967. He published numerous essays, poems and short stories in Serbian, French and English. He was also the founder and chairman of the University of Scranton Concert and Theater Series from 1968 through 1992, and he was active in many other local and regional organizations that promote the arts. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hellenic Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 505 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

DEPARTMENT NEWS, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The department has completed three years in its new quarters in O'Hara Hall and we all now feel very much at home here. Everyone is happy with the spacious offices in O'Hara and the department's four classrooms in Hyland. Three of the classrooms are fully mediated. The new Language Learning Center, double the size of the old one in St. Thomas Hall, continues to be the center of departmental student activities.

The department held a formal dedication ceremony and luncheon for the **Frank A. Cimini Seminar Room and Library**, Room 304 O'Hara, on September 15, 2004. Prof. Emeritus Cimini, his son, Prof. Joseph Cimini of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Foreign Languages and Literatures department members, and CAS Dean Joseph Dreisbach, were in attendance. Professor Emeritus Cimini was presented with a certificate in recognition of his 54 years of active service to the department and the University of Scranton. Prof. Cimini also has the distinction of having attended 64 consecutive graduation ceremonies. The **Cimini Seminar Room and Library** is frequently used for meetings and small classes.

The weekly Kaffeeklatsch German conversation group, organized by **Tom Kamla**, Professor of German, will continue in 2004-2005. The Kaffeeklatsch meets on Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Wolves' Den.

The department began a new tradition in 2003-2004 of hosting a social each semester in the LLC. The fall social was for faculty, majors, double majors and minors. The spring social was for departing TAs, LLC student assistants, and graduating majors and double majors. Both events provided students and faculty members a nice opportunity to become better acquainted outside the classroom setting and were both great successes.

Denis Zuvic, Director of Employment Opportunity and Training Center (EPTC Family Matters) in Scranton and Adjunct Professor of Spanish, has continued her innovative **AMIGOS** program into its third year in 2004-2005. **AMIGOS** links University students with High School ESL students and recent immigrants to the US for a variety of fun activities. It is an excellent volunteer activity for students, particularly for students of Spanish and Portuguese. Denise hosted a dinner and awards ceremony under University of Scranton sponsorship for all **AMIGOS** students, student volunteers and other participants on Thursday, May 13, 2004.

The Department held its eighth annual "**Immersion Day**" for regional High School students on Wednesday, March 31, 2004. This activity, organized by **Prof. 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 72 High School students participated in a variety of activities.

The annual **Alpha Mu Gamma**, Foreign Languages Honors Society initiation ceremony and dinner was held on Tuesday, May 4th in the 1888 Room of the Estate. Richard Bourcier, Prof. Emeritus of French, organized the ceremony and dinner. The following students were inducted:

THE AMBASSADOR

Full Membership May 2004

Cristina M. Alonso, Spanish; Leandra E. Barbuti, Spanish; Megan M. Cunningham, Spanish;

Laura C. Daniels, Spanish; Jessica L. DeVito, French; Sara E. Gausz, Spanish;

Daniel J. Golasa, Spanish; Rosa A. Manganaro, Spanish; Theresa A. Martin, Spanish;

Meredith A. McWilliams, Latin/Greek; David C. Nihen, Spanish; Christina A. Parlapiano,

Spanish; Laura T. Principio, Spanish; Kathryn G. Stroh, French; Kathleen Spring, French

Associate Membership

Himedes V. Chicas, Spanish; Lauren M. Gobbo, Spanish; Susan E. Reeve, Spanish;

John F. Reutemann III, French; Luisana M. Ventura, Spanish

NEW FACES

Welcome aboard!! The Department extends a hearty welcome to the three new Foreign Language TAs (here for one year under the sponsorship of the Institute of International Education, a division of the UN in New York) for 2004-2005. These are: 1) **French, Ms. (Anaïs) Eglantine Hauser**, from France; 2) **Spanish, Ms. Silvana Losno**, our first TA from Argentina; and for the first time ever, we have a new TA in 3) **Arabic, Mr. Abdelilah Mahtat**, from Morocco.

FAMILIAR FACES

GAs 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 two GA lines, one in Spanish and one in Japanese. The Spanish position is currently held by TA and GA veteran **Maggie Martínez**, who is working on her second Masters degree, in Education (her first is in Counseling). The Japanese line is occupied by **Rie Kubo**, now a second year graduate student in the Reading program in the Education department.

Aracely Hernández of Oaxaca México has completed her year as a TA in the Department. These were to have been her departing words:

"The experience as a Spanish Teaching Assistant at the University of Scranton has expanded the outlook of my future through this academic and professional exchange. It has developed that inner strength and confidence that is needed to succeed as a teacher. The year has come to an end, and now it is time to go back home and share with others the knowledge acquired during this academic year. It is also time to thank all the professors of the Foreign Language Department for their guidance and support that made of this experience a worthwhile one. Thank you!"

However, Aracely is back! She accepted a half-time Graduate Assistantship in the Education Department and has begun work on a Masters degree in Education. She also teaches a Spanish course for us.

THE AMBASSADOR

Sebastien Moulin, France, has also completed his year as the French language TA at the University of Scranton. Here are Seb's thoughts:

"Ironically, I came here to teach but I probably learned as much if not more than my students did. I learned a lot about others, other cultures and especially about myself. By coming to the US for a year, I probably made the best decision of my life. During this year as a teaching assistant at the University of Scranton, I met marvelous people, made great friends, visited fantastic places and lived incredible experiences. My first time in New York, I felt like a kid discovering a toy store. It is a feeling I will never forget.

However, the experience would not have been that perfect if it was not for the people I met and who took care of me from the first day to the last. I will never be grateful enough to the teachers and the staff of the Foreign Languages department for their help and support throughout this year.

Merci infiniment pour tout!!"

And congratulations to **Marta Peinado Martín**, part-time teacher of Spanish and graduate student in Counseling. Marta finished her Masters degree in Summer 2004 and returned to her home in Seville, Spain. She is now back in the Scranton area working at Allied Services.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Emilie Dejonckheere, the 2000-2001 French language TA, is now working on her PhD in French at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Juan Pablo Gil, who replaced Prof. Ledford-Miller during her Fulbright year in Mozambique in 2001-2002, has completed his first year of graduate work toward his PhD in Spanish literature at the University of Chicago this spring. His spouse, **Kim Borchert**, who taught part-time here during 2001-2002, began work on her PhD studies in Spanish literature at the University of Chicago in January of this year.

Virginie Le Francois, French language TA for 2002-2003, was accepted into the graduate program in French at West Virginia University with a graduate assistantship that provided full tuition remission and a stipend to cover living expenses. However, Virginie had to turn down that Assistantship offer due to concerns about her father's health. She is currently in the process of completing her MA thesis about the extreme right in Great Britain, and has applied for a DEA degree in English in Paris for next year.

Lucrecia Aoki (formerly Lucrecia Cuautli-López, known to all of us as "Luki"), TA and GA from Puebla, Mexico, at the University from 1992 through 1998, is now living in Saitama-Ken, Japan with her husband Hiroyuki (also a former UofS graduate student, known here as "Hiro") and their two children, Kazuki Daniel, born January 2001, and Misaki Sophia born September 2003.

Catalina Méndez Vallejo, the Spanish TA for 2002-2003, has begun her second year of graduate studies in Linguistics at the Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Catalina teaches Spanish at IU on a full graduate assistantship.

Claudia Muñoz, the Spanish language TA in 2000-2001, received her MA in Spanish at Syracuse University in 2003. She taught Spanish as an Adjunct Professor at Syracuse in 2003-2004 and returns to her home in

THE AMBASSADOR

Puebla, Mexico in summer 2004.

María Salceda, our Spanish language TA in 1996-1997, finished her MA at Syracuse University this year, spring 2004. She hopes to find a teaching position in the US for 2004-2005 and plans to continue for her PhD in Spanish after that.

FACULTY LED STUDY ABOARD PROGRAMS

Although plagued by serious health problems, **Njegos Petrovic**, Professor of French, again led a visit to Greece during the Spring Semester break from Saturday March 13 to Sunday March 21, 2004, along with Prof. **John Kallianiotis** from the Kania School of Management. Fifteen students, as well as several faculty members and other members of the Scranton community participated in the trip. Prof. **Joe Wilson** expects to continue the trip to Greece for the next several years.

Bob Parsons conducted the Seventh Annual January Intersession Study/Travel Tour to Guadalajara Mexico in January, 2004 with Prof. **Bob Kocis** of the Political Science department. The Guadalajara Study/Travel Tour is a three week trip in which students live with Mexican families and take courses at the Universidad del Valle de Atemajac (UNIVA). The highlight of the trip is a weekend tour of Mexico City which includes excursion to the Chapultepec palace, the famous Anthropological Museum, and the pyramids of Teotihuacán. Eighteen students participated in the 2004 trip. Two of them, **Kelly Marek** and **Vanessa González**, did service learning projects in Guadalajara at the Los Pinos orphanage, an option that will also be available to students during the Eighth Annual trip in January 2005. Prof. **Ledford-Miller** will replace Prof. Kocis, currently on leave from the University, for the 2005 trip.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Elliott Gougeon (German, 2003) spent the 2003-2004 academic year as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in the city of Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he taught English in a German High School. In Fall 2004 Elliott will begin work toward his PhD in German at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, one of the nation's best programs in Germanic studies.

Jasmin Rivera (ILB/Spanish, 2003), the former student supervisor of the Language Learning Center, is now working as a Bilingual Executive Assistant to the Vice President of the International Council of Shopping Centers. Jasmin's new job requires frequent travel within the United States and to Latin American countries.

Leslie Angleró (Spanish, 2004) has been accepted into the highly competitive New York Teaching Fellows program and is now teaching Spanish in the Bronx.

Clare Strockbine (Spanish, 2004) will be working as a volunteer through the Rostro de Cristo program at the N

Kisha Culver (German, 2003) is now an Air Force Second Lieutenant. She is currently stationed at Panama City, Panama.

Kelly Marek (ILB/Spanish, 2004) has deferred her enrollment in Law School for a couple of years, and is now living in Brooklyn Heights, NY, next Manhattan, and working at the commercial real estate firm Forest City Ratner Companies.

Carlos Garrido (ILB/Spanish, 2003) recently accepted a new position in the loan department of the German

THE AMBASSADOR

bank WestLB. Carlos reports that his foreign language skills, particularly his Portuguese, were very important in securing the job for him. Carlos had previously been employed at a mortgage company in Queens and the Bronx.

Ana Lorena Bounds (Spanish, 2003) will be teaching Spanish in grades nine through twelve at Pascack Valley High School beginning in September. She is enrolled in a special program called "Alternate Route" which allows her to teach and work on her teaching certification at the same time.

Stephanie Longo (Italian/French, 2003) has left Rutgers University and will pursue a MA in History at the University of Scranton.

Kristy Petty (IB/Spanish, 2002) has returned to Scranton from her Fulbright to Argentina. She is now working on her MBA in the KSOM at the University of Scranton.

Sarah Martin (Spanish, 2003) was the bilingual assistant for the Portuguese School at the Middlebury College 2004 summer immersion program. She is now at the University of Georgia working on her Masters degree in Romance Languages with a Teaching Assistantship (tuition remission and stipend) in Portuguese.

Ben Ford (Management/Spanish, 2003) and **Erin Ewald** (IB/Spanish, 2003) spent the entire 2003-2004 academic year at the Foro Europeo in Pamplona, Spain working toward their MBAs.

Marisa Wilhelm (ILB French, 1998) has been teaching French in a Middle School in Mountain Lakes, NJ for the last three years and plans to begin working toward her MA soon.

Rebecca Petrini (IB/Spanish, 2001) completed her first year as a graduate assistant in Latin American Studies at American University.

Deirdre Lynn (Biology/Spanish, 2003) completed her first year of professional studies at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Danilo Ramirez (Spanish/Communications, 2001) is currently a Spanish teacher for the district of Paramus, NJ. He teaches Spanish full time to 3rd, 4th and 8th graders. He is also working on his Master's in Education, with a principal/ supervisory track. He plans to visit Spain in late August 2004, before the new school year begins.

Nadege Tabuteau (ILB French, 1998) is currently teaching special education in New York City and plans to get her MA soon.

Tim Rudis (Spanish, 2000) is teaching Spanish in Dover Delaware at Caesar Rodney High School, his alma mater.

Dee-Ann Martell (Spanish/Communication, 2001; MA Education, 02), is teaching social studies and Spanish full-time to 5th through 8th graders at St. Joseph's Yorkville in Manhattan, NY.

Eric Mosblech (German/Spanish, 2002) is now working in a Swiss owned cafe in San José, Costa Rica and using his Spanish and German on a daily basis.

Lucy Iuzzolino (Spanish, 2003) is teaching Spanish and Italian to tenth and eleventh graders at Albertus

THE AMBASSADOR

Magnus High School in Bardonia, NY. She will begin taking classes toward her Masters degree at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Fall 2004.

Jill Williams(ILB Spanish, 2003) is working for H&R Block and teaching Spanish part-time to 3rd and 4th graders. She is planning to apply to law school. And congratulations are due! Jill got engaged to her Chilean *novio* during a visit to Chile last summer.

Deborah Corson (Physical Therapy/Spanish, 1997) has been traveling to Mexico to do volunteer work in Physical Therapy every year since her participation in the first annual Guadalajara Mexico trip. Last fall she decided to change careers and is now in her second year of Medical School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Rene Sherman (Spanish, 2003) is working at the OMNI Placement Agency in downtown Scranton where she uses both her Spanish and her Portuguese on a daily basis.

Celeste Gregory (International Studies/French, 2001) has been working for the past year as the Africa Regional Assistant, Bureau for Global Health, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, DC.

Adriane Franco (Communications/Spanish, 2001) is working as a special education classroom teacher for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances in a Bronx public school for children with special needs.

Chris Geradritis (Classics, 02) has completed his second year of PhD work at SUNY Buffalo.

Nick Lazar (Spanish, 01) completed his MA in Spanish language and culture at Syracuse University in May 2003 and taught Spanish at Jim Thorpe High School in 2003-2004, where he is teaching again this year.

John Ottey (Classics, 00) is continuing his doctoral work in Classics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Christopher Warren (Spanish, 99, Fulbright to Guatemala, 99-00) completed his second year with Teach for America in Houston, Texas, where he has also begun work toward a Master's degree in Education.

Jennifer Kelly (International Studies/Spanish, 93) has begun work in the Executive MBA program at the University of Chicago. Jennifer and her husband Daniel, who is now enrolled at the Cooking and Hospitality School of Chicago (CHIC), lived for many years in Daniel's native Brazil and travel frequently to many countries.

Geraldine Mulcahy (International Studies/Spanish, 2003) is now in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Nepal. Geraldine was the 2003 winner of the University's Alumni Service Award.

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@cranton.edu or Habib Zanzana at zanzanahl@scranton.edu.

Our students abroad

2003-2004

THE AMBASSADOR

George Griffin, Die Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität, Bonn, Germany. Full academic year.

Maya Fridman, Universidad de Barcelona, Spain. Full academic year.

Tracy Granozio, Universidad de Valencia, Spain. Fall semester.

Laurie Horne, Alma College program in Marbella, Spain. Summer 2003.

Thomas Lavelle, Universidad de Salamanca, Spain. Full academic year.

Peter Secola, St. Louis University, Madrid, Spain. Spring 2004.

Liz Connolly, St. Louis University, Madrid, Spain. Spring 2004.

Laura Hagan, University of Granada, Spain. Spring 2004.

David Nihen, Escuela de Negocios, Foro Europeo, Pamplona, Spain. Spring 2004.

2004-2005

Sharon Secola, Fundación José Ortega y Gasset, Toledo, Spain. Summer 2004.

Julie Custer, Equatorial Guinea, Africa. Fall 2004. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, Spring 2005.

Yashira Gómez, Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Full academic year.

Jonathan Kuhar, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Full academic year.

Cynthia Olsheski, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fall 2004.

Kathleen Spring, University of Strasbourg, France. Full academic year.

Kate Stroh, Université Catholique Lille, France. Full academic year.

Luisana Ventura, Universidad de Granada, Spain. Full academic year.

Angela Buren, Montclair State University in Siena, Italy. Summer 2004.

Nick Costanzo, Florence, Italy. Fall 2004.

Alison Trapani, St. Petersburg State, Russia. Summer and Fall 2004.