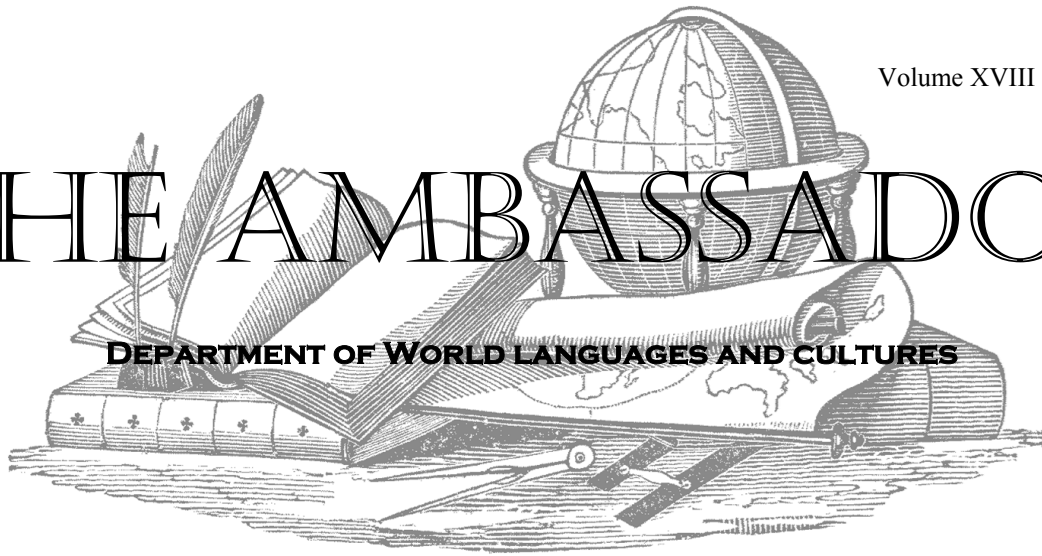


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



"The beautiful
spring came; and
when Nature
resumes her
loveliness, the
human soul is apt
to revive also."

-Harriet Ann Jacobs

Butterflies, flowers, more sunshine: yes, that's the spring we long for after dark, cold winter nights. We can appreciate Harriet Jacobs' remark, but let's take a moment to appreciate her. Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897) escaped from slavery by hiding out for seven years in a garret so small she barely had room to move. In 1842 she stowed away on a boat heading for Philadelphia. Unlike many slaves, Harriet was literate. In 1861 she published her autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*, under the

pseudonym Linda Brent. Even in that Harriet was unusual, as most slave narratives were written by men. She only became truly free when a friend arranged her purchase. She worked to help other freed slaves and supported abolition. Despite her hardships, she celebrated the beauty and hope of the world, and took a stand. She used her talents for good. What will you do with the gifts you've been given?

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This newsletter can be read in color at the Department of World Languages and Cultures website:
<http://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/world-languages/newsletter.shtml>

Dr. Ledford-Miller gave two presentations: "Perhaps not so cozy? Louise Penny's Gamache series," at the Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA, November 5-7, 2015 and "Chaos and Comedy in Karla Suárez's 'Joni Mitchell estaba cantando Blue,'" at the *XVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica* (Mérida, México, March 9-11, 2016).



Santa María Tonantzintla was constructed in the 17th century as a church for the local indigenous people. As was typical in Mexico, the local people incorporated many of their own beliefs into their religious symbols. This fusion produces a style which some refer to as "indigenous baroque".

In January she led a small group of students on the 18th (almost annual) intersession faculty-led study abroad in Puebla, Mexico. Students stayed with families while attending classes at our sister Jesuit University, Iberoamericana-Puebla. The three week program included weekend visits to Oaxaca and Mexico City, a guided tour of the wonderful Museo de Amparo in the historic center of Puebla, an exciting evening of *lucha libre* (a theatrical Mexican version of wrestling) and an afternoon tour of major sites in Cholula followed by a fabulous pizza dinner at La Berenjena.



Dr. Virginia Picchietti's article, "'Subito, tutti mi guardarono con disprezzo': The Child's Experience under Italian Racial Law in Frediano Sessi's *Ultima fermata Auschwitz*. Storia di un ragazzo ebreo durante il fascismo," was published in the special issue of *NeMLA Italian Studies* entitled, *The Jewish Experience in Contemporary Italy*.



From the left Dr. Marzia Caporale, Dr. Virginia Picchetti, Fred Kuwornu, Dr. Habib Zazana, and Maria Englot.

On February 29th 2016, Dr. Caporale hosted a special screening of the Italian Documentary 18 IUS SOLI by African-Italian director Fred Kuwornu who attended the event and engaged the audience in a thought provoking conversation after the projection. Mr. Kuwornu is an activist-producer-writer-director was born and raised in Italy of an Italian Jewish mother and an African (Ghanan) father. After working on television and on several award winning documentary projects, in 2012 Mr. Kuwornu released 18 IUS SOLI which examines multiculturalism in Italy but also specifically looks at questions of citizenship for the one million children of immigrants who were born in Italy, raised in the country, but who are not yet Italian citizens. Approximately 50 people (students and members of the community) attended the film and ensuing discussion which addressed topics such as rights for new generations of migrants on Italian soil, tolerance, diversity, and cultural identity within Italian society today.



Dr. Jamie H. Trnka was invited to present her on-going research on literatures of exile and migration at an upcoming workshop on cultural belonging and displacement, to be held this April at Binghamton University. The national workshop will address issues of citizenship, language (especially the idea of the native speaker), and historical perspectives on Germany's role as a place of refuge and a place of persecution.

This summer, she will participate in the first International Symposium of the Modern Language Association, "Other Europes: Migrations, Translations, Transformations," hosted by the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Dr. Yamile Silva was invited to be a visiting professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana, the Jesuit University in Puebla, Mexico where she taught a graduate seminar on Hispanic Women Writers of the Nineteenth Century during the spring semester. While in Puebla, she has been conducting research at the *Biblioteca Palafoxiana*, the oldest public library in the Americas. There, she has located more manuscripts related to her project of uncovering documents relating to the discovery of the Amazon River. In addition to this research, Dr. Silva is co-

editing, with Dr. Daniel Torres (Ohio University), a two-volume publication entitled "Raza, género y diáspora en el Caribe" (Race, gender and diaspora in the Caribbean). The first volume will be published by *Cuadrivium: Revista de la Universidad de Puerto Rico* in Fall 2016, and the second volume by *Revista del Instituto de Cultura Puerriqueña* in Spring 2017. Her interview with the writer Mayra Santos Febres will be published in the Special Issue of the Academic journal *Letras Femeninas* on May 2016. She will be presenting her paper, "Representaciones textuales en la petición de Ana de Nabarrete (1621)," at the *XIX Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas* (AIH) in Munich, Germany this summer.



The Department of World Languages and Cultures gathered on March 16 for a surprise retirement party for Marie Karam. Marie has served as an integral part of this department, the University, and the surrounding community. Marie is a light in the lives of so many and will be missed greatly.



TA TALK AND WORLD LANGUAGES TEACHER WORKSHOP

The Fulbright Scholars/ TAs presently teaching in the Department of World Languages and Cultures were featured recently at two annual events.

At the 10th annual TA TALK, Tuesday, March 1, Pia Pallero (Argentina), Marwa Gaafer (Egypt), Céline Langlard (France), Janina Schmidt (Germany), and Chie Fujikake (Japan) entertained over 100 students, staff, professors, and invited community guests with their uniquely personal presentations on what is so special about their countries and their home towns. These talks, made possible by a University of Scranton Diversity Initiatives Grant, create an opportunity for awareness and appreciation of other cultures. The TAs have received numerous invitations to present these talks to other groups on campus, area schools, and community groups and will accommodate as many as invitations as possible!



On Thursday, March 10, at the 12th annual World Languages Teacher Workshop, the TAs presented how their approach to teaching world languages enables them to share so much of their culture on a daily basis with their students at the University of Scranton. The workshop “Integrating Culture & Conversation in Every Class: Easy as 1,2,3!”, was attended by over 50 area high school and middle school teachers from 25 different school districts. The workshop also featured TECH TALK by two area high school teachers, Carol Tetrault, German teacher from Pocono Mountain East HS, and Jamie Brown, Spanish teacher from Honesdale High School. Two of the TAs, Pia Pallero and Janina Schmidt, also presented this topic at the national Fulbright Scholars workshop in Washington, D.C. last December. Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center, served as methods instructor to the TAs and organized both events.

STUDENTS PRESENT SPANISH WORKSHOP



From left to right, Emily Di Martino, GA Language Learning Center, Danielle Roamer, GA Language Learning Center and John Benalcazar, junior pre-med Neuroscience and Philosophy major.

Roamer, Benalcazar and Di Martino held a Spanish Workshop on March 15th for Occupational Therapy Students at the University of Scranton. Roamer and Di Martino are both Graduate Occupational Therapy students and Graduate Assistants in the Language Learning Center. Benalcazar, who is fluent in Spanish, helped Roamer and Di Martino translate an assessment into Spanish that was taught to the students. The workshop helped students develop their skills to address the needs of Spanish speaking clients in the future.



John Mikelo from the Democratic Republic of Congo is a new ESL student in the LLC working with Carlos Osorios-Rios and French TA Céline Langlard.

EAST GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ART AND ARTISTS

The East German Film Festival at the University of Scranton, now in its ninth year, is scheduled for March 29, 30, and 31. The festival is free and open to the public. All screenings begin at 7:30 pm and take place in Brennan Hall's Pearn Auditorium (BRN 228). This year's festival will feature remarks on both the films and the artists whose lives and work they portray.

Art and artists held a special place in (East) German cultural politics. The many films made about the visual arts in particular show the lively engagement of film makers with other visual media, including painting and sculpture. We are pleased to be able to share films only recently available to an English-speaking audience.

As we approach the ten-year mark, our annual German Film Festival continues to draw substantial audiences from Scranton and surrounding communities, with over fifty participants last year alone. We are pleased to continue providing the community with high-quality film programs and lively discussions. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the state-run East German film studio DEFA's founding.

FILM SYNOPSES: *Käthe Kollwitz: Images of a Life* (Dir. Ralf Kirsten, GDR, 1987, 95 min., color, English subtitles) -Käthe



Kollwitz (1867-1945) was 47 years old and a well-established artist in Germany and abroad, when Peter, her youngest son, volunteered to fight in WWI and was killed. This painful tragedy changed Kollwitz's life and art forever. This film fits parts of Kollwitz's unpublished letters and diaries together in a mosaic-like self-portrait.

Kollwitz was and remains one of the best loved German artists of all time, known for her sculpture, painting, and printmaking, and for her social engagement. Kirsten's moving account of her life shows how her profound personal grief shaped her art.



The Lost Angel (Dir. Ralf Kirsten, GDR, 1966/71, 58 min., b/w, English subtitles) — First banned and later released, this expressionistic film, based on a novel by Franz Fühmann, imagines German artist Ernst Barlach's response to the news that Nazis have dragged his famous 1927 sculpture *The Hovering Angel* out of the Güstrow Cathedral.

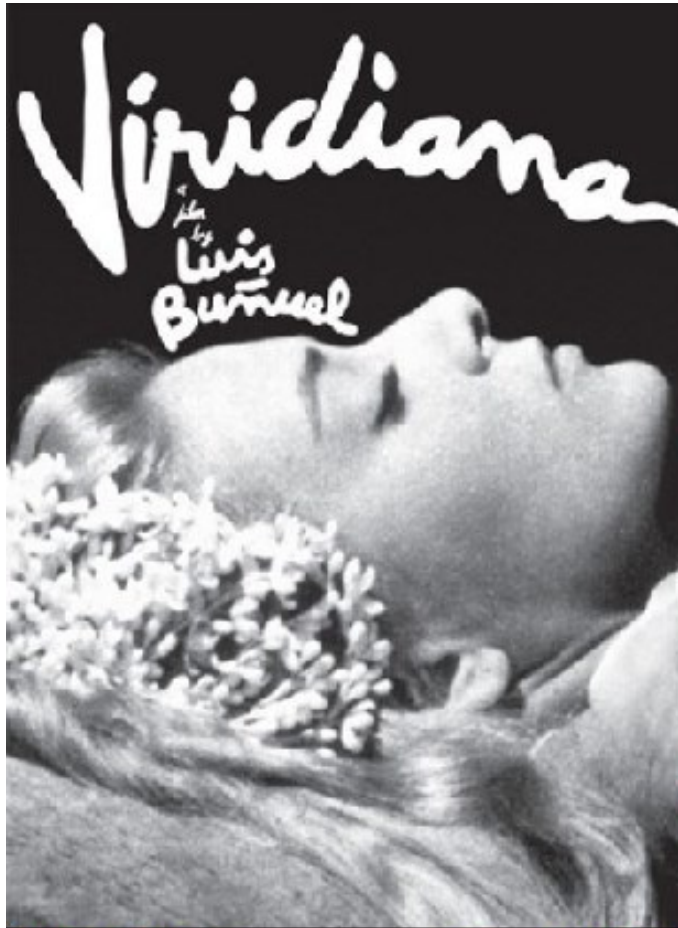


Five Days—Five Nights (Dir. Lew Amschtam, Heinz Thiel, Anatoli Golowanow, GDR/USSR, 1961, 107 min., color, English subtitles)—May 8, 1945 in Dresden. The painter Paul Naumann aids Soviet soldiers tasked with recovering works of art hidden by the Nazis. He draws strength from the political convictions of the girlfriend he mistakenly believed to have died in a concentration camp. Together with German internationalists and antifascists, they locate and restore the city's valuable treasures.

People familiar with the recent Hollywood film *The Monuments Men* (Dir. George Clooney, 2014) may be interested to learn about similar military initiatives to recover art undertaken by the Soviet Union. The East German-Soviet co-production *Five Days—Five Nights*, with an original score by Shostakovitch, set out to tell their story already in 1961.

The festival is co-sponsored by The Department of World Languages and Cultures, The Art History Program, and the Hope Horn Gallery at The University of Scranton. For more information, please contact Jamie Trnka: jamie.trnka@scranton.edu

SPANISH FILM SERIES



Time: 7 p.m. **Spanish Film Series 2016** **Place: O'Hara 307**

In Your Face: Daring Cinema from Spain

- Monday February 29—*Viridiana* (Luis Buñuel, 1961)
- Monday April 4—*Pepi, Luci, Bom y otras chicas del montón* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1980)
- Monday May 2—*El día de la bestia* (Álex de la Iglesia, 1998)



ITALIAN FILM SERIES

18 Ius Soli

A documentary by Italian-Ghanese director Fred Kuwornu, featuring the stories of 18 young people born and raised in Italy whose parents are originally from African, Asian, and Latin American countries. (2012)

Monday, February 29, 7:00pm, Brennan 228. The director will lead a discussion following the film. Free admission.



Terraferma

An Italian fisherman and his family become caught between the law of the land and the law of the sea when he helps a group of illegal immigrants stranded on an overburdened raft. Directed by Emanuele Crialese (2013). With English subtitles.

O'Hara 307. March 30 and 31, 7:00pm.

Nuovomondo (Golden Door)

The story of Sicilian immigrants to New York at the beginning of the 20th Century. They face a challenging journey to what they think is the land of milk and honey.

Directed by Emanuele Crialese (2006). With English subtitles.

O'Hara 307. April 27 and 28, 7:00pm



Latin American Film Festival

Spring 2016

Migrants' Stories



The Sleep-Dealer
USA/México, 2008

Wednesday, February 24

“The place: Mexico. The time: The near future. Memo Cruz finds himself in a terrifyingly bizarre world of border walls, shanty towns, high-tech factories, remote control drones, and aqua-terrorists: a world of tomorrow that will soon be today!”



The Golden Dream
México, 2013

Tuesday, March 15

“Three teenagers jump 'The Beast' - the infamous train that [migrants] board to take them from Guatemala, through Mexico, to the American border. The journey to a better life is fraught with danger.”



La Batalla de los Invisibles
México, 2010

Wednesday, April 20

Documentary that addresses how undocumented workers fought a court battle against large super market and store chains in order to recover wages owed to them.

BRENNAN 228

7:00 PM

AN EXPERIENCE ABROAD

To capture my experience abroad in Rennes, France through a small article would be far too challenging of a task. It would leave me no choice but to exclude the six-hour-Friday-night dinners with my host family, the vibrant market on Saturday mornings, my excursions to Pont Aven and historic beaches of Normandie, and all the valuable exchanges I had with others through these experiences. I couldn't bear to leave them out. Therefore, I would like to focus in on the most touching, most satisfying, and most culturally enriching experience I had abroad. As most good things come to be, it began with a novel.

Weekends in St. Jacques de la Lande, the area where my host family lives, were spent lazily. We would wake up late, butter some toast, brew an espresso, and spend the rest of day lounging. During my first weekend home, I noticed that my host mom, Cécile, spent her rest days and evenings with a thick novel in her hand. Come Monday evening, I saw

that she had moved on to another novel. I was impressed at the rate that Cécile could finish these large books and I inquired about the one she had just finished. She told me that *La Vérité sur L'Affaire Harry Quebert* by Joël Dicker, was a very good, leisurely read and that it lived up to the popularity it was receiving in Europe. In observing her enthusiasm in that moment, I realized talking books with Cécile would be the best way to connect with her. I politely asked if I could borrow it and discuss it with her as I went along to see if I understood it. With a smile of both surprise and appreciation, she handed me over the 800-page murder mystery.

Luckily, my passion for the French language had pushed me to read many novels on my own, so when the time came to brave this dense novel and its unique narration style, I was ready. What took Cécile a weekend to read, took me a two weeks to finish. My goal was to read at least 50 pages a night so I would have something to discuss with Cécile either during breakfast or dinner. The novel told the story of a famous author who, in order to defend the honor of his mentor, a man seemingly framed for a murder committed 15 years prior, had to write a second book. It touched upon themes of love, fame, and obsession, all of which Cécile and I discussed thoroughly every morning and evening until I had completed the novel.

I consider this the most touching experience I had abroad because I learned what Cécile thought of various forms of human relationships. She opened up to me about this topic far beyond the characters in the novel, many times sharing personal experiences she had with friends, lovers, and family. It is the most satisfying because it is a testament of my linguistic ability. I was able to comprehend a well-developed text and discuss its complexities with a native speaker. Finally, it is the most culturally enriching because Cécile and I were able to compare our thoughts on the interactions and the events of the novel. We often had different perspectives because of our cultural background and we discussed these differences too.

Although there are numerous, more adventurous experiences I could've written about, this exchange with my host mom will remain my favorite. The venture turned out to be the basis of our relationship as we discovered that we both had an appreciation for literature. To me, it encompassed the true spirit of a study abroad experience: it is not about the number of countries you travel to, but the extent of your connection with those you've traveled to and or with.

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