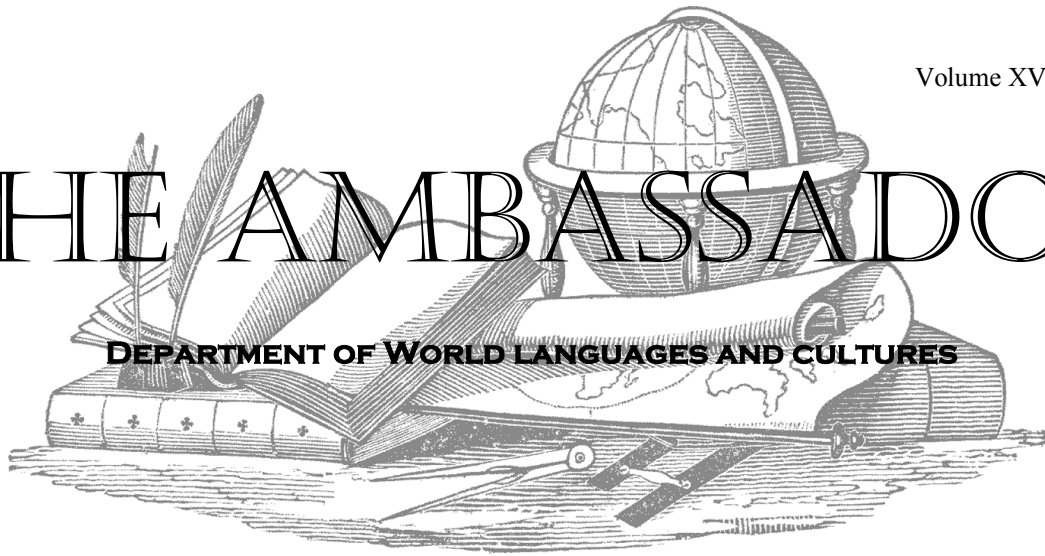


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



NOTES FROM ABROAD

THE “GABBERNET”

I used to have trouble finding information and solving practical problems here in Spain. Good old-fashioned resources like the Internet and phone books just didn't seem to help. Things looked bleak until I stumbled across what I call the *Gabbernet*. No, not Internet. I said “Gabbernet”, a system based on word of mouth transmission of information that the US hasn't known for decades, if not longer. I first got wind of this archaic yet surprisingly effective resource when I learned I needed a bus pass. After searching the information posted at bus stops, calling phone numbers where no one ever answered, searching the web and phone books, I finally asked an acquaintance. She immediately responded, “Mujer, en el kiosco de siempre...” A kiosco? Could I have found this information in any phone book? No. Only those connected to the *Gabbernet* --that seemingly fathomless pit of Spanish collective memory - - could know. Nowadays, I skip all written sources of information in Spain and go straight to the community gossip chain for solutions to my problems. The pooled knowledge and connections of the neighborhood shopkeepers runs circles around the World Wide Web. Who knows? Maybe the butcher's daughter's boyfriend's uncle's cousin who works at the hardware store is just the link I need. Okay, so it doesn't sound as modern as the Information Superhighway. In fact, I would say it's more like a donkey cart on a dirt road, but in Spain it works. The only downside is that you can't log off. Everywhere you go there's another helpful gabber longing to assist you with everything from the purchase of a home to the removal of bunions. How Spaniards love to give advice! Oh yeah, yesterday I found out that there have been some changes in Spanish tax law that might affect me. I guess I could try to look up Hacienda (the Spanish IRS)... on the other hand, I think I'll just pay a visit to the butcher.



“For tax info, I think I'll just pay a visit to the butcher.”

Kristin Gullans

Inside this issue:

- Faculty Activities
- East German Film Series 2013
- LAS Film Series
- Italian Film Series
- Alumni News
- Studying Abroad

Revolutionary Subjects

Dr. Jamie Trnka's book, *Revolutionary Subjects: German Literatures and the Limits of Aesthetic Solidarity with Latin America*, is scheduled to appear with international publishing house DeGruyter in February 2015.

Revolutionary Subjects explores the literary and cultural significance of Cold War solidarities and offers insight into a substantial and under-analyzed body of German literature concerned with Latin American thought and action. It shows how literary interest in Latin America was vital for understanding oppositional agency and engaged literature in East and West Germany, where authors developed aesthetic solidarities that anticipated conceptual reorganizations of the world connoted by the transnational or the global. Through a combination of close readings, contextual analysis, and careful theoretical work, *Revolutionary Subjects* traces the historicity and contingency of aesthetic practices, as well as the geocultural grounds against which they unfolded, in case studies of Volker Braun, F.C. Delius, Hans Magnus Enzensberger and Heiner Müller. The book's cultural and comparative approach offers an antidote to imprecise engagements with the transnational, historicizing critical impulses that accompany the production of

disciplinary boundaries. It paves the way for more reflexive debate on the content and method of German Studies as part of a broader landscape of world literature, comparative literature and Latin American Studies.

Three Presentations, etc.

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller gave three Presentations: "La experiencia expatriada como un viaje de (auto) conocimiento: Las



novelas mexicanas de Harriet Doerr" Santiago, Chile; "The Reinvention of Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective: Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes., Atlantic City, N.J. ; and "Just Hot Enough: Gender Roles and Sexuality in J.D. Robb's Detective Series." Gender

and Sexuality in the Crime Genre" in Galway, Ireland, [read in absentia due to family crisis]

Three of her publications saw print—two literary translations from Portuguese and one essay. "Canon, or Metaphysics of Style." Translation from the Portuguese of "O cônego ou metafísica do estilo." *The Sabbatical Year*, excerpts translated from the Portuguese novel, *O Ano Sabático of João Tordo. In Palabras: Dispatches from the Festival of la Palabra.*

"Class Privilege and Social Class Awakening in Paseo de la Reforma." Invited essay for a special issue on Teaching the Works of Elena Poniatowska in 21st Century Frames

Dr. Ledford-Miller's essay, "Robert Downey, Jr. as Detective: Sherlock Holmes Redux," will be a chapter in a book on the actor, *Robert Downey, Jr., from Brat to Icon. Essays on the Film Career.*

Using Corfu

Dr. Joseph Wilson had two publications come out: a refereed review for BMCR of Robin Osborne's Athens and Athenian Democracy And a book



chapter: "Using Corfu: The Island in Homer and Apollonius Rhodius" The Ionian Islands: Aspects of their History and Culture, edited by Anthony Hirst and Patrick Sammon. Newcastle upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014,

The Writer's Dilemma

Dr. Bob Parsons published "The Writer's Dilemma: Enrique Serna's Writings on the Impact of Economics, Politics and Popular Culture on Literature" in *We Build Our Bridges Together: 2013 Monograph Series of the National Association of African*



American Studies and Affiliates. He also gave an invited talk on "La Internacionalización e Idiomas" at the Universidad Marista de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico on March 19, 2004.

Children's Concepts

Dr. Habib Zanzana gave three scholarly presentations:



He gave a paper and led a workshop on "Children's Book Concepts and Covers in the French Language Classroom. A Creative Forum for Ideas, Characters, Illustrations and Tales in French," at the 8th Annual CCSU Conference for Language Teachers at Central Connecticut State University.

He presented a conference paper titled, "Domestic Violence in World Cinema" at the Women's and Gender Studies Conference at Wilkes University & King's College.

Finally, he presented a paper titled, "Sexuality, Marginality and the Construction of a Male Identity in Contemporary Francophone Moroccan Novels" at the Northeastern Modern Language Association.

Si escuchas los acentos

Dr. Yamile Silva had the following publications appear in print: Edited Volumes:- Palabras: Dispatches from the Festival de la Palabra. Co-edited anthology with Hank Willenbrink.



Article in a Peer-Reviewed Journal: "Si escuchas los acentos de una mujer' Estrategias de justificación en la carta de Ana Manuela Mozo de la Torre (1815)." Cuadernos de

literatura del Caribe e Hispanoamérica. Review: Celis, Nadia y Juan Pablo Rivera, eds. Lección errante. Mayra Santos Febres y el Caribe Contemporáneo. Dr. Silva submitted the following publications for consideration: Chapters in books: -"Spatiality and Identity in Women's Colonial Petitions: the Cases of María de los Cobos, Isabel de Becerra and María Osorio de Narvaez" in Women and Gender in the EarlyModern World. Interview: "Escribo con rabia, con bronca, pero también con una inmensa, intransferible felicidad" Entrevista a Betina González. Revista Liberia. Dr. Silva gave the following Presentations: "Relación del descubrimiento del Río Marañon por Gerónimo Ypori: gigantes, caníbales y villanos" in Buenos Aires, Argentina -"Escritura topográfica y proyecto colonial en la Relación del descubrimiento del Río Marañon por Gerónimo de Ypori" in Cartagena, Colombia.

Women's Studies

Dr. Virginia Picchiatti wrote and submitted an article titled, "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*."



She presented the paper "An Education in Persecution: Frediano Sessi's *Ultima fermataAuschwitz*.

Storia di un ragazzo ebreo durante il fascismo" at the annual NeMla conference in Harrisburg, PA. She continued work on her book, tentatively titled *The Shoah in Italian Youth Literature*. She translated an article-length study, "The Treasure Chest and the Talisman: Maria Giacobbe's Writing between Reality and Myth," which will be included in the scholarly volume in Women's Studies she is co-editing, *Fare l'Italiana: Female Identity in Italy, 1950-to the Early 21st Century*. She reviewed and revised 5 articles for her co-edited volume, *Fare l'Italiana: Female Identity in Italy, 1950-to the Early 21st Century*.

Female Silence

Dr. Marzia Caporale had two publications appear in print:



"The Aesthetic of the Unspoken: Representing Female Silence in Claire

Denis's film *White Material*" *Representations of the Unspeakable in the Francophone World*. Eds Amy Hubbell and Nevine El-Nossery. "Exorcising Obscenity: Narrating sex, Illness, and the Female Self in Annie Ernaux and Marc Prof. Karam's *L'usage de la photo*. *Women taking Risks in Contemporary Autobiography*.

The following publication has been accepted and is forthcoming: "The Semiotics of Change: Rewriting the Female Body in Contemporary Tunisian Cinema." *Dalhousie French Studies. Special issue 2013*.

THREE ITALIAN MOVIES & THREE MOVIES FROM LATIN AMERICA



ITALIAN FILM SERIES

- CORPO CELESTE (HEAVENLY BODY)
- SOLO UN PADRE
- HAPPY FAMILY

LAS FILM SERIES

- LA TETA ASUSTADA
- LA BATALLA DE LOS INVISIBLES
- EL ELEFANTE BLANCO

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The Milk of Sorrow, on the left, and Corpo Celeste, two of the movies shown this semester.

Perú, México, Argentina

The Latin American Film Series Fall 2014 brings to Scranton movies from Perú, México, and Argentina.

La teta asustada (The Milk of Sorrow), shown September 23 was the first film of the series. Its synopsis: As tense as a clenched fist and just as communicative, Fausta (Magaly Solier), the heroine of “The Milk of Sorrow,” scuttles around her mountainside neighborhood in Lima, peering from beneath bangs like guillotine blades. Her mother has just died, leaving Fausta with a deathbed song of rape and violence suffered during “the terrors,” Peru’s decades of civil strife.

México is represented by *La batalla de los invisibles*, directed by Manuel de Alba. This documentary tells the story of a five year struggle by 2,300 janitors, most of them undocumented workers who speak little or no English, against California’s most powerful supermarket chains – a true case of David vs. Goliath. To date, it is still the largest case of its type in the history of the United States. It will be shown October 28.

The third movie, *El elefante blanco* (Argentina 2010), directed by Pablo Trapero, will be shown November 18.

All shows are at Brennan 228 at 7 p.m.

Body, Father, Family

The Italian Film Series Fall 2014 features three recent movies from Italy: *Corpo Celeste*, *Solo un padre*, and *Happy Famili*.

Corpo Celeste (2011), released in the United States with the title *Heavenly Body*, narrates the story of a young girl’s relationship to the Catholic Church and the society in which she is trying to punch out a life. The movie, directed by Alice Rohrwacher, was shown September 23 and 24.

The second film of the series is *Solo un padre*, directed by Luca Lucini in 2008, the movie is a comedy-drama about a man who must raise his

infant daughter alone after the death of his wife. The film is based on the novel *Perfect Skin* written by Nick Earls.

Solo un padre will be shown October 27 and 28.

The last film of the series is *Happy Family*, the story of a young man holed up in his apartment in Milan one hot summer trying to punch out a life. The characters come to life around him offering their input on the direction they think the story should take” (IMDb). Show dates for this film directed by Gabriele Salvatore, are November 17 and 18.

All shows are at O’Hara 307 at 7 p.m.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR, AN EAST GERMAN VIEW

The University of Scranton Department of World Languages and Cultures, in collaboration with the Schemel Forum, will present four remarkable films on the subject of the First World War that were made at the DEFA Film Studios, the state-held studios of East Germany from 1946-1990. Through their focus on the wartime experiences of individual men and women, they offer a different viewpoint from more widely publicized retrospectives on the 100-year anniversary of WWI. The films provide insight into how Germans tried to understand the links between the series of wars involving Germany from 1871 to 1945 and to unravel the complex path from the First to the Second World War. They address such questions as why some people supported the war while others opposed it, how to relate WWI to the concurrent revolution in Russia, and how to understand the costs of war to civilian populations. All films in German with English subtitles.

Jamie H. Trnka, PhD, curates the Annual East German Film Festival, now in its eighth year, in collaboration with the DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. This year's films will be shown from 7:30-9:30pm in Brennan Hall, Pearn Auditorium, Room 228, on Monday, April 13, Wednesday, April 15, Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17.



The movies

Farewell, 1968, Dir. Egon Günther.
Girls in Gingham, 1949, Dir. Kurt Maetzig.
The Kaiser's Lackey, 1951, Dir. Wolfgang Staudte.
The Sailors' Song, 1958, Dirs. Kurt Maetzig,
 Günther Reisch.

THREE DECADES OF FEARLESSNESS

Taiwan-born Ang Lee is an Academy Award-winning director, producer and screenwriter. His appeal is broad, crossing high and low culture, East and West. Lee is the epitome of globalization and its effect on the film world. His films not only capture the essence of Chinese culture and family dynamics as skillfully as they do American life and iconography, but also express the commonalities and conflicts between the Eastern and Western traditions.

Part I-The Wedding Banquet (Oct 2, Thursday). Dr. Philip Mosley, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State Worthington, Scranton will lead a discussion after the film.

Part II- Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (November 14, Thursday)

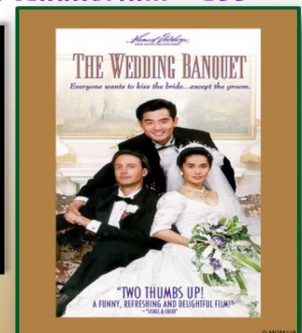
Part III-The Life of Pi (March 16, Friday) Location: Loyola Science Center PNC Auditorium 133, 6:45 PM. Open to public. at 7 p.m.

Ang Lee Film Series: Three Decades of Fearlessness

Part 1: 1993 *the Wedding Banquet*

October 2, 2014 at 6:45 PM
 Loyola Science Center Auditorium—133

A New Yorker stages a marriage of convenience with a young woman to satisfy his traditional Taiwanese family, but the wedding becomes a major inconvenience when his parents fly in for the ceremony and plan a massive wedding banquet. Director Ang Lee came to international prominence with this warm-hearted comedy, which centers on the farcical confusion that emerges from this deception.



Featuring a short before-film talk and after-film Q&A with Philip Mosley



Philip Mosley is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State Worthington Scranton. He is the author of three books on cinema: *Ingmar Bergman: The Cinema as Mistress*; *Split Screen: Belgian Cinema and Cultural Identity*; and most recently *The Cinema of the Dardenne Brothers: Responsible Realism*.

The program is free and open to the public.

7TH SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE



In the photo, the participants in the 2014 Summer Program

In June 2013, Drs. **Marzia Caporale** and **Virginia Picchietti** co-directed the 7th annual Summer Study Abroad

in Florence, Italy. Students participating in this program resided in apartments located in the historic center of Florence while taking courses at the Italian government-accredited *Istituto*

Europeo. Students took 3 one-day trips to the Chianti region, Venice, and Siena. They also enjoyed free time one day each weekend, in which they were able to take trips to other destinations, such as Rome.

EVERYTHING READY FOR THE 17TH ANNUAL MEXICO INTERSESSION PROGRAM



From the right, Ashley Dole, Santiago Parra, Julie Dragonetti, and Daysi Carreto during the 2014 Mexico Intersession Program.

From January 6 to January 26 2015, the World Languages and Cultures and the Political Science departments of the University of Scranton will held the 16th annual Mexico intersession program. This cultural journey, led by university professors **Dr. Yamile Silva** and **Dr. Jamie Trnka** , features home stays with Mexican families and courses in Spanish language and Mexican political culture at the Universidad Iberoamericana, a Jesuit institution located in the beautiful colonial city of Puebla, Mexico

In Puebla, the students stay with families selected by the International Division of the Universidad Iberoamericana. This gives the students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Spanish language outside of the classroom. The price for this course is \$3,700, while tuition at the University of Scranton is at 1/3 the normal price.

‘OLD’ FACES IN NEW PLACES: NEWS FROM OUR FORMER STUDENTS



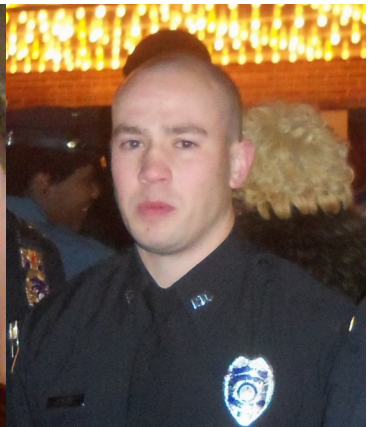
Julia Kropf



Christina Rossi



Becca Cangemi



Patrick Clyne

Julia Kropf graduated *summa cum laude* in 2011 with a double major in Business Management and Hispanic Studies. After teaching for two years in Ecuador, she is now a Development Assistant for the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. She hopes to find volunteer opportunities to use her Spanish skills.

Christina Rossi graduated *magna cum laude* in 2013 with an Education major and a Spanish minor. She is

enrolled in a three-year Master's program in speech-language pathology at Penn State University: "Spanish-speaking speech-language pathologists are in incredibly high demand, so I am auditing an advanced Spanish conversation course in order to practice and improve my Spanish."

Becca Cangemi graduated *magna cum laude* in 2013 with a double major in Biology and Hispanic Studies and a minor in Philosophy and a

concentration in Latin American Studies. She is now second year medical student at the Commonwealth Medical College here in Scranton.

Patrick Clyne graduated *magna cum laude* in 2012 with majors in International Studies, Latin American Studies, and Hispanic Studies. He is currently a police officer at Franklin Township, NJ, after graduating from the Police Academy in Union County, New Jersey.



Joe Stella



Ciro Saverino



Christian Ramos



Michael Canaris

Joe Stella graduated *summa cum laude* in 2011 with a major in Accounting and a concentration of Spanish coursework. Later he moved to Quito and taught at El Centro del Muchacho Trabajador, a Jesuit school for families with working children. He works as a Spanish interpreter while he prepares for law school.

Ciro Saverino graduated *summa cum laude* in 2014 with majors in Secondary Education and Spanish, and

a concentration in Latin American Studies. Currently, he is teaching Spanish I and II at his *alma mater*, Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) in Lincroft, NJ.

Christian Ramos graduated in 2014 with a double major in Economics and Hispanic Studies, and a minor in Finance. He is currently working with Prudential as an Investment Operations Associate in one of their Newark offices. He plans to pursue an M.B.A

in Finance in the Spring semester of 2015, while working full-time with Prudential.

Michael Canaris, former student of Italian, earned a Ph.D. in theology at Fordham University. He is currently engaged in research and the completion of a "Licenza in Ecumenismo" at the Pontificia Università San Tommaso D'Aquino (Angelicum) in Rome.

AN EDUCATIONAL SUMMER IN TAIWAN



The author of this article, Robert Vargas, spent last summer in Taiwan. It was, in his own words, “the most educational experience” of his life.

country. Before I traveled to Taiwan I thought these activities were all independent of one another, each having their own time requirements. But upon stepping foot on the land that would change my life forever, I quickly realized that it wasn't about the

It is called “Formosa” because the language, the culture, the grades, or even the Portuguese colonists believed the land to be a traveling itself. All of these things contributed to “beautiful island.” This is indeed what I what I believe was the most educational discovered upon reaching Taiwan. I spent two months on this island where I took fifteen hours of class a week in beginner Mandarin Chinese. I I learned more from the kindness of the made many international friends along with some Taiwanese restaurant owner who let me pay a little less because I didn't have enough money, and the people on the subway who frequently watched around to see if there was an elder or disabled person to give their seat to, and the overall sense of community that the Taiwanese people have made their culture and nation about. While I was able to learn, get good grades, and travel a lot, I learned about how all of these things interact to make the human experience something more than just individual events. I learned that we are all connected despite our barriers and, in the end, we all want to learn more about what it means to be human.

I expected the experience of my life but they weren't all of it. I expected the usual study abroad experience where I would learn a lot about the language, culture, and people on the other side of this planet. I did have these experiences, but I learned much more than just language and culture. My experience in Taiwan was both educational and enriching in a multitude of ways. I learned about Taiwan, its people, and about myself.

My summer in Taiwan was much more than I could have expected. Before traveling I expected much of my time to be focused on school work, learning the language, and traveling through the

Robert Vargas