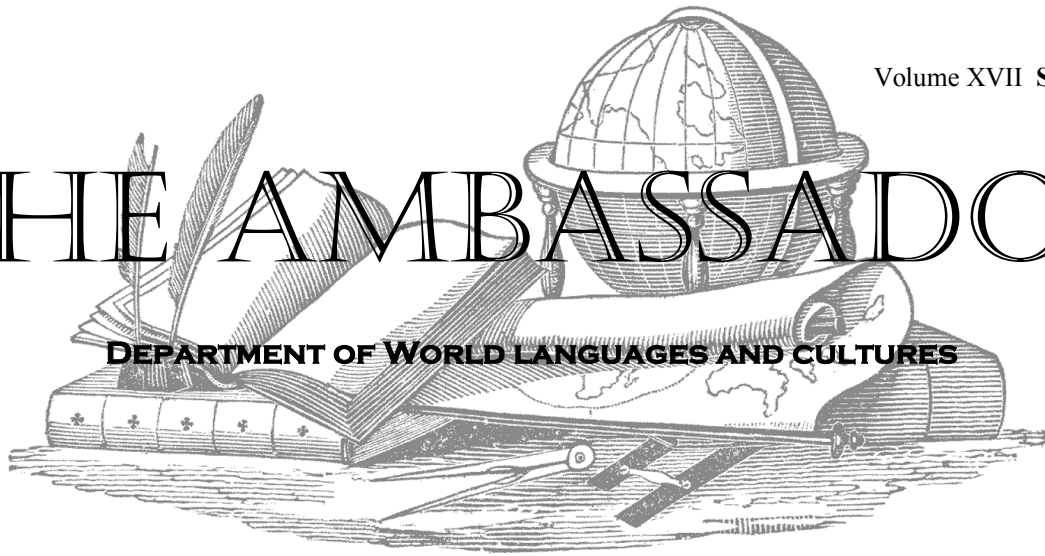


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It's Spring! The snows of winter have given way to the rains of spring. The crocuses will soon pop up to greet us. And we too arise from our winter doldrums, resurrected from the dark days. Or as e.e. cummings says,

Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully
out of Nowhere)arranging
a window,into which people look(while
people stare
arranging and changing placing
carefully there a strange
thing and a known thing here)and

changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving New and
Old things,while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there)and

without breaking anything .



Inside this issue:

- Faculty Activities
- LAS & Spanish Film Series
- East German Film Series 2015
- Studying Abroad
- Department Happenings
- Fulbright TA Talk

Dr. Jamie Trnka



Dr. Jamie H. Trnka's book appeared in print in February. *Revolutionary Subjects* demonstrates that East and West German literary interests

in Latin America coincided with debates about the political relevance of literature in the Cold War. Through a combination of close reading, contextual analysis, and careful theoretical work, Trnka examines textual instances of aesthetic solidarity, which, she argues, anticipated conceptual reorganizations of the world connoted by the transnational or the global.

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller



Linda Ledford-Miller gave three presentations this year, in three different areas of research: "Art as Identity: Arte menor by Betina González" *XV Congreso Internacional de Literatura*

Hispánica. Antigua, Guatemala, March 2015; "Perdese para encontrarse a sí mismo: Los personajes expatriados en las novelas mexicanas de Harriet Doerr." XII Congreso Internacional de Caminería Hispánica, Madrid, Spain, June 2014; "Gender Roles *In Death*: J. D. Robb's Detective Series." Queens of Crime Conference, University of London, London, England. June 2014.

She published a book chapter, "Robert Downey, Jr. as Detective: Sherlock

Holmes Redux." *Robert Downey, Jr., from Brat to Icon. Essays on the Film Career*. Ed. Erin E. MacDonald. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2014. She is currently working on an essay on the novels of Louise Penny for a book on Canadian crime fiction, tentatively titled *The Matter of Murder*.

She also attended an interesting conference in Tampa, Florida, of the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to support the course in Social Entrepreneurship that she teaches for the Kania School of Management.

Dr. Marzia Caporale



Dr. Caporale spent 2013-2014 on sabbatical living in Florence Italy and doing research on Francophone African women writers. In March 2014,

she was invited by Dr. Natasa Raschi of the University of Perugia, Italy to give a lecture titled "Sur la transgression linguistique: le cas de Calyxthe Beyala et Léonora Miano." In June 2014, Dr Caporale participated in the International "Narrative Matters" Conference in Paris France and gave a paper titled "Narrating the Past to Write the Present : Veronique Tadjou's *Reine Pokou*: concerto pour un sacrifice." Dr Caporale has continued to work on writings by sub-Saharan women authors. Her latest conference presentation on the topic "Breaking the vow of silence". Narrating the African slave trade in Léonora Miano's *La*

saison de l'ombre (64th MIFLC, Greenville, South Carolina, October 2014) is currently being reworked into an article. She additionally travelled to London, England in January 2015 to attend a conference on Language Pedagogy where she presented a paper titled "Teaching Foreign Languages across the Curriculum (FLAC): Hybrid French/English Courses and their Dual Impact on Interdisciplinarity and L2 Competency."

Dr. Habib Zanzana



Dr. Habib Zanzana will be co-director, with Dr. Caporale, of the 2015 Faculty-Led Annual Summer Program in Florence, Italy, May 30th to June 2th 2015.

Dr. Zanzana presented a paper titled, "'Motherhood, Water and the Formation of a Maghrebian Female Identity," at the 64th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in South Carolina, in October 2014. Dr. Zanzana will be presenting a paper titled, "**The Specter of Simone de Beauvoir's *La femme rompue* in Elena Ferrante's Novels and Films**" at the Intersezioni Conference in Florence, Italy, June 5-7, 2015.

Dr. Yamile Silva

Dr. Silva published the peer review article: -
"Conquista del espacio

en *Relación del descubrimiento del río Marañón por Gerónimo de Ypori.*" *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* 45. pp. 14 (Forthcoming March 15, 2015) and the review of Jennifer Jenkins Wood. *Spanish Women Travelers at Home and Abroad, 1850-1920. From Tierra del Fuego to the Land of the Midnight Sun.* Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press; Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 413 pp. in *Letras Femeninas* (Forthcoming). She presented: "Peticiónes desde el margen: revisiones de testimonios coloniales" at *XIV Congreso de la AILCFH (Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística/ UNESCO)* in Havana, Cuba, November 10-14, 2014 and "Escritura topográfica en la *Relación del descubrimiento del Río Marañón por Gerónimo de Ypori*" presented at *Jornadas Andinas de Literatura Latinoamericana JALLA* in Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Costa Rica, August 4-8, 2014. Her chapter "Peticiónes coloniales desde el Río de la Plata" was accepted to be included in the book *Colonialismos Sur* (Bucknell University Press) edited by Gladys Ilarregui (U. of Delaware) and Ana María Presta (Universidad de Buenos Aires). Recently, Silva was named part of the *Comité de Evaluación y Difusión del Programa Académico y Profesional del Festival de la Palabra del 2015*. Among other functions, The Committee offers a Critics Prize of the year and prepares a list of the 10 essential authors of new literature of the Caribbean, Latin America and its diasporas. Her proposal "Re-escritura e historiografía en *Relación del descubrimiento del Río Marañón por Gerónimo de Ypori*" was



accepted for the *XIX Congress of Colombianists Association* in Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia. July 2-5, 2015. Silva was also asked to referee for the academic journal *Ambigua* (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla). This journal specializes on Gender and Cultural Studies.

Dr. Virginia Picchietti

Dr. Virginia Picchietti, Professor of Italian, was part of a panel discussion after the screening of *Oro Macht Frei*, held on October, 12, 2014 at Muhlenberg College. *Oro Macht Frei* is a documentary film about the Roman Jewish experience under Fascism and under the Nazi occupation of Italy. Dr. Picchietti organized and chaired the session, "Teaching bHistory through Italian Cinema," at the November 2014 conference of the ACTFL, held in San Antonio, Tx.



Visiting Lecturer Allison Lai

Professor Allison Lai will present a paper "Embodied Approach to Chinese Language

Learning: Immersion Experience" through a Faculty led travel course to Taiwan at the 2015 Conference on Asian Studies. She is currently working on an invited paper "Assessing Students, Chinese Communication Skills through Three Modes of Communication" which will be published on *Journal of Chinese Language Teaching and Research* in the U.S. (2015 issue).



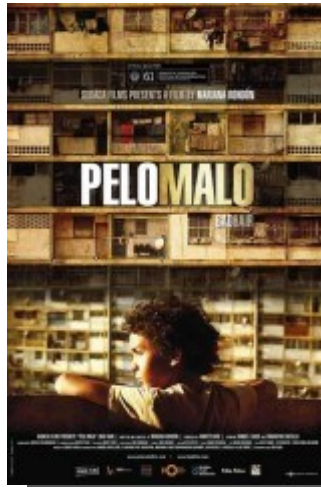
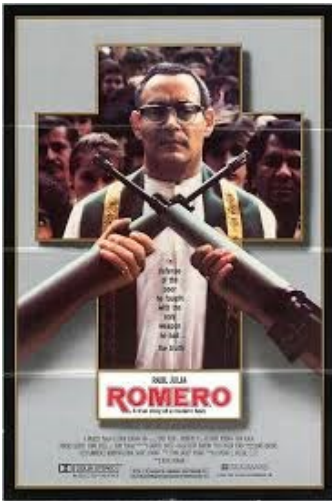
International Women's Day 2015 Theme: MAKE IT HAPPEN

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day.

Various organizations identify their own International Women's Day theme, specific to their local context and interests. Many charities, NGOs and Governments also adopt a relevant theme or campaign to mark the day. For example, organizations like the UN, Oxfam, Women for Women, Care International, Plan, World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and more - run exciting and powerful campaigns that raise awareness and encourage donations for good causes. The UN has been declaring an annual equality theme for many years. (The source of this article is the official website for International Womens Day.)



LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL SPRING 2015

**Romero (USA, 1989). March 24**

The life and work of Archbishop Oscar Romero who opposed, at great personal risk, the tyrannical repression in El Salvador.

Pelo Malo (Venezuela, 2013). April 14

With minor-key delicacy, Bad Hair (Pelo Malo) focuses on a nine-year-old boy exploring issues of identity and a desire that he doesn't yet understand.

Juan de los Muertos (Cuba, 2010). February 17

A group of slackers face an army of zombies. The Cuban government and media claim the living dead are dissidents revolting against the government.

SPANISH FILM SERIES 2015



Bits and Dots of the most recent Cinema from Spain, O'Hara 307, 7:00 p.m.

Balada triste de trompeta (Álex de la Iglesia, 2010) Monday March 2

A young trapeze artist must decide between her lust for Sergio, the Happy Clown, or her affection for Javier, the Sad Clown, both of whom are deeply disturbed.

Gente en sitios (Juan Cavestany, 2013) Wednesday April 8

A number of different sketches with no correlation.

El Niño (Daniel Monzón, 2014) Wednesday May 6

A small-time trafficker working in the Gibraltar Straits.

THE ANNUAL EAST GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL



Above image is a scene from *The Sailor's Song*, GDR, 1958, Dirs. Kurt Maetzig, Günther Reisch, 125 min.

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.

German Film Festival Schedule

- 4/13 *Farewell*, GDR, 1968, Dir. Egon Günther, 107 min. b&w.
- 4/15 *Girls in Gingham*, GDR, 1949, Dir. Kurt Maetzig, 101 min., b&w .
- 4/16 *The Kaiser's Lackey*, GDR, 1951, Dir. Wolfgang Staudte, 105 min., b&w.
- 4/17 *The Sailors' Song*, GDR, 1958, Dirs. Kurt Maetzig, Günther Reisch, 125 min., b&w.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL INTERSESSION IN MEXICO



Scranton students learn about pre-Hispanic cultures among the pyramids of Teotihuacan.

This year marked the University's seventeenth annual intersession trip to Mexico. Five Scranton students accompanied Drs. Silva and Trnka on the intensive three-week course. Students completed coursework in Spanish language and culture and in Mexican history at the Iberoamerican University, a Jesuit university in Puebla, Mexico. Their coursework was complemented by weekend excursions to Oaxaca, Mexico City, and Cholula, as well as homestay experiences with local families. The Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Latin American Studies Program are excited to offer students this six-credit immersion experience annually. For information about participating in future trips, please contact Dr. Silva (yamile.silva@scranton.edu) or Dr. Trnka

7TH ANNUAL SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN FLORENCE, ITALY



In June 2014, Drs. Marzia Caporale and Virginia Picchiotti co-directed the University's 7th annual Summer Study Abroad in Florence, Italy. Students participating in this academic program resided in apartments located in the historic center of Florence while taking courses at the Italian government-accredited *Istituto Europeo*. They also attended on-site lectures in Fiesole, a town just outside Florence with Etruscan and Roman ruins, the San Marco Monastery, which houses the most important collection of works by the Early Renaissance painter Fra Angelico, and the basilica of San Miniato al Monte, an important example of Florentine Romanesque architecture. On the weekend, students took 3, fully chaperoned one-day trips to the Chianti region, where they learned how wine is made and had a traditional, full-course Tuscan lunch; Venice, where they took a ride in a gondola and visited a glass factory; and the medieval city of Siena and surrounding countryside. Students also enjoyed free time one day each weekend, in which they were able to take trips to other destinations, such as Rome.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

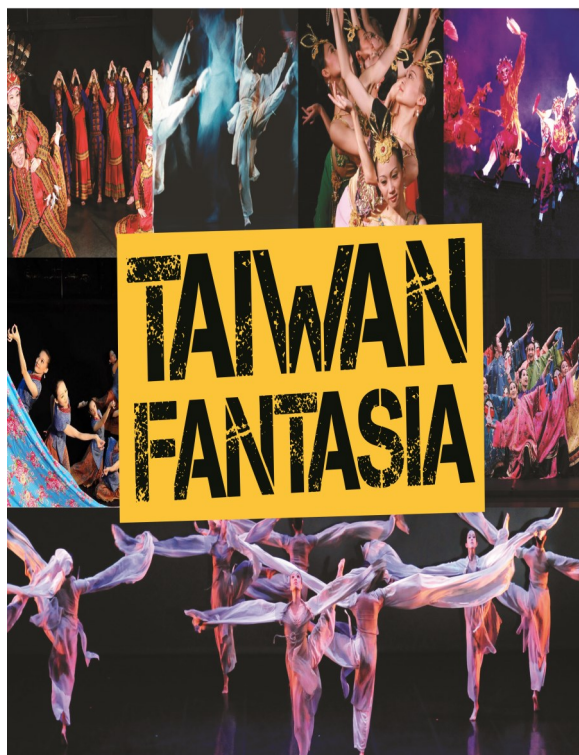


Dr. Marzia Caporale hosts a French Cooking Class for students.



Shown above are several of the tutors in the LLC language, math and science tutoring program for local Bhutanese high school students. These students' families were part of a large population of Bhutanese living in tent camps in southern Nepal before being granted refugee status in the U.S. From the left Josh Jimenez, Lauren Coggins, Meg Hudock, and Josh Bayzick.

MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY and THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON present



Bringing the World to Northeastern Pennsylvania- March 28-29

2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN STUDIES: Taiwan and China in the Global Context

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller will serve as session chair- Language, Culture and Chinese-American Interactions. Prof. Allison Lai will present a paper "Embodied Approach to Chinese Language Learning: Immersion Experience Through Faculty-led Travel Course to Taiwan." Attendance at the conference, performance, and workshop is free of charge.

FULBRIGHT TA TALK 2015



The 9th annual TA TALK/ Dinner sponsored by the Department of World Languages and Cultures was held on Wed. Mar. 11 at 4:30pm in Brennan 509. Over 100 teachers, students and administrators from area schools, as well as University of Scranton faculty, staff and students, enjoyed entertaining and informative cultural presentations by the Department of World Languages and Cultures teaching assistants and Fulbright Scholars from abroad: Lucie Bouet (France), Rawia Kharruba (Libya), Gloria Pitarch (Spain) and Percy Liu (Taiwan). In addition over the past nine years these TA TALKS have served as a springboard to promote further cultural exchanges with area elementary, intermediate and high schools whose representatives attend this event and invite the TAs to their schools. Funded by the University of Scranton Diversity Initiatives this annual event, organized by Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center, promotes understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures, fosters a welcoming campus environment, educates our faculty and students about diverse cultures and promotes positive relationships between TAs and faculty/student population and area schools

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
 A J E S U I T U N I V E R S I T Y

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Editor: Kelli Cali