

THE AMBASSADOR

THE DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

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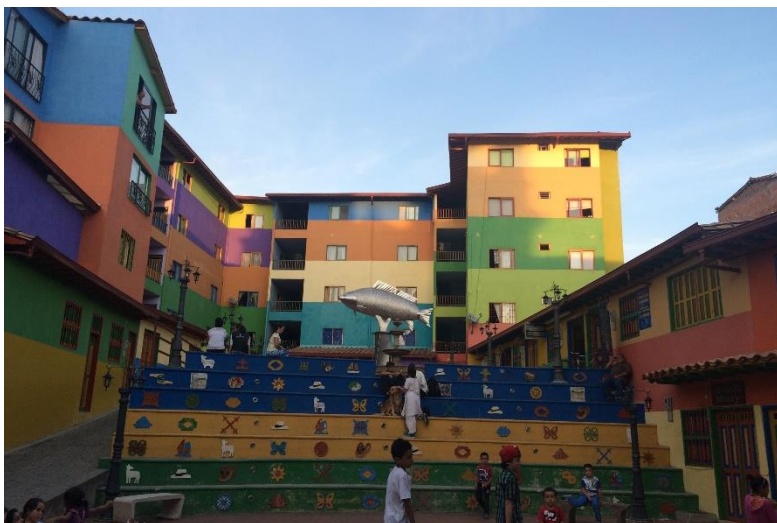
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Notes from The Chair

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni:

Greetings from O'Hara! I am enthusiastic about being back after a refreshing sabbatical. I want to thank my dedicated colleagues, Dr. Picchietti and Zanzana, who served as Interim Chairs during that time. Thank you for your leadership and service to our department.

The beginning of the new academic year has been an exciting one. We welcomed our new Fulbright Teaching Assistants, adjunct faculty, and GA. Our incoming FLTAs are Ms. Paula Magalí Ferrer (Argentina), Ms. Badoor Albuloushi (Kuwait), Ms. Celine Seeger (Germany), and Ms. Audrey Lecerf (France). Ms. Ximena Jimenez started as GA and Student Director of the Language Learning Center under the supervision of Ms. Hannah Jackson. We also welcomed Mr. Kunihiro (Kuni) Matsui, who joined us to teach Japanese, and Ms. Yun Chiang (Lily) to teach Chinese. You will learn more about our FLTAs and Chinese Visiting Instructor in their Introductions on pages 6 and 7. We are grateful for their priceless contributions to our students' global education and our school's internationalization.

As usual, the Ambassador brings you snapshots from a semester full of thought-provoking events (page 13), exciting alumni adventures beyond the University of Scranton (pages 10-13), and fascinating interviews with one of our majors (pages 9-10) and one of our faculty members (pages 8-9). It is always important to reiterate that even under the most un-ideal circumstances due to the pandemic last semester, our faculty continued their groundbreaking research and scholarly presentations (pages 2-5).

Thanks to all of you who have supported our department. I'm indebted to the faculty for contributing to our ongoing conversations on curriculum and programming, students for keeping us excited about our work, alums for staying in touch and contributing updates, and our Language Lab Director, Hannah Jackson, for keeping us on track and grounded, and the community for being present and showing interest in our activities. Special thanks to our GA Ximena Jimenez for collecting the swatches and producing this issue. Our administrative assistant JoAnne Jurkiewicz has helped me contact our alums and continue updating our directory. You all make our department possible!

Wishing everybody wisdom, light, and health during our new academic year,

Dr. Yamile Silva

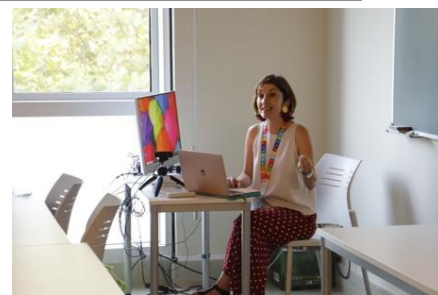
Chair and Professor of the Department of World Languages and Cultures

Faculty Scholarship

Dr. Yamile Silva

During Spring 2022, Dr. Silva researched at the Biblioteca de Cataluña in Barcelona. She has been collecting Abigail Mejía's newspaper articles published during her stay in Barcelona (1909-1925). Abigail Mejía (1895-1941) was one of Latin America's prolific writers during the first part of the 20th century.

Also, during Spring 2022, Silva contributed to the digital project *Unlocking the Colonial Archive* organized by LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections (LLILAS Benson) at the University of Texas at Austin (United States); the Digital Humanities Hub at Lancaster University; and Liverpool John Moores University (United Kingdom): <https://unlockingarchives.com/team/>.



Dr. Silva at the Valencia Congress

Since Spring 2022, Silva has completed the following scholarships:

Invited Co-Editor for a Thematic Dossier in a Refereed Journal

"Yo llana estoy': jerarquías, transgresiones y despliegues de género en América hispana colonial (1492- 1898)" Co-edited with Ana María Díaz (Oberlin College). Thematic Dossier. *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades/Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Michigan State

University Press) Vol. 48.1 (July 2022), Introduction, 5 essays, 2 academic interviews. 50,000 words.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

Silva, Yamile. "Narrativas de lo gótico en «*La extraña*» (1922) de Abigail Mejía" *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*. (Forthcoming 2022).

Academic Interviews

1) Díaz, Ana María and Silva, Yamile. "Recuperación de las voces silenciadas de los archivos en la escritura de Tatiana Lobo Wiehoff." *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades/Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Michigan State University Press) Vol. 48.1 (July 2022).

2) Díaz, Ana María and Silva, Yamile. "Divulgación de escritoras y artistas dominicanas en la voz de la poeta Ylonka Nacidit-Perdomo." *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades/Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Michigan State University Press) Vol. 48.1 (July 2022).

Archival transcriptions

1) Martos de Bohorques, Gonzalo; Peralta, Alonso de; Bernardo de Quirós, Gutierre; Paraya, Juan de la; Mañozca, Pedro de, 2022, "Segundo proceso contra Francisco Hernández, mulato esclavo de Pedro López Hidalgo, curtidor, vecino de esta Ciudad de Mexico, 1602", <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/5BLZRQ>, Texas Data Repository, V1

2) Palóu, Francisco, 1723-1789 (autor / author), 2022, "Carta a Fray Junípero Serra sobre el estado de las misiones de Alta California, 1774 enero 14", <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/V6CBB3>, Texas Data Repository, V1

Scholarly Talks, Chair and Panel Organizer and Public Presentations

1) Discussant for the Panel "Locuacidad escandalosa: cuerpo, habla y performance femeninos en los archivos inquisitoriales de Lima y Cartagena de Indias" *Congreso Internacional "Iglesia e Inquisición en el contexto global, siglos XVI-XVIII. Nuevos problemas, enfoques y metodologías."* CEPYL, Lima, Perú. 15-18 de noviembre, 2022

2) Talk "Narrativas de lo gótico en 'La extraña', de Abigail Mejía" *III Congreso Internacional CreadorAS en la Educación Literaria e Intercultural (CICELI)*, Universitat de Valencia, Spain. July 14-16, 2022.

3) Chair and Panel Organizer Colonial Section, "Representaciones del espacio en el período colonial latinoamericano (1492-1898)" *Congreso virtual LASA2022: Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias*, May 8-10, 2022.

4) Keynote Speaker, invited by the Doctoral Program in Gender Studies at Universidad de Oviedo in Spain, "Archives as a Feminist Tool" on April 26, 2022.

Silva continues serving as a member of the Executive Committee Board of the Colonial Section in the Professional Organization LASA (Latin American Studies Association). On March 26, 2022, Silva co-organized with Caroline Egan (Northwestern University) a virtual seminar for the LASA Colonial Section titled “La Inquisición de México y las Islas Filipinas: vigilancia y comunicación a través del Pacífico” by Dr. Miguel Rodrigues Lourenço from the Universidad NOVA de Lisboa. In April 2022, she was a peer-reviewer for the academic journal *Cuadernos de Literatura* of the Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia. Finally, Silva was invited to teach a graduate seminar on Archives as a feminist Tool at the Doctoral Program in Gender Studies at Universidad de Oviedo in Spain on April 26, 2022. During Summer 2022, she served as peer-reviewer for the academic journal *Chasqui*. Finally, Silva served as the Chair for the 2022 Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies (LASA).

Dr. Marzia Caporale

Dr. Caporale presented “For a New Poetics of Gender in banlieue Cinema: From La haine to Today” in March of 2022 at the Northeastern Modern Language Association conference in Baltimore. She has worked on the journal article “Popular Culture as Pedagogy: Teaching ‘Il Canto di Ulisse’ from Dante to Jovanotti in the American College Classroom” in the special volume of *Perspectives Médiévales* for Fall 2022-Winter 2023. She has also reviewed the following books: *African Filmmaking : Five Formations* and *La langue qu’elles habitent. Écritures de femmes, frontières, territoires*. Dr. Caporale is currently volunteering as a teacher of Italian conversation for the Gathering Place, a non-profit community center in Clarks Summit.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

Dr. Zanzana published two peer-reviewed articles. The first focused on Don Quixote and Dulcinea and appeared in a book on Spanish Golden Age literature. The second article was published in Milan, Italy, and examined migration, multiculturalism, and identity in contemporary Italian literature.

1) “Don Quixote and the Construction of Dulcinea, in *Cosmic Wit: Essays in Honor of Edward H. Friedman*.” Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, March 2021.

2) “The Kaleidoscope of Cultures in Contemporary Italy in Amara Lakhous’s *Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*,” *CROCEVIA*, Edizioni Universitarie di Lettere Economia Diritto, Milan, Italy, June 2022, 141-163.

Dr. Virginia Picchiatti

Dr. Virginia Picchiatti, Professor of Italian, organized and chaired two sessions, “Texts in Their Times” at the online conference of the American Association for Italian Studies in May 2022. She is also chair of the committee for the annual Distinguished Service Award of the American Association of Teachers of Italian and contributor to the association's newsletter.

Dr. Roxana Curiel

In Spring 2022, Dr. Roxana Curiel finished a paper for the Faculty Success Program of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD). Her work, "De Roma a Juchitán: Intimacies and Colonial Gaze in Alfonso Cuarón's Roma and Graciela Iturbide's Photography," will be submitted to the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*. She also wrote a critique piece with her SPAN 315 "Migrations Across the Americas" students. They went to see the play *A Good Farmer* offered by the Academic Theatre Program/University Players and felt compelled to speak about it. Their piece unpacked the play's shortcomings and promoted an informed understanding of citizenship and the criminalization of Latinx migrants in the U.S. Dr. Curiel was awarded the University of Scranton Faculty Development Grant (Summer 2022) for the project "De muxe a muxe: *Meuxeidad* and the Third Gender in Zapotec Culture." She spent the summer performing an ethnography of two *muxe* artists, Elvis Guerra and Luka Avedaño, which is part of her book manuscript, *Machorras: Embodying Identity Against Mexicanidad*.

She also created "Robles," a drag performance piece with fellow dragtivist Nancy Cázares and musician Gabriel Tepichín. They were invited to perform it at the Archivo de la Ciudad de México as part of the talk series, "Disidencia, resistencia y movilización. La diversidad sexual en la Ciudad de México a través de sus archivos." In the performance, they told the story of Colonel Amelio Robles and their transition during the Mexican Revolution (1910), along with current stories of violencia machista against trans women in Latin America. The piece's success has led to several invitations to perform at festivals and LGBTQIA+ events.



Dr. Curiel's "Robles" performance

In Fall 2022, Dr. Curiel was invited to write a chapter on queer theory by scholars from Harvard and the Universidad Autónoma de México collaborating in an edited book, *Teoría Queer en México: Disidencias, Diversidades y Diferencias*, under contract with Editorial Signos. She will present a performative version of that chapter, "White Bunny: latinidad, racialización y estética cuir en la música de Bad Bunny," at the American Studies Association 2022 Annual Meeting. Latinx students also invited her to be a faculty advisor in creating an ALPFA (Association of Latino Professionals for America) chapter at the University of Scranton.

Finally, during the celebration and commemoration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, Dr. Curiel designed a series of workshops on "Latinidad, Art, and Identity" for the Marywood University program STARS (Students Together Achieving Remarkable Success), dedicated to Latinx Youth in 7th-12th grade. She also was part of the panel discussion "Building DEI Partnerships for Students Leaning Inside and Outside the Classroom" at the University of Scranton DEI Faculty Workshop, "Creating a Welcoming and Inclusive Classroom." She will also have a panel conversation on how the Latino/x/e communities navigate various labels and their identity, organized by the Multicultural Center.

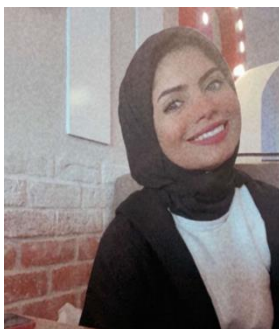
FLTA Introductions

Magalí Ferrer



Hola! My name is P. Magalí Ferrer and I am the Argentinian Fulbright Teaching Assistant for the academic year of 2022/23. Therefore, I will be teaching Spanish. I am from San Rafael, Mendoza, a city located in the western central part of Argentina. It is home to the highest mountain in America (Mount Aconcagua) and it is also the center of the Argentinian wine industry, which is recognized worldwide. I earned a BA in the teaching of English as a Foreign Language and I am currently working on a Specialization in the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language, as well as on a postgraduate degree in TEFL. Apart from teaching, I absolutely love meeting new people and learning about their languages and cultures. Among other things, I enjoy hanging out with friends, walking, getting to know new places. Finally, I am really excited about being part of the Scranton community, and I hope to meet many of you while I am here! To contact Magalí, you can email her at paula.ferrer@scranton.edu

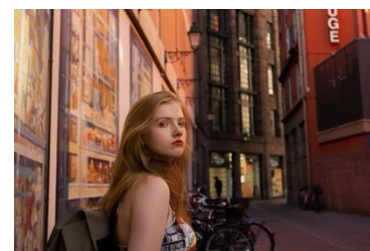
Badoor Albuloushi



My name is Badoor Albuloushi. I'll be teaching Arabic this year. I was born in Kuwait. I studied Teaching English as a second language at Kuwait University. I have my Master's and PhD in Special Education, Gifted Education at Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain. I am the head of the English department at Al Rajaa School for Girls, Special Education. I taught English as a second language to primary school, middle school, high school up to university level. I also taught American sign language to Arabic deaf and hard of hearing students for four years. In my free time I love to paint in my art studio, visit the art gallery, or hang out with friends. I love teaching and I enjoy it. I am really excited to teach Arabic this year. To contact Badoor, you can email her at badoor.albuloushi@scranton.edu.

Audrey Lecerf

Bonjour tout le monde ! My name is Audrey, and I am the French Fulbright Teaching Assistant for the academic year 2022-2023. I come from the North of France near the city of Lille, and have always lived there. I studied foreign languages – namely English and Mandarin, business, and political science. I love travelling and meeting people from all around the world. I went on a student exchange to Taiwan for a semester and loved it, so I am really looking forward to spending this year in Scranton and to discover more about American culture! I love discovering new languages as I find it so rewarding, and I hope I can help you all feel that rewarding feeling with the French language. Hoping to meet you soon! To contact Audrey, you can email her at Audrey.lecerf@scranton.edu.



Celine Seeger

Hallo! My name is Celine Victoria Seeger and I will be this year's German Fulbright FLTA. This fall, I will be teaching the beginner and elementary German courses. I am from the south of Germany, and I am currently pursuing my Master's program at University of Education in Education with English and history as my majors. I am a big fan of literature and spend a good deal of my free time reading; but I am also a lover of the outdoors and love hiking and running. I am originally from the northern Black Forest, so in summer I go for a couple of hikes there, it's the most beautiful place! Furthermore, I like travelling and getting to know new cultures a lot and lived in Australia for half a year and taught German at a community school in the southeast of Ireland. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you, take some classes in American history here in Scranton and share my language and culture with you! If you have any questions about me or my German language courses, please reach out and do not hesitate to contact me!

To contact Celine, you can email her at celine.seeger@scranton.edu



Visiting Instructor Introduction

Chiang Yun

大家好！ My name is Chiang Yun. You can just call me Yun, or my English name, Lily. I was born in Taipei, Taiwan. You may not know where Taiwan is. Taiwan is a little island between China and Japan. Taiwan is a multicultural island from China, Japan and Southeast Asia. Taipei is the capital of Taiwan with a lot of delicious food and motorcycles. Have you tried bubble tea and hot pot? Try it and you will love it! I graduated from Zhong Yuan University with a bachelor's degree in teaching Chinese as a second language. After graduation, I taught at an international Chinese school in Korea for six years, so I can speak Korean and I also like watching Korean dramas. While I was working, I went to the National Taiwan Normal University to gain my master's degree in teaching Chinese as second language. It was hard work, but worth it. I like Chinese since it's a beautiful language with a lot of culture and history. I also like to experience different cultures. I am honored to teach in Scranton. I wish to bring my knowledge to the students because I believe students can learn from me and I can learn from them too.

To contact Lily, you can email her at yun.chiang@scranton.edu



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Marzia Caporale



By: Ximena Jimenez

What languages do you speak?

I speak French, Italian, English, and some Spanish.

What was your experience growing up involving languages?

In my elementary school, we started English in 3rd grade which was fairly new at the time. I got fascinated by knowing there was another language out there. In high school, I asked my parents to go on a study abroad program. I went to England and we stayed with English families and explored the culture of the city. I did that for a couple of years. As I got older, I sought out more opportunities. During the summer, I went to England and worked as a nanny. I also traveled to France and did home stays with families. Once I turned 18, I had more opportunities.

What made you interested in learning and studying other languages?

I've always been interested in languages mostly because I've wanted to travel. I wanted to talk to others in other countries. I started with English, then French, and continued learning Spanish at the university.

What made you interested in teaching languages?

I was inspired by the people who taught me. I was fortunate to have amazing language teachers from early on. I had great teachers in elementary school, middle school, and high school. At the university, my French professor was student centered and I loved his style.

Where did you study before you came to the University of Scranton?

I went to the University of Florence which is where I got my first degree, equivalent to a master's. I then went to the University of Nebraska Lincoln for my PhD.

When did you first start working at the University of Scranton and what has been one of your favorite things about teaching here?

I started working at the University in 2007. What I love is getting students inspired to travel and to learn about the culture. The language serves as a gateway to the culture. This is not just about learning abstract concepts, it's about learning something that is alive and that can be practiced.

What is your favorite part about working in the World Languages Department?

I love having colleagues from different parts of the world because it's a constant learning experience since you are exposed to new cultures and new people. It's always a dynamic process, never static.

Tell me more about the classes you're teaching this semester.

This semester, I'm teaching intermediate Italian, intermediate French, and a hybrid class which is Lit 330, resistance and resilience and francophone women's writing.

What's your favorite course to teach and why?

I would say Literature of Global Minorities which is a course that the department revised recently and it's for the GE curriculum, so it has a broad target. I love it because it allows me to use texts from different languages and cultures. It allows me to blend in my expertise into one course and the students have loved the course.

Tell me about some of your recent research projects and which is your favorite.

With Dr. Picchiotti, who's the other Italian professor, we are in the process of translating the book *Born for You* from Italian to English. It tells the story of an Italian man, who as a single parent, adopted a child with a disability. It was the first case of single parent adopting a child because laws in Italy don't usually allow that. I'm also working on a book project titled *Gender in French Banlieue Cinema* which is a collection of articles about the film genre relating to French suburbs. I am really enjoying the translation of *Born for You* because it's challenging. Even though I've taught courses in translation, I've never professionally translated. This book is a very important book because it talks about acceptance, civil rights and discrimination. It has so many aspects that we want people to learn about. It's not just translating a novel, it's a book that can spark a debate about acceptance and rights. Essentially, it's a project with a purpose.

Student Spotlight: McCae Dougher

By: Ximena Jimenez

Year: Senior

Major: Secondary Education and Spanish Studies

Minor: Political Science

Language: Spanish



McCae Dougher, a senior at the University of Scranton, is originally from Scranton and attended West Scranton High School. Growing up, she was introduced to Spanish in middle school which sparked her interest enough that she took Spanish all four years of high school. Having good Spanish teachers played a role in inspiring her to not only learn another language but to become a teacher as well. McCae first knew she wanted to be a Spanish teacher when she was eleven years old.

Knowing another language has helped McCae in various ways. She has a broader perspective and a better understanding of language. It allows her to translate for others and to communicate with native Spanish speakers. Professionally, she is not worried about finding a job as she has more opportunities because she knows a second language.

When asked about her favorite language class, McCae explained that she loved any class with Dr. Zanzana. However, she loved all her Spanish classes because she learned so much from each that helped her understand the language better. She credits Professor Meilán, who she had in her first year, for helping her get into the language more.

The best thing about studying a language at the University, according to McCae, is how beneficial it is outside of the classroom. She has fun speaking Spanish with others and hopes to study abroad when given the opportunity in the future. Having more opportunities and connecting with others is what she has enjoyed most.

McCae has recently become involved in the STARS program which helps Latinx kids with college readiness. Knowing a second language is what has allowed her to participate in the program and help others. She advises anyone who is even considering learning another language to just go for it as it allows people to connect to others more. In ten years, McCae sees herself teaching in a school she loves and in a community that is welcoming.

Alumni Spotlight

Chris Montone

Class of 1986

Major : International Studies

Minor: Spanish

How have your language skills impacted your life after you graduated from the University of Scranton?

Here are some ways that knowing a foreign language has helped me and others:



I received a Fulbright Scholarship to Honduras during which I conducted interviews with Foreign Ministry officials, ambassadors, newspaper editors, and others in Spanish, as well as spending hours in the National Archives pouring through years-worth of newspaper articles. For my first job after graduate school, I was hired by an intelligence agency which paid me an extra \$2,000 a year for my Spanish language skills and \$1,000 for my Italian language skills.

While getting my second Master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Languages & Linguistics (fully paid for by a Title VII grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education), a native Arabic-speaking classmate and I were given a contract by the Washington, DC Public Schools to develop a curriculum for a 6-week intensive Arabic Immersion summer program.

After leaving the U.S. Government, I worked for an educational nonprofit where we conducted classroom-based research on bilingual education programs around the country. I had to attend classes in Spanish, record them, and transcribe them. Later I ended up co-authoring a book on bilingual education with my fellow researchers.

Some years later, I took a job in Germany as the director of a network of Buddhist meditation centers. I regularly traveled among a dozen countries and worked with an international staff in an office in Cologne, Germany. We owned the building in Cologne and a retreat center in France that encountered some legal problems at one point. So I would often need to sit with German accountants or peruse legal documents in French in order to manage the organization's affairs. As I spoke fluent

Spanish, I was able to go to Spain for an annual conference and didn't need an interpreter (which the organizers were thrilled over!), and at our retreat center one year, I even served as a simultaneous interpreter for Spanish participants attending a 9-day program, as well as serving as their Spanish-speaking meditation instructor.

Upon returning to the U.S., I got a part-time job working for Montgomery College teaching adult ESL classes, where I would routinely greet the students each morning in their native languages, if I knew them, and if I didn't, I'd ask them to teach me how to say "Good morning" and "Good-bye" in their language. It endeared them to me to have them teach the teacher. It was one of the best jobs of my life!

Maureen Grady

Class of 2012

Major: History

Minor: Spanish

How have your language skills impacted your life after you graduated from the University of Scranton?

I graduated in 2012 with a BA in History and a minor in Spanish. I am currently pursuing my master's in Spanish with a concentration in linguistics at Middlebury College. I also have a masters from NYU in International Education. I currently work for an educational start-up in Manhattan called LangInnov.



Landing South with Full Tuition and a G.A. position

Katia Ramírez

Class of 2022

Major: History and Hispanic Studies

Katia Ramírez, class of 2022, has moved south to Atlanta. She will be pursuing a Spanish Masters of Arts at Georgia State University, after being accepted with full tuition waiver, a Graduate Teaching Assistant Position, and a stipend. Before she left Pennsylvania, she had the chance to reflect about her life, including her four years of undergraduate studies at The University of Scranton. "I have learned so much at the University of Scranton and feel that I have so much more to learn."



"My parents arrived in the United States from Mexico with no knowledge of the English language. When I was born in Georgia, they were reluctant to teach me Spanish even though they didn't speak English. As a result, I started elementary school unable to speak or read English or Spanish fluently. This did not discourage me. Instead, I began to recognize the importance of the language and history of my ancestors. It empowers me, inspires me, and makes me feel close to my cultural identity. I learned quickly, worked hard, and excelled at school. My college education and experiences made me realize that there is so much more to learn about my native language, culture and history. My goal is

to keep learning and to pass this knowledge along to others in both a personal and professional capacity. I am proud to be a Mexican American, a Chicana, a Latina,” she says without hesitation. Katia is the first college graduate in her family. The University of Scranton was her route to success: “Coming to Scranton back in 2018, I had no idea what I wanted to do until in my seminar class I was guided to the Department of World Languages. I was anxious, I didn’t know what would happen, but after a while I fell in love with the department. I changed my major to Hispanic Studies and learned more about Spanish and the culture in various Spanish speaking countries. The professors here are your number one fans. They support you; they care about you; you just have to go to them first and approach them.”

Helping Children in Immigration Court

Kylie Mignat Class of 2018

Major: International Studies, German Cultural Studies, and Hispanic Studies
As a paralegal, one of the most frequent questions people asked me was: “What does a typical day look like for you?” This was such a difficult question to answer because no two days were ever the same. At KIND, I worked with unaccompanied minors, which is a term that refers to people who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border without a parent or legal guardian before reaching the age of 18. Unaccompanied minors apprehended by immigration officials at the border are placed into deportation proceedings and transferred to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters. Ultimately, most children are released from ORR into the custody of a sponsor (often a minor’s family member or friend). While living with their sponsors, unaccompanied minors continue to fight their cases in immigration court.



If you’ve ever watched a legal show, you’ve likely heard someone say something like, “if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.” While this is the case for criminal proceedings, no one is entitled to representation in immigration court. This conundrum is inherently unjust as it ignores the language barriers and serious lack of access to legal information that often prevent undocumented immigrants (especially children) from effectively representing themselves. In fact, “children represented by attorneys are 70 times more likely [than children who represent themselves] to win their cases in immigration court.”¹



Drawn by a minor Mignat has helped.

This was where my work as a paralegal came in. At KIND, we provided free representation to unaccompanied minors in immigration court. Over 3.5 years, I conducted over 130 in-depth interviews with potential clients to screen them for forms of immigration relief, attended family and immigration court hearings with clients, and prepared affidavits and forms for submission to immigration authorities under the supervision of an attorney. Through this work, I also

¹ “The Life-saving Impact of Access to Legal Representation.” Kids in Need of Defense, 18 May 2021. Available online at: <https://supportkind.org/press-releases/the-life-saving-impact-of-access-to-legal-representation/>.

had the privilege of witnessing clients' reactions to the news that their cases had been approved or that their removal proceedings had been terminated/closed.

The second most frequent question people asked was what my favorite part of my job was. Unlike the previous question, this one was always the easiest to answer. When working with child clients, it is important to build trust and rapport in order to gain crucial details for their cases. While some may consider this to be the most challenging aspect of working with children, these interactions with clients were always my favorite part. I loved drawing, playing, talking with, and learning about my clients as I slowly built rapport with them and gained their trust over the course of weeks, months, and in many cases, years. While no day was exactly like the last as a paralegal, every single one was fascinating and fulfilling.

Recent and Upcoming Events

Open House



On October 4th 2022, University of Scranton students, faculty, and staff gathered at the World Languages and Cultures Open House. Light refreshments were provided as students engaged in conversation with the Language Learning Center tutors, World Languages faculty, and the 2022-2023 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants. Students were given passports to track their progress throughout the evening. The passport included speaking to two people from another country, a tutor, and an instructor from the World Languages and Cultures Department. This gave students the opportunity to practice their conversation skills in the language they were interested in and allowed them to familiarize themselves with the Department. Through this event, students learned of the languages offered at the University as well as the resources available at the Language Learning Center.

FLTA Events

This year, the Department of World Languages and Cultures is proud to host the following cultural events:

- Spanish Cultural Event: “Celebrate Argentina” on Wednesday October 26th from 4:00-5:00 P.M. in Leahy 235 led by Spanish FLTA Magalí Ferrer
- German Cultural Event on Monday December 5th lead by German FLTA Celine Seeger

Language Learning Center

By: Hannah Jackson

The Language Learning Center, located in O'Hara 306, offers language learning support for students and community members learning Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, and English. Services available include language conversation hours, a computer lab, language tutoring, a database of language resources, and more. The Language Learning Center also offers English as a Second Language tutoring to adult English learners in the community and hosts several events for local students and community members such as the annual TA Talks, various cultural events hosted by our Fulbright TAs, and high school immersion days. Curious about how the Language Learning Center can help you learn a language or improve your language skills? Contact Hannah Jackson at Hannah.jackson@scranton.edu or 570-941-4711.

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