

LA/W/S NEWSLETTER



LA/W/S Chair's Note

It is my privilege to serve as chair of LA/W/S during this academic year because our department supports the University's mission and has a strong commitment to the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary study of political, social and cultural issues while also integrating curricular and extra-curricular activities essential to the formation of our students. With these goals in mind, our department has an exciting series of events lined up for this semester, including the Latin American Film Festival, a talk by scholar Dr. Debra Castillo (Cornell University) and a series of events cosponsored by the Cross Cultural Center, Political Science and World Languages. The vibrancy of LAS and WS depend on programs coming together at these events, and we hope to see you at one soon. You can read about these events in this issue, so please dive in. The following two pages of this newsletter are dedicated to Dr. Parsons, who will retire after this year. The Latin American Studies faculty members want to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to his immeasurable service to our program and students. Drs. Nordberg, Ledford-Miller, and Voltzow shared their notes of appreciation. LA/W/S wants to thank Kristen Yarmey and her colleagues in University Archives, who helped us to find photos of Dr. Parsons from the 1980-1983 yearbooks, which we are pleased to share with you on pages 2 and 3. This newsletter also highlights the participation of one of our students in the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Pennsylvania as well as the study abroad in Mexico reflection from another. Also, you will find a welcome note to Interim Director of the Cross Cultural Center Maria Marinucci. Thanks to all of you who have worked with us and remain interested in LA/W/S, we appreciate it very much! We wish you all a happy and productive fall, Dr. Yamile Silva.

WS Director's Note



Our Women's Studies Concentration provides an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to understanding the social and cultural constructions of gender that shape the experiences of women and men in society. Devoted to the study of identity, power, and privilege, feminist scholarship addresses issues that extend beyond the category of women. It facilitates both graduate study and careers involving social justice and preparing students for leadership roles in diverse workplaces and communities. When you think about how to lend intellectual coherence to your studies while ensuring they reflect your values and commitments think about Women's Studies. A major qualitative study of 900 Women's and Gender Studies graduates from 125 national and international universities demonstrated that graduates had a high level of degree satisfaction and routinely used key concepts and capacities from Women's and Gender Studies curricula in a wide array of careers. These prominently included concepts of the social construction of gender; intersectionality; equity, diversity, and empowerment; comfort and proficiency with interdisciplinary problem-solving; and applying knowledge for social transformation.

In the face of mounting political and social tensions in the U.S. and the world, the work of Women's Studies is more necessary than ever. We look forward to another semester of promoting thoughtful conversation about feminist leadership, global and international perspectives on women and gender, and opportunities to learn and act in our community. I hope you'll enjoy hearing from U of S Women's Studies Concentrator Camila Robles about her experiences at the NEW Leadership Conference, a program devoted to helping more women become leaders. Grab a friend or two and join us at the Jane Kopas Women's Center as we learn from Ms. Imen Neffati (Sheffield University, UK) about Women in the Maghreb after the Arab Spring and, later in the semester, from Dr. Debra Castillo (Cornell University) about "Repositioning Migration." We hope you'll stop by our office and the JKWC to learn more about becoming involved in our interdisciplinary programs!

Best wishes for another semester, Jamie H. Trnka, Dir. of Women's Studies

Notes of Appreciation to Rap Parsons



Front Row: Robert Young, S.J., Richard Bourcier; Back Row: Njegos Petrovic, George Krieger, S.J., Joan Roccassalvo, C.S.J., Anne Jones, Donald Pantle, Robert Parsons, Thomas Kamla, Frank Cimini. Absent: John George.

Although I probably knew Rap from the time he arrived at the University of Scranton, I had the opportunity to know him much better when I started studying Spanish around 1999. We traveled together to El Salvador in 2000 on a Bridges to El Salvador trip. We were roommates on that trip and had plenty of chances to talk as we went on early morning walks through the campus of the National University of Salvador and again when we sampled the

local rum at the end of the day in our room. Rap encouraged me later that summer to travel to Guatemala where I was able to travel around the country with a former student of ours who had won a Fulbright to study the implementation of bilingual education in Spanish and in the 23 Mayan dialects as a fulfillment of the peace accord signed after the long civil war in Guatemala.

In 2006 Rap asked me to be one of the faculty mentors in the yearly Spanish language immersion trip that he had been running for a number of years to Guadalajara, Mexico. For five years I had the very good fortune to participate in this program that was very well organized and had the support of some very talented people in Guadalajara that Rap had found and engaged on behalf of our students. Rap had done an amazing job of organizing many aspects of these yearly intersession trips. Months ahead of departure there was the work of arranging flights to and from Mexico. There were the courses in Spanish and in Mexican politics and culture that Rap arranged with the faculty at UNIVA. There were fascinating trips to Mexico City and the pyramids of Teotihuacán, and the museum house of Frida Kahlo. Trips to Aztec archeological sites. A tour of a major tequila distillery. A trip to Lake Chapala, a huge lake about 25 miles from Guadalajara. A weekend off so students who wanted to go to Puerto Vallarta could make the trip on their own. There were countless details of housing and host family issues. Every year Rap insisted on making sure we took students to lunch so that we could find out how they were doing in their academic work and with their host families. There were financial details to handle: making sure that we had withdrawn enough cash from the ATM to pay for buses, tuition, hotels, family stays. There were occasional students who wanted to make the trip but did not need the political science credits that came from one of the courses. For these students Rap had contacted service agencies in the Guadalajara area so that these students would have a placement in these agencies to get to know the people better. There was an enormous amount of work involved in organizing these opportunities and in visiting the sites to introduce the students and to get them settled with the staff of the organizations and to plan out bus routes or to arrange daily transportation for them to get to these service sites.

As Rap retires I want to express to him publicly my appreciation and gratitude for mentoring me in Spanish, for introducing me to a world of friendship and culture in Mexico and for being a great colleague. Enjoy retirement, Rap.

By: Kevin Nordberg

Notes of Appreciation to Rap Parsons

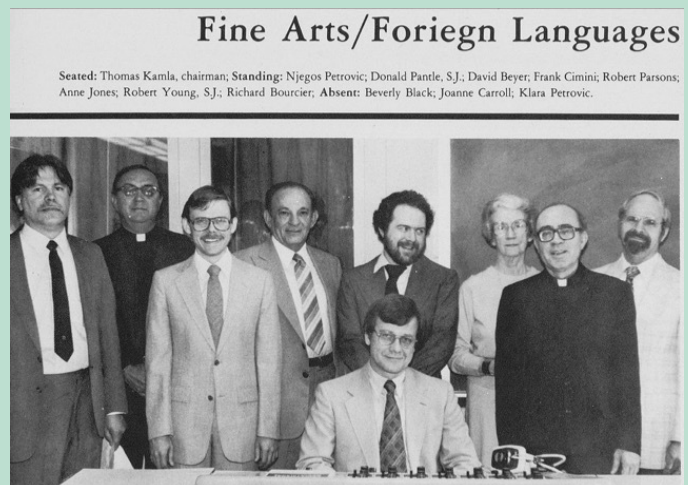
I first met Bob Parsons at Penn State University where he was a graduate student in the Spanish department and I was in the department of Comparative Literature. I left after one year, for a Fulbright to Brazil, and then on to the University of Texas at Austin for five years. Six years later, Rap interviewed me in January 1985 for a position in the Department of Foreign Languages and Fine Arts.

Rap came to the University in 1979 straight from grad school at Penn State. Like me, Rap came ABD and challenged to fulfill work and family obligations while completing his dissertation. My starting salary in 1985 was \$21,500, but I think Rap's was well under that in 1979. The standard teaching load was 4-4, there was no released time for research, and in those days we often taught five courses a semester! Under Father Panuska, President of the University from 1982-1998, there was a shift toward a more balanced professoriate, with new expectations for research and publication. Rap weathered the change admirably, a change that included learning to use a computer (with thanks to Kevin Nordberg who figured out how to type with diacritics when the IT folks couldn't). He worked hard to defend modern languages when curriculum revision decreased the humanities area. He participated actively in the creation of Latin American Studies, including the interviews for our first historian of Latin America, Lee Penyak, and served LAS devotedly once created. As part of LAS, he led many students on study abroad to Guadalajara, then to Puebla, and even once to Venezuela. His course on Service Learning and the Hispanic Community has benefited those served, but perhaps more important is the impact on our students as they grow in awareness and become women and men for others. Robert A. Parsons--RAP--has had an immeasurable impact on so much and so many, and I am proud to call him my friend.

By: Linda Ledford-Miller

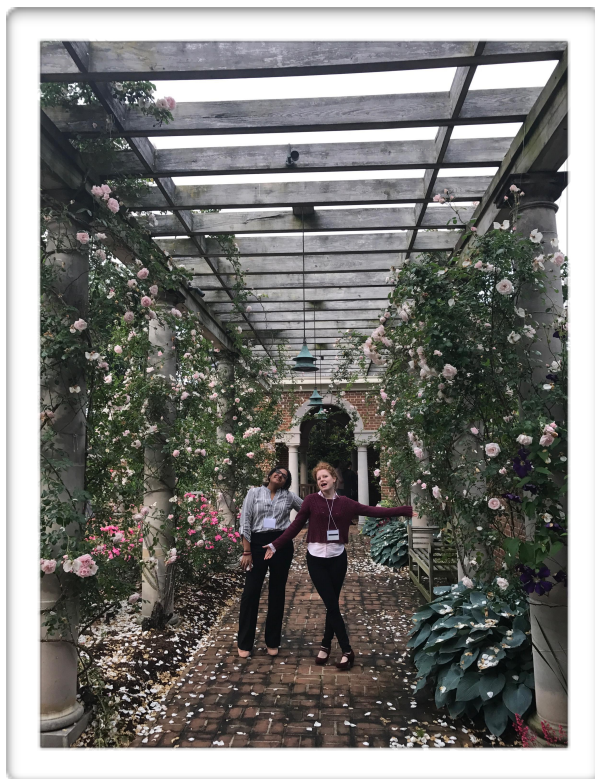
I have always valued Rap as a thoughtful and dedicated colleague who is interested in sharing his profound knowledge, even with wayward biologists interested in Latin American culture. He is never afraid to say what he thinks, but does it in a balanced, and often humorous way. I already miss conversations about politics, from campus to local to national and international. I also think of Rap as part of a team with Maggie. They generously opened their home to us for potlucks, picnics, and bonfires with home-grown food and down-home music.

By: Janice Voltzow



The National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Pennsylvania

Written by: Camila Robles



It is no secret that women are underrepresented in our country's government on every level. Among the poorest in representation is Pennsylvania. This summer I had the opportunity to participate in the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Pennsylvania. This nonpartisan week-long immersive and intensive program is designed to empower young women to run for public office. Throughout the week, we spent our days in workshops, meeting local and state legislators, touring the Harrisburg capital building, drafting policy, and even having a mock press conference. We were also forced to abandon our bubbles of comfort as each participant had to introduce a speaker. We were taught essential skills for the realities of life, which included a lot of networking. However, among those realities were also the difficulties we could face as women in politics.

Issues from how to dress and how to speak were candid conversations from other women who were far too aware about the sexism that persists in our future profession. Nevertheless, we persisted. As women, we knew that our voices and active participation in public office could help remedy that situation.

For a week I was surrounded by intelligent, strong, and politically interested young women. I learned just as much from them as I did from the official program itself. During that week was the testimony of former FBI director James Comey in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sprawled throughout the room sitting on couches and the floor there were thirty-five young women in professional clothes staring intently at the TV only taking breaks to make comments about what was happening. It was a scene unlike anything I have ever experienced before. By the end, we were no longer the individuals who came into this program, but part of a larger network of women who had gone through NEW Leadership past, present, and future.

I was always very adamant about the fact that I did not want to run for public office. The truth is studies show that women often need encouragement, and I met many women who this remained true for. I also met women who took the initiative and ran for public office out of ambition. These were women from all different backgrounds with varied experiences, but they were all there because they cared. They saw something that they did not like and set out to make it better. I am still apprehensive about running for public office, but I also learned to be open to all possibilities.

Welcome to Interim Director of the Cross Cultural Center

Written by Colleen Boyle & Maria Marinucci

Maria Marinucci currently serves as the Interim Director of the Cross Cultural Centers, a role she took on in late July 2017. In this capacity, she primarily oversees the Jane Kopas Women's Center, and also supervises the Multicultural Center. Prior to her appointment to the Interim Director position, Maria served as the Assistant Director for Residence Education with Residence Life, where she oversaw the development and management of residential learning communities. She will continue to provide oversight to the communities for the 2017-2018 academic year.



In May 2014, Maria earned a Master of Science degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University after serving as an Area Coordinator in Residence Life at Castleton University in Vermont. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Educational Studies from Colgate University.

Maria has been involved with the JKWC and MC since coming to the University of Scranton. Some of her proudest collaborations include helping to plan and implement Scranton's first National Coming Out Day event, and serving as one of the University's Safe Zone Training facilitators. She is passionate about engaging in educational dialogue about language, assumptions, and inclusion related to those who identify as LGBTQIA+. Maria's favorite part about working at the University is connecting with students and helping them better understand their identity and their place in the world. She loves helping students discover who they are, who they hope to become, and the impact they can and want to have.

As Interim Director, Maria hopes to continue the incredible gender equity, anti-violence, and inclusion work the Cross Cultural Centers already offer, and to expand bystander engagement programming for the University community. She also would love to collaborate with faculty on programs in which they are interested, particularly as they relate to current events and feminist praxis.

The Cross Cultural Centers Fall 2017

MC Mondays every Monday

Starting Sept. 11, 5:30pm TDC 205G

Safe Zone Workshop (for students—register on RoyalSync)

Sept. 27, 6:30pm-8:30pm in TDC 405

Oct. 17, 5:30pm-7:30pm in TDC 405

Safe Zone Workshop (for faculty/staff—register on RoyalSync)

Sept. 19, 10am-noon in TDC 406

Oct. 26, 2pm-4pm in Montrone MPR

CCC Film Series: Salam Neighbor Film Screening and Remarks from local Syrian Refugee Anas Homs

Sept 25., 7pm, LSC 133

Hispanic Heritage Month: Dance Night

Sept. 28, 9pm Collegiate Hall

Love Your Body Day

Oct. 18, TDC 2nd Floor

Study Abroad in Mexico: A Path Toward Growth and Self-Discovery

Written by: Lauren Coggins



My journey to Mexico was actually seven years in the making, meaning that I had dreamed of going there ever since eighth grade. For me, this meant seven years of my parents trying to convince me to study abroad in Spain. Although many here at the University of Scranton have had amazing experiences doing so, I decided to keep my promise to my younger self to study in

Mexico.

Stepping off the plane after years of waiting, I found myself alone, navigating my way through a new country 3,000 miles away from all that I had ever known and loved. Safe and sound, I made it to my host mother's home, where she welcomed me as if I were one of her own children. Despite this promising beginning, I was nervous about exploring the city of Puebla, as I had always previously lived in the countryside.

My host mother made it a point to introduce me to students within our neighborhood, who would later become my hardest goodbyes upon my departure. Together, we would get to know almost half of Mexico, visiting thirteen out of thirty-one states in five months, ranging from Jalisco to Quintana Roo. During my travels, I discovered new foods, such as tacos al pastor and tlayudas, and stepped out of my comfort zone, jumping from ten meter waterfalls.

Within my university, Universidad Iberoamericana, I had the pleasure of taking courses in the medium of Spanish with professors who opened my mind to new perspectives and ideas. In particular, taking Philosophy of Education abroad allowed me to use the warmth of the Mexican culture to develop my own philosophy on teaching. At the end of the semester, I discovered the importance of caring for the whole student as a teacher, as this plays a crucial role in helping to form future upstanding members of society.

Studying abroad in Puebla taught me more than I had ever imagined. Aside from the rich education that I received at Universidad Iberoamericana, I am thankful for the moments that I shared with friends during my brief stay. Without even realizing it, they opened my eyes to a new way of life, changing me into a more mature, culturally-aware version of myself. Although I had to say goodbye back in May, I do not plan to let this recent experience in Mexico be my last.

LA/W/S Fall Events



LA/W/S and **Political Science** are pleased to host Debra A. Castillo. Dr. Castillo is a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, Emerson Hinchliff Chair of Hispanic Studies, and Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University. She was 2014-15 president of the international Latin American Studies Association. She specializes in contemporary narrative from the Spanish-speaking world (including the United States), gender studies, and cultural theory.

At 6pm on 11/2/17 in BRN 228, she will speak on “Repositioning Migration: Workers from Another World.”

She describes her talk as follows: “Immigration, or the potential for migration, has in some ways become a defining feature of a youthful population in flux, moving between languages and cultures both within Mexico and in the USA. This mobile population reshapes as well the relationships and concerns of people who remain in the home country, who suffer from the loss of loved ones, who worry about the changes foreign cultures will bring to their communities, who look around and see holes in their community. In this paper I will be looking at a pair of works by two indigenous theatre groups from San Cristóbal de las Casas in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. The Lo’il Maxil play discussed here is a collaborative creation entitled *Trabajadores en el otro mundo* (Workers in another World, 1998; original version 1994), and the counterpart is Isabel Juárez Espinosa’s play, *La migración*, published the same year she co-founded FOMMA with Petrona de la Cruz Cruz, also in 1994. Both plays point to the fact that migration is a reality, and while the decision to travel between worlds is a difficult one, it must be done with due thought and by people of strong character and deep respect for cultural values.”

Fall Film Series "Judging the Other"

Brennan Hall 228 at 7pm

1. 9/12 *Neruda* (Chile, 2016)
2. 10/24 *El secreto de mis ojos* (Argentina, 2010)
3. 11/14 *Macario* (México, 1960)

Tropical Biology BIOL 195 Galápagos Islands Interession 2018

Natural Science (E)
Diversity (D)

Isabela Island (2) • San Cristobal Island (1)
Santa Cruz Island (1)
Cost reduced!
Information Meeting Thursday 21 September
5 – 6 pm LSC 565
or see Dr. Voltzow more information



For more information, please contact Dr. Marc Seid – LSC 274 (marc.seid@scranton.edu)
or Dr. Janice Voltzow – LSC 255 (janice.voltzow@scranton.edu)

Upcoming Co-sponsored Events

Sep 21 Screening *Latinos Beyond Reel* and Director Picker's visit.

Oct 2 at 7 pm in Brennan 228 Film and discussion of the life and death of the first US-born martyr. Oklahoman Fr. Stanley Rother was murdered in Guatemala in 1982.

November 16 at 7 pm in Brennan 228: Film and discussion of the lives of six Jesuit priests and two female companions from the University of Central America in San Salvador martyred on this date in 1989.