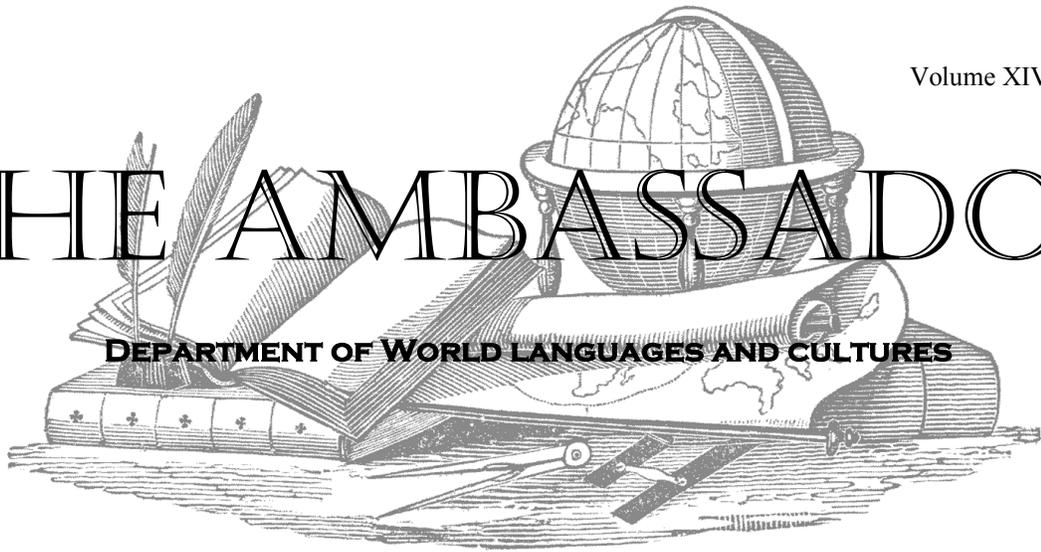


# THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

### STUDYING ABROAD: WHY?

It's fall, pre-registration is around the corner, and students are beginning to come by to discuss their study abroad courses for spring semester. But *why* should students study abroad? For students studying a language or two, the answer is obvious: the immersion experience is essential to fuller language acquisition. Vocabulary and slang, the closer-to-real accent, improved comprehension and improved fluency are all gains made more quickly through a true immersion experience. But is that all? What other benefits are there, for language students or even for the strictly Anglophone student?

Mark Twain, famous American and consummate wit, said "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." Henry Miller, an author famous for his scandalous escapades and censored novels based in Paris, observed that "one's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

That new way of seeing things broadens our view and deepens our understanding. Sure, we enjoy the *pain au chocolate* in Paris, the *paella* in Barcelona, the *alfajores* of Argentina, the beer and wine available to the under twenty-one. But we also learn to see ourselves, and our nation, through the eyes of others. To return to Mark Twain: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Linda Ledford-Miller



Studying abroad is not just a chance to try foreign delicacies like *paella* or *alfajores*, it is a way to learn about ourselves.



#### Inside this issue:

- Faculty Activities
- East German Film Series 2012
- Spanish Club Film Series
- Meet the NewTAs
- Alumni News
- Studying Abroad: Puebla

### Latinamerican travels

**Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller** presented two papers recently: “*Un viaje por Honduras (1884)* de María Soltera. Literatura de viajes de mujeres en América Latina” at the XI Jornadas Nacionales de Historia de las Mujeres y VI Congreso Iberoamericano de Estudios de Género, that took place in San Juan, Argentina in September, and “El misionero como viajero: Frederick Crowe en Centro América” at the XI Congreso Internacional de Caminería Hispánica in Madrid in June. She also published an article: “No hay que disculparse: *A Winter in Central America and Mexico* por Helen J. Sanborn (Un invierno en América Central y México), in *Viajeras entre dos mundos*. Ed. Sara Beatriz Guardia. Dourados: Editorial de la Universidad Federal da Grande Dourados, 2012. 629-642 and a creative nonfiction essay, “An Inherited Friend”, published in *Turk’s Head Review*. June 2012.

<http://turksheadreview.tumblr.com/>



### Immigration and human rights violations in Europe

**Dr. Jamie Trnka** attended last May Tribunal 12, a forum jointly convened by a number of European cultural organizations in Stockholm, Sweden, to accuse Europe of systematic human rights violations in connection with immigration policies since the 1990s. Although it enjoys no juridical authority, the Tribunal is part of ongoing cultural efforts to assign moral and political responsibility for systemic human rights violations resulting from policies that endanger migrants, selectively criminalize mobility, and extend and privatize state borders. She is co-authoring an article on the tribunal and its findings as part of a new project on contemporary migration, human rights protest, and the revival of documentary theater.

Dr. Trnka is on sabbatical and living in The Netherlands, where she is completing a book about the aesthetics of solidarity in Cold War East and West Germany.

### International research and presentations

**Dr. Yamile Silva** presented her research at two international professional meetings: “Catecismo o instrucción popular: lenguaje y poder en la Independencia,” presented at the *XI Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica* in Cuzco, Perú, in March, and “Prácticas escriturales femeninas en el Perú colonial”, presented at the *54 International Congress of Americanist* in Vienna, Austria in July. During the Summer, she worked on some revisions of her article “The Cuban Situation in Ana Mozo de la Torre’s letter (1815)” that will appear in the *History/Literature* journal at Stanford University, *Republics of Letters*. She has finished a review “Lección errante: Santos Febres Mayra y el Caribe contemporáneo” to be published in the journal *Letras Femeninas*. Dr. Silva was also invited to write an article for the book *Women and Gender in the Early Modern World*. During the summer, she was at Library of the Congress in Washington D.C. collecting materials for her research on the Inquisition in Cartagena de Indias. She also worked on a project on Colonial Letters with her student Timothy McCormick.



### Newspaper clippings in Hera Müller’s collage poetry

**Dr. Monika Moyrer** attended the German Studies Association this fall, where she presented a paper about the newspaper clippings in Herta Müller’s collage poetry. Another conference of interest to her is the annual Women in German conference, where she hopes to gain new insights into the most current debates about scholarship on gender in her field. As she is striving to bring new ideas into her teaching, she will attend the local meeting of the American Association of Teachers of German in Lancaster, PA, and the ACTFL Conference in Philadelphia. At the invitation of Gabriela Moustardas and in the spirit of strengthening collaboration, she will visit MMI preparatory high school in October to promote German.

### Studies in French cinema

**Dr. Marzia Caporale** presented a paper in London on June 14 at King’s College for the 12th annual Conference “Studies in French Cinema”. The paper’s title was “Re-gendering Greek Tragedy as Resistance : The War Hero(ine) in Denis Villeneuve’s Film *Incendies*.”

## EAST GERMAN FILM SERIES 2012, PORTRAYALS OF WORK AND LOVE



FEATURING FILMS BY  
IRIS GUSNER

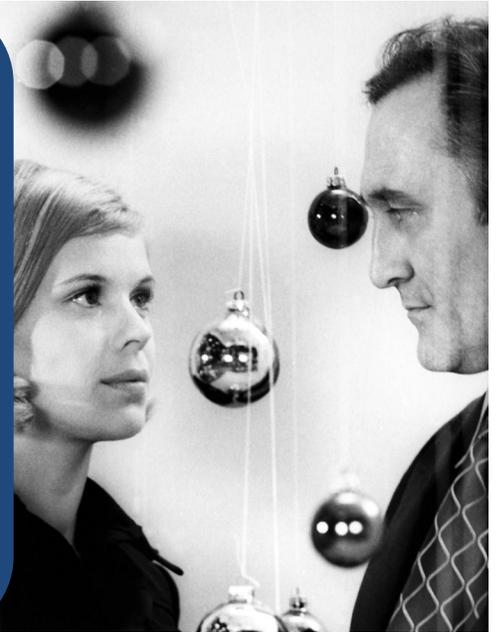
NOVEMBER  
6, 7 AND 8

BRENNAN 228 I

7PM-9 PM

PEARN AUDITORIUM

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



This year's EAST GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL *Filming Women: Iris Gusner's Portrayal of Work and Love* builds on the successful series of East German films that has been launched by Professor Jamie H. Trnka. Since 2007, we have successfully collaborated with the DEFA Film Library in Amherst to bring films from the East German period that have portrayed different facets of "social realism" in East Germany, yet have challenged authorities in many ways.

The Fall 2012 Festival continues this tradition featuring three of Iris Gusner's films. One of very few women to succeed as a feature film director at the East German DEFA Film Studios, **Iris Gusner's** work is marked by her portrayal of female protagonists. Her much-heralded debut film, *Die Taube auf dem Dach* (*The Dove on the Roof*, 1973/2010), was banned for showing workers "in distress." Her second film project was cancelled before shooting began. She finally achieved acclaim with her authentic and lively portrayal of female workers in *Alle meine Mädchen* (*All My Girls*, 1979), which became one of her most successful films. Her unique semi-autobiographical feature film, *Wäre die Erde nicht rund* (*Were*

*the Earth Not Round*, 1981), was then followed by other films focusing on the role and emancipation of women in the German Democratic Republic. Gusner left for West Germany only few months before the Wall came down.

The following movies will be shown at the festival: **Tuesday November 6; *All My Girls*, 1980** (86 min). The film is a fictionalized, documentary-like movie about the lives of six young female factory workers. It is based on the nonfictional lives of women workers at the NARVA light bulb factory in Berlin. It is a reality-based semi-documentary social study that was shot in authentic settings. It stands out among DEFA films about women workers, in that it depicts the conflicts of a factory brigade in a dramatic, but ultimately upbeat fashion. It shares with other *Gegenwartsfilme* (contemporary films) of the 1970s and 1980s a concern with issues such as the role of work for an individual's self-fulfillment. Gusner, however, manages to offer a woman's perspective on these issues in her strong emphasis on maternal responsibility and female bonding.

**Wednesday November 7; *he Dove on the Roof*, 1973** (82 min). In

this movie, Linda, an engineer, falls in love with not one, but two of the men on her construction team. The subject raises questions about the importance of work, love, and happiness in socialist East Germany of the 1970s. The story of the film also becomes a lesson in GDR cultural politics. It was made at the end of a period of creative freedom in East Germany. However, shortly before the release it was deemed unsuitable for audiences by the Communist regime. All copies of the movie were supposed to be destroyed, but a single copy survived.

**Thursday November 8; *Were the Earth Not Round*, 1981** (87 min): Christiane, from East Germany, and Hatem, from Syria, meet and fall in love while studying in Moscow. As they contemplate a future together, they realize that while Hatem is committed to helping his country, Christiane cannot work as a scientist there. "I have always had the need to bring 'world' into my films, because I lacked that in the GDR. We did not get out, and the world did not get in," Gusner confirmed in an interview. This film can be read as homage to the international atmosphere at the International Moscow Film Academy where Gusner studied.

## SPANISH CLUB FILM SERIES: MOVIES ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

Through a much-sought-after grant, the Scranton community will have the opportunity to enjoy five Spanish-language films during this academic year. Pragda, an independent cultural initiative, selected the University of Scranton from a highly competitive pool of institutions vying to be a film location site. All films in this Spanish Film Club series, which is free and open to the public, are recent and will be shown with English subtitles at 7 p.m. in the Pearn Auditorium of Brennan Hall.

The theme for the fall semester lineup relates to issues of human rights and social justice. The movies include

*The Cinema Hold Up* (2011), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. This film, screened Sept. 20, is a vibrant, authentic and wonderfully observed portrait of the tempo and texture of today's Mexican youth culture, and uses mostly non-professional actors.

*Post Mortem* (2010) takes place in the midst of the 1973 Pinochet coup in Santiago, Chile, and chronicles an apolitical 55-year-old named Mario who writes autopsy reports at the local military hospital. He is shaken out of his state of apathy when the brother and father of Nancy, a neighbor about whom he fantasizes, are arrested by the

Allende regime. Directed by Pablo Larraín, the film will be shown Thursday, Nov. 15.

During the spring semester, the film series continues with a focus on the impact of food and water on issues of sustainability, economics and class struggle. The movies that will be shown are the documentary *From the Land to Your Table* (2009), with directors from seven countries, Feb. 21; *Even the Rain* (2010), directed by Icíar Bollaín, from Sapain, Tuesday March 19; and *I Travel Because I Have To* (2009), directed by Karim Aïnouz and Marcelo Gomes, Thursday, April 25, 2013.

### DISCOVER CHINATOWN, NYC

On **October 27** the students from the University will have the chance to discover "the largest Chinatown in the US," said the organizer of the trip, visiting lecturer Allison Lai. "When first arriving at Chinatown in New York City, the hustle and bustle on the narrow streets, friendly smiles showing on the faces of street vendors, live seafood swimming in the washbowls, all these vivid pictures capture my eyes and make me homesick", Ms. Lai explains. "Let's walk away from the textbook to experience the real Chinese world, and practice what you learn in class. Most of the shops in Chinatown open early in the morning and close late at night. Here you will see how Chinese people are well-known for their thrift and diligence. No more General Tso's chicken and Pu Pu Platter, we are going to taste authentic Chinese food." For information: [allison.lai@scranton.edu](mailto:allison.lai@scranton.edu).

### 7TH ANNUAL TA TALK / LUNCHEON

The Department of World Languages and Cultures will host the 7th Annual TA TALK luncheon event **Monday Nov. 26** at 11:30 a.m. in Brennan 509. The event features talks by TAs presently in the department: Alexandra Moreno Castillo from Colombia, Imen Neffati from Tunisia and Rika Kawahara from Japan. Funded by a Diversity Initiatives Grant this event presents a unique opportunity to learn about other cultures from the perspective of these enthusiastic young ambassadors. Each will share what is so special to them about their countries. The event is free and open to all but reservations are required. Please contact Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center, at [marie.karam@scranton.edu](mailto:marie.karam@scranton.edu).

### READING OF PULITZER WINNER AUTHOR JUNOT DÍAZ

On **April 8, 2013**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Junot Díaz** will visit our campus for a reading, followed by a Q&A and a book signing.

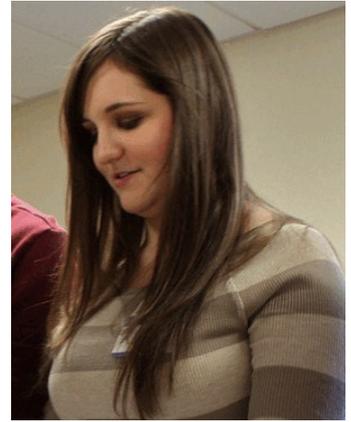
Born in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, he was raised there and in New Jersey. He graduated from Rutgers and received an MFA from Cornell. He lives in New York City and Boston, and is a tenured professor at MIT. Díaz has had his fiction published in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review* and four times in *The Best American Short Stories*. His critically praised, bestselling debut book, *Drown*, led to his inclusion among *Newsweek's* "New Faces of 1996"—the only writer in the group. *The New Yorker* placed him on a list of the 20 top writers for the 21st century.

Díaz has won the Eugene McDermott Award, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, the PEN/Malamud Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship, a U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Fellowship from the NEA, the Rome Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent book, *This is How You Lose Her* was released in September 2012.

For more information about this event, please contact **Dr. Yamile Silva** at [yamile.silva@scranton.edu](mailto:yamile.silva@scranton.edu).



NEWS FROM OUR FORMER STUDENTS



From the left, Sarah Neitz, Kathleen Lavelle, Bill Colona, and Allison Carey, former World Language Department students.

**Sarah Neitz**, a major in International Studies and Hispanic Studies, began volunteering in August with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Albuquerque, NM. Her placement is as an immigrant advocate at the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center and as volunteer coordinator for the "Bread and Blessings" program with Immaculate Conception Parish.

**Kathleen Lavelle**, after

graduating *magna cum laude* as a double major in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology and Hispanic studies and with a minor in philosophy, received a Fulbright grant that brought her to work as teaching assistant in Madrid, Spain.

**Bill Colona**, a minor in German, graduated with a masters degree from Georgetown University, and began working for a member of

Congress, Nita Lowey, handling all things related to transportation, energy, military, veterans, homeland security and intelligence.

**Allison Carey** majored in International Language Business/Spanish. She received a Huayu Enrichment Scholarship to study Mandarin Chinese at Fu Jen University in Taipei, Taiwan for six months, from September 2012 through March 2013.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE FAMILY LEARNING DAY OF SCHOOL FOR DEAF



Students of the University of Scranton ASL courses volunteered at the School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children held a Family Learning Day last March for families of children at the school. Students from The University of Scranton American Sign Language ASL 1 and ASL 2 classes volunteered at the event. University students gave up a portion of their weekend to facilitate various activities for children while parents attended workshops. The ASL students then assisted the children and their families with various literacy activities. This is the first opportunity the University of Scranton students have had to take the skills they have learned outside of the classroom and benefit others but it certainly won't be the last.

## THE LLC BEGINS A NEW SEMESTER WITH MANY NEW FACES



From the left, front row: Carlos Osorios-Rios, Claudia Panetta, Alexis Ribeiro, Robert Vargas, John Ebeid, Yukti Desai, Leeza Tirado, Lynda Zayas; back row: George Vazquez, Garrett Barziloski, Raul Ferrari, Jennifer Joswick and Emily Ott.

One of the best kept secrets at The University of Scranton is a big room, full of modern computers and discrete voices that enunciate words and phrases in as many languages as one can imagine. It is the Language Learning Center, located within the World Languages and Cultures Department, in O'Hara Hall. Students often come to the LLC, as it is better known, to find support for their language studies, watch movies rarely seen in the American screens, take advantage of the computer systems and printer offered, study, or interact with people from all over the world.

As its mission statement underlines, the Language Learning Center, through its resource personnel and technology, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of the language learning and language teaching at the University of Scranton. The LLC supports the mission of the University to educate women and men for others through its training programs and outreach activities. In addition the LLC serves the promotion of justice through its extensive community service such as translating documents, providing workshops on technology and teaching to area educators and free tutoring to students in need.

The director of the center, **Professor Marie Karam**, is this year an especially happy person. It is a year of renovations, filled with new energy, and a committed desire to bring this unique institution to even higher

grounds. "The LLC STAFF 2012 has many new faces! Out of a staff of 23, 13 are new!", said Professor Karam. "Speaking a total of nine different languages this staff is one of the best ever! The LLC is up and ready to tutor students in Elementary and Intermediate levels of Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese. and German. Just stop by and fill out a request and tell us what hours you are free. In addition to tutoring our own students the LLC Staff is actively involved in tutoring adult learners from Afghanistan, Saudia Arabia and Iran in English as a Second Language. "

In addition we have undertaken the new project on Sunday evenings to tutor newly arrived Nepalese/Bhutanese refugees in English as a Second Language. These adults, who have spent the last 20 yrs. living in refugee tent camps in Nepal are part of the 40,000 refugees accepted by the U.S. in recent years to relocate in many different parts of the U.S. Presently we have about 1200 living in Scranton. Anyone wishing to volunteer to tutor ESL please contact Marie Karam, LLC Director. Classes for these adult learners are every Sunday evening at 6pm and 7pm.

Absent when the photo was taken: **Kristina Adera, Dave Alfaro, Daysi Carreto, Emily Diaz, Jessica Echeverry, Joshua Guardia, Andreana Rodriguez, Ewelina Taran, Briana Wertalik, Tim McCormick.**

**THREE NEW AMBASSADORS FROM TUNISIA, JAPAN AND COLOMBIA**

From the left, Teaching Assistants **Imen Neffati**, **Rika Kawahara**, and **Alexandra Moreno Castillo**.

はじめまして (Hajimemashite) . Nice to meet you. I am **Rika Kawahara**, the Japanese TA for 2012-2013 academic year. First of all, I am grateful for this opportunity to come and teach in the University of Scranton. ありがとうございます (Arigatoo gozaimasu) . I am from western part of Japan, Okayama Prefecture. You are great if you can point out where it is. In Japan, there are many beautiful small cities and villages that are not worldly recognized, and I would say Okayama is one of the cities that you find traditional Japanese beauty and cultures in it. By the way, how do you think about Japan? What do you know about Japan? In the first lesson of Elementary Japanese Class, I showed ten things that most Japanese are very familiar with. Please ask your friend if he or she is taking Japanese class. Feel free to talk to me on campus if you are interested in anything about Japan. Learning language makes your life richer. You can experience unique culture and understand the heart of various people through the language. Once you come and visit our office, O'Hara Hall, you will experience the mixture of world languages and attractive cultures. Let's share whatever we have. I am looking forward to talking to you here in the beautiful university in Scranton.

¡Hola! I'm **Alexandra Moreno Castillo** and I come from Colombia. I live in the capital city which is Bogota. I also teach English to college students at a Catholic university and right now I'm working on my thesis to get a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics granted by a university in Spain. In my free time I like to read novels and short stories. One of my favorite books is "Doce cuentos peregrinos" written by Gabriel García Márquez. If I have time and money, I also do some travelling since I like taking pictures of landscapes and the architecture of places. I love being here as I now have the chance to experience a little bit of the American life style and of course, I can teach my language to those who want to learn it. When you see that others want to know more about you and your culture, you feel proud of yourself and your origins. This is a great opportunity to share with you all. If you would like to come and chat in Spanish some time, you can meet me in O'Hara 306 on Tuesdays morning. See you around!

Hello Scranton, I am **Imen Neffati**, the Fulbright FLTA ambassador from Tunisia. I am an English teacher back home and I am an Arabic teacher at University of Scranton for the academic year 2012-2013. Teaching a language as a foreign language is really a very difficult task and I wish I will be able to show all the world Arabic can include from History to culture and civilization! I will represent my country Tunisia during this year and I am willing to represent twenty two Arab countries. I hope I can be of significant effect in my students' experience of learning the language and the culture of a very hot region of the world. I hope I can learn a lot from this experience too! Looking forward to a great year of hard-work, joy, brotherhood and mutual understanding inside the community of University of Scranton.

## ALL READY FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL MEXICO INTERSESSION PROGRAM



From the left, Andrés Perea, Scott Holdren, Amanda Stahl, Antonella Amatto, George Vazquez, Jezza Malik, Laura Desmarteau, Jillian Tiburzi, Hank Willenbrink, Yamile Silva, and Maggie and Robert Parsons during the 2012 Program.

From January 7 to January 27 2013, the World Languages and Cultures and the Political Science departments of the University of Scranton will hold the 15th annual Mexico intersession program. This cultural journey, led by university professors **Dr. Robert Parsons**, and **Dr. Yamile Silva**, 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.

The trip also includes a number of interesting excursions. Among these, a half-day tour of historic Puebla and nearby Cholula, including the world famous Cholula pyramid, museums and typical market places; weekend trips to the beautiful city of Oaxaca, in southwest Mexico, and to the nearby megalopolis of Mexico City, including visits to the prestigious Anthropological Museum, the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, and the impressive pyramids of Teotihuacan.

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 intersession course is \$2,675, to be paid before November 9.

The Universidad Iberoamericana is “one of a kind with a pond in the middle of the campus and different types of ducks and peacocks spread throughout it. We took two courses for four days during the week; a political science course and a contemporary Mexican culture and language course. All the classes, courses, research papers and cultural activities that we participated in, allowed us to earn six credits from the program and learned a lot about the country of Mexico in such a short amount of time,” as explained by a participant in the 2012 program, Scott Holdren.

For more information about you can contact Dr. Parsons at [robert.parsons@scranton.edu](mailto:robert.parsons@scranton.edu), or Dr. Silva at [yamile.silva@scranton.edu](mailto:yamile.silva@scranton.edu).