The Newsletter of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

DEPARTMENT NEWS, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Department held its ninth annual "Immersion Day" for regional High School students on Wednesday, April 13, 2005. This activity, organized by Linda Ledford-Miller with help from other department members, introduces students to the Foreign Languages department and University life by bringing them on campus for a day of language learning related activities. This year more than 70 High School students participated in a variety of activities.

The annual Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Languages Honors Society initiation ceremony and dinner was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 in the 1888 Room of the Estate. Richard Bourcier, Prof. Emeritus of French, organized the ceremony and dinner. Serving as President was Ms. Kimberly A. Friend (Spanish). Secretary and Vice-President was Ms. Misako Kobayashi (Spanish). The following students were inducted as full members: Ms. Tziona S. Ackerman, Spanish; Ms. Angela D. Buren, French; Mr. Nicholas A. Costanzo, Spanish/Italian; Ms. Eleana A. DeLuna, Spanish; Ms. Sameera Desai, French; Ms. Fiorella N. Duque, Spanish; Ms. Lauren Gobbo, Spanish; Mr. George W. Griffen, German; Mr. Raymond D. Harger, German; Ms. Monica M. Herald, Spanish; Ms. Elizabeth A. McDyer, Spanish; Ms. Kathryn M. McKenna, Spanish; and Ms. Allison Ann M. Trapani, Russian. Ms. Gina Maria Ciollo. Italian. was inducted as an associate member.

Building on the tradition begun in 2003-2004, the department hosted socials each semester of the 2004-2005 academic year for majors, double majors, minors, LLC student assistants, and faculty in the LLC. In the fall semester's social, the TAs (Abdelilah Mahtat, Morocco; Silvana Losno, Argentina; and Eglantine Hauser, France) each gave PowerPoint presentations on their native countries. The presentations were excellent and very well attended. The spring social was to say goodbye to departing TAs, LLC student assistants, and graduating majors and double majors. Both events provided students and faculty members a nice opportunity to become better acquainted outside the classroom setting and were both great successes.

The department continues to have a very strong association and supporting relationship with the Latin American Studies Concentration. Together the department and the concentration sponsored seven Latin American films in 2004-2000. "How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman," "Cidade de Deus" and "Bye Bye Brazil" were shown in the fall semester, and "Que bom te ver viva," "El día que me quieras," "Doce poderes" and "María llena de gracia eres" were shown in the spring. Other LASC activities included a presentation by Jorge J E. Gracia, Samuel P. Capen Chair and. SUNY Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo, on "Hispanic/Latino Identities: Globalism vs. Particularism," and the first annual reception for graduating seniors in the LASC program.

Vol. 8

Summer and Fall 2005

During the spring semester Marie Karam also scheduled multiple viewings of the Salvadoran film "Voces inocentes." Students of Spanish at all levels were strongly encouraged to see the film, which is based on the true story of the effects of the Civil War in El Salvador (1980-1992) on a young boy and his family.

The weekly Kaffeeklatsch German conversation group, organized by **Tom Kamla**, Professor of German, continued through 2004-2005. The Kaffeeklatsch meets on Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Wolves' Den.

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

The Department is pleased to announce the two new Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (here for one year under the sponsorship of the Institute of International Education, a division of the UN in New York) for 2004-2005. They are, in Spanish, Fulbright **Mr.Germán Zárate** from Argentina, and in Arabic, Fulbright **Ms. Zeinab Mohktar**, from Tunisia. In addition, we are offering Chinese for the first time in 2005-2006. The course is being taught by **Ms. Hailing Zhao** from mainland China. Ms. Zhao is a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Education's ESL program. A hearty welcome to all to the department and the University of Scranton!!

GAs, or Graduate Assistants, are degree-seeking graduate students with a teaching assistantship from the University of Scranton who are normally here for 2 to 3 years. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has two GA lines, one in Spanish and one in Japanese. The Spanish position has been held by TA and GA veteran **Maggie Martínez** and will be assumed for this academic year (2005-2006) by **Ms. Emily Abrahamson**, an ESL Master's student from Boston College

Faculty Editor: Robert A. Parsons

Faculty Secretary: Joyce Knott

FAMILIAR FACES

who is currently teaching at the International School in Kyoto. Rie will be replaced in Foreign Languages and Literatures department by **Ms. Mariko Kurokawa**, our first GA from the prestigious Sofia University, with which the University of Scranton now has an exchange agreement

After one year as a TA in FL&L, **Aracely Hernández** of Oaxaca, México has completed her second year with a shared assistantship in the Department of Education and FL&L. Aracely will be back for another year with the shared assistantship and expects to complete her graduate work in Spring 2006.

Silvana Losno of Argentina completed her year as the Spanish TA. Silvana, an accomplished folk singer and guitar player, brought a touch of Argentinean culture to Scranton. These are her departing thoughts:

"The experience in the University of Scranton has been invaluable. I feel that I have learned things - academically and outside the classroom - that I would not have been able to learn anywhere else. Meeting people from all over the world and interacting in a different culture has broadened my view of the world. Studying at Scranton has given me a different perspective of the system of education. At the same time teaching Spanish has been an enriching experience for both me and my students, since they could come to understand a little bit more about my culture and I could share teaching techniques with other teachers, profiting from their experience and innovative ideas. On a personal level I feel really grateful to the faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages for their warm welcome and help throughout the year. I know I will never forget my time in Scranton: it has made me grow up as a professional and as a person."

Rie Kubo of Japan completed her work with the Department of FL&L. These are Rie's reflections on her time at the University of Scranton:

"I would like to thank you for giving me this great opportunity to teach Japanese in this department. I still remember that I was pretty nervous and tense on my first day in class because I wasn't sure how teaching in the U.S and the students would be. It also took so long to prepare for the classes, especially the first semester. However, teaching my language and culture attracted me a lot and I was into it. I really enjoyed teaching and interacting with students. Being a native speaker doesn't mean you can teach that language effectively, and I myself learned a lot about my language through teaching. It also gave me a great chance to look at my culture from different perspectives. I'm sad to finish teaching here in the department. I wish I could teach more and do something extra to keep students' interest in Japan and Japanese language. I will be around in the fall because I have to do student teaching and graduate in December. I haven't decided what I am going to do after that, but I hope I can continue either in the U.S or Japan. I won't forget this wonderful experience in the University. If there is any chance to visit Japan someday, please let me know! I'd love to show you around."

The department was most privileged to have a unique personality in the person of **Eglantine Hauser** as a TA and representative of French culture in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 2004-2005. Eglantine has moved on to another TA position in the west. Best of luck Eglantine!!

"My name is Anaïs Eglantine Hauser. I was the French TA this year (04-05), and I taught French 311-312. It was my first teaching experience with a whole class, and a wonderful experience for me, as I was also working on my French as a foreign language teaching degree – which I will hopefully get by the end of the summer! I greatly enjoyed working at the University of Scranton, and I want to thank everybody at the Foreign Language Department for being so nice and helpful! As for next year, I will be working as a French TA again, this time at Spokane Falls Community College, in Spokane, WA, and I hope that my year there will be as good as the time I spent here."

Our first Arabic TA ever, **Mr. Abdelilah Mahtat** of Morocco, was a very lively and entertaining presence in the department in 2004-2005. Abdelilah returned to Morocco shortly after final exams week, but he will be back in the US next year as well. These are his words of farewell:

This has been a great year for me. It is by far the best cultural and educational experience I ever had. My stay in Scranton was wonderful and I enjoyed making friends. I learned a lot from my American and international friends. My teaching experience was very rewarding and the classes I took were so interesting for my future career. I was sad when I left but again I was so happy to have made friends and family for life. Being a Moslem in America, in the era of cultural and political turmoil, I learned a lot about American tolerance, acceptance and sense of sharing.

I would like to thank every person both on campus and in the Scranton community who contributed such wonderful things to my life. I am leaving with a heart full of memories to share with my family and friends back in Morocco.

When he returns from Morocco in the fall, Abdelilah will be studying at the prestigious Divinity School of Harvard University, which has provided him with a generous scholarship. Congratulations Abdelilah!!!

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

.Leslie Angleró (Spanish, 2004) has left the Teaching Fellows Program in the Bronx and relocated to Phoenix, AZ, where she recently secured employment as an Academic Counselor at the University of Phoenix. Leslie has been able to use both her Spanish and her Portuguese frequently in this position. She also plans to begin work toward her Masters degree soon. Ana Lorena Bounds (Spanish, 2003) completed her first year teaching Spanish, grades nine through twelve, at Pascack Valley High School beginning. She is enrolled in a special program call "Alternate Route" which allows her to teach and work on her teaching certification at the same time

Stephanie Catala (Psychology/Spanish, 2003) completed her training in the New York City Police Academy and has become a NYC police officer.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Dr. Belén Mourelo, an instructor in the FF&L department in the late 1990s, was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at the Penn State Berks-Lehigh Valley College branch campus in Reading, PA, in Spring 2005. Congratulations Belén!!!

Marella Feltrin-Morris, who replaced Virginia Picchietti on her full year sabbatical in academic year 2003-2004, defends her doctoral dissertation in August 2005. Prof. Feltrin-Morris has accepted a three-year renewable position as Assistant Professor of Italian at Ithaca College. Congratulations Marella!!!

Maggie Martínez completed her second Masters degree this year, in Education (her first is in Counseling) and was recently hired by West Scranton High to teach Spanish. Congratulations Maggie!!! Maggie has been a truly outstanding GA. She is also teaching a section of Elementary Spanish here at the University of Scranton and expects to be in the Scranton area for at least one more year.

FACULTY LED STUDY ABOAD Programs

Beginning Spring 2006, **Joe Wilson**, Professor of Classics, expects to take over the Spring Semester break trip to Greece which Prof. Petrovic initiated and ran successfully, occasionally in collaboration with Prof. **John Kallianiotis** of the Kania School of Management, for almost 20 years.

Bob Parsons and **Linda Ledford-Miller** conducted the Eighth Annual Intersession Study/Travel Tour to Guadalajara, Mexico in January 2005. Linda replaced Prof. **Bob Kocis** of the Political Science department, who was on sick leave in Fall 2004. The highlight of the trip is a weekend tour of Mexico City which includes excursion to the Chapultepec palace, the famous Anthropological Museum, and the pyramids of Teotihuacán. Nineteen students participated in the 2005 trip. One of them, Heather Strunk, did service in Guadalajara at Los Pinos orphanage, an option that was initiated in the 2004 trip and will also be available to students during the Ninth Annual trip, in which fifteen students have enrolled, in January 2006.

Joyce Hanks will accompany a group of students and another professor traveling to Sénégal, West Africa, from Urinus College, over Intersession 2006. Univ. of Scranton ILB French major Allison Martyn will also make the trip, designed to acquaint students with this major Francophone culture. Activities will take place in Dakar, Gorée Island, and the area in and around Saint-Louis, and will include university lectures, home stays, and visits coordinated with student and professor research interests

VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE Learning initiatives

In the Spring, student Kim Friend translated a Christian children's book from Portuguese to English, with LindaLedford-Miller filling in and revising as necessary.

Marie Karam offered a course at the request of the Scranton School District, Spanish for Teachers, and arranged for tutoring of a local elementary Hispanic student. She also involved and directed staff in the Language Learning Center in service related to Bridges to El Salvador.

Over the summer the Department undertook a translation project at the request of the County. **Habib Zanzana**, Professor of Spanish and French, assisted by his student Gemma Castro, translated the Coal Mine Tour into Spanish. It was then reviewed by Maggie Martínez. Zanzana also translated the Tour into French, and **Michele Ackerman**, Adjunct Professor of French and Classics, reviewed it. Thomas Kamla and his wife Rose Kamla produced the German translation, while Virginia Picchietti's students worked on the Italian, which she then reviewed and revised. An Italian native making the tour of the Mine commented that the Italian was very well done.

In Fall 2004 Bob Parsons offered a service learning course for third and fourth year Spanish students. The content of the course focused on the Hispanic immigrant experience and the 20 students who enrolled in the course worked directly with members the growing Hispanic community in the Scranton area through local service providing agencies. The course will be offered again in Fall, 2006.

Parsons is also working on a large translation project, the translation of all official documents for the regional Project Head Start agency, with the help of colleagues and students. Zanzana's Spring 2005 translation class translated a Head Start orientation manual to Spanish, which Parsons reviewed and revised and gave to Head Start in early summer. Kim Friend and Parsons translated a second manual for Head Start volunteers, which Parsons also turned in to the Head Start office during the summer months, along with several forms relating to parental consent and acceptance of children into the program.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI (cont.)

Laura Daniels (Management/Spanish, December 2004) is working at Enterprise-Rent-A -Car in the management trainee program. She is also volunteering at a local community organization called La comunidad hispana, teaching ESL classes to recent Mexican immigrants who know little or no English. As a result of her volunteer experience, Laura has decided to apply to West Chester University to enter their Masters program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) this fall.

Elliott Gougeon (German, 2003) completed his first year of graduate work toward his PhD in German at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, one of the nation's best programs in Germanic studies. In the fall and spring semesters he taught introductory courses in German. In summer 2005 he took two courses in Danish. Elliott has been awarded a competitive Graduate Research Assistantship for 2005-2006. He will be working with two senior faculty members on <u>The Cambridge History of the</u> <u>Germanic Language</u>. Elliott spent the 2003-2004 academic year as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in the city of Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he taught English in a German High School.

Celeste Gregory (International Studies/French, 2001) left her position in Washington, DC, with the U.S. Agency for International Development to begin work in the Diocese of Tamatave, Madagascar, with Catholic Relief Services.

George W. Griffen (German, 2005) is the winner of a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to Germany. He will be teaching at the Europa-Schule in Bonn.

Laurie Horne (Secondary Education/Spanish, 2004) is a Middle School Spanish

Lucie Iuzzolino (Spanish/Italian, 2003) has been teaching Italian and Spanish at the Albertus Magnus High School in Rockland County, NY since September 2003. She has recently received a *Robert A. Reddy Post-Graduate Scholarship with the Catholic Council of Electrical Workers, Local Union #3--IBEW, AFL-CIO*, to pursue graduate studies in foreign language education.

Hui L. Lee (International Business/French, 2004) was at the Business Schoolof Renmin University in Beijing, China from September of 2004 to July of 2005, where she taught a course in English to undergraduate Business students and served as a translator for the Deans Office of Renmin's School of Business.

Stephanie Longo (Italian/French, 2003) has a graduate assistantship and is pursuing an MA in History at the University of Scranton

Loni Lukatch (Spanish, 2003) is currently teaching Spanish at Crestwood High School in Pennsylvania. Loni teaches Spanish I, II and IV, as well as AP Spanish, and she loves her job. **Rosa Manganaro** (Spanish, 2005) is now a graduate student at the University of Scranton in Education.

Rachel Marascalco (Spanish, Theology/RS, 2003) has been working for the past year as Youth Coordinator at the Latin American Association in Atlanta, GA. As the Youth Coordinator, Rachel is responsible for coordinating youth programs and events, which reach out to Latino youth in the Atlanta area. Rachel is planning to begin graduate work at the University of Georgia in Atlanta in Fall 2005.

Sarah Martin (Spanish, 2003) will continue in the Masters program in Romance Languages at the University of Georgia, Athens, where she teaches Portuguese and studies Portuguese and Spanish. She also returned for a second year as the bilingual advisor to the Portuguese Immersion Program at Middlebury College in Vermont.

Nicole Mortellito (ILB/French, 2000) now lives in northern Virginia, where she works on legislative policy. She taught French at Seton Hall while working on her M.A. in diplomacy and international relations. She is hoping to make a career change and teach French and History in a private high school, beginning Fall 2005.

Danilo Ramírez (Spanish/Communications, 2001), formerly a Spanish teacher for the district of Paramus, NJ, has taken a new job for the Montville Township, NJ school district, where he will be teaching Spanish AP, IV Honors and II Honors. Danilo traveled to Mexico this summer and visited Guadalajara, Mexico City and a number of sites on the Yucatan peninsula.

Jasmin Rivera (ILB/Spanish, 2003), the former student supervisor of the Language Learning Center, has taken a new job as Special Projects Director at her old High School, the Notre Dame School, in New York City. Jasmin plan to begin work on her MBA at Baruch College of CUNY in spring 2006.

Abby Rogers (now Abby Gordon; Spanish, 1997) has moved from Philadelphia to Manhattan, where she teaches Spanish and French in a private middle school. She recently visited Seville, Spain, where she studied during her junior year, and had plans to spend time in Bolivia during summer 2005.

Clare Strockbine (Spanish, 2004) has been working as a volunteer through the Rostro de Cristo program at the Nuevo Mundo school in Durán, Ecuador, near Guayaquil. She has been in Durán since August 2004 and expects to return to the US in August 2005.

Marisa Wilhelm (ILB/French, 1998) received her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in May 2005 from Moravian College. She continues to teach grades 6, 7, and 8 in Mountain Lake, New Jersey, and next year will begin teaching students who have studied French since the first grade.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Njegos Petrovic, Professor of French and member of the department since 1967, passed away in Summer 2004. His dynamic presence in the University community will be missed by all.

The department is happy to welcome **Sergio Ramírez-Franco**, Assistant Professor, of Lima, Peru, to the University of Scranton. Ramírez-Franco was selected for the position from among more than seventy candidates in a national search. He successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh in April 2005. Sergio joined the department in August 2005.

Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center, led a group of faculty to El Salvador for the fourth time in June 2004. The purpose of the annual Bridges to El Salvador trips to El Salvador for faculty, staff and administrators is to establish solidarity between the people of El Salvador and our University of Scranton community and to raise awareness of the reality and justice issues in El Salvador. One of the highlights was a talk on current human rights violations by Mirna Perla, Supreme Court Justice in El Salvador, whose husband was assassinated while serving as the Head of the Human Rights Commission during El Salvador's civil war in the 1980's. Linda Ledford Miller, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and department Chairperson, and Bob Parsons, Professor of Spanish, are among Foreign Languages and Literatures faculty who have participated in the Bridges to El Salvador program since it was initiated in 1999, on the 10th Anniversary of the assassinations of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the Universidad Centroamericana.

Marie also received a grant to return to El Salvador in March 2005 to complete research on a proposal to establish video streaming capability between the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) and all AJCU schools in the United States to further educate both students and faculty on a wide range of justice issues.

Marie notes that there are also opportunities for students to study in El Salvador. Interested students should go to the website <u>www.scu.edu/casa</u> where they will find information on the Jesuit program **CASA DE SOLI-DARIDAD** for fall or spring semester study at the Universidad Centroamericana. Students interested in a summer service trip to El Salvador should contact CRISPAZ.org.

Marie will be returning to El Salvador with the Bridges program once again in June 2006.

In June 2005, **Linda Ledford-Miller** traveled to Austin, TX, for library research at the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas. She also spent a week in San Antonio grading AP Spanish exams. In July 2005, Linda traveled to Veracruz, Mexico, where she presented the paper "Pestilential Vera Cruz: Travelers' Impressions of the City of Vera Cruz" at the Tercer Congreso Alexander von Humboldt. In addition, Linda served as a mentor and supervisor of the research project of undergraduate student Cynthia Olsheski on "ESL and World Languages in the K-6 Curriculum in the Scranton School District." The research was funded by the University of Scranton President's Fellowship for Summer Research.

Bob Parsons traveled to Santiago and Puerto Varas, Chile, from July 31 to August 15. During his stay in Santiago he met with representatives of the Universidad del Pacífico to look into student foreign study and faculty exchange opportunities and to strengthen the exchange agreement the University of Scranton has had with that institution for the past two years. He also met with representatives of CIEE (the Council on International Educational Exchange) who have programs at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Universidad de Chile in which University of Scranton students have participated in the past. In Puerto Varas he presented a paper on Salvadoran writer Manlio Argueta at the annual conference of the Instituto Literario y Cultural Hispánico.

Virginia Picchietti, Associate Professor of Italian, delivered a paper, "Scenes of Jewish Life in Recent Italian Cinema" at the American Association for Italian Studies in Chapel Hill, NC in April. She also received a University of Scranton grant in Judaic Studies to work on publishing the paper.

Joyce Hanks, Professor of French and Spanish, spent the month of July 2005 in France, primarily in order to research new publications about Jacques Ellul, and to locate recent posthumous publications by Ellul, who died in 1994. Many of his more than 50 books came out in new editions in 2004, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of his death, and some of his unpublished manuscripts have now seen publication. Ellul, a professor of Roman law at the University of Bordeaux and a participant in the French Resistance during World War II, wrote historical and theological studies, as well as sociological works exploring the effects of technology on modern life and thought.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI (cont.)

Jill Williams (ILB Spanish, 2003) is now Jill Cáceres. Congratulations! Jill recently married her Chilean *novio*, whom she met during her junior year study abroad in Santiago, Chile. Jill is currently studying for her Masters degree in Multicultural Education at Eastern University and is a long-term substitute teacher of Spanish at Norristown High School.

Alumni – If our information about your activities is out of date, or if you know of the activities of other alumni that we haven't included here, please let us know. You can write to Bob Parsons at <u>parsonsr1@scranton.edu</u>, Habib Zanzana at <u>zanzanahl@scranton.edu</u>, Linda Ledford-Miller at <u>ledford11@scranton.edu</u>, Joyce Hanks at <u>jmh381@scranton.edu</u>, Marie Karam at <u>karamm1@scranton.edu</u>, Tom Kamla at <u>kamlat1@scranton.edu</u>, Joe Wilson at <u>wil-</u> <u>sonj1@scranton.edu</u>, or Virginia Picchietti at <u>picchiettv1@scranton.edu</u>.

OUR STUDENTS ABROAD, 2004–2005

Nick Costanzo, Richmond College Program in Florence, Italy. Fall semester.

Julie Custer, Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, Equatorial Guinea. Fall semester. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia. Spring semester.

Yashira Gómez, Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Full academic year.

Jonathan Kuhar, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fall semester.

Cynthia Olsheski, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fall semester.

Kathleen Spring, BCA/University of Strasbourg, France. Full academic year.

Kate Stroh, Canisius College/Université Catholique de Lille, France. Full academic year.

Luisana Ventura, Universidad de Granada, Spain. Full academic year.

Angela Buren, Montclair State University in Siena, Italy. Summer 2004; and Monterrey, Tech, Monterrey, Mexico. Summer 2005. **Sharon Secola**, Fundación José Ortega y Gasset, Toledo, Spain. Summer 2004.

Lauren Gobbo, Marquette University, Madrid, Spain. Spring 2005.

Angela Naro, Universidad de Alicante, Spain. Spring 2005.

Sonja Roman, Foro Europeo, Pamplona, Spain. Spring 2005.

Jamie Shea, Marquette University, Madrid, Spain. Spring 2005.

Tommasina Cicco, Marquette University, Madrid, Spain. Spring 2005.

FOREIGN STUDY, 2005-2006

Angela Buren, AIFS/University of Grenoble, France. Fall 2005.

Sharon Secola, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Santiago, Chile. Fall 2005.

Bridget Rooney, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Santiago, Chile. Spring 2006. (Anticipated)