THE AMBASSADOR

THE DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Chair

See pages 1-2

Faculty Scholarship

Updates on faculty publications and scholarships can be found on pages 2-4

Faculty Spotlight

Get to know Dr. Virginia Picchietti on pages 4-5

Adjunct Faculty Spotlight

Get to know Professor Kunihiko Matsui on page 5

Student Spotlights

Meet Spanish major Veronica Romanek and French minor Eva Kurilla on pages 6-7

Recent Graduates

Find out about what our recent graduates have accomplished on page 8

Alumni

Find out what our alumni are up to on pages 9-10

Recent and Upcoming Events

See what the department has been up to this semester on pages 10-13

LLC Information and Social Media

Can be found on page 13



Fundación Miró in Barcelona

Notes from The Chair

Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues, and Friends:

The past year has been an eventful and productive one for our department. Various highlights from this year are collected in the pages of this issue. In particular, this volume of the Ambassador is filled with the stories and successes of our students and alumni. These pages also include two "Faculty Spotlight" interviews with Dr. Virginia Picchietti and Adjunct Professor Kunihiko Matsui. In our "Student Spotlights," you will find information about two graduating seniors, Veronica Romanek and Eva Kurilla, as well as the accomplishments of our recent graduates, Crysta O'Donnell and Carolina Murphy. The benefits of studying a world language are indicated by the success stories of our alumni. This Spring issue highlights three alumni: Bob Bednar ('69), Tim McCormick ('13), and Elena Habersky ('13).

We have been delighted to host a number of very wellattended events such as the Language Immersion Days, The Asian New Year (co-organized with Asian Studies), the Kuwaiti Coffee and Henna, and the French Game Night. During April, we will have our popular TA Talks. Thanks to our FLTAs, colleagues, and especially to Hannah Jackson, our Language Center Director, who has made possible all these

events. I have relied upon her exceptional organizational skills and very hard work. Thanks to our graduate assistant, Ximena Jiménez, for producing this issue as well as to Professor Meilán del Río for contributing with some pieces to this issue. A word of thanks to Ms. JoAnne M. Jurkiewicz, our administrative assistant, who makes the day-to day-running of WLC possible. Finally, thanks to all of you who have kept in touch, contributed photos and updates, supported our department through your presence and interest in courses, events, and programs, and in a myriad of ways have shared a passion for learning about world languages and cultures.

Feliz primavera!

Dr. Yamile Silva Chair and Professor of the Department of World Languages and Cultures

Faculty Scholarship

Dr. Marzia Caporale

Recently published:

• "Popular Culture as Pedagogy: Teaching 'Il Canto di Ulisse' from Dante to Jovanotti in the American College Classroom." *Perspectives Médievales*, 44, 2023 https://journals.openedition.org/peme/

Scholarship in Progress:

- Book translation: *Nata per te: Storia di Alba raccontata fra n*oi. Turin: Einaudi, 2018. (cotranslator).
- Volume co-editor. *Gender in French Banlieue Cinema: Intersectional Perspectives*. To be published by Lexington Press (estimated completion Spring 2024).

Upcoming conference presentations:

- "Rethinking Illness: Narrative Strategies of the Self in Giorgia Soleri's *La Signorina Nessuno*." To be presented at NeMLA (North Eastern Modern Language Association) 2023, March 23-26 Niagara Falls, NY.
- "'Cultiver son jardin,' une alternative à la migration? Ecoféminisme dans le roman des femmes d'Afrique francophone." To be presented at the November 2023 APELA conference in Dakar, Senegal.

Dr. Yamile Silva

Scholarship Sep-March

Refereed Book Chapter (1)

• "Space, land and territory in Gerónimo de Ypori's relation (1580)" in *Colonial Latin American Literature in Transition*. Cambridge Literature in Transitions. Eds. Amber Brian and Rocío Quispe-Agnoli. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023. pp 48-62.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals (1)

• "Narrativas de lo gótico en *«La extraña»* (1922) de Abigail Mejía" *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, Año 9, No.2, 2022. pp. 17-34.

Scholarly Talks and Public Presentations (3)

- "Políticas domésticas en arenas (trans)nacionales: Abigail Mejía sobre la Invasión de Estados Unidos a la República Dominicana" Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, July 10-15, 2023.
- "The conquest of space in Gerónimo de Yporis's Relación del descubrimiento del Rio Marañon" Latin American Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, May 24-27, 2023.
- Commentor Panel, "Yo llana estoy: Jerarquías, transgresiones y despliegues de género en América hispana colonial" Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades (online), April 28, 2023.

During this AY, Silva has extensively contributed to the Academic Community:

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Reviewer. Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education Program. Nov-Dec 2022.
- External Reviewer: candidate to Full Professor at Bowdoin College. 2023.
- Peer-reviewer for Academic Journals during 2022: Chasqui, Cuadernos de Literatura, Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism, Cuadernos de Literatura del Caribe e Hispanoamérica.
- Editorial Board Academic Journal: *Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Michigan State University) (2022-2025). https://ojs.msupress.msu.edu/index.php/REGS/about/editorialTeam
- Chair of the Awards Committee, Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies 2022 (Latin American Studies Association, LASA).
- External Examinator for the Dissertation "Narratives of Cosmopolitanism and Strange(r)ness in the Work of Contemporary African Scottish Writers" by Cristina Riaño Alonso, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain, 2022.
- Master Thesis Director, Nicolas Martinez Velero "El uso de la ficción literaria para crear escenarios en ELE" Universidad de Navarra, Spain, to be defended in June 2023.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

Dr. Habib Zanzana presented two research papers at the NeMLA conference in March 2022, in Baltimore, Maryland:

- 1) "Cinema and the Contemporary Quebecois Family in the films of Xavier Dolan."
- 2) "The Intersection of Migration and Gender in Contemporary Arab Literature and Cinema."

Dr. Zanzana is working on a book manuscript with Dr. Christian Krokus of the Theology Department at the University of Scranton. Title of the Manuscript: *Christian de Chergé*. Publisher: Orbis Modern Spiritual Masters Series, Orbis Books, January 2024. He will translate selected writings by Christian de Chergé from French to English and contribute an introduction to the life of the prior of the Trappist monastery of Our Lady of Atlas in Algeria who strove tirelessly to promote Christian and Muslim dialogue and unity.

Dr. Zanzana will serve as co-editor, with Dr. Marzia Caporale (editor) and Dr. Claire Mouflard (Hamilton College), on a manuscript titled, "Gender in French Banlieue Cinema: Intersectional Perspectives" The book will be published by Lexington Books, An imprint of the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Virginia Picchietti

By: Ximena Jimenez

What languages do you speak, and which would you say is your favorite?

I speak Italian, English, and French. I would choose French because I love the way it sounds.

What made you interested in learning and studying other languages?

I learned English in grammar school here in the US. I decided to learn French in high school because I fell in love with it when I first heard it as a little girl. I continued my education in the language in college, earning a B.A. in French.



What made you interested in teaching languages?

I thought it would be a great way of helping other people enter another culture in society and give them another means of expressing themselves.

At the same time, through its literature and cinema, language helps people to learn a different way of thinking and living, especially a different way of seeing the world and different possibilities for solving problems, including social problems.

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

I got my BA in French and Italian at Rosary College in Illinois, now Dominican University. I got my master's in Italian and my PhD in Italian with a minor in Film Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington.

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 here in 1995. My favorite thing about teaching here are the students because they are respectful, kind, and open to learning about other ways of being human, and my supportive and forward-thinking colleagues.

Tell me more about the classes you are teaching this semester.

I am teaching Beginning Italian 102 and Introduction to World Literature and Translation.

What are your favorite courses to teach and why?

I love teaching the language courses because they help students learn Italian and be in conversation with another culture.

I love teaching Italian literature and cinema courses because we get to discuss issues such as social justice, class, and gender from the perspective of Italians.

I also really love teaching Intro to World Literature because in this course students read texts that lend themselves to a discussion of social justice, race, gender, and class.

Tell me about some of your recent research projects.

I just finished and submitted an article on the representation of the Italian Shoah in Roberto Benigni's "Life is Beautiful." I am currently coediting a volume tentatively titled *Grazia Deledda's Painterly Aesthetic*. Grazia Deledda won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1926.

Why would you encourage a student to study world languages at the University?

We are preparing students to be global citizens. To be a global citizen, you must be able to try to fully participate in the culture and society of the people with whom you have most contact. For example, if you have a job that brings you into contact with other people from a specific country, it is advantageous to be able to communicate as much as possible in their language or at least to understand it.

Being in a Jesuit university, we know we cannot expect everyone else to move towards us and speak English; to show respect and integrate ourselves into the global community, we must try to communicate in their own idioms and at least to move towards understanding their cultures.

Adjunct Faculty Spotlight: Kunihiko Matsui

By: Ximena Jimenez

Adjunct Professor Kunihiko Matsui began teaching at the University of Scranton last fall. He can speak his native language Japanese as well as English. When asked which language he prefers, he answered Japanese since it allows him to communicate with his family.

His interest in learning another language began in grade school because he wanted to travel to the United States or England. He first learned English when he was five years old but began speaking it well at eighteen years old.

Although he went to Ball State University in Indiana for architecture, he was asked to teach at the University and gave it a chance. Looking back, he is glad he did as he enjoys it very much because he is learning his own language with the students. This semester he is teaching Elementary Japanese 102 and Intermediate Japanese 212. Although he likes teaching both courses, the elementary class is challenging which he enjoys.



When asked why he would encourage students to study a world language here at the University, he replied, "More foreign languages are showing up everywhere. It is not even about just speaking another language but also being aware of other cultures. It allows you to look at your own culture from a different point of view." The advice he offers for learning another language is to find an environment in which you will be pushed to use and think in the language you are studying.

Student Spotlights

By: Ximena Jimenez

Veronica Romanek



Year: Senior

Major: Spanish Studies and Physics

Minor: Math

Veronica Romanek from New Jersey is a senior double major in Spanish and Physics at the University of Scranton. She is president of the Amateur radio club, secretary of Astronomy club, Vice President of IEE, a member of the Spanish cultural society, the World Languages Honors Program, Physics and Engineering Honors Program, and University's Honors Program.

As she was growing up, she knew she always liked languages because they allowed her to communicate with people. She was drawn to Spanish because of the culture surrounding the language.

Knowing another language has opened a lot of doors. She has had many jobs in which knowing Spanish has allowed her to translate and to connect better with others.

Her favorite language classes have been the more conversation-intensive courses because they have allowed her to improve her speaking abilities. In her opinion, the best thing about studying a language at the University has been the faculty's support when it comes to learning. The school offers a wide range of classes allowing you to learn what you want to.

Advice that she offers anyone considering studying another language is to just do it because it opens you to more opportunities and allows you to meet new people along the way. She plans to go to graduate school for physics and hopes to work in the space industry.

Eva Kurilla

Year: Senior Major: Biology Minor: French

Were you exposed to another language growing up?

I was never really around any other language but English until I was in seventh grade. That was when I started taking French courses.

What made you interested in studying French?

While growing up, I always had the dream of traveling to France, and I thought that French was such a beautiful language. I decided to take French in seventh grade because I wanted to be able to go to France and communicate with the locals. After my first year of learning the language, I knew I wanted to stick with it throughout all of my education.

How has knowing French helped you in your studies?

Job? Personal life? Learning French has opened many doors of opportunities for me. During high school, I was given the opportunity to travel to France and stay with a French family for a month. I



was able to see Alsace, Paris, and the South of France. I have also been blessed with a work study job as a French tutor at the Language Learning Center. Moreover, I have been able to cultivate worldly knowledge about cultures, history, and traditions that I never knew about. Studying French has allowed me to meet so many wonderful people and helped open my eyes to different cultures around me.

What career or job are you aiming for?

I am currently on the pre-vet track and applying to veterinarian school this upcoming cycle. My goal is to become a small animal exotics vet (reptiles, small mammals, fish, and birds).

What has been your favorite French class? Why?

One of my favorite language classes here at the University of Scranton was French Conversation. I loved being able to discuss different topics and learn more about the students I have been in French with since I started courses here. I also really enjoyed the course that pertained to Francophone Women Authors. This course really heightened my reading ability and allowed me to understand more about different Francophone countries and their histories.

What is the best thing about studying a language at the University of Scranton?

The best part about studying a language at the University of Scranton is the people in the department. The language department is the most welcoming group of people, and every one of my classmates were so kind and helpful. The Language Learning Center also offers a variety of extra material that had helped me expand my French outside of class as well. My teachers and all the other staff in the Language department have been so wonderful and helpful.

What is one of your favorite memories or things you have learned while studying French at the University of Scranton?

One of my favorite memories from my time as a French minor at the University of Scranton was reading the book *En compagnie des hommes* by Véronique Tadjo. I have always been very passionate about the environment and this book really opened my eyes on issues relating the environment to mankind. Some of the chapters are written from the perspective of a Baobab tree, who lived through the years of human destruction. This book was very moving and taught me more about the Ebola outbreak and how it relates to the annihilation of the environment.

What advice do you have for students who are considering studying another language?

I would confidently tell every student considering languages to take the courses. Through taking a language at the University, a variety of opportunities are offered to you. There are multiple cultural events, Conversation Hours for different languages, job opportunities, and an array of other events.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy being outside and hiking. I am a fond believer in getting at least 20 minutes of fresh air a day. I also really enjoy art and music.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

In ten years, I see myself working at an exotic's clinic and volunteering with large animal exotics as well. I always found veterinarian work at zoos to be extremely interesting. I would also like to spend my free time teaching kids about animal science and medicine, to spread the knowledge I have gained throughout studying biology and animal anatomy.

Are you involved in clubs or sports?

I am the vice president of Pre-vet club, a member of the Health Profession Organizations club, a member of Alpha Mu Gamma Honors Society, and a Royal Ambassador at admissions.

Recent Graduates

By: Jaime Meilán

Crysta O'Donnell



Andorra is a tiny country located between Spain and France, among the southern peaks of the Pyrenees Mountains. This microstate is also the destination of Crysta O'Donnell, one of the two ambassadors chosen last year by the Fulbright organization to represent the US abroad during the 2022-2023 academic year. "I am really thrilled. I could not believe it when I was informed that I had been awarded the Fulbright," explains Crysta.

She graduated last May with a double major in International Studies and Hispanic Studies, and a minor in French. Now, she will have the chance to put in motion all the skills she developed at the University of Scranton. Andorrans speak Spanish and French. "And I've been told that I will have to learn Catalan too, the official language of the country," adds Crysta. Her position is the English Teaching Assistant in the Escola Andorrana, one of the education systems of the small country. Andorra is technically a principality whose Heads of State are the President of France and the Bishop of Urgel, Spain. It has an

elected Parliament and Government, though. The country is known for its sky stations and duty-free stores. "This is the opportunity of a life time," said Crysta before leaving Scranton behind. The other fortunate recipient of the Fulbright grant was Peter Amicucci, major in Business Administration. His destination will be further north in Europe: Finland.

Carolina Murphy



Carolina Murphy ended her tenure at the University of Scranton with a bang. Last May at the Class Night ceremony she received the Prof. Joseph G. Brunner Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages. "I am very honored to be receiving this award, and I am excited my hard work over the past four years here at Scranton has paid off! This award gives me the opportunity to represent the department that has supported me during my time here and inspires me to continue my hard work," says Carolina.

She graduated in May with a double major in Finance and Spanish Studies and a minor in Business Leadership. "I have been passionate about studying Spanish since middle school and am grateful to have pursued it throughout my academic career. I would highly recommend studying a foreign language, it has given me incredible opportunities in learning about a diverse group of

cultures, meaningful traditions, and connecting with people I otherwise could not communicate with," reflects. Her 4.0 GPA in Spanish Studies shows how real her passion is.

Alumni Spotlight

Bob Bednar

Graduating Class: 1969

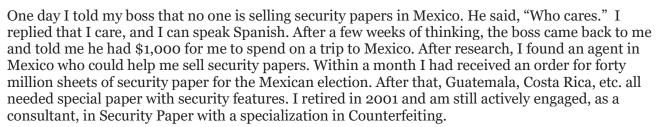
Major: Secondary Education & Spanish

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

I am a graduate from '69 with Secondary Education and Spanish. I am also a former Trustee.

After five years teaching high school Spanish, I went into sales of paper products. After a few years, I specialized in Security Paper which was used for passports, banknotes & currency, stock certificates and other documents

of value. Myself and only one other competitor were in that specialty field of paper sales.



The ongoing story is that I continue to practice and use my Spanish in my activities and am amazed at the look on faces as I engage in short conversation. My gratitude for my Jesuit/Scranton education results in a scholarship that my wife Barbara and I continue to fund at the University of Scranton and Penn State.

Tim McCormick

By: Jaime Meilán

Graduating Class: 2013 **Major:** Hispanic Studies **Minor:** Italian & History

Why did you pursue a language major?

I entered the University unsure what I wanted to study, but when I began working in the WLC, I saw there were many opportunities for careers in language that aligned with my interests.

In what way has learning a language helped you?

After graduating, I went on to complete a Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics at Georgetown University, where I studied how bilingualism affects cognition and attention. My background in Spanish gave me the opportunity to ask exciting research questions, travel for research purposes, and become an expert in language data—all while using Spanish. Of course, I use Spanish in my personal life, too. I speak Spanish with many friends, as well as with my partner and our dogs!

What advice would you give to a student who is interested in studying a world language?



It opens many doors to students of all disciplines. One learns about the cultures associated with a language; coursework is only the beginning of what a second language can teach you. I always say that language is like the air around us: we often forget we're breathing it in, even though it's always there. Imagine what more you can do if you can "breathe" in a whole new environment!

Elena Habersky

By: Jaime Meilán

Graduating Class: 2013

Major: International Studies

Minor: Arabic

What brought you to pursue a language minor?

I had always been interested in learning languages and traveling and a language requirement was part of my major which is one of the reasons why I chose

International Studies.

How was your experience taking language classes at the University?

Scranton provided the opportunity to learn a language through cultural events and tutoring on campus, as well as by encouraging study abroad, which I took full advantage of by going to Jordan for a summer and Egypt for an entire year.

Has learning this language helped you? How?

I am able to speak with my coworkers in Arabic in the office. In addition, I conduct research with displaced populations in Arabic, which opens new avenues of exploration for my work. In daily life, I am able to function completely in Arabic, and people are always genuinely surprised and eager to speak with me once they realize my fluency.

What advice would you give to any student who may be interested in studying a world language?

I wholeheartedly recommend it. And if studying abroad is feasible, absolutely do so. You can never truly understand a language without its cultural nuances and seeing how people live in their everyday life.

Recent and Upcoming Events

Language Immersion Days

By: Hannah Jackson



Every semester, over fifty high school students come to the University of Scranton to experience a language class through a Language Immersion Day. For some, this may encourage them to study one of the university's eleven languages as they begin their undergraduate studies. For others, they may enjoy visiting the campus so much that they decide to attend the University of Scranton. Some students have majored in a language at the University because of their experience at a Language Immersion Day, where they go on a campus tour,

attend an interactive language class, participate in activities in the Language Center, and enjoy lunch in the cafeteria.

In the Language Learning Center, students participate in online language learning activities. They also take an interactive quiz to learn more about the language they are studying. According to McCae Dougher, current University of Scranton Spanish Secondary Education major and previous Spanish Immersion Day student, "The best part was visiting the Language Learning Center in O'Hara Hall. It

was so fascinating to me that there was an entire lab dedicated to

learning languages."

Next, they attend an elementary language class, the highlight of the day, taught by a Fulbright Teaching Assistant or visiting instructor from another country. These classes are interactive so high school students can participate in activities with university students and practice their language skills. Then, they enjoy lunch in the cafeteria and tour the University. Stephanie Namlick, a Spanish teacher from Valley View High School, shared that the Spanish 101 class with Argentinian FLTA Magalí Ferrer was her students' favorite part of the day. She said, "They felt comfortable during the class and were engaged and interested in the content and the instructor." Ms.



Spencer from MMI Prep shared that her students had a similar experience with Ms. Chiang in her Chinese 101 class. "The Chinese teacher was wonderful. She was kind enough to allow our students to participate in her lessons, and her students and our students were very engaged in the activities she set up for the lesson. The experience is invaluable."

For one student, attending a Spanish Immersion Day was the pivotal moment in deciding where she would study. McCae Dougher shares that she knew she wanted to be a Spanish teacher since she was in middle school, but she was not sure where she wanted to go to college. When her high school Spanish department came to the University of Scranton for a Spanish Immersion Day, her time in the Language Learning Center convinced her that Scranton was the choice for her. Thanks to the Immersion Day, McCae says, "I knew that Scranton was the right choice for me!"

Asian New Year

By: Valerie Gibau







On February 9th, 2023, over one hundred people gathered to participate in the university's Asian New Year Celebration. The Year of the Rabbit was celebrated with delicious food such as spring rolls and sushi. Two university instructors, Kunihiko Matsui (Professor of Japanese) and Dr. Ann Pang-White (Director of Asian Studies) gave presentations on how the new year is celebrated in their respective countries, Japan, and Taiwan. Fun activities followed, including making origami rabbits and trying Chinese calligraphy. The activities got competitive with a chopstick competition as well. Tables scrambled to pick up and place the highest number of M&M's and cheese balls on to a plate. The event ended with green tea and strawberry flavored Kit Kat treats and mandarin oranges for good luck in the Year of the Rabbit.

Kuwaiti Coffee and Henna

By: Ximena Jimenez

On February 22nd from 4:30pm to 5:30pm in Leahy 235, the University community was invited to Kuwaiti Coffee and Henna. The Kuwaiti cultural event was led by Badoor Albuloushi, Arabic Fulbright scholar and teaching assistant in the World Languages Department at the University of Scranton.







The event celebrated Kuwait National Day and Kuwait Liberation Day which took place on February 25th and 26th. Through an informative speech and trivia, guests learned about Kuwait and its culture. They also learned how to write a short phrase in Arabic.

For a more immersive experience, tables with different activities were set up. One table was for refreshments where they were served Arabic coffee, Saffron tea, Karak tea, and different types of Kuwaiti sweets. There was also a photo booth where they could try on traditional Kuwaiti outfits and take pictures with friends. A popular table was the Henna station where guests were able to put on beautiful henna designs. Many did not want to leave because of how enjoyable the event was.

"It was great and I'm so happy with the event!" Badoor commented.

French Game Night







On March 8th, the French FLTA, Audrey Lecerf, hosted French game night. The night began with an informative presentation and short quiz to test the guests' knowledge. They were then able to learn about France and the French language through various activities. Card games including Loup-Garou, 7 Familles, 1000 Bornes, and French Pictionary were available. French snacks and beverages were available for everyone, making the French game night a success.

FLTA Events

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

- TA Talks in Brennan 509 (the Rose Room):
 - Argentina, Kuwait, and France on Thursday March 30th from 4:30-6:30pm
 https://bit.ly/2023TATalk1
- https://bit.ly/2023TATalk2

Taiwan and Germany on Thursday April 25th from 11:30am- 1:30pm

 Chinese Cultural Event on Monday, April 17th from 4:30-5:30pm in Leahy 235 led by Lily Chiang

Language Learning Center

The Language Learning Center, located in O'Hara 306, offers language learning support for students and community members learning Spanish, French, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and English. Services available include language conversation hours, a computer lab, language tutoring, a database of language resources, and more. The LLC also offers English as a Second Language tutoring to adult English learners in the community and hosts 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.

Social Media

Stay up to date with the Department's activities, events, news, and highlights by following the World Languages and Cultures Department's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages listed below!



https://www.facebook.com/uofsworldlanguages



https://www.twitter.com/uofscranton_wlc



https://www.instagram.com/uofs_worldlanguages/