

# LA/W/S Newsletter

## CHAIR'S NOTE

This Spring will be an active semester for our department. Thanks to my energetic LA/W/S colleagues, LAS and WS students have had numerous exciting course offerings this year and will benefit from a series of outstanding spring events: our LAS film series, a talk by Spanish Fulbright Teaching Assistant on Indigenous voices in her native Mexico, and a lecture titled "Voices Echoing Beyond the Seas: Dominican Feminisms, from Transatlantic to Transnational (1882–1942)" by renowned scholar Dr. Ginetta Candelario (Professor of Sociology and Latin American & Latina/o Studies Program and Study of Women and Gender Program at Smith College). Additionally, campus and community support have made it possible to bring Guerrilla Girls on Tour to campus. We are delighted to be sponsoring so many events, which will enrich LA/W/S and the University.

We are particularly proud of the outstanding work of our students, who are not only keeping us on our toes, but are also conducting extraordinary research and providing wonderful services. For our alumni, the updates on your lives after the University are continually enriching and gratifying to those of us who remember you so fondly. You serve as wonderful models for our current students.

This issue is dedicated to Dr. Ledford-Miller who will retire after the summer. We are very grateful for her long-standing contributions to our programs. She has been vital in the formation of both programs and our department. Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Ledford Miller has been a strong advocate for doing what is right rather than what is easy. It will be a great loss not to have such a strong advocate around, and we cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for our department. We wish her all the best in this next phase of her career and thank her for allowing this community to benefit from her wisdom and hard work.

—Yamile Silva, Chair of Latin American and Women's Studies



## WS DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our Women's and Gender 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. But that's not all. Women's and Gender Studies promotes attention to issues crucial to active citizenship, equitable and inclusive institution-building and interpersonal competencies that transcend specific professions. More than ever, employers in all sectors of our economy are becoming aware of the importance of issues long addressed by Women's and Gender Studies.

Gender equity continues to garner attention in the popular media. Last month's Golden Globe awards provided a powerful visual expression of women's solidarity as prominent women pledged to wear black, brought often over-looked feminist activists as guests, and launched the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund. *Time* Magazine named women speaking out against sexual assault as its people of the year. The #MeToo movement engenders debate internationally, often highlighting differences in discourses on sex, gender, and social norms across cultures.

This semester we are pleased to offer an exciting, two-part program featuring The Guerrilla Girls on Tour!, a group which grew out of the long-standing efforts of feminist artists to create parity for women and people of color. As you reflect on how you can be part of a growing movement for change, grab a friend and stop by the Guerrilla Girls' public lecture, *PUSH/PUSHBACK: 9 Steps to Make a Difference with Art and Activism*, or sign up for an exciting, hands-on poster-making workshop to learn more about how you can express yourself creatively. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

—Jamie H. Trnka, Director of Women's Studies



## LAS SPRING FILMS

### Filming the Other in Latin America: Race and Ethnicity in the Region

*All films take place in Brennan 228 at 7:00 PM*

**FEB. 20: Cinco días sin Nora (Mexico 2008)** José discovers Nora, his wife of 30 years, has committed suicide. Set in Mexico City's Jewish community, this comedy focuses on a series of complications that arise in the course of organizing the funeral services.

**MARCH 20: Orfeu Negro (Brasil 1959)** This movie is a retelling of the "Orpheus and Eurydice" legend enacted by black performers. This time the setting is the annual Carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

**APRIL 17: Ixcanul (Guatemala 2016)** A 17-year-old Mayan girl who works on a coffee plantation in Guatemala confronted with an arranged marriage dreams of another life.

## "VOICES ECHOING BEYOND THE SEAS: DOMINICAN FEMINISMS, FROM TRANS ATLANTIC TO TRANSNATIONAL (1882–1942)"

A Public Lecture by Dr. Ginetta Candelario, Prof. of Sociology and Latin American & Latina/o Studies, and the Women and Gender Program at Smith College

Apr. 26, 2018 at 5:00 pm, BRN 228



Dr. Candelario's research interests include Dominican history and society, with a focus on national identity formation and women's history; Blackness in the Americas; Latin American, Caribbean and Latina feminisms; Latina/o communities; U.S. beauty culture; and museum studies. She has twice been a Fulbright Scholar in the Dominican Republic.

Her current research is on Dominican feminist thought and activism, 1880–1961. Her first book, *Black behind the ears: Dominican Racial Identity from Museums to Beauty*

*Shops* (Duke UP 2007) received the Best Book Award from the Latino Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association and the Best Book Award from the New England Council of Latin American Studies.

For more information on her upcoming lecture, contact

[yamile.silva@scranton.edu](mailto:yamile.silva@scranton.edu)

Co-sponsors: CAS Dean, LA/W/S, Dept. of History, Dept. of Sociology and Criminal Justice, World Languages and Cultures.



## Indigenous Voices: San Francisco Chalchihuapan, a Mazahua Community in Mexico

Please join Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Vianey Florentino Pérez as she delivers a public talk.

Wednesday, March 7, 4:30pm  
Brennan Hall 502

Hot chocolate and cookies provided. Co-sponsored by LAS and World Languages and Cultures.



## PUSH/PUSHBACK: 9 STEPS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH ART AND ACTIVISM

Thurs. March 1/ 5:30-6:45pm/ LSC 133 (PNC Auditorium)

**Who are the Guerrilla Girls on Tour!?** Guerrilla Girls On Tour! is the only touring company in the United States creating theatre that takes a hilarious look at the current state of women in the arts and beyond. Guerrilla Girls On Tour!'s plays and performances mix a variety of comedic techniques such as parody, sketch, improv, slapstick and song-and-dance resulting in a distinct feminist theatre style. Guerrilla Girls On Tour! aims to educate, entertain and ultimately transform our audiences into identifying as activist/artists. In addition to creating new plays and performances, they focus on leading workshops and master classes in using the art of theatre to address local concerns.

**About the artist:** In 1997 Donna Kaz became Aphra Behn, a member of the Guerrilla Girls; activist/feminists whose mission was to shed light on discrimination in the arts. As a theatre artist she spearheaded the Guerrilla Girl campaign to address sexism in the theatre world and in 2001 formed Guerrilla Girls On Tour, a touring theatre company which created visual works, performances and street theatre actions that focused on promoting gender parity in the arts and other issues impacting women and artists of color.

**About the event:** Everyone seems to be feeling angry, scared, sad and/or helpless these days. The problems of the world appear to be untenable. There is so much that needs changing, how can one person tackle it all? **PUSH/PUSHBACK** is a motivational speech detailing how one person can push against the status quo. Inspired by Kaz/Behn's twenty years on the front line of feminist activism, it is a humorous and enlightening journey toward becoming an effective artist and activist.

*This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments and book signing to follow. Sponsored by Women's Studies, The Hope Horn Gallery, The Art and Music Program, The Cross Cultural Centers, The Office of Equity and Diversity, and The Schemel Forum.*

## JUST FOR STUDENTS:

HANDS-ON POSTER-MAKING WORKSHOP WITH GUERRILLA GIRL DONNA KAZ!

Wednesday, Feb. 28

5:00-7:30pm

BRN 228

The Guerrilla Girls are well known for their satirical and provocative poster art. This 2½-hour workshop will give you the opportunity to make your own activist art with Guerrilla Girl Donna Kaz (a.k.a. Aphra Behn).

This is an excellent opportunity to work collectively, strategizing about how you can intervene creatively into issues that concern you and your communities.

All materials are provided free of charge. Because seating is limited for this unique opportunity, we ask that you **reserve your seat**.

Priority seating available for Women's Studies students.







## LINDA LEDFORD MILLER—

### A TRIBUTE

Linda Ledford-Miller began her career at the University of Scranton in the fall of 1985. At that time I had already been here for 6 years, but I had known her since 1978 or 1979 when we met as graduate students at Penn State. In the intervening years she went to Brazil on a Fulbright scholarship and completed all her doctoral studies but the dissertation in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin.

Linda immediately brought a burst of energy and spontaneity to a somewhat staid, all-male department, then known as Foreign Languages and Literatures. In an era in which language study was on the wane, Linda was, from the very beginning, a staunch and outspoken defender of foreign languages and cultural diversity. Early on she secured a \$60,000 grant from the Culpepper Foundation to renovate our outdated language lab facilities, which she transformed into a center for technologically based language learning activities and directed for several years after returning from another Fulbright, this time to Guatemala.



For a number of years, Linda and I were the only Latin Americanists at the University of Scranton. During the 1990s, however, a number of new hires in a variety of disciplines, such as Janice Voltzow in Biology, came to the University with experience and interest in Latin America. Several veteran faculty members, such as Kevin Nordberg, Sharon Meagher, Stephen Casey and Bob



Kocis, developed strong interest in the region through their travels and associations. Linda's efforts, in conjunction with Bob Kocis, were instrumental in bringing Dr. Alexander López, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, to the University of Scranton for AY 1997-98. Dr. López taught courses in both the Foreign Languages and Literatures and Political Science department and helped to increase awareness of the importance of Latin America in the general University community. The following year Linda secured an NEH

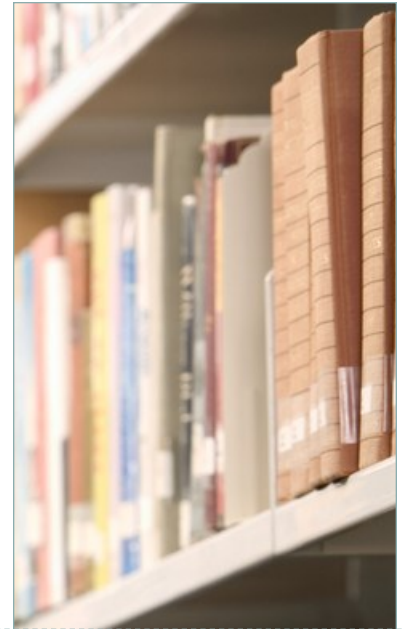
focus grant to organize a faculty seminar on Latin American Identity. Faculty from departments across the University participated and the activities of that group gave rise to a proposal for a concentration in Latin American Studies, which was received favorably by the administration and accepted by the various University curriculum approval bodies.

The efforts of Linda and other advocates of Latin American Studies, together with the support of upper-level administrators in the late 1990s and throughout the decade beginning in 2000, resulted in the hiring of several outstanding dedicated Latin Americanists, such as Lee Penyak, Mike Allison and Yamile Silva, and made our dream of a strong program in Latin American Studies a reality. Among Linda's many contributions to the University of Scranton, this is the one that had the most direct positive influence on my career and for which I am most grateful. I am proud to have worked closely with her as a colleague and a friend for the past 30 plus years. —Robert Parsons

Linda has been a fully engaged member of our University community since she stepped on our campus. She is a wonder woman: rigorous teacher, prolific scholar, perpetual “usual suspect” whenever there is a call for service. From pushing for curricular innovations—including Women’s Studies and Latin American Studies—to mentoring peers and graduate assistants to welcoming new colleagues and their families who join our community to speaking up on issues of justice, Linda does not just lean in; she jumps in and persists. And when she is jumping in, she is typically wearing great socks!

During my three decades at the University, Linda has been a very supportive colleague and friend: sharing tips on how to balance teaching, scholarship and service; sending handwritten notes acknowledging professional accomplishments; and inviting my husband and me into her circle of family and friends. Linda’s retirement will be a loss for the University community. However, the friendships she has nurtured will not be lost; they will continue as she begins the next phase of her journey, with more time for reading, traveling, and hopefully, relaxing.

—Jean Harris



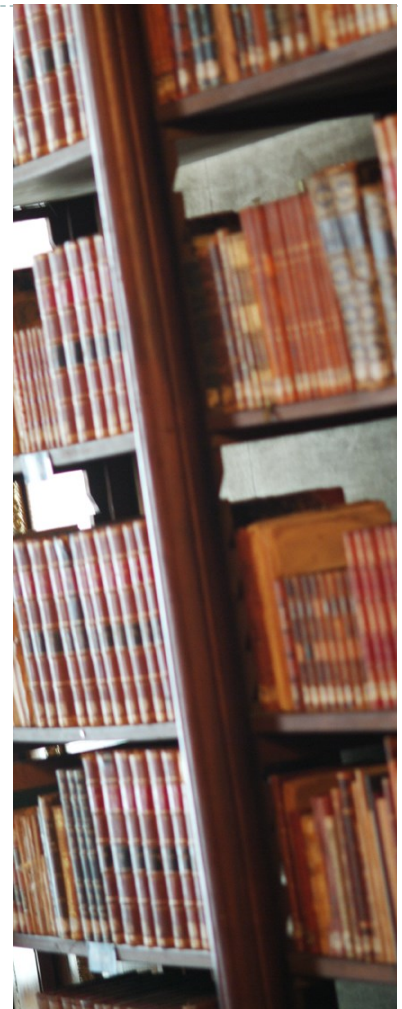
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I had the privilege of serving with Linda-Ledford Miller as a FAC officer and as a member of the Handbook Committee for many years. Union officers must not hesitate to speak truth to power, and Linda certainly was one of the people who taught me to insist upon the rights of the faculty in the face of administrative opposition. Linda shows admirable courage by standing up at meetings and saying what everyone else is thinking, but no one else has the guts to speak aloud. In concert with her outspokenness, Linda is also a warm and supportive colleague who goes out of her way to mentor younger faculty and create a collegial environment in her department, college, and the University as a whole. I greatly admire her dedication to all forms of service and her many contributions to diversity at the University of Scranton.

—Michael Friedman

Women’s Studies has been fortunate to have Linda Ledford-Miller in the program since its inception. In addition to her excellent teaching, Linda has deep institutional knowledge, a shrewd understanding of how power is exercised in the University, and a fearless ability to address difficult or uncomfortable issues. She has been an integral part of the success of women’s advancement on many fronts, and I will sorely miss her wisdom and courage. No doubt that in Linda’s case, “retirement” is just a euphemism for making some other type of contribution to moving the world forward.

—Susan Poulson





# Earn 12 Credits this Summer in Beautiful Cochabamba, Bolivia



The University of Scranton will once again be offering a Faculty Led Study Abroad trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia. This exciting 12-credit experience offers students the opportunity of six weeks of intensive oral Spanish practice, to experience the indigenous Andean cultures and their deep religious elements, to travel to 17th-century Jesuit missions on the border of Brazil and to travel to Lake Titicaca to visit pre-Columbian ruins. Local experts and two faculty members from the University of Scranton accompany the students throughout this learning experience. Paraphrasing a student's reflection from last summer's program, a major part of the experience is learning what it means to be the "other;" to be the one who is different. Then, listening to the hopes, dreams and fears of those who have welcomed you and learning from their sense of hospitality, openness and warmth what education for the other really means. Besides the academic and cultural parts of the program, the volunteer opportunities that are available give students a chance to practice many of the skills they have studied in classrooms here at the University. However, again from a student's evaluation, a significant part of the volunteer programs was learning to listen to the insights and wisdom of others and seeing how relationships involve reciprocity and mutuality rather than just going to help. This program, while open to all students, is especially geared towards those students in the professions and premedical programs who have restricted opportunities to study abroad.

For more information, contact Dr. Linda-Ledford Miller or Rev. John Sivalon.

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