

## LA/W/S Gets Office in Loyola Science Center

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS

Latin American and Women's Studies now has an office in Loyola Science Center 320B. The office is shared with Asian Studies and a communal conference table sits right outside the door. Donna Rupp, the LA/W/S secretary, typically works the noon hour on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, early morning on Tuesdays and Fridays, and late afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Stop by for more information on LA/W/S or just to check the new office out! For more pressing concerns, please contact one of the department chairs directly.



## LA/W/S Chair and Women's Studies Director Takes Sabbatical

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS



**Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller**

Dr. Sharon Meagher, Chair of LA/W/S and Director of Women's Studies, will be on sabbatical for the entire academic year. During this time, she will be pursuing a number projects. Meagher will complete a monograph entitled "Philosophical Streetwalking: Grounding Philosophy in the City" (to be published by the State University of New York

Press) as well as another book planned with colleague Dr. Hank Willenbrink (tentatively entitled "Performing the City"). In addition, Meagher will continue to grow the "The Public Philosophy Network," an organization that she founded to nurture and support collaborative publicly engaged research and social action projects that involve philosophers.

Dr. Meghan Rich of Sociology/Criminal Justice will be the acting Director of Women's Studies. Her office is located in 425 O'Hara Hall and she can be reached at [meghan.rich@scranton.edu](mailto:meghan.rich@scranton.edu). Students with women's studies questions, concerns, or issues should contact Dr. Rich di-

rectly.

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller of World Languages and Cultures will take over as Chair of LA/W/S for the academic year and can be contacted at [linda.ledford-miller@scranton.edu](mailto:linda.ledford-miller@scranton.edu). Her office number is 317 O'Hara Hall and students of both Latin American and Women's Studies should feel free to contact Dr. Ledford-Miller with any questions, as well.



**Dr. Meghan Rich**

## Johnson Joins JKWC as Program Director

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS

This past summer, the Jane Kopas Women's Center (JKWC) welcomed its newest program director, Justine Johnson.

Johnson, who has previously worked at a domestic violence center, served in the Peace Corps, and taught in Ireland, describes her position as "the dream job I never knew could be." She credits this with being able to work with college students and on women's issues.

It was the influence of her mother that first sparked Johnson's interest in women's studies. Johnson states, "My mother is the first feminist I knew."

Her interest in the discipline continued due to its connection with issues of social justice, which Johnson highly values.

Johnson also enjoys helping people "unlearn" gender misconceptions. She ascribes getting

others to change their views on gendered issues or concerns, such as placing blame on rape victims, as powerful moments. Johnson believes "[she's] a better person because [she's] a feminist."

Her favorite part about working at the JKWC is collaborating and engaging with students. More specifically, Johnson enjoys their energy, as the students are always willing to address new issues and employ creative approaches. She says, "Their passion is overwhelming."

Three of Johnson's favorite feminists include her mother, who serves as a personal example, Audre Lorde, as favorite theorist, and Jessica Valenti, who "made [feminism] relatable."

Johnson received her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in women's, gender, and sexuality studies from the



Justine Johnson

University of Wisconsin at La Crosse. She also received a master's degree in gender and women's studies from Minnesota State University at Mankato.

In addition to working at the women's center, Johnson enjoys reading, outdoor activities, and meeting new people.

## Renowned Expert on Eleanor Roosevelt Lead The JKWC's Lunch Series for Woman's History Month

WRITTEN BY: DR. SHARON MEAGHER

More than 100 students, faculty members, and staff attended a lunch featuring a talk by Dr. Allida Black, editor of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, a research professor at George Washington University, and a non-profit organization leader. The event was organized as part of the Jane Kopas Women's Center Lunch Series entitled "Feminism in History" on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The event was co-sponsored by Women's Studies and the Schemel Forum.

Drawing on the teachings and writings of Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Black made history come alive. Black began her talk by dispelling common myths and misconceptions about Roosevelt, making it clear that Eleanor was no mere sounding board for her husband but a politically savvy activist and leader in her own right. Black argued that Eleanor Roosevelt offers us both a model of leadership for today and a platform for human rights that is still relevant and necessary. Black shared many stories of Roosevelt's travels throughout the country and later the globe so that she could listen to people and understand the plight of the poorest and most oppressed.

Black was the founder of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, for which she is the project director and editor. The project seeks "to preserve, teach and apply Eleanor Roosevelt's writings and discussions of human rights and democratic politics." Black explains Eleanor Roosevelt's connection to an advancement of human rights: "As direct and engaging as it is bold, her work resonates with powerful examples of policies, debates, and implementation strategies essential to contemporary discussions of democratic values and hu-

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# Study and Travel at La Universidad Iberoamericana

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS



Intersession is potentially a time for relaxation, travel, or studies. For University students who partake in the “Puebla, Mexico Program” at La Universidad Iberoamericana it will be all three.

The departments of World Languages and Culture and Political Sci-

ence sponsor the twenty day program, which gives attendees the opportunity to study at a different Jesuit university, La Universidad Iberoamericana, and live in Puebla, Mexico.

Drs. Silva and Parsons will accompany the students on the study and travel tour and are the ones responsible for bringing the program to the University.

While in Puebla, students will take a Spanish language course and a political science class entitled “Contemporary Mexican Issues” at La Universidad. These courses respectively allow participants to hone their Spanish speaking skills and advance their knowledge and understandings of Mexican history.

Former program participant Scott Holdren reflects, “Both of these classes were a great experience! Although I loved both of my classes and teachers, I really enjoyed the political science course and learned a great deal of information about Mexico that I never knew. It was really easy to understand both of my teachers and the classes were great to simply learn more about Mexico.”

Throughout their time in Puebla, students will live with local host families. When the course ran last intersession, the participants were placed among four different families and many enjoyed the time spent with their new families.

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## Spanish Film Club Hosts Fall Film Series

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS

This September, the Spanish Film Club began its 2012 film festival with “Cinema Hold Up” and in November, will round out the festival with “Post Mortem.”

“Cinema Hold Up” explores contemporary Mexican youth culture through Negus, Chale, Sapo and Chata, four friends from the same district of Mexico City. The four friends usually “spend their days listening to hip-hop, smoking marihuana, and fantasizing about the opposite sex” (film poster). However, the course of their friendship changes once the group of four robs a movie theater. The film was

shot in Colonia Guerrero in Mexico City and was the first feature film for director Iria Gómez Conchiro. “Cinema Hold Up” premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. The Spanish Film Club showed the film on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

In case you missed the first film, on November 15<sup>th</sup> the club will showing “Post Mortem.” This film centers on Mario Cornejo, an autopsy writer at a military hospital in Santiago, Chile. Cornejo’s apathy changes, however, with the Pinochet coup d’état. The film seeks “to show among other things, how easy it is for ordinary people to sleepwalk into a climate of

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## Summer Travel Course to Cartagena, Colombia

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE' BRIGGS

In the summer of 2013, Drs. Sharon Meagher and Yamile Silva will lead a three-week travel course to Cartagena, Colombia, in order to introduce students to Caribbean Studies.

The two components of the course include Spanish language classes and a Caribbean Studies course. The language classes will be held at the Technological University of Bolivar (Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar—UTB), where students will study alongside local resi-

dents. The Caribbean Studies course, which will predate the trip, will employ an interdisciplinary approach. Students will examine the economy, history, geography, celebrations, and music of Cartagena. In some instances, they will be able to experience these celebrations and other cultural events, such as the Hay Festival, the International Music Festival, the International Film Festival of Cartagena, first hand.

Students will be placed in homestays throughout the duration of the course.

The travel course aims to provide students with a more comprehensive understanding of Caribbean Studies and further the connection between the Caribbean and Central and South America. As many of the courses within the Latin American Studies department only touch on the Caribbean, this is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the region. They will also have the opportunity to visit other neighboring communities. More information on the trip will follow closer to the date.





