

## A Note from the Chair

Some people make New Year's resolutions in January; I always make mine in the Fall. The new academic year has been something to look forward to for as long as I can remember, brimming with new questions and opportunities. This year, I hope you'll join me in resolving to expand on the informal peer-networking opportunities we launched last Spring; to cultivate and value collaborative partnerships among students, staff, faculty, and members of the broader Scranton community; and to bring the knowledge we create in the classroom to bear on important social issues. You can read about some opportunities to do just that in the following pages, where you'll learn about our exciting guest speakers, World Bank Gender Consultant Dustin Smith and celebrated author Daniel Alarcón, and our equally inspiring professional partners Justine Johnson and Jose Sanchez of the Cross Cultural Centers.



Too often in my conversations with juniors and seniors I hear, "I wish I would have known about Women's Studies sooner. It's exactly what I want to do, but now I can't fit it in." I hope those of you who are already part of the program will keep helping us to get the word out about our many great courses and events. To those of you still considering Women's Studies, we hope you'll let us be a part of your advising conversations, and encourage you to talk to WS faculty as you prepare to register for Spring classes, plan for study abroad and internships, and consider postgraduate opportunities.

We take great pride in our recent Women's Studies graduates, who currently work as skilled nurses, social workers, victims' advocates, social media analysts, educators, financial analysts and marketing professionals, and are pursuing graduate education in a broad range of academic and professional programs. Our current students combine their interests in Women's Studies with programs in all three colleges. Let's get together and talk about how a concentration or major in Women's Studies can help you achieve your aims, too.

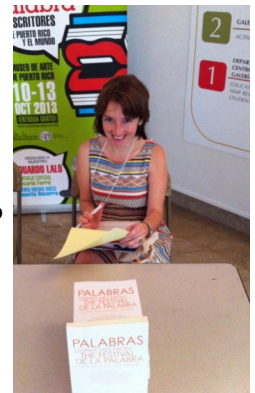
Best wishes for an engaged and productive semester! —Dr. Jamie H. Trnka

## A Note from the Director of Latin American Studies

Dear LAS friends,

After a sabbatical year, I am glad to return to the position of Director of Latin American Studies. I want to express gratitude to Dr. Susan Méndez, who assumed this directorship position last year, and to my LAS colleagues for their support of her. Dr. Méndez's dedication to and energy within to our program have always been inspiring.

Let me to share with you what was a fruitful year for my scholarship during this sabbatical. I conducted research at the oldest library of the Americas, *Biblioteca Palafoxiana* in Puebla, Mexico, *Archivo de la Corona de Aragón* in Barcelona, Spain, and *Archivo General de Indias* in Seville, Spain, from which I collected significant information about Geronimo de Ypori, author of an unpublished manuscript about the Discovery of the Amazon River (1580). My major research project over the past years has been to complete an annotated edition of Ypori's manuscript. The research conducted at these institutions has been a great boon to my project. Furthermore, in a collaborative project with Dr. Daniel Torres (Ohio University) and Dr. Mayra Santos-Febres (Universidad de Puerto Rico), I am working on two co-edited anthologies on Race, Gender and Diaspora in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. My review of the book *Montse-rrat Ordóñez. La escritura, ese lugar que me acompaña*, and an interview with Puerto Rican writer Mayra Santos Febres were published in *Letras Femeninas*, an academic journal dedicated to women authors and feminist theory in the context of Hispanic literatures. With Dr. Hank Willenbrink (English and Theater), I have been collaborating on an article about contemporary Catalan women playwrights.



I presented my research at the following three conferences: *XIX Congress of Colombianists Association* in Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia; *25th Annual Congress of the International Association of Hispanic Women's Literature and Culture* at Marquette University and the *XIX Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas* at the University of Münster, Germany. Also, I was invited by the *Instituto de Española* of the Universidad de Navarra (Pamplona, Spain) to give a talk on "Colombian Women Writers during 'La Violencia' (1948- 2000)". Finally, I attended and participated in the Gender Studies seminar "Corpografías VIII: La ley sobre la piel. Retóricas entre el cuerpo y el derecho." organized by the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. This seminar studied the cultural representation of the body and its control through the rhetoric of the law. 1

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# Latin American Studies Events

## Note from the LAS Director, cont'd

During last semester and the summer, LAS faculty members started planning courses and events for this new academic year in a way that will best serve our students to maintain our long-standing connection to the cultural and scholarly production of the Americas. This newsletter includes information about our Film Fall Series and an event with award winning writer Daniel Alarcón. Please join us at these events. Thank you for your support and engagement to our program. ¡Qué sea un buen semestre! —Dr. Yamile Silva



*A Conversation with Peruvian-American Writer Daniel Alarcón. This event is a collaboration with the Schemel Forum and the Department of English and Theatre with the support of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*

## UPCOMING LAS FILMS

### **Chico & Rita**

(Cuba-Spain-England 2012)

September 20, 2016

Chico is a dashing piano player and Rita is an enchanting and beautiful Havana nightclub singer. When they meet, the sparks fly and they fall madly in love. An epic romance unfolds as the pair travels the glamorous stages of 1940s/1950s Havana, New York City, Hollywood, and Paris. In *Chico & Rita*, Trueba pays tribute to a vibrant and colorful time in the history of both Cuba and jazz.

### **Wrinkles**

(Argentina/Spain, 2013)

October 25, 2016

Based on Paco Roca's award-winning graphic novel, *Wrinkles* illustrates the visual beauty and tender emotion that can be created by traditional animation as it tackles a universal subject matter with humor and acerbic wit. When former bank manager Emilio's family sends him to a retirement home, his new roommate is a wily wheeler-dealer named Miguel who cheerfully swindles small amounts of cash from the more disoriented residents but is also full of handy insider tips that are crucial to survival.

### **Metegol**

(Argentina, 2013)

November 29, 2016

The film tells the story of Amadeo, a shy but talented boy, and of a soccer team that is trying to get back together after having been dismantled. With the help of the soccer players, Amadeo will have to face his most terrible rival on the soccer pitch: the Champ. Guided by their leader, the charismatic Right Winger, the soccer players and Amadeo will set off on a great adventure together, like a true team, to get back the dignity that the Champ stole from them.

The location and time for all of these movies are the same: Brennan Hall 228 at 7pm.

**Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 15th, place and time TBA.**

The Latin American Studies Program is honored to welcome this well-known, contemporary writer on November 15, 2016. Alarcón began his career as a fiction writer. His first short story, "City of Clowns," appeared in *The New Yorker* in 2003, and Harper Collins published his first collection, *War by Candlelight*, two years later. His first novel, *Lost City Radio*, was published in 2007, named a Best Book of the Year by critics across the country, and eventually translated into over a dozen languages. *At Night We Walk in Circles*, his most recent novel, was a finalist for the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Foundation Award. Alarcón began working as a journalist in 2004, first in print for Latin American outlets such as *Etiqueta Negra*, and, later, for American and European publications including *Harper's*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *El País*, and *Granta*, where he was named a Contributing Editor in 2010. In 2012, he co-founded *Radio Ambulante*, a groundbreaking Spanish language podcast, the first of its kind covering Latin America with long-form narrative radio journalism. Under his leadership, *Radio Ambulante* has reported stories from all over the region, and partnered with outlets like Public Radio International and BBC Mundo to reach audiences across the US and worldwide. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at Columbia School of Journalism.

**For more information, please contact:**

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# Women's Studies Events

*Upcoming Event: "A Passage to India: Gender and Development, from D.C. to Delhi"*



**Please mark your calendars for Monday, October 3rd, 5:00pm, BRN 228.**

The University of Scranton Women's Studies Program is pleased to host Dustin A. Smith, a gender consultant with the World Bank South Asia Region's Social Development Unit. His research interests include the socio-cultural norms underlying gender inequality in South Asia, as well as the relationship between women and law in the region. He was previously based in New Delhi, India, where as an AIF Wil-

liam J. Clinton fellow, he worked alongside *Jagori*, a local feminist organization, to conduct research on violence against women in public spaces in the state of Jharkhand. He is a contributing author to the World Bank's *"Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons From South Asia"* (2014). He holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard University, where his thesis sought to assess and envision an appropriate response to the phenomenon of forced marriage among South Asian communities in the United States.

Following a brief overview of the current status of women in India, Dustin will share the unique set of experiences which propelled him from a small city in Massachusetts to Washington, D.C., and later—to New Delhi, India—in order to work towards gender equality in South Asia. Building on lessons gained while working in both cities, first with a large multilateral development organization, and later with a local feminist NGO, this talk will consider what it means to work "on the ground" to end violence against women and promote gender equality, and further, envision a way forward. This talk will be of particular relevance to students exploring careers in gender and international development, introducing them to major types of projects and programs, as well as the key organizations focusing on gender and development today. He will also address the how-to's of identifying and pursuing gender-focused career opportunities.

*For more information, please contact:*  
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## The Cross Cultural Centers: Partners in Integrated Learning

Our faculty and students in Latin American and Women's Studies know the value of extending learning opportunities beyond the classroom. We are proud to partner with the talented staff of the Cross Cultural Centers to help students make the most of all of their learning environments, and to extend and apply academic knowledge to practical conversations and the important work of peer-education. Many of our students enjoy the chance to pursue volunteer or paid work-study opportunities at the Centers; others find them to be important spaces of support, collegiality, and activism. We're pleased to introduce our partners in learning and hope you will get to know them personally this year, too.



The Cross Cultural Centers are comprised of the Jane Kopas Women's Center and the Multicultural Center. The Centers work together to provide education to all students, faculty, and staff. The hope is, through the centers, to provide space for dialogue, engagement, and reflection on issues related to equity, multiculturalism, and diversity. The centers, located in TDC205F&G are open to all students.

Students can get involved through work study, internship, and service learning opportunities. Students can also attend programming on a variety of topics including ally development, oppression, and privilege. The JKWC staff work hard on providing programming on media's role in how people think about race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. The center staff also provides programming for those who identify as privileged and safe spaces for those who identify as marginalized.

The Jane Kopas Women's Center (JKWC) staff has a long history of working with the Women's Studies program. Faculty members support the JKWC through creation and attendance in programming related to women's history, masculinity, global women, and other current events. The JKWC programming supported by the WS program helps provide students the ability to apply what they learn in class to their own lived experiences.

In addition to the work in the Cross Cultural Centers, Justine Johnson, the Director, is an adjunct faculty for Women's Studies. She teaches SOC315/ WOMN215: Feminism and Social Change where students are able to discuss feminisms' role in social movements and women's history. This course is another example of being able to apply theory to practice. For her, this is one of the best courses at The University of Scranton!

For more information, you can contact the JKWC at [jkwc@scranton.edu](mailto:jkwc@scranton.edu) or 570-941-6194. You can also stay up-to-date on events by liking the JKWC Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

My name is Jose Sanchez. I am the new Assistant Director of the Cross Cultural Centers (CCCs) with the primary responsibility overseeing the Multicultural Center. I'll be coordinating anti-oppressive and diversity programming through participation and collaborations with students, faculty, and staff across campus.

During the 2015-2016 academic year the Jane Kopas Women's Center and the Multicultural Center worked intentionally to solidify their partnership as the CCCs. As Assistant Director, I will continue to advance the mission, goals, and programming of the CCCs, developing and enhancing the Centers' synergy with involved student, staff, and faculty.

Our events for 2016-2017 include our signature programs—Hispanic Heritage Month, Indigenous People's Day, Día de los Muertos, International Fashion Show, Black History Month, Holi, and Festival of Nations—but we also have other programs and initiatives in the works for this year.

The Multicultural Center will be working reimagine our "Culture and Conversations" program. The goal of this program is to offer forums for debate and exploration of current issues/events and to engage students in sustained dialogues. Topics will range from current events surrounding race-based violence, movements like "Black Lives Matter," the presidential campaign, and topics focused on social justice, diversity, and inclusion awareness.

Finally, the Multicultural Center will be creating a second signature program focused on global diversity to be offered each fall with the goal of increasing co-curricular opportunities for global learning. The program will begin with a "Global Food Bazaar" this semester. This program will be a small version of the "Festival of Nations" featuring food from different countries/regions of the world represented in the University of Scranton community. We are excited about our initiatives, and look forward to seeing you at our events!

Thank you so much for your time, and please let us know how the Multicultural Center can support you.

Sincerely,

Jose Sanchez  
Assistant Director of the Cross Cultural Centers