

LA/W/S Newsletter

CHAIR'S NOTE

I hope all had a peaceful and joyous holiday season and Intersession. We started the new year amidst a partial government shut-down due to the perceived need for the funding of a border wall (also known as border security funding). Such an issue, of course, strikes a chord with our Department, especially since some of the most vulnerable people involved in this topic are women and children. We hope that those interested in learning more about the US/Mexico border or migration/immigration issues take the time to attend some of our events this semester.

We had fantastic speakers in the Fall 2018 semester. Dr. Eduardo Negueruela gave a lecture entitled, "Changing the Way We Think in and about the Second Language Classroom: A Sociocultural Take," on November 5, 2018. Sixty faculty, students, staff, and school district teachers attended. Junior Devin Bell's presentation entitled, "Women, Art, & the Easter 1916 Irish Rising," was on November 30, 2018. Again, this talk and the small reception afterwards was well-attended. Lastly, we hosted Latinx novelist, Angie Cruz, for a reading on October 18, 2018. See photo above. Fifty-eight faculty, students, staff, and community members attended. Cruz read from her new work and spoke to audience members for more than an hour. LAWS is proud to hold events that support the significance of language and culture, and we thank our collaborators and co-sponsors for their tireless financial and practical support.



Great events are planned for this semester as well. We have the Latin American Studies Film Festival, which highlights today's Central American migration issues. Also, we will have speakers on campus to address various Latin American topics. Juan Carlos González Espitia, faculty member at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will give a talk about the origin of syphilis on March 20. On March 21, Cristina Rivera Garza, faculty member at University of Houston, will discuss the deportation process experienced by her grandparents by focusing on domestic objects. Finally, John Donaghy, Scranton alumnus, will speak about the conditions in Honduras on March 26. See inside for more details. Have a good semester everyone!

-Susan C. Méndez, Chair of Latin American & Women's Studies

WGS DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There are great and exciting things happening in the Women's and Gender Studies program. In November 2018, Provost Gingerich informed us that the WGS major would NOT be discontinued. (Great news!) This February, in partial fulfillment of course requirements for an independent study, WOMN 383: Women's Stories & Sexuality, Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* was performed on campus. The success of her play, which tells women's and girls' stories about their bodies and sexual experiences, allowed Ensler to found V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls. The on-campus performance raised money for the Women's Resource Center that serves Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties.

There are new courses being proposed for WGS designation by University faculty members (new and longer-term faculty). In addition, as our program transitions from Women's Studies to Women's and Gender Studies, we are identifying existing courses that we anticipate will be added to the list of cross-listed WGS courses. At the same time, we continue to work with the Jane Kopas Women's Center on programs that have proven successful, including sponsoring women students to attend the week-long NEW Leadership Pennsylvania™ program that prepares women leaders for the 21st century. (More information on page 3.)

This is an exciting time to be part of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

-Jean Harris, Women's and Gender Studies Director



LAS SPRING FILMS

Central American Migration Issues in Latin American Movies

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

FEB. 21: *Voces Inocentes* (Mexico 2004) A young boy, in an effort to have a normal childhood in 1980's El Salvador, is caught up in a dramatic fight for his life as he desperately tries to avoid the war, which is raging all around him.

MAR. 21: *Finding Oscar* (USA 2016) A feature length documentary about the search for justice in the devastating case of the Dos Erres massacre in Guatemala that focuses on the trail of two little boys.

APRIL 11: *La Jaula de Oro* (Mexico 2013) Three teenagers from the slums of Guatemala and one Indian from Chiapas, Mexico travel together in freight trains and by walking on railroad tracks to the United States in search of a better life.

Three Talks about Latin American Topics

Dr. Ana Ugarte has invited Juan Carlos González Espitia, Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to give a talk entitled, "On Syphilis, Orchestrions, and Other Imported Goods: Trademarks in the Infirm Writings of Silva and Casal," on March 20, 2019, at 5pm in Leahy Hall 235. Sponsors and collaborators for this event include the Ellacuría Initiative and the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

With support from the Humanities Initiative, Dr. Yamile Silva has invited Cristina Rivera Garza, Distinguished Professor in Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston, to give a talk entitled, "A Domestic Archaeology of Repatriation" on March 21, 2019. This talk will use domestic objects to illustrate the deportation of the speaker's grandparents in the 1930s to Mexico. Time and location is 5:30pm at the Moskovitz Theatre, DeNaples Center.

Finally, Dr. Mike Allison has invited University of Scranton alumnus John Donaghy '70, Ph.D., to speak on March 26, 2019 about conditions in Honduras. Time and location is 6-7:30pm at LSC 133.

WGS Partnership with the Jane Kopas Women's Center

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Jane Kopas Women's Center (JKWC). The long-term partnership between the (JKWC) and the Women's and Gender Studies Program (WGS) remains strong through the faculty liaisons. Last Semester, Dr. Szymanski attended two JKWC staff meetings, discussing *Nanette*, a Netflix comedy special about gender, sexuality and trauma; as well as a TED talk about bathrooms and trans individuals. Student staff were incredibly engaged and loved having the facilitated dialogue helping them connect their work with theory! Dr. Friedman also engaged with the staff at meetings and the students appreciated getting to know him and his interests as well.



This semester, we are eager to work with Dr. Picchietti and Dr. Caporale on issues of global feminism through readings, films, and discussions. This has been well received in the past, and students are looking forward to this semester's learnings and application.

Additionally, Dr. Harris and I are working to finalize a process for supporting students to attend the NEW Leadership Summer Institute, a week-long experience to educate and empower young women leaders. We have supported students for more than a decade, and look forward to hopefully being able to sponsor multiple students by seeking financial partners.

— Maria Marinucci, Director of the Cross-Cultural Centers

Life as an International Jesuit Volunteer in Peru



Many of you might be wondering what one might do with a degree that states you studied Latin American Studies, Spanish or any major that blends these interrelated fields of studies. Well, I am here to say that Latin American Studies is a way of living with a diverse and broad perspective. It is a form of seeing cultures, societies and life throughout the world as it is. It serves as a foundation that is bolstered by one's own lived experiences and the sharing of others' experiences. As an International Jesuit Volunteer in Andahuaylillas, Peru (only an hour from Cusco), I have found the content that inspired artists, writers and Peruvians such as Gustavo Gutierrez, Mario Vargas Llosa and Julio Ramón Ribeyro. All of this is shared through daily conversation, uninterrupted and drawn out dinners, and in the general rhythm and music of the Peruvian lifestyle.

To be able to serve in such a diverse place is truly a privilege and gift that is made more profound because of Latin American Studies. My role is to work on the Pastoral division of Fe y Alegría 44, which is a public Jesuit school located in rural and underserved population areas throughout Peru and 17 other countries. I am to assist in religion classes and liturgical planning for their primary and secondary school, and I will help develop an Ignatian Sports Program aimed at inculcating Ignatian values through the medium of sport. It is apparent that my time in Prof. Jaime Meilan del Río's 311 *Conversational Spanish* course will come in handy, but to have Dr. Yamile Silva's *Soccer is Passion* course this past year will prove to be very helpful outside of the classroom as well!

While Latin American Studies might not be the easiest thing to explain to potential employers or skeptical parents, programs such as this one provide an openness to appreciate the different flavors of wherever life may take you. Here in Peru, sometimes that "flavor" can be interpreted literally with dishes like ceviche, pollo a la brasa and yes, even the cuy.

-Luis Melgar, graduate of 2018 with an Exercise Science major, Spanish & Theology minors, and Latin American Studies & Peace and Justice Studies concentrations

Spring WGS Sponsored & Co-Sponsored Events

March 22, 2019

WGS Program Info Session

For Faculty & Students

Rose Room, Brennan Hall

3:00 – 4:15

March 6, 2019

Women in Mainland

China & Taiwan

Brennan 228

4:30 – 5:30

March 20, 2019

Women in Japan

Brennan 228

4:30 – 5:30

March 27, 2019

Women in India

Brennan 228

4:30 – 5:30

March 28, 2019

Inside the Box

Lincoln's assassination

as lived by three women

in the box with him that

night.

Collegiate Hall, 7:00 PM

June 2- 7, 2019

NEW Leadership Pennsylvania™

This six-day summer institute is an intensive, non-partisan residential

program that prepares women

leaders for the 21st century. Hosted

by the Pennsylvania Center for

Women and Politics, the only cost

for women selected to represent

the University of Scranton at the

institute is for travel to and from

Chatham University, in Pittsburgh.

Sophomore and junior women can

apply at

<https://orgsync.com/78033/forms/354895>.

Dr. Poulson's Newest Book

Suffrage: The Epic Struggle for Women's Right to Vote



The centennial celebration of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment is nearly upon us, and I am in the final stretch of writing a history of women's suffrage. The book, titled *Suffrage: The Epic Struggle for Women's Right to Vote*, will be published by Praeger in the summer of 2019.

The fight for women's suffrage was a long and colorful struggle, beginning with a small number of women and men who put forth the radical idea of treating women as political equals at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. After the Civil War, an informal alliance between abolitionists and women's rights reformers broke over the Fourteenth Amendment, which inserted the word "male" into the U.S. Constitution for the first time. Several Western states permitted women to vote—Wyoming was the first in 1869—but national suffrage did not come until women formed a mass movement, with growing militancy, that put increasing pressure on a reluctant political establishment. After Tennessee became the final state to ratify in a dramatic vote at the state's capital, twenty million American women were able to go to the polls in the fall of 1920.

This book has been several years in the making, with visits to over a dozen archives across the nation to highlight several of the intriguing citizens who favored and opposed the suffrage movement. The struggle mirrors the changing views and norms for American women from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth-century and provides background for the continuing evolution in gender roles today.

— Susan Poulson, Professor of History

Congratulations!

We congratulate three WGS faculty members who earned promotion to the rank of full professor, beginning in Fall 2019.

Dr. Marzia Caporale
World Languages &
Cultures Department

Dr. Susan Méndez
English & Theatre
Department

Dr. Meghan Rich
Sociology &
Criminal Justice Department