

THE AMBASSADOR

SPRING/SUMMER—2010

VOLUME V

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Notes From The Chair *Dr. Ledford-Miller*

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Alexander von Humboldt seems to be looking kindly upon me as I stand to his right, poised beneath a photo of three beautiful Mexican doors. Von Humboldt was a German explorer-scientist. He and his friend Aimé Bonpland, a botanist, impressed the King and Queen of Spain to such a degree (including with his Spanish) that their Royal Highnesses gave the two men permission and royal passports to travel in the jealously guarded American colonies. In 1799 von Humboldt and Bonpland became the first foreigners granted access to the *terra incognita* of Spain's colonies. Together they discovered previously unknown plants and animals, mapped previously unmapped regions. When they set off on their journey, it was into an unknown world. They survived to tell their tales and publish many a volume of travels and scientific observations.

Our graduating seniors are likewise poised to begin a journey into the unknown reaches of the future. You are finishing your preparations for the voyage. Prepare well and be spirited. Remember, there is never only one door to open. In this photo there are three: we do not know what lies behind any of them, but perhaps we can be (almost) as adventurous as von Humboldt and open them with vigor.

World Languages and Cultures Faculty & Staff Activities

Dr. Ledford-Miller's latest publication is: "*Kalashnikovs and Zombie Cucumbers: Mozambique as Exotic Sight/Site*" in *Africa: Revista trimestrale di studi e documentazione dell'Institutio italianoo per l'Africa e l'Oriente*. During spring break, she gave a presentation on "The Poetry of Violence: Horacio Castellanos Moya's *Insensatez*," at the IX Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Lima, Peru.

Dr. Marzia Caporale's students in FREN 431 will be staging a play in French on Friday May 14th. The play is Samuel Beckett's *Oh les beaux jours* (*Happy days* in English).

Dr. Virginia Picchietti, Associate Professor of Italian, presented a paper titled "The Specter of Auschwitz in Lia Levi's *Una valle piena di stelle*" at NEMLA in Montreal, April 8-11, 2010.

Dr. Zanzana's article "Domestic Violence and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Spanish Cinema. A Portfolio View of Behavioral Dynamics," will appear in the upcoming issue of *Hispania*, a journal devoted to the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Prof. Karam-

El Salvador Jesuit Martyr Anniversary

20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs of El Salvador 1989-2009. In the early morning hours of November 16, 1989, government armed forces entered the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in San Salvador and brutally murdered six prominent Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. The execution-style slayings shocked the world and brought increased discredit to the rightist government of President Alfredo Cristiani which was supported by the U.S. throughout the civil war in El Salvador from 1980-1992. To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador and the thousands of other victims of violence throughout the civil war, Jesuit Universities sent representatives to the UCA for a special celebration during the week of Nov. 16. Prof. Marie Karam of the Department of World Languages and Director of Bridges to El Salvador at the University of Scranton was one of the many representatives. "It was remarkable to witness the solidarity of Jesuit Universities from around the world coming together for this event. Even more remarkable was witnessing the newly elected leftist government in El Salvador party made up of former guerrillas, bestowing on the slain Jesuit martyrs the highest award of the country. The slain priests were finally recognized as outstanding intellectuals and promoters of justice for the poor." The Jesuit representatives were part of an official U.S. government delegation led by Cong. Jim McGovern, Mass., an outspoken advocate for justice in El Salvador for over 25 years. The University of Scranton sponsors both student trips and faculty/staff trips to El Salvador. In January 2010 U of S President, Fr. Scott Pilarz, S.J., led a delegation of University of Scranton Vice-Presidents to El Salvador. For information on the Bridges to El Salvador program or the University of Scranton Oscar Arnulfo Romero SEED scholarship program for youth in El Salvador contact:

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Prof. Silva obtained two grants: An *Internal Research Program* and the *Intersession Grant* that allowed her to conduct research during January 2010 at the National Library of the Argentine Republic in Buenos Aires, *La Biblioteca Nacional de La República de Argentina*. She delivered a paper entitled "'Entre la poética de la súplica y la poética de la merced: Estrategias de justificación en la carta de Ana Mozo de la Torre (1815)" at the 2nd. International Conference on Caribbean Studies" in Colombia, March 15-19, 2010. During the Summer 2010, she will present a paper, "Poética de la súplica y de la merced durante el s. XVIII en Cuba" in the XVII International Association of Hispanists in Rome, Italy July 19th-24th. I participated as one of the three judges in the Foreign Language section of The *Times Leader's Best & Brightest* scholarship program awards in April 1st, 2010. Thanks to the Latin American Studies and Women Studies, I brought Dr. Angel Rivera from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA to give a talk on "The Body as Metaphor of Social and Political Concerns: Deformities and Community Formation in Works by Mayra Montero" on November 17, 2009. With Dr. Lee Penyak, we received a Diversity Grant to invite Dr. Farid Benavides to campus. His talk, "Indigenous People's Mobilization and the Struggle for their Rights in Colombia" was held on Tuesday, Feb 23. As part of that Diversity Grant, we will have an Andean Musical Group, Inka Wasi, on April 29.



Arabic Puppet Show



Isaac Díaz enjoying the Arabic Puppet Show

Habib Zanzana-

Dr. Zanzana was interviewed live on WNEP on March 30 with a student to talk about an upcoming Arabic puppet show. He was asked to do performances at the Timmy Town Center in Steamtown on April 10 & 11 at 2pm. The interview took place at the Timmy Town Center at the Steamtown Mall. Dr. Zanzana was told not to look at the camera and to hold one of the puppets in his hands. "I did OK for first time local TV and Fabiana Vargas, my student in Arabic 102, was terrific too" said Dr. Zanzana.

"Timmy Town Center is a not for profit children's museum and I am happy that my students are involved in something that integrates language skills, cultural diversity, and community service. This is an original show I wrote with the students of the U of S; we built, painted, and dressed up the puppet; there is an original script, an original song, an original dance and interactive features in Arabic that will delight everyone. The actors are students of the U and our secretary, Joyce Knott, will also perform a dance as part of her role as the goddess who tames the terrible monster. So as you see, we have tapped talents from everywhere at the U," adds Dr. Zanzana.



Ma'at, The Flying Egyptian Goddess



ARABIC PUPPET SHOW (Cont.)



Ammit, The Monster who kidnaps Leila



The Arabic Puppet Characters

On Friday, December 4th, 2009, Dr. Habib Zanzana and his Arabic 101 students performed the very first official Arabic puppet show entitled *Leila and the Mythical Sandbox*. This special show delivered a unique array of Arabic language, Egyptian culture, and Arabic homemade food that attracted over 100 members of the University community. The puppets, stage, and even the prizes were uniquely handmade by both the Arabic 101 students and student workers from the Language Learning Center. The audience also contributed to the show by singing together in Arabic and adding special effects through bubble blowing. We were very pleased with the overall outcome of our cultural puppet show and we look forward to seeing you at the next one in April 2010!



Characters and Cast of the Arabic puppet Show

More than a hundred guests attended the premiere of the U of S Arabic Puppet Show. Leila and the mythical sandbox are on stage.



NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Megan LoBue ('09) minored in German at The University of Scranton. Megan was awarded a competitive and prestigious Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to Germany, where she currently lives in Wernigerode, a small town near Leipzig in the former East Germany. Wernigerode's Gymnasium Stadtfeld keeps Megan busy: She assists in English classrooms for students in grades 6-8 and 11-12, offering additional tutoring to students preparing to take the *Abitur*, an advanced subject exam taken by students in their final year of study. Megan prepares educational materials on U.S. American holidays and current events. She has put her English major to good work, too, coordinating student stagings of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Macbeth*. Megan is impressed by the premium placed on language learning in German culture, where students often begin to study English as early as the 3rd grade and are expected to begin a second foreign language by the 8th grade—small wonder that they can read Shakespeare in high school!

Her studies in World Language and Culture have been essential to her success and provided her with the opportunity to participate in a broader, international community. She recently reflected on her decision to study German language and culture: "When I minored in German, many people asked: why? I am not going into international business, and many people think Spanish is the only worthwhile language to learn. Studying German at the University opened up so many possibilities for me, particularly my Fulbright year. And while learning the language has been important, learning about German culture--the art, the literature, the history--gave me a much better understanding of the language and of the people. So many people here asked me if I had ever read Goethe or knew Germany had been divided into East and West. And I had, but only because of my studies. I challenged the stereotype that Americans know nothing about the world outside of America."

Tziona Ackerman , 2006 graduate (Secondary Education/Spanish Education) currently enrolled in a two-year Master program at the university of Bar-Ilan(Israel)pursuing a graduate degree in TEFL and linguistics and teaching English as a foreign language in a boys high school in Tel-Aviv.

Sean Rist, who graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in International Business and an additional degree in Spanish will continue his studies in Spanish at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where he has received a Graduate Assistantship for the instruction of the Spanish language to undergraduate students.

Liz McDyer (Political Science/Spanish) has finished her master's at Indiana University and after much soul searching, decided to continue for the PhD. She has been accepted into the doctoral program at IU.

Mackenzie Lind, class of 2010, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to study in Finland for the 2010-2011 academic year. During the grant period, Lind plans to work in a neuroscience laboratory, take courses, and immerse herself in Finnish language and culture. She is a neuroscience and French major with a minor in Biochemistry, and a member of the university's Honors Program. Lind spent the Spring 2008 semester in Paris, France, studying French at the *Cours de Langues et de Civilisation Françaises de la Sorbonne*. On campus, she is an active member of the Scranton Neuroscience Society, tutors for the CTLE, and is a member of several other clubs. Lind plans on attending medical school after her year abroad in Finland.



French Instructional Film Series Spring 2010

Lili et le baobab (2006)

Starring: Romane Bohringer, Aminata Zaaria, Saïdou Abatcha.

Director: Chantal Richard. **Rating:** Not rated.

Lili arrives in Agam, a Sahelian village in Senegal, her first time in Africa. The local city council has asked her to photograph the equipment they financed as part of the twinning of two towns. The photos she has to take protect her when she feels alone and foreign, and from facing the questions she is asked about her life. Aminata lays the foundations of an improbable friendship. However, when Lili returns to Normandy, something has shifted, or cracked... Lili will have to deal with the unsettling sensation that Africa has left her.

Entre les murs (2008)

Starring: Esmeralda Ouertani, Franck Keita, Francois Begaudeau.

Director: Laurent Cantet. **Rating:** PG-13

Teacher François Marin and his colleagues are preparing for another school year teaching at a racially mixed inner city high school in Paris. The teachers collectively want to inspire their students, but each teacher is an individual who will do things in his or her own way to achieve the results they desire. They also have differing viewpoints on the students themselves. Marin's class this year of fourteen and fifteen year old is no different than previous years, although the names and faces have changed. Marin tries to get through to his students, sometimes with success and sometimes with utter failure.

La graine et le mulet (2007)

Starring: Bouraouia Marzouk, Habib Boufares, Hatika Karaoui.

Director: Abdel Kechiche **Rating:** Not rated

Mr. Slimani, a tired sixty year old, drags himself towards a shipyard job which has become more and more difficult to cope with as the years go by. He is a divorced father who forces himself to stay close to his family despite scissions and tensions which financial difficulties make even worse. He is going through a delicate period in his life and recently, everything seems to make him feel useless. He wants to escape from it all and set up his own restaurant...

Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (2008)

Starring: Kad Merad, Dany Boon, Zoé Felix.

Director: Dany Boone **Rating:** PG

Although living a comfortable life in a charming town in the South of France, Julie has been feeling depressed for a while. Philippe Abrams, a post office administrator, her husband, tries to obtain a transfer to a seaside town, on the French Riviera, at any cost. But he is caught trying to scam an inspector. Philippe is banished to the distant unheard of town of Bergues, in the Far North of France. Leaving his child and wife behind, he leaves for his frightening destination, a dreadfully cold place inhabited by hard-drinking, unemployed rednecks, speaking an incomprehensible dialect called Ch'ti...

Le scaphandre et le papillon (2007)

Starring: Mathieu Amalric, Emmanuelle Seigner.

Director: Julian Schnabel. **Rating:** PG-13

Elle France editor Jean-Dominique Bauby, who, in 1995 at the age of 43, suffered a stroke that paralyzed his entire body, except his left eye. Using that eye to blink out his memoir, Bauby eloquently described the aspects of his interior world, from the psychological torment of being trapped inside his body to his imagined stories from lands he'd only visited in his mind.

World Languages and Cultures

TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2009-2010



From Left to Right: Kei Hinohara, Maryam Alkhawaja, Marion Denis, WanWan Zhou, Estefanía González

The Department of World Languages and Cultures of the University Scranton had a very special event this semester!

MEXICAN MUSICAL PERFORMANCE



María Dolores Aguilar Vaca from Guadalajara, Jalisco, México!

Students and Faculty had the chance to listen to the most traditional and popular mariachi songs:

Cielo Rojo, Amor Eterno, Costumbres and more!

Dolores completed her undergraduate studies in music performance at the University de Guadalajara, she is an accomplished singer, plays the piano, and the guitar. She currently teaches music to children in Guadalajara, Jalisco México. She is also a good friend of Estefanía González, a teaching assistant in the department.



Wedding Bells

Upon her return to Argentina, Gisela Tregnaghi found love and is now happily married and sends everyone greetings from Santa Fe.

Misako Kobayachi and Daniel Garubba, both U of S graduates, tied the knot in February and live in Binghamton, New York. Dr. Zanzana was there to congratulate the happy couple.

Sebastien Moulin and Colleen Miluski were married on Friday 26th of February and Dr. Zanzana and Joyce Knott were in attendance to celebrate this joyous event. Sebastian was our French TA a few years ago.

Lyna Kauv is engaged to Yves and they planned to get married in June in Paris.



A University of Scranton Senior's Success Story by Chanté V. Argenti

I was given the opportunity to complete a week long internship as a translator for the Tucci Company and CM Hadfield's Saddlery. Tucci is a world renowned Italian company owned and operated by Franco Tucci. This organization specializes in top-quality custom equestrian boots and equipment. CM Hadfield's Saddlery is owned and operated by Cindy Hadfield and based in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. Cindy is the exclusive importer of Tucci boots on the East coast and is a very well respected member of the equine community.

I have studied Italian for 8 years and studied abroad in Florence and Siena, Italy. I was eager to start working with business professionals. The whole week was a great success. Franco and his wife Angela included me in sales and taught me about their business and the intricate process of making a pair of riding boots. Cindy was very grateful for my help, as I was the facilitator of communication and therefore business.

This past winter I was a working student in Wellington, Florida for Wendy and Ezequiel Peralta of Seabreeze Farm. Seabreeze Farm is a training and sales facility that offers first rate instruction and care. Seabreeze also has an extensive inventory of imported show horses for sale at all times. After explaining my knowledge of Italian and French and my experience as a translator with Wendy, she discussed hiring me full-time after graduation. Wendy knew that I am a dedicated worker and avid rider. Cindy spoke highly of my language skills. Seabreeze Farm makes trips to Argentina and Europe shopping for horses. I can't wait to be a part of the Seabreeze Team.

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