

# THE AMBASSADOR

## Notes from The Chair (Continued on pg. 2)

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Beginning in Fall 2018, Dr. Ana Ugarte took on a full time position as a Spanish professor at the University of Scranton. See pg. 3 for details.

#### Faculty Scholarship

Updates on faculty publications and scholarships can be found for

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#### 2018-2019 FLTAs

We are lucky to have four Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants with us this year from France, Japan, Bahrain, and Colombia. Learn more about them on pg. 6-7.



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,  
Greetings from the O'Hara building! Welcome to another great year at the World Languages and Cultures Department.

With a wide array of courses from 11 different languages, our Department continues to demonstrate our strong commitment to the fulfillment of the Jesuit tradition and our university's mission. The study of a foreign language allows our students to purposefully engage in the deeper meaning of the *Magis*: speaking another language creates channels beyond the self where the self may reach out to others in their own milieu rather than assuming and asking a one-way relationship from the other towards the self. Our courses prepare students to become more well-rounded world citizens. If you are not already taking a language course, please check our course offerings and position yourself more favorably for success in your career and considerably increase your sensitivity to linguistic and cultural difference. WLC is thrilled to welcome this year Dr. Ana Ugarte who

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## Spanish Music & Dance Night

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recently graduated from Duke University with a Ph.D. in Romance Studies and a Certificate in College Teaching. Her dissertation "Island Laboratories: Literary Monsters, Diseases, and Pharmacopeias in the Greater Caribbean," contributes to the field of Caribbean and indigenous literary studies by studying an understudied form of subalternity. Her research interests include Health Humanities, Postcolonial Studies and Disability Studies. This fall, Ugarte teaches "Fictions of the Body in Latin America", a course where students examine how fictional and non-fictional representations of disease, medicine, and disability intersect with issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and identity in Latin/o America, and they learn about the specific historical and sociopolitical contexts in which these representations were engendered (see page 3).

Also this year we are receiving an exciting cohort of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs): Ms. Maryam Ahmed from Bahrain; Mr. Juan Ruiz from Colombia; Ms. Minori Koga from Japan and Ms. Laura Martel from France (see page 6-7). We will host a series of cultural events organized by them and we hope to see you there. Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to receive any updates on these events. As usual, we are proud to showcase the research, service and achievements of our remarkable faculty members (see pages 3-5). This newsletter also features our students and alumni's latest endeavors (see page 8-9) and our successful study abroad programs (see page 9).

Thanks to all of you who have supported our Department and me during these first months of my term as the WLC Chair. I'm indebted to all WLC faculty for passing on their wisdom and for contributing to our ongoing conversations on curriculum and programming, students for keeping us humble and motivated about our work, alumni for staying in touch and contributing updates, our great Director of the Language Learning Center, Hannah Jackson, for keeping us on track and grounded, and to our fantastic secretary, JoAnne Jurkiewicz for all her administrative support. Erika Maxson, our G.A., has been extremely

supportive. I am always impressed with her willingness to help us. You all make my work easier. Finally, to our prospective students and alumni: If you will be coming to town, be sure to let us know so that we can welcome you personally! **Have a great fall!!**



## Spotlight on New WLC Faculty: **Dr. Ana Ugarte**

My teaching and research focuses on twentieth- and twenty-first century Latin American literature with a primary focus on Hispanic Caribbean fiction and Indigenous cultures and languages from Mexico. I earned my licenciatura in Spanish Philology from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and my Ph.D. in Romance Studies from Duke University. My research interests also include Postcolonial Studies, Disability Studies, and the emerging field of Health Humanities. In my dissertation, I examined the representation of illness, disability, and healing processes in contemporary works of fiction from Cuba and Puerto Rico. I explored

how authors from the early twentieth century to the present expose the historical functioning of tropical territories as laboratories for political, economic, and scientific experimentation. I looked into landmark Caribbean novels, such as José Lezama Lima's *Paradiso*, but I also examined the tropes of paranoia and hypochondria in pop culture and recent works of Science Fiction.

This fall I am very excited to teach a course deeply connected to these topics, entitled "Fictions of the Body". In this class, students use a wide variety of materials that include short stories, art works, films, graphic novels, and reality shows, to examine discourses of illness, monstrosity, and contagion in Latin and Latinx America. We explore creativity and artistic practices shaped by the experiences of disease and disability, while also discussing how these representations intersect with issues of gender, sexuality, migration, race, and class.

During my PhD, I became very interested in indigenous healing practices. I therefore learned Yucatec Maya, an indigenous language spoken in the Yucatán peninsula in Mexico, which reminded me about the hardships of studying a new language from scratch! In the future, I look forward to continuing to teach Spanish classes at all levels, developing courses on my areas of research, and teaching the service learning class next Fall.

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## Faculty Scholarship (Continued on pg. 4-5)

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### Dr. Marzia Caporale

Dr. Caporale continues to work on women in Francophone Literature and Film and had two publications (one book chapter, and one journal article) appear in print during the summer.

« Au-delà du silence : mémoires de la traite négrière africaine dans *La saison de l'ombre* de Léonora Miano ». In *Textualité de la mémoire et de l'histoire dans les langues de la littérature africaine*. Ed. Owono Zambo. Edilivre, St. Denis, 2018.

"Creativity and the Feminine: Sexual Politics and Cinematic Aesthetics in Nadia El Fani's Documentary-Making." *Esprit Créateur* Eds. Giada Alessandrini, Sandra Daroczi, and Gemma Edney. 58. 2 Summer 2018.

## Dr. Yamile Silva



During Summer 2018, Silva was invited to teach a course on Latin American Culture at the Universidad de Navarra, Spain from June 5th to 25th. She also presented her paper "La reclamación de libertad de Juana Agripina, la esclava rebelde de Ponce (1865)" at the Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association in May 23-27, 2018. Barcelona. Silva has been the President of the International Academic Organization *Association of Gender and Sexuality Studies (AGSS)* for the 2017-2019 period.

Besides all her administrative duties, she has been the evaluator for three different prizes given by the organization on July 2018: Best Graduate Essay, Best Article written by a Professor and Best Creative Work. Silva co-organized the Third Academic Program of the *Festival de la Palabra* (2018). This academic meeting will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico from Oct 12th-14th. Silva was named a member of the Advisory Committee of the XXVIII Annual Congress of *Association for Gender and Sexuality Studies* that took place at the University of Illinois, Chicago on September 25th-29th. During this conference, Silva chaired the panel "Mystical Voices, Theopoetics and Gothic Scenarios: Exploring Other Expressions of Feminist and Queer Longings" and also presented her paper "Cartas desde el Río de La Plata: agencia e identidad en peticiones femeninas coloniales" in the panel "¿Quién habla en el archivo? Las negociaciones de la voz femenina hispánica entre el canon y el corpus (1500-1800)". Silva will serve (by invitation) on the U.S. Student Fulbright National Screening Committee in December 2018 in New York City.

Since the last academic year, Silva has published the peer-reviewed co-edited volume *Agencia, historia y empoderamiento femenino* (Santo Domingo: Ministerio de la Mujer, Crítica Dominicana Literaria sobre Escritoras Hispanoamericanas (CDLEH), pp. 430, 2018) with Diane Marting (University of Mississippi) and Eva París (Ohio Wesleyan). Also, in collaboration with Daniel Torres (Ohio University), Silva has published the collection of essays *Utopías en la Literatura. Selección de ensayos del Segundo Programa Académico del Festival de la Palabra*. (San Juan: Revista CRUCE de la Escuela de Ciencias Sociales, Humanidades y Comunicaciones, 2018). Her co-authored essay with Dr. Hank Willenbrink (University of Scranton) "Contemporary Catalan Women Playwrights, A Compilation (Review Essay)" will appear on *Letras Femeninas*. 43.2 (October 2018). Also, her article "'I, humble servant of your grace': The Petitions of Doña Isabel de Salazar (1611) and Doña Ana de Nabarrete (1621), from Río de la Plata" is under consideration. Silva is currently working on "Space, land and territory in Gerónimo de Ypori's relation (1580)" that has been accepted to be part of the collection *Cambridge Literature in Transitions* (Cambridge University Press).

Silva has been an active faculty member of the Humanities Initiative. With a group of colleagues, they received a Strategic Initiatives Funding Award (2018-2019).

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## Dr. Habib Zanzana

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Dr. Habib Zanzana gave five conference papers at national and international venues in spring and summer 2018. He presented a paper titled, “The African-Italian Diaspora, Colonialism, and the Narrative of Migration, Trauma, and Memory in Igiaba Scego’s *Adua*,” at the New York African Studies Association, at Seton Hall, New Jersey, in April 2018.

He also participated at the *Intersezioni/ Intersections* conference in Florence, Italy, in June 2018, where he discussed “Art, Space, and Intersecting Cities in Italo Calvino’s *Le città invisibili*.” Dr. Zanzana gave a presentation on “The Cinema of Defiance, Resistance and Hope in Contemporary Tunisia,” at the Society for French Studies, in Cork, Ireland, in July 2-4, 2018.



Dr. Zanzana chaired a panel and gave two presentations at the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, in Seville, Spain in July 16-22, 2018. His first talk examined “Gender Identity and Women’s Agency in Mehdi Charaf’s *Bent Keltoum* and Atiq Rahimi’s *The Patience Stone*.” His second presentation examined contemporary Arabic literature and centered on “Trauma, Nostalgia and the Arab City in Ahlam Mosteghanemi’s *Memory in the Flesh*.”

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## Dr. Virginia Picchiatti

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Dr. Virginia Picchiatti, Professor of Italian Studies, contributed an entry, entitled “The Italian Shoah in Italian Youth Literature,” to the *Literary Encyclopedia*. The entry discusses the ways in which the Italian Holocaust has been represented in literature for children.

# 2018-2019 Foreign Language Teaching Assistants

(Continued on pg. 7)

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From Left to Right: Juan Carlos Ruiz Carrillo (Colombia), Laura Martel (France), Minori Koga (Japan), Maryam Ahmed (Bahrain)

## Juan Carlos Ruiz Carrillo Spanish FTLA

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Hola a todos! My name is Juan Carlos Ruiz, and I am the current Spanish FLTA at the University of Scranton. I am from Colombia and I hold a B.A. in teaching English and also a Specialization in Pedagogy. During the last three years I was enthusiastically working as a Full-time professor at the Universidad de la Amazonia, yet I am now very excited about this Fulbright grant experience in the fascinating and gorgeous city of Scranton. I love traveling, meeting people with tons of positive energy and living with no regrets every second of my life. Thus, I am eager to share about my culture, my language, the gorgeous tourist places, my love for the Colombian food and Salsa dancing with all of my students in the classrooms as well as with all those who want to strengthen their linguistic and intercultural competences.

¡Espero pasarla chévere con todos en Scranton! (*I hope to have a great time with you all in Scranton!*)

## Maryam Ahmed Arabic FTLA

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Asalam Alaykom

My name is Maryam, I am from Bahrain, a tiny island located in the Arabian or Persian gulf. The island is called Bahrain which means “two seas.” Bahrain is also known as the pearl of the Arabian gulf, and a land of a million palm trees. Our official language is Arabic, but we do speak other languages such as Persian and Urdu. I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Banking and Finance, a field which is not related to education and learning. I started teaching English as a hobby and my first experience was in Vietnam in 2013.

From that day I got engaged more in several volunteering programs such as Junior Achievement and Dream Big association to teach English to public school students alongside my work as a business administrator in different companies. I found it valuable to learn and engage with different cultures. It helps us to get out of our comfort zone and at the same time it tells us how much we are diversified with our languages, colors, beliefs but always share being human. Now here I am and I am excited to share my Bahraini culture and tradition with you all.

## Laura Martel French FTLA

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Bonjour! Hello! My name is **Laura** and I am the Fulbright French Language Assistant this year. I am from **Lyon**, France’s second biggest city! It is situated in the south east. I studied American Culture and Social Sciences during my Bachelor’s. I am currently studying a Master’s in Sociology.

I have always loved languages because they are the best way to exchange with people from all over the world. That’s why I also speak some Russian, German and Spanish! If you want to learn more about the wonderful French language and culture (or the food), I am here for you! I look forward to meeting you!!

A très vite.

## Minori Koga Japanese FTLA

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My name is Minori Koga (古峨美法). I am so happy to be here as a Fulbright FLTA this year. I was born and raised in Nagasaki on the island of Kyushu in Japan, and spent my high school days in Fukuoka, which is the largest city in Kyushu. Then, I moved to the capital, Tokyo! From the age of 18, I lived in Tokyo for 10 years. I miss my life in Tokyo a bit, but I enjoy my new life in Scranton!

What I did in Tokyo may sound weird to you, but I studied American literature there! Are you surprised? Actually, we have so many American literature fans in Japan. Almost all universities have a department of English literature. I am one of them and have an MA in American Literature. My favorite writers are Ernest Hemingway, Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Carson McCullers, Truman Capote, Miranda July, etc. I also like Haruki Murakami, who is one of the most famous Japanese novelists in the world. If you know any good writers, please let me know!

## Student News

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My name is Danielle Dessey and I am a junior Occupational Therapy (OT) and Hispanic Studies double major. I am also a class representative for the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) as well as a regular volunteer at the St. Clare's Food Pantry and at the Leahy Clinic as a Spanish Interpreter. On weekends, I work as a part-time Therapy Rehabilitation Tech at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital York. Additionally, The University of Scranton has given me wonderful Study Abroad experiences in both Bolivia and Spain, where I was able to experience the dialects and cultures of the countries first-hand in the classrooms, with my host families, and with the citizens. I love that I can so easily combine my two passions for OT and Spanish by working with individuals from different cultural backgrounds in the healthcare system. I am so grateful that Scranton has made it possible for me to combine these two special areas of interest. (Picture at Pico de San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, Spain)



## Notes from Alumni Desk (Continued on pg. 9)

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**Michael Canaris**, BA '02, Italian Studies Concentration and major in Theology and Philosophy, received a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Fordham University, the Licenza in Ecumenismo from the Pontifical University of St Thomas/Angelicum in Rome, and is currently an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University-Chicago. He taught at the Loyola University Rome campus in summer 2018 and has been tasked with restructuring and leading his department's graduate summer program in Rome.

**Lucie Iuzzolini**, BA '03, major in Italian, works as a visitor services host at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City.

**Jordan West**, BA '15, Italian major with a minor in International Studies and Spanish, is a graduate student in the International Relations Program at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. He was previously an intern with PULSE - Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience.

**Edward Besse**, BA '11, majors in Art History and Italian, is a graduate student in the Department of Art History at Emory University.

After graduating from Scranton in 2017, **Shannon Herrmann** spent an academic year working as an English language and culture assistant at a secondary school in Madrid, Spain. In August, she began her Master's in Speech-Language Pathology at Marquette University in Milwaukee. She is participating in the bilingual English-Spanish specialization within the program, and as a graduate assistant, will be working with the professor in charge of that specialization.



**Sybil Doleyres** graduated in 2016 and spent the following academic year in France doing TAPIF. It was such a great experience that really helped her realize that she wants to work with children in a language learning atmosphere. When she came back to the U.S., she decided to pursue Speech Language Pathology courses, which have been going really well and she hopes to pursue a Master's degree in it.

## 11th Annual Study Abroad in Florence



Dr. Caporale and Dr. Zanzana led the 11th annual study abroad in Florence, Italy during the month of June, 2018. Students took classes and lived in the beautiful city of Florence for 4 weeks. Weekend activities included visits to the wineries in the Chianti area (photo), a trip to Venice, and a panoramic hike along the picturesque coastline in the Cinque Terre region, a Unesco World Heritage site. Students also visited

the Amalfi coast and toured Pompeii, Capri, Sorrento and other famous landmarks of the Campania region.

# Study Abroad in Puebla, México



## NINETEENTH (ALMOST) ANNUAL MEXICO STUDY/TRAVEL TOUR

3 weeks -- January 5 to January 25, 2019  
 Price: \$5200 per person, single occupancy,  
 with Mexican family.

University of Scranton Intersession tuition at 1/3 the normal price of \$1,072 per credit, is additional. The total tuition charge for the 3 credits, then, is \$1,072, 1/3 the normal price. The tuition charge will be billed separately by the Bursar's office.

SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON  
 DEPARTMENTS OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES  
 Led by Drs. Ana Ugarte and Yamile Silva

### The trip includes:

- Roundtrip transportation from Scranton to Newark airport on chartered bus
- Roundtrip airfare on a regularly scheduled United Airlines jet
- Transfer from Mexico City's Benito Juárez International airport to private homes in the area of the Universidad Iberoamericana (La Ibero) in Puebla, Mexico
- 20 nights room and board (3 meals per day) with a Mexican family selected by the Office of Internationalization at La Ibero
- Half-day tour of historic Puebla and nearby Cholula, including the world-famous Cholula pyramid, museums and typical market places
- Weekend trip to the beautiful city of Oaxaca in southwestern Mexico
- Weekend trip to nearby megalopolis of Mexico City, including visits to the world-famous Anthropological Museum, Coyoacán, and the amazing pyramids of Teotihuacan
- 30 hours of instruction in Spanish by native speakers at Universidad Iberoamericana under the supervision of University of Scranton faculty
- 30 hours of instruction in contemporary Mexican culture and politics by full-time Ibero faculty with assistance of University of Scranton faculty
- Transfer from La Ibero to the Benito Juárez International airport in Mexico City for return trip
- All taxes and security charges

Payment Deadlines: Friday, October 19, 2018 (\$2,500 deposit)  
 Friday, November 9, 2018 (Full Payment, balance of \$2,700)

Academic Credit: This study/tour is an academic course. Students register for and earn six credits, three in Spanish (for Intersession) and three in Political Science (for Spring semester). The courses are approved for academic credit in the Humanities and Social Sciences areas (or in the free area) of the University of Scranton's general education curriculum. The courses also have Cultural Diversity credit. All academic requirements, including completion of assignments, attendance and participation in classes both La Ibero in Puebla and the University of Scranton, must be completed satisfactorily to ensure credit for the courses.

Note: Current enrollment in or the completion of Intermediate Spanish is recommended as a prerequisite for this course.

For additional information, contact: Dr. Ana Ugarte  
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# Latin American Film Festival

LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

FALL 2018



## “HEALING IN LATIN AMERICAN MOVIES”

### SEPTEMBER 18. *EL ABRAZO DE LA SERPIENTE* (Colombia 2015)

The story of the relationship between Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman, and two scientists who work together over the course of forty years to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant.

### OCTOBER 23. *UNA MUJER FANTASTICA* (Chile 2016)

Marina, a transgender woman who works as a waitress and moonlights as a nightclub singer, is bowled over by the death of her older boyfriend.

### NOVEMBER 27. *LA TETA ASUSTADA* (Perú 2009)

Fausta is suffering from a rare disease called the Milk of Sorrow, which is transmitted through the breast milk of pregnant women who were abused or raped during or soon after pregnancy.

BRENNAN 228  
7:00 PM

# Spanish Music & Dance Night

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**Spanish  
Music and  
Dance**

**Collegiate Hall (Redington Hall)  
Thursday, October 25th  
4:00-5:00 P.M.**

Join the Spanish Fulbright Teaching Assistant from Colombia for a night full of Spanish music and dance! Learn how to dance, listen to Spanish music, and learn about Colombian culture at this event sponsored by the World Languages and Cultures department. No RSVP required.