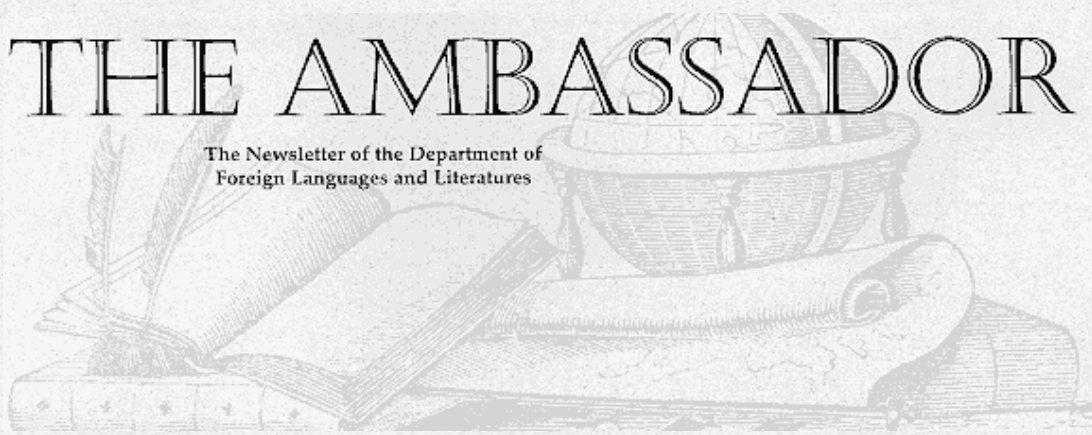


THE AMBASSADOR

The Newsletter of the Department of
Foreign Languages and Literatures



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Spring 2001

The University of Scranton
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
352 St. Thomas Hall Scranton, PA 18510

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[Dr. Habib Zanzana](#)

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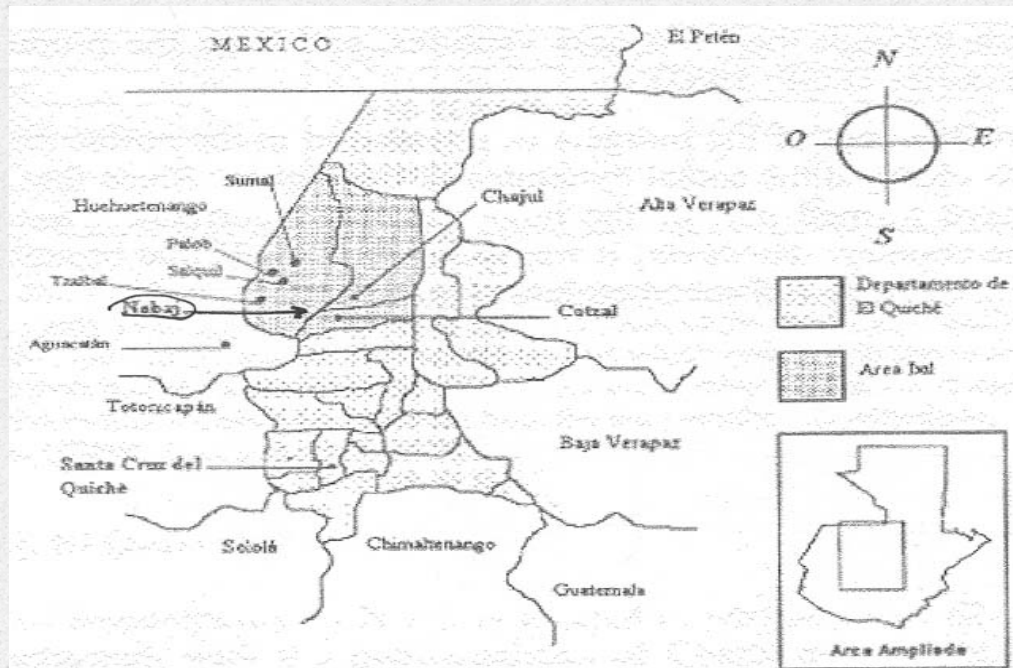
NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Kevin Bisignani-

Kevin Bisignani, Masters in Secondary Education with dual certification in German and Biology, completed student teaching last summer and was hired mid-year as a full time German teacher in the Whitehall school district near Allentown, Pa. With these credentials, which include a Fulbright fellowship to Germany two years ago, it is not surprising that he had no difficulty in securing a position.

Chris Warren-

After his Fulbright year in Guatemala ended in November 2000, Chris Warren had the good fortune to be contracted by USAID for six-months work on the Proyecto de Acceso a la Educación Bilingüe Intercultural (PAEBI) in Nebaj, in the Ixil triangle in northern Guatemala (see map). In addition to a modest pay raise, Chris gained a new title: Coordinador de Proyecto. Chris shares a house in Nebaj with several Guatemalans, all involved in various development projects. He is in the beautiful but non-technological countryside, so communication by snail mail is best. You can write Chris at Frente al Correo, Nebaj, Guatemala, Central America 85359.



Meghan O'Brien-

A double major in Spanish and Political Science, Meghan O'Brien received a full scholarship offer to Villanova University's Graduate Program in International Relations. One of her areas of study will be Latin America.

Kristin Mongello-

Se puede leer sobre una cultura pero no es lo mismo que pasar tiempo en un país. En enero, pasé tres semanas en Guadalajara, México, con veinte y un estudiantes de la universidad. Me dio la oportunidad de aprender la lengua y la cultura. La experiencia fue la más importante de mi vida.

Durante el día, nosotros asistimos a clases en la UNIVA. Estudiamos español y ciencias políticas. Pero en mi opinión aprendimos más fuera del aula. Vivimos con familias y ellos nos enseñaron su cultura por su vida diaria.

Además de aprender de las familias, aprendimos por nuestras experiencias. Pasamos tiempo en las discotecas, en el centro, en los parques y en la ciudad. En estos lugares, conocimos a las personas de Guadalajara. Ellos nos aprendieron mucho también. Somos amigos y hablamos por correo electrónico.

Los otros estudiantes y yo siempre tenemos una casa en Guadalajara con nuestras familias y amigos. La experiencia vale la pena. Si Ud. tiene la oportunidad, estudie en Guadalajara. Mi corazón estará allí siempre.

TA'S FAREWELLS



My name is Emilie Dejonckheere and I come from Belgium. I have been the French TA for the last two semesters and my stay in the USA, and especially at the U of S, has been one of the best experiences of my life. The campus is a very nice place to live and study and the Language Department has been my second residence! But my greatest delight has been the friendliness of everyone. I have met wonderful professors and students. Some of them are my friends now and my only regret is that I HAVE TO leave very soon, too soon! If you ever come to Belgium or Europe, do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I shall miss you all. Emilie. emi3475@hotmail.com

Hello, everybody. My name is Claudia Muñoz Cano. I am from Mexico. Teaching Spanish at U of S has been the best experience of my life. It would be impossible to express, in words, all the blessings I have received since the first day of my stay. I am very thankful for the great opportunity to meet such beautiful people in the Spanish House, the Language Department and ALL my students. I have made long lasting friendships, and I have learned important lessons. I am going back home SOON, but all of you will be ALWAYS in my memories.

I really, fully, enjoyed teaching Japanese classes. I met great students. I would like to give a big "thank you" to the Language Department, which gave me such a great opportunity of teaching. I will never forget YOU!! Thanks, Luv Ya, Yurie Maeda (MaedaL@hotmail.com)

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Habib Zanzana, Spanish and French, and Dr. Virginia Picchiatti, Italian and French, were granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller, Spanish and Portuguese presented three papers: "Writing as Revelation: The Apocalyptic Imagination of Robert Coover's *The Origin of the Brunists*" at the 12th Annual Conference "Time, Memory, Text," at Binghamton University, March 23-24, 2001; "Comparison of Vargas Llosa's *La ciudad y los perros* and Fagundes Telles' *As meninas*," at the Ninth Biennial Northeast Regional Meeting of the AATSP in Providence, Rhode Island, September 21-24, 2000; "Tres viajeros franceses a Guatemala: H. de T. d'Arlach, Félix Belly y Alexandre Lambert de Sainte-Croix," at the V Congreso de Caminería Hispánica in Valencia, Spain, July 17-22, 2000.

Dr. Virginia Picchiatti presented a paper titled, "Writing Gender on the Body," at the American Association of Italian Studies Conference in Philadelphia.

Dr. Habib Zanzana and Dr. Belen Mourelo, Spanish, Pennsylvania State University-Reading and formerly an instructor of Spanish in the University of Scranton's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, organized a workshop on the teaching of culture through the use of fine arts at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Boston.

SERVICE TRIP

THIRD ANNUAL TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

The faculty and staff third annual trip to El Salvador will take place June 12-21. All interested faculty and staff for next years trip should contact Fr. Brendan Lally, Director of Bridges to El Salvador in Campion Hall.

STUDENT NEWS

The following students have been awarded Fulbright scholarships: Erin Friele, Germany, and Maria Atzert, Korea.

OVERSEAS PROGRAMS

Drs. Robert Parsons (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and Robert Kocis (Political Science) took a group of 20 students to Guadalajara, Mexico, for the 4th Annual Mexico Travel/Study course from Jan.3 to Jan.23. Students were housed with Mexican families and took courses in the Spanish language and Mexican culture and politics at UNIVA (Universidad del Valle de Atemajac) under the supervision of Drs. Parsons and Kocis.

Service Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities for foreign language students sponsored by the Dept. of Foreign Languages:

Afterschool Children's Tutoring (ACT) program is held every Wed. during both semesters from 2:45 to 3pm. Approximately 65 Children in grades K-5 are dropped off at Hyland Hall where they meet with their big brother or big sister tutor from the University of Scranton. Each week you have the same child throughout the semester and help them to complete their homework and work with them on math and reading skills. This program won the campus award for Outstanding Service Program of 2000. The success of the program is due to the great student tutors (Thank you Campus Volunteers!), great residence life support (Thank you Jeanette Bensen for the weekly snacks and drinks), campus ministry for donations for materials and the cooperation of Migrant Education and the Scranton School District. Interested students please contact Prof. Karam or just sign up outside Campus Volunteers in Gunster.

Volunteers are also encouraged to contact Beatrice Brown at Catholic Social Services if they are interested in doing medical visits or facilitating communication with hispanics from her office in downtown Scranton. Tel.207-2283.

Students interested in adult ESL (English as a Second Language) tutoring may contact Prof. Karam who coordinates outreach with the Scranton School District evening classes.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will relocate to O'Hara Hall in Fall 2001. It will occupy the entire third floor. Besides faculty and staff offices, the new location will include a part-time faculty and TA office; a library and conference room; a video room; a satellite room; a state-of-the-art language laboratory; and a copy room and kitchen area. Classes will be held in Hyland Hall. An open house will be held in September, 2001.

The sixth-annual Immersion Day was held on March 21, 2001. Sixty-six students attended from many different school districts, including Scranton High, Scranton Prep, Pocono Mountain, MMI, Abington, and Valley View. Of the 66 students, 24 were students in Spanish, 24 in French, 14 in German, and 4 in Italian. Several plays were performed, including "La seduta spiritica," based on the eponymous short story by Alberto Moravia, (Italian); and "El censo," a Mexican comedy.

Dr. Robert Parsons was on sabbatical leave during the Spring semester. Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller was interim director.