

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Notes from The Chair — Dr. Parsons



Points of Interest:

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"Perhaps of all the creations of man language is the most astonishing."

-Giles Lytton Strachey

"Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenzen meiner Welt."

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world."

-Ludwig Wittgenstein

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

-Nelson Mandela

These three quotes, the first by a prominent British critic and author, the second by an influential Austrian philosopher, both of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the third by the former President of South Africa and one of the most respected statesmen of our times, are dear to my heart. Taken together, they encompass all the reasons I find language study compelling: the miracle of this strange system of phonic and graphic communication that separates human beings from all other living creatures, the way it determines and shapes our reality, and the central role its specific manifestations play in human culture, national identity and self-definition. I feel privileged to have been able to devote my life to language study and teaching.

I believe that the study of languages, more than any other academic area, gives one a heightened awareness and appreciation of the wonderful diversity of people and cultures that exists in the world. One of my greatest sources of satisfaction and pride is to witness firsthand how young people are changed, always for the better, by the experience of living and studying in foreign countries. It is very special for faculty and current students alike to learn about the activities and careers of former students. In the World Languages and Cultures department we have been fortunate to receive occasional updates on the life journeys of our students from the past who make that special effort to stay in touch with the department members. Many of them have careers or regular endeavors that involve close contact with other cultures and frequent use of the languages they studied at the University of Scranton.

Regular periodic publication of the *Ambassador* is perhaps the most important way we have both of encouraging our former students to keep the department informed of their activities and of disseminating that information to the broad community of University of Scranton faculty, staff, students and alumni. Let's keep up the good work!

World Languages and Cultures Faculty & Staff Activities

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller:

Dr. Ledford-Miller gave a paper in Madrid in June entitled: "Ephraim George Squier en Perú," at the X Congreso Internacional de Caminería Hispánica. Her presentation at the IX Congreso (June 2008) came out recently in the refereed proceedings: "Aldous Huxley en Guatemala: Una actitud ambigua para con los indígenas." *Actas del IX International Congress of Caminería Hispánica, Cádiz.*

In June, Dr. Ledford-Miller also visited the Abbey at Pontlevoy and surrounding area to investigate a possible credit-bearing summer course in France for summer 2011. She also completed some research toward her sabbatical project at the fabulous British Library in London. In July, she traveled to Rwanda with Dr. Sharon Meagher, Philosophy, and Chair of L/A/WS, to consult at the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development at Kigali Institute of Education. The intent is to lay the ground work for a credit-bearing course in Women's Studies, perhaps for January 2011.

Dr. Jamie Trnka: will be hosting a "Women in East German Film Series" for the 4th annual East German Film Festival (see details below).

WOMEN IN EAST GERMAN FILM SERIES

November 1-3, at 7pm in the Moskowitz Theater of the DeNaples Center, University of Scranton

The Beauties of Leipzig

Dir. Gunther Scholz---(2008) 90' b/w

The film portrays contestants for the title of "Miss Leipzig," a town formerly in East Germany. In 1989, photographer Gerhard Gäbler captured a series of fascinating double-portraits of the women at home and in the workplace. Eighteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Gäbler teamed up with director Gunther Scholz to track down and interview nine of the women about their lives in a reunited Germany.

Herzprung

Dir. Helke Misselwitz--(1992) 87'. color.

"In the little town of *Herzprung* – whose name can mean either 'heartbreak,' or 'heart leap' – almost nothing has changed since German unification. Nothing, that is, except a rise in unemployment. Johanna, a young mother and widow, is one of the unemployed and has to live on welfare. To make matters worse, she falls in love with a dark-skinned, roving adventurer and the whole village is talking about it."

After Winter Comes the Spring

Dir. Helke Misselwitz. (1988) --116' b/w

"A journey from the North to the South during the last year of the GDR. Everyone's wish for changes can be felt everywhere. Punk girls, female workers, intellectuals, mothers, young and old women – Helke Misselwitz talks to women about humanity in their county. In every meeting you feel the mutual sympathy. Sympathy for the strong and self-confident women who point out the dubieties with confidence and for those who are looking for their place in life, struggle with it and work hard. The film is full of humour, proximity and warmth. Despite all the criticism, the hope for a future more human remains."

Summer 2010: Third Annual Study Abroad in Italy



Dr. Virginia Picchietti: In June 2010, Dr. Picchietti and Dr. Caporale led the Third Annual Study in Florence Summer Program. Twenty students participated and took language and culture classes in Florence

Arabic Puppet Show



Cast and puppets in the Moroccan sitting room.



Kevin Schofield and Jackie DeFilippis wearing traditional Moroccan clothing.

Dr. Habib Zanzana: On April 30th, 2010, the students of Arabic 101 performed the Arabic Puppet Show, "Leila and the Miraculous Lake of Tears" under the direction of Dr. Zanzana. The event was well attended and very successful. Included in the event was a Moroccan style sitting room, a display of photographs from Morocco by photographer Heather DiPaolo, and a belly dancing performance by Diana Shahein. At the end of the play desserts and refreshments were also served.

Dr. Habib Zanzana recently published an article entitled, "Domestic Violence and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Spanish Cinema: A Portfolio View of Behavioral Dynamics." This article was published in the September 2010 Hispania Journal. In addition, Dr. Zanzana will be presenting the topic of "Motherhood, Identity and Exile in Contemporary Maghreb Cinema" at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference in Virginia.

French Play—*Oh les Beaux Jours!*

Dr. Marzia Caporale:

In the Spring 2010 semester, Dr. Marzia Caporale directed a play entitled *Oh les Beaux Jours!* by Samuel Beckett. The students of French 431 participated as actors in what is a classic example of the “Theatre of the Absurd.” The play was well attended and students, faculty and community members enjoyed learning more about the French language and culture through the humor of Samuel Beckett. The play was performed at the University of Scranton and followed by a reception.



Meet the New Chinese Professor— Prof. Yique Zhao!



The World Languages and Cultures Department welcomes a new addition to our faculty—Professor Yique Zhao, our new Chinese Professor! Professor Zhao grew up in the Henan Province of China where he says people like to play sports such as basketball and practice Kung Fu. Professor Zhao received his B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature in 1994 from The Henan College of Education. Afterwards, he taught Chinese at a middle school in China. Later, in 2004, he received his Master’s degree at Guangxi University in Chinese Language and Literature. His academic interests include studying the different Chinese dialects and in particular the Henan dialect. When he is not working, Professor Zhao enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, playing basketball, reading, and exercising. However, he says that right now his main focus is on improving his English, especially in the first two months of the semester. When asked about the Scranton area, he says, “I love the Scranton area and the University of Scranton is very nice and grassy! The people here are very kind, good and helpful—especially the faculty members and staff at the World Languages and Cultures Department.” He says that his dream is to become fluent in English, in order to help everyone here at the University of Scranton the way they have helped him. Professor Zhao is teaching an Advanced Chinese course this semester Monday, Wednesday and Friday. His office is located on the 3rd floor of O’Hara Hall, Rm 304. Please feel free to stop by and welcome him!

News From Alumni

Marny Blaire Smith attended Clarence Senior High School in East Amherst, New York. She has majored in both International Business and Spanish with a Finance minor, as well as a Latin American Studies concentration. In keeping with her studies, Marny studied abroad in Spain and hopes to study in Latin America in the future. While she has been an active member of several campus organizations, Marny's main activities revolve around service work such as volunteering as an interpreter in the Leahy Medical Clinic. Marny has been inducted into the National Honor Society for first year students, the Foreign Language Honor Society, the Women's Business Honor Society, and the Collegiate Business Honor Society. In addition, she is also the Secretary of the Economics Honors Society.

While at the University, Marny has been a Presidential Scholar and was named to the Dean's List all four years. In 2008, she received the President's Fellowship for Summer Research to fund the study of "Chinese Export Safety Issues and Child-centered Non-profit Organizations: Local, National, and International Implications." After graduation, Marny will be joining Epic Systems, a privately held healthcare software company, to gain work experience before going on to pursue her MBA.

Michael Canaris a 2002 graduate and former student of Italian, is completing a Ph.D. in Theology at Fordham University. He is also an adjunct instructor in Fairfield University's Center for Faith and Public Life. In addition, he teaches philosophy at Sacred Heart University and is a travel consultant for Pinnacle Tours, which has an office in Rome, Italy.

Richie Santosdiaz (IL/B Spanish, 2008) completed his international MBA at Foro Europeo in Pamplona, Spain, in June 2009. After a three month internship with a French transportation company located in Pamplona, he worked until this past July for a Spanish manufacturing firm, also based in Pamplona. In September of this year he began a one-year Master's program of Globalization and Corporate Development at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, England.

Liz McDyer: *A letter from Graduate*

I just wanted to share some of my excitement as I completed my M.A. in Literatures in Spanish (at Indiana University Bloomington)! Attached is a picture of me and two crazy people who drove 12-13 hours just to see me stand up and sit down again (my parents, of course). As I celebrated my own hard work and coming this far, I couldn't help but think of not only my parents, but also everyone at Scranton who helped prepare and shape me during my undergraduate career. Thank you!

Graduation was last Friday and we had Elinor Ostrom, the Nobel Laureate (for Economics) from last Fall speak at the Commencement Ceremony (she is Faculty at IU). She gave a speech on sustainability that spoke about the importance of diversity and no one size fits all solutions in biology, and the search for ways to solve environmental problems. I believe that everything she said could have easily been good advice to deal with just about anything in life!



Graduate Liz McDyer with her parents

Meet the Graduate Assistants and New Graduate Teaching Assistant!

Anisa Gharbi: I am a Graduate Assistant in the World Languages and Cultures Department and I am majoring in Community Counseling. This is my second year as a GA for the department. My goal is to work as a counselor in a higher education setting. I am currently doing research on the effects of re-entry and re-entry shock on returning study abroad and international students. I have my minor in Spanish, studied French for several years and I also know a great deal of Arabic including reading and writing. When I'm not working and studying, I like to spend time with my family, watch movies, read and discover new places.

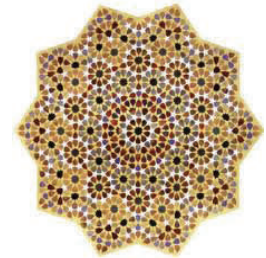
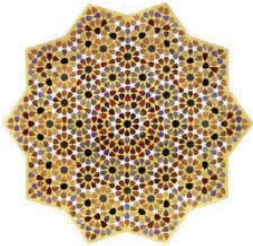
Jackie DeFilipis: I am from Morristown, New Jersey. I graduated from the University of Scranton in 2008 with a B.S. in Counseling and Human Services. I am now a second year graduate student in the School Counseling program at the University and I am also working as a Graduate Assistant of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures. My future career goals are to work as a bilingual school counselor in a low-income school and to one day teach as well. I also plan to work abroad and I dream of traveling extensively throughout Central and South America...And of course, Spain!

Estefania Gonzalez: I am from Guadalajara, Jalisco México: The Land of Tequila and Mariachi. I completed my undergraduate studies in teaching English as a Foreign Language at La Universidad de Guadalajara and taught EFL to children, teenagers and adults in public and private institutions in my hometown for five years. I first came to the University of Scranton in the 2009-2010 academic school year as a Fulbright FLTA. I am currently a Graduate Teacher Assistant working at the Department of World Languages and Cultures and pursuing a Master's degree in English as a Second Language; this fall semester I am teaching Spanish 101 and 211, activity which I absolutely adore. I have always found teaching foreign languages as a very interesting and fulfilling profession, and it has become my passion. I love going to the movies and spending time with my friends and family. My future career goal is to become a language learner trainer and to teach Applied Linguistics in a higher education setting in Mexico or in the United States. Working and studying at the University of Scranton has positively changed my life personally and professionally.



From left-right: Anisa Gharbi, Estefania Gonzalez and Jackie DeFilipis

TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2010-2011



From Left to Right: Cécilia Launat ,Wen Guan, Ennio Navarta, and Kouji Kimura

Ennio Navarta: I am from the province of San Juan, Argentina. My province is in the northwest of Argentina, and part of it lies on the Andes Mountain Range. In my country I am a teacher and researcher of English as a Foreign Language. At the University of Scranton I am teaching Spanish and I am going to be attending courses dealing with education and linguistics. I love water sports. I am a scuba diver and I also play Underwater Hockey. My favorite number is 15 and my favorite color is light-blue. To everyone's surprise, I break the typical Argentinian stereotype. I don't drink mate, I don't know how to dance Tango and I definitely do not dress as a Gaucho, the typical Argentinian cowboy. People here even say that I do not look as if I were Argentinian. But believe me I AM! I love Scranton!

Cécilia Launat: Bonjour !! I come from France and more particularly from Rennes, in Brittany. This year, I am teaching French at the University of Scranton and I also take classes for my own interest. I really love to discover new cultures and exchange with people from all over the world. I think everyone can learn from each other in so many ways that it would be such a waste not to take advantage of it. That is why I keep coming back to the US, and once again I am thrilled I made this choice!

Kouji Kimura: Hello, everyone. I am this year's Japanese Teaching Assistant. I was born in Nagasaki, brought up in Nagoya, once lived in Kanazawa, and recently worked in Tokyo. Therefore, I know a lot of places and dialects of Japan, and I love Japan more than anyone else. Here in Scranton, I would like to become acquainted with as many people as possible and it would be my pleasure to tell you all there is to know about Japan, including its many attractions. On that note, I have a story to tell. In my family, we have sumo wrestling competitions. on New Year's Day, once every year in my family. In our competitions, my mother had long kept the title of champion. On one New Year's Day, however, my older brother found a way to beat her and actually did beat her. Since then, the tournament has not been held for the past fifteen years!

Wen Guan: Hello, my name is管雯 (GUAN Wen), and I am the Chinese TA of the University for this year. I have been teaching English in a university located in Beijing where I acquired my masters degree in English Literature in the year 2007. I love reading, singing and doing sports like jogging, playing badminton, and so on, but swimming now is my favorite sport and I hope that I can swim as well as Ennio (haha).

Wedding Bells



Lyna Kauv, our former Cambodian born French FLTA for 2006-2007 married her husband Ives June 2010 in Paris. The wedding involved a traditional Cambodian-Chinese ceremony as well as a second traditional western ceremony.

