



NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

My name is Monica
Morales

Diaz and I am from La Rioja,
Argentina. Back at home, I am an
English teacher; however, right
now I am working as a teaching
assistant at the University of
Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania
under the Fulbright program.

In order to fulfill the requirements
of being a teaching assistant under
the Fulbright program,

I had to take specific classes. One
class that really changed the way
I teach foreign languages was Spe-
cific Methods, a class taught by
Marie Karam, a professor at the
University of Scranton. I was ini-
tially hesitant about teaching my
native language in another country
but this all changed upon meeting
Professor Karam. This very pas-
sionate and enthusiastic
teacher showed me a door not
only to teach Spanish but also for
bringing my culture into the class-
room by making use of the Top-
Down teaching approach. This
innovative teaching strategy en-
ables teachers to present authentic
language and culture regardless of
what level is being
taught.

The Top-Down teaching approach
avoids breaking a language down
into its components
but rather presents the material
through "whole texts", such as
a piece of literature, a song, a piece
of realia and other authentic forms,
that demonstrate the use of the

Recent publications:

A translation of Dr. Trnka's "Women Writing Out of Time: Confessions, Histories and the Politics of Writing Terror," appeared in the German language anthology

Film Festivals:

Last fall, Dr. Trnka hosted the Jurek Becker film festival; this fall we will again host an East German film festival and guest director Rainer Simon. If you want more detailed information on these programs, please let me know; I also should still have copies of the press releases from the Becker Festival.

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