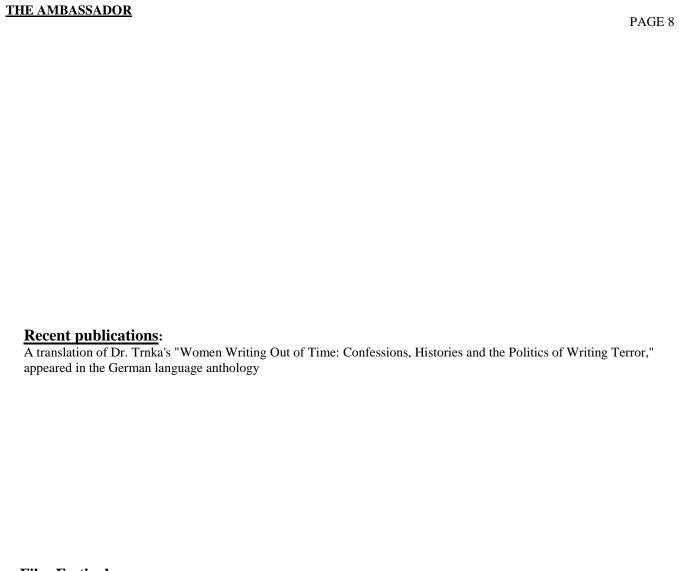


NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

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 Specific Methods, a class taught by Marie Karam, a professor at the University of Scranton. I was initially hesitant about teaching my native language in another country but this all changed upon meeting Professor Karam. This very passionate and enthusiastic teacher showed me a door not only to teach Spanish but also for bringing my culture into the classroom by making use of the Top-Down teaching approach. This innovative teaching strategy enables 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 apiece of literature, a song, a piece of realia and other authentic forms, that demonstrate the use of the



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.

THE AMBASSADOR
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