

---

## **World Languages and Cultures Faculty & Staff Activities**

### **Marie Karam**

#### **20th Anniversary of Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador**

The University of Scranton Department of World Languages and Cultures and the University of Scranton Bridges to El Salvador program is honored to welcome Rev. Rodolfo Cardenal, S.J., former rector of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) to give an update on the current reality in El Salvador to those interested on Tues., Oct. 27, 12pm in 228 Brennan Hall Theater. Fr. Cardenal addresses the entire campus community on Wed. Oct. 28, 12pm in the Houlihan McLean Center to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs of the UCA, their housekeeper and her daughter, murdered by a government death squad, Nov. 16, 1989. Fr. Cardenal will speak on the legacy of the Jesuit martyrs and the tens of thousands killed during the 12 year civil war 1980-1992.

#### **VIDEO CHATS from El Salvador**

Rev. Dean Brackley, S.J., professor of Theology at the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in El Salvador, and Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center and Bridges to El Salvador at the University of Scranton, have produced several talks by Fr. Brackley, S.J. taped at the UCA in El Salvador and available to all interested during this important 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs. Each talk is approximately 12 minutes.

#### **1. OVERALL INTRODUCTION- <http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/uca.rm> to videosUniversidad Centroamericana / UCA- El Salvador (9 min.)**

Unique aspects of this young Jesuit University explained including the legacy of UCA martyrs killed in 1989

Greetings from El Salvador and the community of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) your sister-university in the global Jesuit education network. Thanks to friends at the University of Scranton these brief video messages provide an overview of the reality of El Salvador and summary accounts of two dramatic issues, Religion in El Salvador and Migration. We hope that these snapshots can help our friends in the U.S. learn more about this reality, with characteristics, in some ways, so typical of most countries in the world. We also hope in this way to strengthen even more the ties that bind us in the work to build a more human world.

#### **2. COUNTRY OVERVIEW: EL SALVADOR- [http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/country\\_overview.rm](http://atctest.scranton.edu/ramgen/karam/country_overview.rm)**

This video w h is h

---

**Faculty Activities (continued)**

## THE AMBASSADOR

---

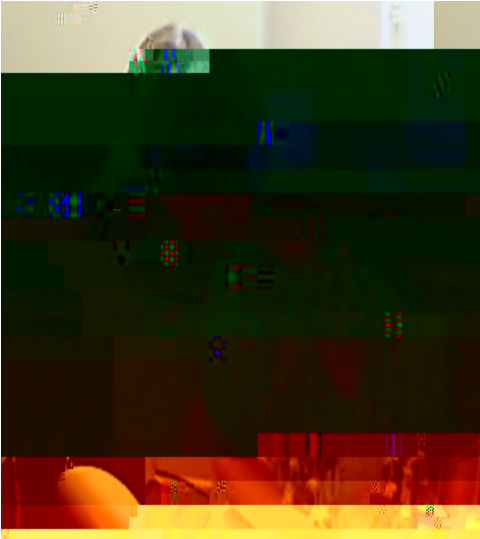
Paintings by Andrés Álvarez

Something that I have found humorous throughout the exhibition is that people who live in Scranton (whom I like to call my friends) are always telling me how surprised they are that I am a "real artist". I am not sure what that means, but I take it as a compliment. I have to say that I was surprised that I found the time to paint during my year in Scranton due to my work as a Spanish TA. Though I would not say that having a degree in Fine Arts from Colombia is what makes me a true artist. Instead, I think the need to create all the time is what gives me that name, but I do not feel any more special than other people who create really nice things to build a better society. In the end, art is about going beyond and being honest and sincere about what you care about. I care about nature and about my friends wherever they are. I thank them immensely for all their help last year. Many people made it possible for me to finish the paintings on time: students, friends and colleagues at the Department of World languages and Cultures were always helping me with the cereal boxes and their enthusiasm. My supervisor Dr. Ledford-Miller was always supportive and patient. My teacher and manager of the Hope Horn Gallery Dr. Miller-Laning was always interested and encouraging, and my friend Eva Piatek, also a student at that time and now a University of Scranton graduate, wrote the wonderful essay for the exhibition.

You can view Andrés's art work in Hyland Hall at the Hope Horn Gallery.

**Special Feature**

**Meet Our Newest Faculty Member- Dr. Silva**



I am a Ph.D. candidate and I hold a M.A. degree from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I was born in Bogotá Colombia, where I studied Modern Languages and Literature at the Universidad de los Andes. My current research focuses on the dimensions of epistles written by women who emigrated to the Río de la Plata region during the XVI and XVII centuries. My final purpose is to analyze how Spanish and Spanish-American women constructed themselves as active participants in the colonial order. Thanks to the support of some grants, I have been

able to do research in the *Archivo de Indias* in Seville from where I have obtained most of my research corpus. I have delivered papers at national and international meetings in several areas of Hispanic Literature, on topics such as Latin American and Spanish Women Writers.

Finally, I have taught Spanish language and literature courses at different institutions such as the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Smith College and Colby College.

Dr. Silva

---

**NEWS FROM ALUMNI**

**Jasmin Rivera** (ILB/Spanish, 2003), the former student supervisor of the Language Learning Center, is now working at The Institute of International Education as Executive Assistant to the CFO. Jasmin began her new job in early August, 2009.

**Rachel Marascalco** (Spanish, Theology/RS, 2003) is currently working as an Account Executive for United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta where she oversees a variety of fundraising campaigns. She will be marrying Joseph Berchmans on Dec. 12 in Atlanta, GA and they will also have a ceremony in Chennai, India on January 16.

**Celeste Gregory** (International Studies/French, 2001) began graduate studies at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management in Sustainable International Development in fall 2008. In that program students complete all coursework the first year and during the second year complete a practicum with a development organization. Celeste was selected for one of 20 Fellowships (out of an original applicant pool of approximately 500) with Catholic Relief Services. Starting in August 2009, she began a one year working term in the CRS Burundi office with the monitoring and evaluation staff. During that time she will also research and write her Master's thesis on conflict sensitive approaches in monitoring and evaluation.

---

### *A Teaching Assistants Story*

My story with Scranton started in 2004 when I was granted the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantship. I was thrilled to spend a year in the USA and to teach my mother language Arabic. In a time of a lot of misunderstandings between Arabs and Americans, it was my responsibility to become an ambassador whose mission was to share my cultural values inside and outside of the classroom by joining clubs and becoming involved in the community. For example, thanks to the Foreign Language department events, I was able to make many presentations where I talked about Tunisia and the Arab world.

I was also blessed to have many outgoing students with whom learning Arabic has become more meaningful and enjoyable. I was also engaged in graduate classes which enriched my postgraduate studies and enhanced my professional development. I am still grateful for the permission I was given to administer the empirical part of my MA thesis among the students of the Department of World Languages and Cultures. Without this permission, I would have never been able to graduate in 2008.

Moreover, attending classes on foreign language teaching and American culture, I was able, once I came back home, to both speak English fluently and have a first-hand experience about the USA, its culture and its people. Now in Tunisia, using such knowledge in my everyday English classes, the small faces of my middle school pupils enlighten once I bring back my memories of the States.

Being a knowledge lover and seeker, I am also pursuing my postgraduate studies. My PhD topic is related to enhancing English language teaching in Tunisia at the secondary level.

Since life is never one way oriented, it was the acquaintances and friendships I had in my beloved Scranton which made my year abroad. Well if I don't count seeing the snow for the first and probably last time.

Zeineb Amri from Tunisia. I am an English teacher and a PhD student.

---

### Graduate Assistants

**Jackie DeFlippis-** My name is Jackie DeFilippis and I am from Morristown, New Jersey. I graduated from the University of Scranton in 2008 with a B.S. in Counseling and Human Services. After graduation, I spent 3 months doing missionary work in México City and worked as a therapist for a child with autism after my return to the US. I am now working as a Graduate Assistant of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures while studying for my Master's Degree in the School Counseling program. My ultimate goal is to be a bilingual School Counselor. I am most passionate about traveling and experiencing other cultures and my biggest dream is to see all of Central and South America... And of course, Spain!

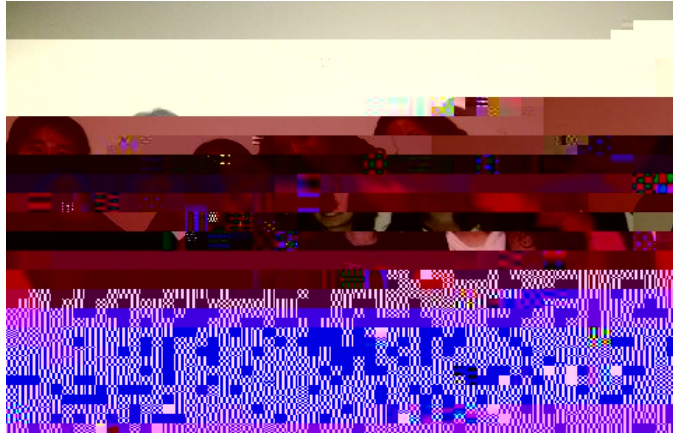
**Anisa Gharbi-**My name is Anisa Gharbi and I am a Graduate Assistant for Arabic and French in the World Languages and Cultures Department. I grew up on the Eastern Shore in a place called Salisbury, Maryland (half an hour from Ocean City). Concerning my cultural background, I consider myself Arab American since I'm half Tunisian. I have a passion for traveling , learning new languages and creating interfaith dialogue and understanding. In 2008, I completed my undergraduate degree at Salisbury University (MD) in psychology and received my minor in Spanish. In addition to working as a GA, I am also a Graduate Student in the Community Counseling Program. My career objective is to work as a College Counselor or in a Women's Center.

**Joseph Rubino-** This is my second year as a Graduate Assistant in the World Languages and Cultures Department. I really have enjoyed this experience greatly. Working in the World Languages and Cultures Department has giving me the opportunity to meet and work with such wonderful people. I am originally from Long Island and graduated from Hofstra University. I have been living in the Scranton area for a couple of years now. My goals upon graduating is to open my own counseling practice and help as many people as I can. I will see you in the O'Hara lab, and have a great year!!

---

World Languages and Cultures

TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2009-2010



From Left to Right: Kei Hinohara, Maryam Alkhawaja, Marion Denis, WanWan Zhou, Estefanía González

---

**Maryam Alkhawaja**- I am 22 years of age, originally from Bahrain. I am the new Arabic TA for this year. I spent most of my childhood in Denmark under political asylum because my dad is a human rights activist. We

**THE AMBASSADOR**  
**The University of Scranton**