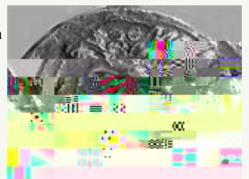


They tell me it's spring. True, the crocuses and daffodils are sporting their jaunty colors, but I'm still wearing my raincoat with the lining in it. There are other indicators as well: students stopping by for a quick look at their resumés, e-mails about internships or jobs, requests for letters of recommendation, the stash of honors cords for this year's graduating seniors. Everyone wears the face of Janus, the Roman God of beginnings and endings, already looking backwards

to what is about to be over (but not until Finals week!), and forwards, perhaps with trepidation, to an unknown future. Okay, the job market isn't great, but don't despair; Janus is also the God of doors and gateways. Your future awaits; step through that door or gateway with enthusiasm.



Faculty Activities

Japanese Ceremonies

News from alumni

Chinese Lantern Festival

Teaching Assistants

SEED

World Languages and Cultures Faculty & Staff

From Left, Standing: Jamie Trnka, Marie Karam, Joyce Knott, Marzia Caporale, Jaime Meilan del Rio, Virgina Picchietti. From Left, seated: Linda Ledford-Miller, Habib Zanzana, Virgina Picchietti Absent from photo: Joe Wilson, Robert Parsons.

"SEED"
The perfect gift!
Scholarships to
Establish
Educational
Development

The University of Scranton Bridges to El Salvador program 1999-2009 would like to present you with a unique opportunity to make a difference! The children of Las Delicias, outside of San Salvador, live in a village of corrugated metal shacks without sanitation, potable water and suffer from related medical ailments. Most want to attend school but cannot afford the cost of basic school supplies, shoes and clothing because of the extreme poverty.

The SEED program has changed that!

SEED certificates purchased cover the school expenses for one year for a child in elementary (\$50), middle school (\$80) or high school (\$300). Send checks (payable to University of Scranton/ SEED) to Marie Karam, O'Hara 308, University of Scranton, 800 Linden St., Scranton PA 18510. Please include or email

Faculty Activities

Marie Karam-

LAS DELICIAS is a town located in the Department of La Libertad not far from the capital city of San Salvador. As is common with over 50% of the population in El Salvador, the 600 families of Las Delicias live in housing of corrugated metal sheets, lack potable water, sanitation services and employment opportunities. The situation in this town is grave in relation to health. There are families who receive water every 15 days from the mountain and others who only receive water in the winter in May to October when it rains. Coffee fields, once a source of income, exist on a fault line and were severely damaged by the earthquakes of 2001. For the little coffee they are able to produce they are paid .75 cents for each 25 pound bag of coffee that is picked, the lowest price in history. The majority are unemployed and cannot cover basic necessities such as food, health, education and clothing. The men and women in this community are searching for a way to provide for their families. Many have left to find work in the city as construction workers or as domestic employees. The youth is the only group that can find jobs in the transnational sweatshops, and these jobs are without salaries, rights, or securities. This is a prime example of villages all over El Salvador experiencing a mass exodus not only to the cities but to El Norte, the United States. It is estimated that on a slow day over 700 El Salvadorians leave El Salvador for El Norte in search of a better life.

In regards to education, the majority of adults in this community have only studied for a few years in elementary school, often up to the third grade. The percentage of students who make it to high school is 4.5%. Poor families cannot afford to purchase notebooks, uniforms, shoes and other supplies.

The University of Scranton Bridges to El Salvador program has made a long term commitment to the village of Las Delicias to educate its children. The SEED (Scholarships to Establish Education Development) program launched in 2005 covers all school expenses for children K-12 including uniforms, shoes and related costs. The rare child who is able to complete high school (2-3%) may also attend college under this program. Bridges works closely with Cristina Quintanilla, a graduate of the Universidad Centroamericana (Jesuit University in San Salvador) and native of Las Delicias. Certificates to sponsor a child may be purchased throughout the year and are great gifts that raise awareness of justice issues. The first family assisted by the SEED program is pictured on the certificate. Contact Marie Karam at karamm1@scranton.edu for further information on SEED.

Habib Zanzana-

THE AMBASSADOR

Special Feature

News From Our Alumni

Tara McMahon (Secondary Education/Spanish, 2008) is currently teaching Spanish at Fanwood High School in Scotch Plains, NJ. However, Tara is hoping to make a career change and has been accepted into the EBC International TEFL Certificate Course for August. Her hope is to teach in Spain next year, and EBC helps with placement and obtaining the correct visa.

Laila Essmidi (Spanish/International Studies, 2008) is now a Peace Corps volunteer in the African island nation of Madagascar, where she is teaching CEG and Lycee students, and working with adult students on Sundays and leading discussions with adult

Good Day,

I hope this correspondence is reaching all of you in a time of health and happiness. I am sure you are all busy with a terrifying stack of papers and exams to either grade or create (or even worse BOTH!) Therefore, I hope reading this does not take up too much of your valuable time, but I was compelled to take a moment out of my life to express my gratitude for the time you have given of yourself to me in the past.

I was a student at the University of Scranton majoring in both International Studies and Spanish and graduated May 2008. Although not displayed while I was a student, I took great pleasure from each of your diverse methods of teaching. Each one of you, honorable professors, creates magic in and out of the classroom.

Since graduating, I am officially a Peace Corps volunteer in the interesting (for a lack of a better word) island-nation of Madagascar. I am part of the Education sector and play teacher to CEG and Lycee students. In addition to that I teach an adult class on Sundays and lead a discussion about equality of women rights every Saturday.

This new chapter in my life has taken me back countless times to memories I have with each one of you. Your

TEACHING ASSIST	TANTS 2008-2009
Eriko Fujita During the winter vacation, I basically visited fri ington D.C. where we had a workshop, then went to Miami, Key	ends in different places in North America. I started out with Washwest, Ottawa in Canada, Chicago and Lafayette, IN. I spent Christ

THE AMBASSADOR
The University of Scranton
Department of World Languages and Cultures