



During the last several years of my fourteen year tenure (from 1988 to the fall of 1993) as chairperson of the department then known as Foreign Languages and Literatures, I slowly and reluctantly came to the incontrovertible decision that I no longer felt any enthusiasm or passion for the job. I still loved to teach, but the chairperson's duties left me little time for course preparations and made it difficult to concentrate my energies on teaching.

At that time the department was fortunate to have a faculty member in the person of Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller who was both willing and able to assume the chairperson's duties. She has done a wonderful job in the years since then, and when she asked me if I would step in as Acting Chair for one year while she took her sabbatical, I agreed. However, I felt a great deal of apprehension and a bit of anxiety, both because I knew that the job had changed in the intervening years and because I was still not sure that my heart would

The Art of Rewriting

Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller is in the second semester of her sabbatical. Some of her former and current students have wondered just what a sabbatical is. From the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*: a period of paid leave granted to a university teacher for study or travel (traditionally one year for every seven years worked).

Professors are evaluated in three areas of activity: teaching, scholarship, and service. What a sabbatical really does is provide a period of rest from the normal, rather frantic, routine of teaching and committees, to allow a professor to focus more specifically and deeply on scholarly pursuits. Professors must propose a project or projects for research and have the sabbatical approved by the administration. To take a full year sabbatical means a reduction in salary, but if time is money, the time is worth it. Life events have provided both burdens and blessings during my sabbatical, but my reading and research has nevertheless gone well. I have ventured into entirely new areas of interest while staying tied to ongoing avenues of investigation. A couple of small publications have come out, including a biography of Laura Esquivel for an edited volume of essays, and just today I received my copy of the journal with my review of *The World of Lucha Libre: Secrets, Revelations, and Mexican National Identity*. I've written and revised and submitted and resubmitted a couple of other essays. Remember what Robert Louis Stevenson said: "And when I say „writing --O believe me, it is rewriting that I have chiefly in mind

The University of Scranton will host esteemed Japanese author Yoko Tawada as well as comparatist and translator Bettina Brandt on April 6-7, 2011. Their visit is planned in conjunction with Dr. Trnka's course on German Travel Writing, and will entail both a seminar for students who will have read and discussed Tawada's work as well as a literary reading and discussion open to the community. Yoko Tawada, born in Tokyo in 1960, has lived in Hamburg and Berlin since 1982. She has written and published award-winning plays, novels, stories, and essays in Japanese and German, and the work has been translated into dozens of languages. Among her prizes are the Akutawaga Prize, the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize, the Tanizaki Prize, and the Goethe Medal.

Brandt, who has worked closely with Tawada as her research assistant and Dutch translator, will speak on the challenges of translating multilingual authors such as Tawada. She is also the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and fellowships, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Research Fellowship. Furthermore, she has held teaching appointments at Harvard, Columbia, MIT, and Montclair State University, and currently teaches at Pennsylvania State University's main campus in State College. The planned seminar will enable students enrolled in the

The Teaching Assistants in the Department of World Languages and Cultures presented the annual Teaching Assistants Talk /Dinner on Wednesday, March 16 in Brennan 509. This event was coordinated by Prof. Marie Karam, Director of the Language Learning Center and was funded by a University of Scranton Diversity Initiatives Grant. The TA Talk/Dinner provided a unique opportunity for both the campus community and area educators to increase their awareness and appreciation of other cultures. Ennio Navarta (Argentina), Cecilia Launat (France), Guan Wen (China) and Kouji Kimura (Japan) shared presentations on what makes their countries so special to them.

The first to present was Ennio, who took the audience throughout a journey to different places in Argentina, where they learned about foods and drinks such as *asado* and *mate* which represents friendship. Ennio focused on the beauty of the scenery and nature in Argentina. He explained that the seasons in his country differ from the United States. For instance, while it is winter here it is summer in Argentina. After Ennio spoke, Wen discussed the Chinese culture with us. Wen shared interesting facts about China; for instance, its population of 1.3 billion people and 20 million in Beijing alone. She also mentioned that the Great Wall is 5,500 miles long. Wen also discussed prominent figures in Chinese history such as Confucius and showed the audience the Forbidden City with its unique architecture.

Kouji spoke then with sadness about the effects of the recent earthquake in Japan. "I feel sorry for the earthquake that occurred, but thankfully my family is okay", he said. Despite the unfortunate events, Kouji spoke lightheartedly regarding life in Japan. He showed us photos of his favorite foods, photos of his family and of his life as a student. Kouji also explained cultural traditions such as taking off shoes before entering someone's home. In addition, he discussed some of the stereotypical aspects of the Japanese culture that most Americans are familiar with. For instance, samurai, anime, sushi, Nokia, Toyota. This was followed by a roar of laughter from the audience members. Cecilia also discussed some of the stereotypes about French culture. She pointed to a photo of a French man wearing a b(f)7(oods em4(he)-6

Hi! My name is **Katherine Bowen**.
This spring I will be graduating
from the University of Scranton

A letter from Alumni Tyler Nye

Tyler Nye is a 2010 graduate of the University of Scranton. He received his degree in Secondary Education, Latin, & Spanish with a Latin American Studies Concentration.

Greetings all at O'Hara Hall! Having studied in Il bel paese my sophomore year, I was overjoyed to have the opportunity to organize and lead a study tour to Italy for 21 of my high school's Greek and Latin students during mid-winter break this year -all of this during my first year of teaching! The trip consisted of 9 days and seven nights surveying archeological sites in and around the cities of Rome and Naples. We visited the Roman Forum, Coliseum, the Vatican, Villa Borghese, the ancient city of Ostia, and the catacombs in the Rome region and then traveled south to visit the lost Roman city of Pompeii and Emperor Tiberius' Villa on the Island of Capri. After 9 days of non-stop eating in Italy, I returned, jet-lagged, to teach Spanish and Latin at my high school in the suburbs of West Hartford, Connecticut. I am thoroughly enjoying my first year and am currently researching master's programs for Spanish Language and Literature in the Hartford area.

A letter from Joe Rubino

Since my Graduate Assistantship in the World Language and Culture Department, I have moved from the Scranton area to North Carolina. It has been an exciting experience, with a lot less snow. After graduating in May 2010, I was offered a position in the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Recreation Specialist. I am currently running recreation programs for a diverse population of inmates. My training at The University of Scranton prepared me for this career. I received a MS in counseling and use these skills every day I

