



During Intersession 2012, Dr. Meagher and I took a group of students to Huehuetla, Mexico, to study Women and Development in Latin America. Part of our studies related to the environment and use of local resources such as water and wood. Students worked with local citizens to build a wood-saving stove known as the Patsari stove. Yes, they played in the mud!

Il bet most of you have given little thought to your stove. Perhaps you have an electric stove, and

On Sunday, February 5th, The World Languages and Cultures Department, together with Asian Studies hosted a Chinese New Year party to help usher in the year of the dragon. The celebration was attended by University faculty, as well as this semester's Chinese language students. The Rose Room was decorated with presentation boards made by the Chinese language students of Abington Heights as well as hand-made paper cut-outs made by _____ and her students. For those unfamiliar with the holiday, which is also known as the Spring Festival as it marks the end of winter, the party offered a unique look into the food and customs of China. The guests were all invited to participate in making their own food, which included several different types of dumplings as well as a Chinese salad and green onion pancakes. The tables were each decorated with an apple and an orange to symbolize peace and luck, and the centerpieces were cut-outs of the Chinese character "chun," which means "spring."

After all of the guests had enjoyed the delicious meal, Allison Lai's Chinese classes came to the front of the room to sing the New Year song, *Gonxi Ni*, the lyrics of which wish congratulations and blessings on the

Teaching Assistants Caro Sanchez (Argentina), Esther Tranchant (France), Keiko Saijo (Japan) and visiting professor Allison Lai (Taiwan) presented the annual TA TALK at a dinner on Wednesday March. 21 in Brennan 509. The annual event was sponsored by a University of Scranton Diversity Initiatives Grant and coordinated by Prof.

, Director of the Language Learning Center. Teachers and administrators from elementary, middle and high schools were invited to this presentation to promote greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. In addition those attending were encouraged to invite the TAs to visit their schools to present to assemblies or to speak to world cultures and language classes. At this year's event over 100 educators from all over the region enjoyed uniquely personal insights into the cultures of Argentina, France, Japan and Taiwan.

The first to present was , Chinese professor in Taiwan who is teaching Chinese this year at the University of Scranton. Prof. Lai shared with the audience many aspects of modern life in Taiwan. "You will love the mix of the old traditions in Taiwan. Old traditions such as the Palace museum, night markets and the festivals. New traditions such as the electronic gadgets, bustling city life and modern high speed rail. You can see trees that are over 1,000 years old, stay at an Aboriginal camp in the mountains, visit the old Dutch fort and admire the beauty of Taipei 101. Taiwan is so diverse and generally very friendly. Just watch out when you cross the road because the Taiwanese don't stop for red lights...", Lai explained during her presentation.

Next was , Japanese instructor, who covered many topics such as Japanese food, sports, education, and culture. " If you come to Japan, you will find a lot of beautiful nature, delicious foods, and cartoons and you will fall in love with Japan. You will find out some interesting differences between America and Japan. Please come to learn about my beautiful country, Japan!" she said.

Then French instructor introduced the audience to French culture. She talked about the wide diversity of beautiful landscapes, about the delicious French food, and about the rich culture of the country. She presented French art from the 16th century to nowadays. To finish, she introduced Paris and parts of the city that she loves and that might not be the best known.

Finally, from Argentina, took the audience on a trip throughout her homeland sharing her love of its many varied regions and ending with the city farthest south "at the end of the world" Argentina's city of Ushuaia. Caro discussed several

“Sevilla?... That s in Spain, right?” About a year ago, that was the response I received from my family when I told them that I was planning to study abroad. Traveling has always

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