This academic year started with the hire of two new full-time temporary lecturers: Dr. Shijuan Liu and Dr. JiHyun Park. Dr. Liu serves as the Language Lab Director while teaching one Chinese course per quarter. Dr. Park, who previously taught Korean as a part-time instructor for two years, teaches Strategic Language Initiative (SLI) Korean courses and other Korean courses, and serves as the SLI Korean Coordinator. We welcomed them as valuable new members of the Department.

In April, the Department held Modern Language Week events: 1) An evening of French and Spanish poetry in translation with two guest lecturers, Dr. Joseph Chrzanowski, CSULA Emeritus Professor of Spanish, “A Picture is Worth 1000 Words. But Which Words?” and Dr. Leon Schwartz, CSULA Emeritus Professor of French, “French Poems That Sing in English”; 2) A bilingual talk on poetry (English-Spanish) by Nestor Diaz de Villedas, a writer of Cuban origin with numerous publications in newspapers and literary magazines in the U.S. and abroad, co-sponsored by the Asociación de Estudiantes de Español; 3) A Korean Culture Day, co-sponsored by the Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles and The Center for Korean-American and Korean Studies, to present Korean films and give CSULA people the chance to learn samulnor (a Korean traditional instrument), and to play Korean traditional games; and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length. 4) A lecture, demonstration, and workshop by Ms. Suzuko Okamura Hamasaki, former World Karate Champion, entitled What is the way of Japanese karate?; 5) The ancient Chinese art of straw patchwork demonstrated by Ms. Limin Liu, a renowned Chinese straw patchwork artist; 6) Etre et avoir, a fun documentary about the French primary school system, introduced by Dr. Christophe Lager. All of these events drew large audiences, and I would like to thank the organizers (Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu, Dr. Paola Marin, Dr. JiHyun Park, Dr. Kylie Hsu, Dr. Toshiko Yokota, and Dr. Christophe Lager).

In May, the Department had a faculty retreat on campus to work on self-review of the Department programs and five-year plan. Dr. Gretchen Angelo, Dr. Elena Ruzickova, and I worked as editors, and submitted the documents at the end of June. Throughout the academic year, the Department was involved in the SLI, a federal grant project, in collaboration with five other CSU campuses in Southern California (Fullerton, Long Beach, Northridge, and San Bernardino). In the second phase of the project (with $224,000), we successfully offered the second Summer Intensive Korean (a semi-immersion program) to eleven CSU students from June 23 to August 1, 2008. In the third phase of the project (with an additional $200,000), the same students continued their study of Korean language and culture this academic year, and are going to South Korea this summer to participate in the study abroad component at Korea University. The same grant will also cover the third Summer Intensive Korean on campus this summer for a new group of students who are from CSULA, CSU Northridge, CSU Fullerton, and Cal Poly Pomona. We expect to start the fourth phase of the project in Fall 2009 with an additional grant. In conjunction with the SLI Korean program, the Department started to offer a Certificate program in Korean in Winter 2008.

The Department successfully filled two tenure-track positions with Dr. Maria Marquez in Spanish literature and Dr. Numhee Lee in Korean linguistics. I wish to thank the Appointments Committee members (Dr. Domnita Dumitrescu [Chair], Dr. Alejandro Solomianski, Dr. Kylie Hsu, Dr. Toshiko Yokota) and alternates (Dr. Gaston Alzate and Dr. Qing-Yun Wu) for their hard work. We look forward to having the two new colleagues in Fall 2009.

Finally I would like to congratulate Dr. Elena Ruzickova and Dr. Christophe Lager for their recent attainment of tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and promotion to Professor, respectively!
Dr. Kylie Hsu became the new Director of the Chinese Studies Center, effective Fall 2008. The Center hosted three guest lectures. The first one, organized by Drs. Kylie Hsu and Shijuan Liu, showcased “Chinese Writing as Visual and Performing Arts” by Guiting Yuan, November 20, 2008. Mr. Yuan is an internationally renowned calligrapher and the President of the U.S. California Asian Artist Institute. The event successfully engaged the audience in hands-on cultural activities. Through this educational opportunity, students gained a deeper appreciation for Chinese calligraphy as an art form. They have become more motivated to master Chinese character writing, which has hitherto been the most challenging part of Chinese language learning.

The second guest lecture, organized by Dr. Qingyun Wu, presented “From China and Beyond: Poetry Reading by Zhang Cuo and Chen Ming-hua,” February 9, 2009. Both accomplished poets are well-known for their literary works, with the former being the author of more than a dozen poetry books, and the latter being the Chief Editor of the New World Poetry Journal. The event has been an inspiration to students in their study of Chinese literature.

The third guest lecture, “The Art of Chinese Straw Patchwork” by Limin Liu, April 8, 2009, was hosted by the Center in collaboration with the Department as part of the Modern Language Month. Ms. Liu’s artworks have won several international awards, and they have been exhibited in countries around the world.

The Center also successfully hosted the Seventeenth Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest held at the University-Student Union on May 5, 2009, with Drs. Kylie Hsu and Shijuan Liu as the organizers, and the former as the chair of the event. Literature experts and accomplished writers Jun Liu, Doris Yu, and Betty Cheung were invited to serve on the judging panel. The contest aims to stimulate a greater interest in Chinese studies and to promote interactions between higher education institutions and the Chinese community. It also brings together students from different classes on campus and their peers from other colleges and universities for mutual learning and friendly exchanges.

First time in the history of the contest, a high school student participated. Also for the first time, the contest began with a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and English translations of the designated poems, along with stories and historical backgrounds about the poets and their poems.

The event attracted a large audience, including current and former students, friends, parents, and teachers. Contestants competed at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. CSULA students garnered places at all levels: Ying Ji Kang won first place at the elementary level, Lisa Ung won first place for contestants with no Chinese background at the intermediate level, and Li W. Huang won first place at the advanced level. UC Irvine student Scott Powers won first place at the intermediate level despite his non-Chinese background. This event was reported in the global news of the People’s Daily and Sing Tao Daily on May 6, 2009.

Jennifer Wang, a Chinese major who won third place at the advanced level, related her experience in participating in this exciting event: “When I first heard about the Chinese poetry recitation contest on campus, my knee-jerk response was, ‘There is no way I am going to do that.’ I would try to memorize the verses, but because Chinese is not my first language, the words just would not stick in my head. The day of the competition came about and I was the last competitor in my group. All of my classmates went before me and had wonderful hand motions and wore pretty outfits. I knew I had no hope of placing. Honestly, I just wanted to be able to not embarrass myself or my teachers. In walking onto...
onto the stage, I kept thinking of my instructor’s advice of not looking at anyone. I stood there nervously, and started reciting the poem.

Upon leaving the stage, I realized that although I perhaps didn’t do as well as the other competitors, and maybe didn’t even do as well as I should have, but I was triumphant in that I did it. At that point, it didn’t matter if I won a trophy or not. It didn’t even matter if anyone thought I did a good job or not. I was proud of myself for competing; I had won myself. Afterwards, of course many people came and congratulated me for competing, and some even wanted to know about where my Chinese background had come from. I met a lot of new people, and felt that I had grown as a person, and isn’t that what going to school is all about?

Chinese Culture Club
The Chinese Culture Club welcomed Dr. Shijuan Liu in joining Dr. Kylie Hsu as faculty advisors to the Club.

The highlights of this year’s events include Chinese table talk, chess, mahjong, karaoke, raffles, and the Lunar New Year of the Ox celebration on January 22, 2009, which attracted students, faculty, and staff throughout campus. The President and Vice-President of the Club, Adam Hittinger and Michael Leung, were presented award certificates for their outstanding contributions in leadership and service at the opening ceremony of the Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest on May 5, 2009.

Student Research
Under the mentorship of Dr. Kylie Hsu, Dana Fan Chi Kung presented a refereed paper, “A Hybrid Approach to Teaching Chinese Phonetic Systems,” at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research held at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, November 22, 2008. She later presented additional new results at the CSULA 17th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, February 27, 2009. Additionally, Dana’s project was selected for presentation to the representatives from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) during their visit on April 2, 2009.

Inspired by Dr. Hsu, I did a longitudinal study on students learning to write in a weekend school where I taught Chinese to K-6 students. Although the school was torn between the two different Chinese phonetic spelling systems, pinyin and zhuyin, I discovered that integrating these two systems has stimulated student interest and benefited my teaching. Under Dr. Hsu’s guidance, I continued to revise my teaching plans based on my renewed understanding of the Chinese language through taking her linguistics courses. I tried to find an effective teaching method for my students. To help them learn to write traditional Chinese characters, I decided to use the Westernized pinyin system as a tool for learning pronunciation, and the Chinese zhuyin system as a basic structure for learning character strokes. This hybrid approach has not only enhanced their language acquisition, but it has also increased their Chinese culture awareness. Students responded positively to this teaching method, and there was a noticeable improvement in their work. Although my research project was only a preliminary study, I am very grateful to the conference participants for their suggestions and recommendations for expanding my project in breadth and depth. There is no doubt that my project not only requires long-term observation of student learning, but it also needs student participation in my revised teaching methods. I will work hard to achieve this objective. Finally, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Dr. Hsu for providing me the opportunity to participate in the above activities, which have motivated me to further my research and to improve my teaching.

Chinese Culture Club New Year celebration.

Dana Kung (left) presenting her research project.

Dana commented on the following valuable experiences she has gained: “I am deeply honored to have participated in these scholarly activities where I shared my teaching experience with other participants. Most of them understood the impact of the different political systems on the development of the Chinese writing system. However, they were not aware of how it has affected student learning to a certain extent.
Faculty Activities

Congratulations to Dr. Kylie Hsu, who received the Outstanding Professor Award on September 15, 2008.

Among her many activities include serving as the new Director of the CSULA Chinese Studies Center, as well as mentoring Dr. Shijuan Liu, the new Director of the Modern Language Lab. Together, they are serving as faculty advisors to the Chinese Culture Club and organized the 17th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest on May 5, 2009; the guest lectures, “Chinese Writing as Visual and Performing Arts” by Guiting Yuan; and “The Art of Chinese Straw Patchwork” by Limin Liu on November 20, 2008 and April 8, 2009. They also received a grant from the CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning for a Discipline Research Project on Assessing Critical Classroom Issues Related to Chinese Language Teaching and Learning.

In addition, Dr. Hsu was awarded a ninth-year grant to serve as the World Languages Associate Editor of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT). Additionally, she is serving as the team leader for the CSU Discipline Research Project, which consists of six faculty members from the Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Fullerton campuses. The team attended a workshop with two other CSU Discipline Research Project teams at LAX, March 27-28, 2009.

Dr. Hsu also received funds from CSULA for her Chinese Learning Partnership Project for a third year, which involved students in Chinese language and culture learning and instructionally-related activities.

Dr. Hsu proposed a Chinese Subject Matter Preparation Program to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing in order to establish a teaching credential option for our Chinese majors.

Dana Fan Chi Kung, Dr. Hsu’s mentee, presented a refereed paper, “A Hybrid Approach to Teaching Chinese Phonetic Systems,” at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, on November 22, 2008. An extended version of the paper was presented at CSULA 17th Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity on February 27, 2009. Additionally, Dr. Hsu was selected by the University to present a poster with Dana to the WASC representatives during their visit on April 2, 2009.

Dr. Hsu other activities include serving as the Editor-in-Chief of Social Sciences and Humanities for the Academic Perspective, a peer-reviewed journal of the Chinese Scholars Association (CSA); a reviewer for The Modern Language Journal; secretary of the CSA Board of Directors, which organized the annual CSA Academic Convention and Spring Gathering at the University of Southern California on February 1, 2009, and the Symposium on H1N1 Flu at the Hilton Los Angeles/San Gabriel Hotel on May 9, 2009.

Dr. Hsu was among the CSA leaders who established a donation drive and deployed CSA members from various fields of expertise to help rebuild the communities struck hard by the Sichuan earthquake in China on May 12, 2008. She was featured in the following news reports: “Tragedy in China Strikes Here at Home,” University Times, June 5, 2008; “CSULA Held a Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest,” People’s Daily, May 6, 2009; and “Fantastic Performances at the CSULA Poetry Recitation Contest,” Sing Tao Daily, May 6, 2009.

She was also interviewed by the People’s Daily on April 28, 2009 for a special news report on Chinese programs and textbooks used in American universities.

Most recently, Dr. Hsu has been invited to be a visiting scholar at the Academia Sinica, the National Academy of Taiwan, for the summer of 2009. She will be working on a corpus-based analysis of Chinese discourse at this most prestigious research institution of the country.
Pedagogical service provided by the Director

Besides supervising the lab, Dr. Shijuan Liu provides guidance and support to faculty in using technology as follows: (1) sharing useful resources through e-mail and websites; (2) providing one-on-one consultation; (3) facilitating discussions among faculty on the use of technology in teaching and learning; (4) offering workshops.

On March 9, 2009, Dr. Liu invited Dr. Gastón A. Alzate to share his experience in using WebCT and Sanako Media Assistant with other faculty in the department. Other workshops provided in 2008-09 included: Teaching and Assessing Listening and Speaking Skills; Use of Sanako Media Assistant and Audacity; Using Free Collaborative Writing Tools in Teaching and Research; Wikis and Language Teaching and Learning.

On behalf of the lab, Dr. Liu would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their special assistance to the lab in 2008-09: Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga (the Department Chair, for her insightful advice); Men Tran and David Gibson (the College ITCs, for their outstanding technical support); Mai Tran and Leticia Ramirez (the Department secretaries, for their unparalleled administrative support); Nareh Abrahamian, Mayenci Pleitez, and Cristian Cabrera (the former lab assistants, for their work in the lab); Mr. Vic Szamody (from Vsysystems.com, for his generosity in allowing us to use the software Time Clock Manager Pro without charge); and finally, the Dean’s office for helping make many things possible.

More Chinese Faculty News


FRENCH NEWS

Dr. Gretchen Angelo presented “Assessing Student Writing in French: High School vs. College Approaches” at the CLTA Language Jamboree in November 2008. She recently was granted a leave for Fall 2009, during which she will revise her first-year French book, Liberté. She continues to be active on the Executive Boards of the CSU Foreign Language Council and the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California.

Dr. Christophe Lagier is continuing his duties as Vice-President of Alliance Française de Pasadena. Since July 2008, he has chaired the AP Language and Literature Exams in...continued on page 6
The Japanese Studies Center successfully hosted the 13th Annual Japanese Speech Contest (February 28, 2009), with 24 contestants (from two high schools, one community college, and four universities) who spoke in front of 70 people. The judges were (Dr. Setsue Shibata of California State University, Fullerton and Dr. Hidemi Riggs of Soka University). The event was supported by the Consulate General of Japan at Los Angeles, the Japan Foundation and Kinokuniya Bookstore in Costa Mesa.

Grand prize winner: Lina Kim (University of California, Irvine)

First prize winners: Nico Lucchese (Notre Dame High School); Alicia Bull (California State University, Los Angeles); Noah Scott (California State University, Los Angeles).

Second prize winners: Matthew Pantell (Notre Dame High School); Katherina Teague (Notre Dame High School); Julia Yefimenko (California State University, Los Angeles); David Nagy (California State University, Los Angeles).

Third prize winner: Madeline Dugan (Notre Dame High School); Stephanie Hufford (University of California, Irvine); Samuel Kho (Moor Park College); Jianing Gu (California State University, Los Angeles).

Consulate Award winner: Krishnanand Kelkar (Notre Dame High School)

Cal State L.A. Award winners: Edgard Areas (University of California, Riverside); Evelina Vu (University of California, Irvine); Lance Casey (University of California, Los Angeles).

Noah Scott: 1st-place winner: “From when I first started studying Japanese, I’ve taken quite a few trips to Japan and had many interesting experiences. One such experience was on a train in Tokyo. Normally, when entering a train, people will glance at you; however, perhaps because I was a foreigner everyone would openly stare whenever I entered a train in Tokyo. Actually, foreigners stand out wherever they go in Japan.

Before going to Japan, I thought that I had learned enough about Japanese culture to manage to live there, but it turned out to be a naive way of thinking. Even though Japanese people are very understanding and forgiving when it comes to cultural mistakes, there are still many occasions where foreigners make cultural mistakes.

Overall, it’s much easier to live in your own country than try to learn the lifestyles of another country, but if we really try to understand another country’s way of life, and try our best to succeed within its respective cultural boundaries we are sure to become stronger and more versatile in this diverse modern world”.

As an event for Modern Language Month, the Japanese Program organized a lecture, demonstration and workshop of Japanese Karatedo presented by Ms. Suzuko Okamura Hamasaki, a former world champion of Karatedo (April 23, 2009). Karatedo is a form of martial art to defend oneself from attack. The event was sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and the Japanese Studies Center. The audience was fascinated by the powerful and beautiful presentation of Karatedo.
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**FACULTY**

Professor Chisato Koike published one paper entitled “Kandashi E no to higengokodo ni kansuru ichikosatsu (An analysis of interjection E in terms of functions, intonation, and body movements)” included in the proceeding of the 22nd Japanese Association of Socio-linguistic Sciences Conference. She is currently working on the paper entitled “Ellipsis, Body, and Participation in Japanese Storytelling” which will be included in Japanese Storytelling across Conversational Genre ed. by Polly Szatrowski.

Dr. Toshiko Yokota presented a paper on “Major Works of Buson and Bunjin Characteristics: A Case Study of His Hakku, The Yodo River and In the Snowy Night” at the 12th International Conference of European Association of Japanese Studies at Lecce, Italy (September 20-23, 2009).

She was invited and participated in Bridging Japanese Language and Japanese Studies in Higher Education: Forum on Integrative Curriculum and Program Development organized by the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles and DePaul University Japanese Studies Program, and endorsed by Association of Teachers of Japanese at DePaul Center in Chicago (March 26, 2009).

Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga (Professor of Japanese, the Department Chair, and the Director of the Japanese Studies Center) continued to serve as the PI, Director, and Coordinator of the Strategic Language Initiative Korean Program with a subcontracted federal grant ($224,000 [second phase] and $200,000 [third phase]).


KOREAN NEWS

**SLI Korean Program**

The Southern California campuses of the CSU system are collaborating to provide an innovative approach to intensive language learning that can serve as a model for other metropolitan consortia. CSULA takes charge of intensive Korean language programs as a part of the Strategic Language Initiative (SLI) funded by federal grant. The first (2007-2008) and second (2008-2009) cohort students have come from diverse populations and have applied with various academic backgrounds including business, engineering, medicine, social sciences and humanities. The SLI Korean Language Program Model includes three language development phases (1. Summer Language immersion, 2. Academic year individualized language study and online lessons, 3. Summer Study Abroad Immersion) for each cohort of participants to move from low or mid-intermediate proficiency levels to high intermediate or low-advanced levels.

Results of the program evaluation and students’ Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) by ACTFL revealed that all of the SLI Korean Program’s first cohort of students significantly improved their ratings compared to their preliminary assessments. The 1st and 2nd cohort students agree that through the study abroad program and SLI Korean program, they could feel more independent and self-confident and could expand their knowledge of Korean language and culture by actually being there, seeing it, touching it, and experiencing it. The students reported that in addition to enjoying and learning in their classes during the week, they learned some of the most valuable lessons outside of the classroom. Weekend excursions to museums and cultural sites also added to their academic and personal growth.
The first event of the Modern Language Month was held on April 2, 2009, under the title: “Poems as Pictures, Poems as Songs: An Evening of French and Spanish Poetry in Translation.” The speakers were emeritus professor of Spanish, Joseph Chrzanowski, and emeritus professor of French, Leon Schwartz, whose “return” to campus for this event drew a large audience of current students and younger faculty interested in meeting these legendary department figures (both were department chairs). Many retired colleagues came to applaud their former peers (a group photo above).

After a few introductory remarks by Professor Matsunaga, the department chair, and Professor Dumitrescu, the event organizer, Professor Chrzanowski delivered his power point presentation entitled: "A Picture is Worth 100 Words, but Which Words?"

He talked about the specific challenges involved in the translation of poetry, and discussed examples from his own published translation from Spanish into English. He also discussed a number of poems written by another former CSULA professor, Francisco Caudet. Caudet’s poems were inspired by paintings done by contemporary Spanish painter, Enrique Santana, of the Chicago urban landscape. Professor Chrzanowski’s talked about his personal reaction to these paintings, and how they shaped his translation beyond the mere linguistic equivalences.

In the second part of this event, Professor Schwartz discussed his own work translating into English his favorite poems by some of the most famous French poets. His book, entitled Poems That Sing by French Masters: Fifteen Great French Poets and Their Verses of Life, Love, and Loss, was recently published, in a bilingual edition, in New York.

Schwartz strongly believes in the need to translate poetry not only to faithfully convey the original idea, but also to keep it sounding musical, like the original. He and his wife of 60 years (the next day was their actual wedding anniversary!) read out loud several poems, both in their original French form and the translated English version, and signed some book for members of the audience. In summary, it was a memorable evening, which opened the successful Modern Language Month under excellent auspices.

Asociación de Estudiantes de Español

At the beginning of this quarter, the members of AEE received over fifty books and are now on their way to forming their own library.

The books donated by David Sandoval are all in Spanish. Mr. Sandoval has generously donated books of multiple disciplines (literature, culture, history) in the past. He also contributes books to local schools, and organizations.

The next goal of AEE is generate funds to obtain textbooks for their library.

Also, getting an office has been one of the Asociación de Estudiantes de Español greatest accomplishments during Spring Quarter 2009. Now officers as well as members have an official place to discuss various issues and plan future projects. This office space has become an important tool, not only for the members of the association but also for all the students of the Spanish section, because it has

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PLEASE SEE PART TWO OF THE NEWSLETTER...