
Thanks to generous donations from Major Tsai, Monique Wu and Kylie Hsu, the Center awarded seven scholarships on May 3, 2005:

**Chinese B.A. Scholarships**
- Quincy Hou
- Michelle Chiang

**Major Tsai Awards**
- Albert Graves
- Quyen Hy
- Sunny Yuan
- Makaylah Cheung

**Kylie Hsu Endowed Scholarship**
- Richard Yao-Tang Chen

The 13th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest was held on May 3, 2005. The event kicked off in Music Hall with lovely performances in Chinese by children from Academia Semillas del Pueblo and with an inspiring speech from Dean Carl Selkin. Contestants from Cal State L.A. and other universities and...
colleges performed in high spirits with daring imagination. Three major Chinese newspapers, *Chinese Daily News*, *Hsing Tao Daily*, and *China Daily*, all covered the event. We have more winners than ever before:

**Advanced Level**
1st–Richard Yao-Tang Chen, CSULA
2nd–Xuyen Dang, CSULA
3rd–Eileen Osmun, USC
3rd–Quyen Hy, CSULA

**Intermediate Level**
1st–Quincy Hou, CSULA
2nd–Jack Tung, CSULA
3rd–Eugene Yu, CSULA
3rd–Ling He, CSULA
3rd–Ran Nakayama, SMC
3rd–Tracy Chan, CSULA

**Elementary Level**
1st–Anton Borja, CSULA
1st–Sarah Jacobus, SMC
2nd–Shunsuke Ito, SMC
2nd–Albert Graves, CSULA
3rd–Frank Liou, CSU Poly Pomona
3rd–James Liu, CSU Poly Pomona

The CSU quarter-system campuses have formed a consortium to offer online courses. New students may choose from a wider range of courses by concurrently enrolling in courses offered through other campuses. This alleviates enrollment quotas faced by some CSU campuses. During the ‘04–’05 year, French Translation was offered through the CSU Bakersfield campus and Linguistics was offered jointly via Cal State L.A. and CSU San Bernardino.

**Le Cercle Français**
Le Cercle Français elected a new board at the beginning of Spring ’05, and a new president, Sara Vard, an undergraduate majoring in Art History.

**Japanese Studies Center**
The Japanese Studies Center hosted Japanese Film Nights 3 (*Wild Geese*) and 4 (*After Life*) in November 2004 and May 2005, respectively. It also held the Eighth Annual Japanese Speech Contest February 26, 2005, with 21 contestants from four high schools and three universities who spoke in front of 55 people. The following students were selected by judges Yasuko Koshiyama of Pepperdine University and Motoko Ezaki of Occidental College as winners of the prizes. The event was supported by the Japan Foundation and Kinokuniya Bookstore.

**Grand prize winner**
Albert Graves (CSULA)

**First prize winners**
David McNeill (Crescenta Valley High School)
Sam Wu (CSULA)
Jieun Kwon (CSULA)
Lisa Kamei (West High School)

**Honorary prize winners**
Allison Park (California Academy of Math and Science)
Todd Gessel (CSULA)
Chris Gray (CSU Fullerton)
Naomi Ikeda (CSULA)

---

I am Quincy Hou and I’m currently working towards my B.A. in Chinese at CSULA. Although my father is Chinese, I did not learn to speak the language as a child. After a few years of disappointment as a film major at other colleges, I decided to change my major to Chinese. I have always wanted to learn the language, and I am very happy with my decision to study Mandarin.

Since my return to college I have taken six Chinese language courses, as well as a Chinese poetry class. I am currently studying about Chinese culture and civilization, in addition to contemporary life in Taiwan.

I was honored to not only win a first-prize trophy in the 13th annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest, but also to be awarded a Chinese B.A. scholarship. I was selected to participate in the CSU overseas study program at National Taiwan University in Taipei. I will be studying Chinese intensely there for nine months beginning this September and will return to finish my schooling at Cal State L.A. in the summer of 2006. I look forward to sharing my experience when I return from abroad. I am so happy that CSULA offers a degree in the beautiful language, culture, and history that is Chinese!
Struggling with the daunting task of learning Japanese, one might wonder why it’s so different from other languages. The language barrier, compounded by complex writing systems and the vast number of Kanji characters, presents significant challenges for English-speaking learners.

The Japanese language comprises three distinct writing systems: Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji. Hiragana and Katakana each contain 46 letters, while Kanji, with its complex pronunciation rules, numbers in the thousands. Learning how to pronounce a combination of Kanji involves trial and error and instruction.

Moreover, Japanese language and culture require mastery of both formal and casual styles of writing and speaking. The challenges of gender-appropriate language and the intricate system of politeness (Keigo) add layers of complexity to learning Japanese.

Fortunately, the faculty at CSULA offers courses that cater to these needs, with events like the annual Japanese speech contest, which has been a significant learning experience for students.

In summary, studying Japanese is a gargantuan task. However, with dedication and the right resources, it can be a rewarding journey into a wonderful culture.
Due to the efforts of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), 2005 is being celebrated as The Year of Languages (YOL) in the United States. These celebrations will take place in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions, as well as at events at the local, state and national levels across America. The goal of the YOL celebration is to advance the concept that every American should develop proficiency not only in English, but in other languages as well. Its goals include building public awareness of the diverse languages and cultures that enrich the American way of life—thus encouraging cross-cultural understanding—and educating the public about the academic benefits of learning a second language.

These celebrations are a result of the ever-increasing importance of learning a foreign language in the era of globalization.

More Than Meets the Eye

Learning to speak a foreign language is more than memorizing vocabulary words or grammar rules. It is experimenting with new sounds, expressions, and gestures. It is orchestrating a new perspective on the world based on a colorful blend of innuendos and myths, lilt's and cadences, hidden behind each word and phrase. In fact, learning to speak another language unveils fascinating cultural secrets behind the language.

Benefits

1. Communication advantage

   Often, the main goal for learning a new language is to acquire the ability to speak, write, and read the new language to effectively send messages and be understood. You may want to find your way while vacationing in another country, be able to read foreign magazines or books for information or pleasure, understand foreign newscasts and newspaper articles, or meet and talk with a new group of people. All these activities would be nothing short of impossible if we were limited by the constraints of a single language—our mother tongue.

2. Cultural advantage

   Learning a new language enables us to learn about the people who speak that language. You learn their customs and practices, their victories and struggles, their joys and their grief. This promotes tolerance and cultural awareness. No linguistic education would be complete without acknowledging the cultural component. Knowledge of other cultures will help expand personal horizons, and help you become a more compassionate and responsible citizen. Your ability to talk to others and gather information beyond your own language and culture will enable you to look at life through a different cultural lens.

3. Academic advantage

   Studies have shown that learning another language helps students gain a better understanding of other academic subjects. Students who speak more than one language consistently score better on standardized tests than students who are monolingual. Research has shown that there is a correlation between the number of years of foreign language studies and the increase of reading, writing, and mathematics skills. Our exposure to another language opens the door to making links between different subjects or fields.

4. Cognitive advantage

   Learning another language increases the brain’s capacity for creativity, openness, flexibility, analysis and interpretation. Recent studies have shown that this is a result of the change in the brain’s anatomy through exposure to a new language, helping to strengthen areas associated with language, memory, and attention.

5. Social advantage

   Language skills are useful when interacting with people from other countries, as well as foreign-language-speaking people within your own country. Forming a social group composed of foreign-language speakers significantly influences the quality of your linguistic skills and benefits your multi-cultural pool of knowledge.

6. Occupational advantage

   Learning a second language gives you a competitive edge and will catch the eye of anyone reading your job application. Furthermore, since an increasing number of businesses work closely with companies in other countries, there is a great demand for workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures. An employer will see you as a bridge to new clients or new markets and enhances opportunities in several fields including government, business, medicine and healthcare, law enforcement, teaching, technology, the military, communications, industry, social services and marketing.

Application

• Take language courses in college to gain a firmer foundation on which to build your linguistic knowledge and experiences. Moreover, you gain the opportunity to meet other people who are also interested in learning a new language. Some programs teach languages in conjunction with engineering, business, nursing, or journalism.

• Find a language exchange partner, preferably a native speaker of the language you are interested in who would like to learn a language in which you are proficient. Together, you can arrange casual meetings in a relaxed atmosphere (at a local café, for example) where you can practice each other’s language. You will not only practice your vocabulary and grammar, but also learn about the culture associated with the language. An added bonus is that you can meet a variety of people from around the world.

• Take advantage of the wonders of technology and enroll in online language courses. Many of them allow you to complete your language education at your own pace, from the comfort of your own home.

• Find an e-pal. An updated version of the pen pal practice, e-pals allow you to exchange messages with someone in another country at the click of a mouse.
FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Faculty Research Colloquium

The Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities, together with the Department of Modern Languages, Sigma Delta Pi, and Le Cercle Français, sponsored a colloquium titled “Languages of Desire” on April 27, 2005. Christophe Lagier’s talk was titled “Transgendered Masks of Transgressions: The Jean(ne) de Berg Exemplary Case.” Elena Ruzickova spoke of “Gender-based Tendencies in Spanish-language Variation and Linguistic Sexism in Spanish.” Ignacio López-Calvo gave a talk on “Chineseness and Sexual Desire in Severo Sarduy’s Oeuvre.” Alejandro Solomianski delivered the paper, “Feminine Land in Nineteenth-century South America,” while María Dolores Costa spoke of “Sexuality and Nation in Four Spanish Novels.”

Gretchen V. Angelo traveled to France last summer taking photographs for her nearly completed first-year college level textbook, Liberté. Traveling solo, she spent 11 leisurely days in Paris. Liberté has been adopted by Mt. San Antonio College for the upcoming Fall ’05 curriculum.

Angelo organized and facilitated the CSULA/MCLASC (Modern Classical Language Association for Southern California) Teacher’s Immersion Day on February 26, 2005. This event engaged high school and college French and Spanish teachers in a range of stimulating conversation on cultural, literary and linguistic topics such as (in French): Images d’une heroine nationale—le cas Jeanne d’Arc; Le rap de MC Solaar - “Bouge de la”; Le voile musulman à l’école en France; and (in Spanish): Es sexista la lengua Española?: Discusion del cuento “El arbol;” Los medios masivos y la realidad.

Angelo is also serving her eighth year on the CSU Foreign Language Council as the CSULA French Department representative.

Domnita Dumitrescu received one of the four CSULA 2003-2004 Outstanding Professor Awards. This award, announced on Fall Faculty Day 2004, is given “primarily for excellence in teaching,” as well as “significant achievements...in scholarly inquiry or creativity, professional activities, and service to the campus and community.”


She presented a paper on Octavio Paz’s Renga at the 15th International Congress of Hispanicists, Monterrey, Mexico.

1For more information, visit http://www.yearoflanguages.org

• Use your second language on the job or with friends who speak the language. The more often you apply what you know, the easier it will be for you to remember terms and utilize adequate grammatical sequences, and the more motivated you will be to continue learning.

• Seek out opportunities to use the language in your community. The larger and more diverse the group of people you regularly contact, the more exposure you will have to different accents and modern slang. This will help you lose the feeling of self-consciousness, give you a more practical grasp of the language, and lead you to discard many outdated textbook terms and phrases.

• Study abroad. Full immersion in a new culture is an exhilarating adventure. The experience will force you to actively use and improve your linguistic, cultural, social, and survival skills. These hands-on lessons will change your view about the host culture as well as your own culture. You will be greatly enriched by direct exposure to different perspectives and practices.

• Develop creative ways to use your linguistic and cultural knowledge. Go to a local foreign cuisine restaurant and try ordering in that language. Listen to foreign music. Watch a foreign movie (ignore the subtitles). Attend cultural exhibitions at museums and art galleries. Offer to serve as a tour guide for visiting tourists.

Speaking more than one language in today’s global society is a great asset. Learning a new language will not only make a great difference in how you see the world, but also in how the world sees you.

1For more information, visit http://www.yearoflanguages.org
Faculty Activities (cont. from pg. 5)

and she organized and chaired a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Acapulco, Mexico. She also read a paper and chaired a panel at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, in New Orleans, where she was the general program chair; and she made a presentation at the Fall Meeting of the AATSP-Southern California chapter. She attended the MLA meeting in Philadelphia as a member of the Delegate Assembly, and she continued her editorial work for the Southwest Journal of Linguistics, and, as a referee, for two publishing houses.

Kylie Hsu was selected for inclusion in the 2005 Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. She was also awarded a sabbatical in Fall 2004 to develop instructional materials for her book. She published two articles and nine reviews, and she was featured in the following news reports: “The Effects of California Budget Cut on Higher Education,” China Press, January 10, 2004; and “Opinions from Experts and Parents on Early Entrance,” Sing Tao Daily, September 23, 2004.

Christophe Lagier has been selected by the CSU International Programs (Chancellor’s Office) to serve as Resident Director in France effective 2006-2007. The Resident Director oversees 80 CSU students in Aix-en-Provence and Paris and bears responsibility for the academic success and administrative efficiency of the program’s operation.

Lagier was also selected to serve for a three-year term on the College Board Development Committee that develops the AP® French Course Description and Examination.

He has written two encyclopedia articles: “Jacques Audiberti” in Dictionary of Literary Biography 321: Twentieth-Century French Dramatists (Bruccoli Clark Layman, Inc., to be published fall ’05) and “Jean(ne) de Berg” (Catherine Robbe-Grillet’s pen names) in Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature (Routledge, to be published spring ’06).

His article “From Linguistic Deviation to Cultural Re-identification: ‘Verlan’ in Mathieu Kassovitz’s La haine” has been accepted for publication by Review of the Center for the Studies of the Literature and Arts of North Africa (2007). He will present a related paper at “Youth Cultures in Post-War France” on September 9, 2005, organized by the Department of Languages & Intercultural Studies at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Sachiko Matsunaga presented a paper entitled “Learning strategies of hiragana and katakana as foreign symbols” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, January 13-16, 2005, which was published in the conference proceedings. She also published a refereed journal article in The Chinese Journal of Language and Literature, 21 (2005). Another article, “From Linguistic Deviation to Cultural Re-identification: ‘Verlan’ in Mathieu Kassovitz’s La haine,” was published in the Language Journal, and as a member on the Japanese Standard Setting Panel, California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET).

Qingyun Wu taught a new course CHIN420: Chinese Poetry in the winter 2005. Twelve students were enrolled in her class. Although this is a challenging course focusing on classical Chinese poetry, students participated with great enthusiasm. Student Cathy Huang commented, “What I like best about this course, Chinese Poetry, is that I get a better understanding and foundation of the evolution of Chinese poems after this ten-week intense course.” Quincy Meilong Hou, a native English speaker currently pursuing a B.A. in Chinese, said “My favorite part was being able to hear my classmates present engaging poems. I have learned more than I expected and enjoyed the class more than I thought I would.”

Invited by the Asian Studies Program of Pomona College, Wu gave a guest lecture on “Women’s Utopian Imagination in Imperial China” on Tuesday, March 8, 2005. Her essay “Daring to Dream: Wang Yun and Her Play A Dream of Glory” and excerpts from her translated play will be published in the August issue of the journal Renditions in 2005. She will also present her paper “Classical Roots and Transnational Influence of Lolita” at the ACCL Conference in Nanjing University, China on June 24, 2005.

• Gretchen Angelo (Ph.D., Yale University): Medieval French Literature
• María Dolores Costa (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts at Amherst): Modern Spanish Fiction
• Domnita Dumitrescu (Ph.D., University of Southern California): Contemporary Spanish Linguistics
• Kylie Hsu (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles): Chinese Functional Linguistics and Language Pedagogy
• Christophe Lagier (Ph.D., Princeton University): Modern French Theater
• Ignacio López-Calvo (Ph.D., University of Georgia): Contemporary Spanish and Spanish-American Fiction; Literary Theory
• Sachiko Matsunaga (Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa): Applied Japanese Linguistics and Psycho-linguistics
• Elena Ruzickova (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh): Hispanic Linguistics
• Alejandro Solomianski (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh): Hispanic Language and Literature
• Hildebrando Villareal (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles): Applied Spanish Linguistics
• Qingyun Wu (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University): Modern Chinese Literature
• Toshiko Yokota (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine): East Asian Languages and Literatures

EMERITI/RETIRED

Alfred F. Michael Atlee (Spanish)
Abdallah J. Beddawi (French)
Dale Carter (Spanish)
Matilde O. Castells (Spanish)
Joseph Chrzanski (Spanish)
Felipe Diaz (Spanish)
Jeannine Gaucher-Morales (Spanish)
Alfonso González (Spanish)
Kazumitsu Kato (Japanese)

Hugh W. Kennedy (Spanish)
Harold E. Lionetti (Spanish)
Grant MacCurdy (Spanish)
Alfredo O. Morales (Spanish)
Françoise M. Pasques (French)
Elba Torres de Peralta (Spanish)
Leon Schwartz (French)
Marie-Antoinette U. Zrimc (French)

Reina Gallardo (B.A. Spanish, '95) received her MA in Guidance Counseling in 2002 and is now the bilingual coordinator at Kennedy High School. She also taught ESL and Spanish at Bethune Middle School from 1995 to 2000.

Luis Hernández (B.A. Spanish, '01) teaches Spanish and is the soccer coach for Damien High School. His team was the CIF Soccer Champion for 2004-05.

Debbie Martin (B.A. Spanish '85) is now married (Debbie Gonzalez), lives in Brea and has two kids, Danny and April. She teaches Spanish at Brea High School and says, “Hi” to her professors and friends.

Rosa Vergara (B.A. Spanish, '99) teaches Spanish at John Fremont High School. She married in 1999 and now has a beautiful baby girl named Milagro.

José Aviña, a current M.A. student in Spanish, has been serving in Iraq for the past year. He says it has been an interesting experience, but he is ready to come back and resume his normal life and continue studying.

Redouane Khamar, a graduate student in French, has been admitted to a Ph.D. program specializing in North African Literature at University of Wisconsin in Madison. We wish him the best of luck at his new university.

Thania Muñoz (Spanish major) has been accepted by the CSU International Program to study in Chile during 2005-06.

Tracie Therence, a current MA student in Spanish, has been sent to Iraq. She sends greetings to her professors and friends in the Spanish program.

Sean Myers (Japanese major) has been accepted to a graduate program at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

We welcome comments and suggestions. Call (323) 343-4230.
The Language Mirror is distributed to alumni who have majored/minored in a program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and to others in the academic community. The Department appreciates your assistance in publishing future issues of The Language Mirror and in supporting its activities. Donations may be made by check to: University Auxiliary Services Inc./MLL, Cal State L.A.

I wish to donate:      $50 _______       $25 _______      $10 _______      Other _______

Many companies provide matching gift opportunities to enhance their employees' charitable donations. Please check with your Human Resources Department to obtain a matching gift form, and send it, along with your donation check, to Cal State L.A. Contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by Cal State L.A.

Mailing address: Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Cal State L.A., 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032-8112.

The Language Mirror editorial board welcomes comments, suggestions, and news about Cal State L.A. alumni.

Chair: Sachiko Matsunaga
Editor-in-Chief: María Costa
Chinese: Qingyun Wu and Quincy Hou (student assistant)
French: Christophe Lagier
Japanese: Sachiko Matsunaga and Todd Gessel (student assistant)
Spanish: María Costa and Chia-Juey Liliana Chan (student assistant)

Department telephone: (323) 343-4230
Department fax: (323) 343-4234

California State University, Los Angeles
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032

Address Service Requested