Dear Readers:

With this edition of the CWLC newsletter, we would like to introduce you to our latest language teaching resource, our Mobile iPad Learning Center (MILC). Rebecca Allison, who recently received her master’s degree in German along with a certificate in language teaching technology from CU, is helping us to familiarize ourselves and our faculty with the exciting possibilities that this resource provides. Rebecca has installed “oodles” of language learning apps in many different languages onto the 30 + MILC devices. In addition, she has made the use of MILC super easy by facilitating a number of iPad workshops for us and by creating straightforward guidelines and trouble shooting documents for our iPad users. You’ll learn more about MILC in the pages of this newsletter. In addition, we hope you’ll visit our website and our Portfolio site for how-to videos, lists of apps, and other MILC news.

In this issue, Bailey Gearhart has also provided us with a synopsis of current research on the benefits of bilingualism for brain health. Come and learn a language with us and keep the grey matter moving!

Last but not least, in closing notes for this issue we’d like to offer our congratulations to Jack Mao, who has served as a Chinese, Japanese, and Latin tutor for us in the CWLC for the past three years. Jack has just been admitted to both the linguistics and the Japanese graduate programs at CU Boulder. We will miss you here at DU Jack, but we are so very proud.

Best wishes one and all for a happy and productive spring.

- Kathy Mahnke
A Note from our iPad Technologist, Rebecca Allison

Since January I have been working with the CWLC’s new Mobile iPad Learning Center. During this time the Center’s staff and I have set up the 32 iPad2 devices with a wide variety of free apps to facilitate language instruction in the classroom. We have downloaded over 40 apps including **Sound Cloud** for voice recording, **Textilus** for word processing, **Show Me, Knowmia**, and **Doceri** for interactive whiteboard presentations, and much more. In addition to these apps that can apply to all types of language, literature, and culture courses, we have created folders on each iPad loaded with language specific apps like **Dict.cc**, a German dictionary, **Ma Kore**, a Hebrew language learning game, and **Fotopedia Japan**, a Japanese culture app.

In addition to providing one-on-one instructor support both in and outside of the classroom, I am hosting a variety of workshops for instructors on iPad use including “The iPad and the World Language Classroom,” “A Beginner’s Guide/ Refresher Course to Using the iPad,” and “Finding Appropriate Apps and Integrating the iPad into a Lesson.” These workshops have been attended by a variety of Arabic, French, Hebrew, and Spanish instructors with varying levels of iPad knowledge. Among others, Sari Havis, Terri-Jo Woellner, and Kathy Mahnke have recently taken the Mobile iPad Lab to their classrooms. These teachers noticed students were excited to use the iPads, which resulted in an increase in classroom participation. In the words of Professor Woellner: “Students were enthusiastic to use the iPads in the classroom. Our activities focused on listening comprehension, cultural issues and grammar practice. Students were able to work at their own pace and many found relevant activities to share with classmates. The CWLC has been extremely accommodating, making it easy to use the iPads in class, offering appropriate training for instructors interested in using the iPads and keeping everything in tip-top working order.” At the end of one class we witnessed students’ curiosity from other classes about the Mobile iPad Lab and they asked if they would also have the opportunity to use it!

Additionally, instructors are taking advantage of the iPad home checkout option in order to both practice using the iPad as well as develop materials for in-class iPad use. To further aid instructors, a collection of video tutorials, ranging from basic iPad use to connecting the iPad to a classroom projector, has been assembled to allow instructors to learn about the iPad on their own time. For a complete list of apps, as well as iPad tutorials, and helpful presentations, visit the Faculty Resources tab on the CWLC’s page on [DU Portfolio](http://www.du.edu). The CWLC is excited about the enthusiasm shown by instructors and students using the Mobile iPad Lab thus far and hopes to spread the word about this innovative learning tool! If you are interested in learning more about the Mobile iPad Lab, please contact the CWLC at **cwlc@du.edu**.

### CWLC Spring Quarter 2013 Tutoring Hours

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<th>Language</th>
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<th>Wed</th>
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<td>2-5p</td>
<td>9-4p</td>
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Speaking More than One Language Could Prevent Alzheimer’s

A Summary Excerpted from NPR Shots

By Bailey Gearhart

The advantages and disadvantages of bilingualism have long been debated. Recently, Brian Gold, a neuroscientist from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine has provided new evidence in support of the idea that bilingualism is good for the brain.

To test his claim, Gold asked elderly people who grew up speaking two different languages to perform an attention-switching task—a skill that tends to fade as humans age. Gold also had these people’s heads scanned while they were performing these tasks in order to have a good look at what was happening inside of their brains.

Gold found that those who grew up bilingual had a tendency to perform better at these prescribed tasks than those who did not grow up bilingual. And when Gold analyzed the brain scan data, he noticed that the brains of those who grew up monolingual had to work harder when performing the tasks than did the brains of those who grew up bilingual. Neuroscientists believe that the extra “brain power” seemingly present in the brains of bilinguals may help compensate for declines in thinking and memory, and may therefore help protect against Alzheimer’s disease.

According to the article, about 20 percent of Americans are bilingual, and in larger cities—such as New York City—up to 60 percent of the population grew up speaking two different languages (Shute).

For full article:
“Speaking More Than One Language Could Prevent Alzheimer’s” by Nancy Shute

Upcoming Cultural Dates:
April 7-8: Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom Hashoah (Jewish)
April 22: International Mother Earth Day (UN)
May 1: May Day (International Workers’ Day)
May 5: Cinco de Mayo (Hispanic)
May 25: Buddha Day (Buddhist)

Hebrew National Honor Society
We are happy to announce that DU has opened a new chapter of the National Honor Society for students of Hebrew, Eber—or EBer. The new chapter is welcoming eight new members (pictured above). The initiated students have exhibited linguistic commitment and academic excellence not only in Hebrew but also in their general studies, and they plan to use the chapter and their membership as a venue to enhance their Hebrew interaction and to further engage in its culture.

Free Film: “Anita”
The Spanish Program is sponsoring a free film on April 9th at 6pm in Sturm Hall 451. The film is Anita, a movie about a young woman with Down syndrome living in Buenos Aires, and whose life is completely changed on a tragic morning in 1994.
Come see this great film!
The 26th Colorado/Wyoming Japanese Speech Contest

By Michiko Croft

The annual Japanese Speech Contest was held at the Colorado Convention Center, Saturday, November 3rd, 2012. Over 70 students from 12 schools—from elementary school to college—participated in this year’s contest. Categories of the contests included 1) skit presentations (Elementary School Skit Presentation and High School/College skit presentation) and 2) speech presentations (College Level II, III, IV, V and Heritage).

It is exciting to report that from DU’s Japanese Program, four students participated in Speech Presentations of College Level II, III and IV and all four contestants were awarded for their original and powerful speeches. Jesse Smothermon (College II), third place award; Ruishu Zhou (College II), a special award; Xiang Wang (College III), second place award; and Mika Ulmet (College IV), third place award.

The event was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan at Denver, the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, and the Colorado Japanese Language Education Association.
The Angry Birds of Language Learning

Trevor Turner

Mind Snacks currently offers language-learning apps in Chinese, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, and German.

The developers will be releasing Korean, Japanese, Russian and Hebrew in the future.

If you have ever played the incredibly addicting game of Angry Birds on an iPad, you’ll understand how awesomely fun games with touchscreens can be. Apps on tablet devices have revolutionized the way we work, read, and play games, and language learning is no exception.

The folks at Mind Snacks have come up with a clever, fun, and very addicting way to learn a new language. Imagine the fun and addictiveness of Angry Birds mixed in with the interactivity of Rosetta Stone combined into one very effective and affordable application. Using a very eye-pleasing and interactive interface with adorable games and characters, the apps start with the very basics and gradually increase in difficulty. These apps track students, so they are best played on one’s own personal device. The apps offer many different games that test different language learning processes, such as image association, spelling, translation, and quick thinking.

It’s very difficult to describe the games, so it’s best to try them out yourself! The games can be downloaded for free from the iTunes store for the iPod Touch, iPhone, or iPad. You can try out the first lesson for free and if you are satisfied, you can purchase all 50 lessons for only $4.99, much cheaper than a language book or Rosetta Stone.

I work as the German tutor at the CWLC and have personally tried out the German Mind Snacks app. I think it is a fantastic way to learn the basics of German and would highly recommend it to all DU students taking the 1000 level German course as it provides a fun way to develop vocabulary and basic grammar structure. I have also been playing the Chinese and French apps and have been amazed by how much I have learned. Jack Mao, the CWLC Chinese tutor can vouch for my Chinese abilities and he is also a strong endorser of the app:

“This app is great! I could not imagine one could learn Chinese that quickly! This app not only teaches students in an interactive and stimulating way, but it also helps the student to associate new words with visual stimuli! Recommended! “

Go to http://www.mindsnacks.com to learn more!