

Welcome स्वागत ۽ اندر, امید خوش Bem-vindo
Bienvenida ようこそ Добро пожаловать أهلاً وسهلاً
ຍິນດີທ່ານ 歡迎 Witalamy 你好
Mirësevini 환영합니다 Bienvenue 欢迎 خوش آمد
ברוכים הבאים Benvenuti Fáilte chào mừng Willkommen

The CWLC Newsletter

Center for World Languages and Cultures

Community Announcements

News from DU's recent Hebrew-Arabic Cultural Event

This year, as in the past 3 years, the Hebrew-Arabic cultural event at DU was a great success! The program included a talk about the music and the art of belly dancing as well as a performance by professional belly dancer Mila Popovitch. The sixty attendees, mostly students and a number of professors, enjoyed an evening of delicious food and a cultural and vivacious, uplifting experience. The evening ended with learning some Debka dance steps and a screening of an episode from an Israeli TV show called "Arab Labor".

New Equipment for Language & Literature Professors

The Languages & Literatures department has purchased a set of 30 dry-erase boards, markers, and erasers for individual student use in the classroom. DU German lecturer Rebecca Allison advocated for this purchase, as white boards are the "original" clicker and allow teachers to conduct quick formative assessments. For example, after teaching a new grammar structure or reviewing for a test, the teacher can ask the students to fill in a sentence with the appropriate relative pronoun, or combine two sentences into one using a conjunction. The white boards can also be used to test vocabulary by having the students draw the word. There are, of course, many other ways to use these simple tools. Rebecca and the L&L staff are excited to see how instructors implement them in their classrooms!

Japan Cup 2014

This year's Japan Cup will take place on Saturday, April 26th at the Davis Auditorium on the DU campus, beginning at 12:15pm. The event, co-sponsored by the Colorado Japanese Language Education Association and the Japanese American Society of Colorado, brings together high school- and college-level teams to test their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

Contact DU Japanese lecturer [Setsu Kawada](#) for more information about this event.

Upcoming Cultural Dates:

April 12: Yuri's Night (Worldwide celebration of space flight)

April 20: Easter (Christian)

May 11: Mother's Day (USA)

May 17: Constitution Day (Norway)

June 6: 70th Anniversary of D-Day

Russian Musical Event with the Lamont School of Music

Zolotoy Plios, a Russian folk trio, will be performing at the Hamilton Recital Hall on Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30pm. This colorful ensemble offers lively interpretations of Russian folk songs and instrumental music. Its members, Sergei Gratchev, Elena Sadina and Aleksandr Solovov are all graduates of the Saratov Music Conservatory in Saratov, Russia.

They come to DU via an invitation from DU's Russian faculty. The group will also be visiting some of DU's Russian classes to speak with students and allow them to test out their various unique instruments.

Tickets for their performance are only \$10. Please visit [the Laramont School website](#) to purchase tickets and learn more.

Volume 3, Issue 3
Spring 2014

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UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES
Center for World
Languages & Cultures

How Language is Essential to Learning Math

Summary excerpted from articles in *Time* and *Education Week*



A series of studies conducted between 2006 and 2010 in Nicaragua by researchers Elizabeth Spaepen and Susan Goldin-Meadow have revealed interesting insights regarding language acquisition and its link to skills in math.

Spaepen and Goldin-Meadow tested several deaf “homesigning” Nicaraguan adults on their basic math abilities. “Homesigners” are those who communicate using informal, made-up hand gestures that often do not have distinct grammar rules or words for larger numbers. It was found that these homesigners had significant difficulties understanding and communicating numbers larger than three, mainly because they did not have the vocabulary to describe those numbers. They could count objects by using their fingers, but they could not grasp the concept of seven being less than nine, or five being more than three. When deaf people in Nicaragua who learn standardized sign languages were tested, they were able to communicate larger numbers because they had learned a counting routine as children, much like hearing children do with spoken language.

This research is significant for linguists, those who study human development, and teachers at foreign language immersion schools, as it links language acquisition in young children to their ability to develop math skills later on in life. It is essential to learn the words for numbers and understand the significance of their sequencing and value. Neuron activity in different parts of the brain when performing counting tasks also vary in children with different native languages. For example, English speakers’ brains are more active in language centers, while the brains of Chinese speakers are more active in the visual/spatial centers.

This is yet another great example of how learning languages changes your brain for the better! **For the full articles on this topic, please visit [Time Magazine’s website](#) and [Education Week’s website](#).**



Arabic

Tues: 2-4pm
Wed: 10am-12pm
Thurs: 2-4pm

Chinese

Tues: 9am-12pm
Wed: 9am-12pm

French

Mon: 10-11am
12-5pm
Tues: 9am-1pm
2-5pm
Wed: 12-5pm
Thurs: 9-11am

German

Mon: 1:30-5pm
Tues: 1-3pm
Wed: 1:30-5pm

Italian

Mon: 2-5pm
Tues: 10am-12pm
2-4pm
Wed: 2-5pm
Thurs: 10am-12pm

Japanese

Tues: 12-3pm
Thurs: 12-3pm

Russian

Tues: 12-2pm
Wed: 2-4pm

Spanish

Mon: 9am-5pm
Tues: 9am-5pm
Wed: 9am-5pm
Thurs: 9am-5pm
Fri: 10am-1pm

Spanish Conversation

Mon: 11am-2pm
Tues: 3-5pm
Wed: 12-5pm
Thurs: 9am-2pm
3-5pm
Fri: 10am-1pm

*Subject to change. Please double-check tutoring hours on our [website](#).

In this edition, we say “Thank you!” and “Farewell!” to our graduating language tutors.

Andy Campioni (Italian tutor, 1 on the photo on next page) will be graduating with a BA in International Studies with a Political Economy concentration. His second major is Italian, and he also has a minor in Business Administration. Andy plans on working in the public service sector for a couple of years before coming back to DU and pursuing a Masters degree in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration at Korbel. In the future, Andy would like to work for an international agency.

Mike Coury (Russian tutor, 2) will be graduating from the Korbel School in the fall with an MA in International Security. After graduating, Mike will continue to work in his family business while completing his current intelligence analysis internship. Ultimately, he hopes to end up in working in the intelligence community in Washington DC.

Kate Douglass (Spanish tutor, 3) will be graduating from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies with a Masters in International Development and a Certificate in Global Health. Her future is unknown as to what specific career she will be pursuing, however, she is excited and ready to continue her adventure of life.

Sam Estenson (former German, Spanish, and Japanese tutor, 4) will graduate from DU *summa cum laude* with a dual degree in Intercultural Communications and Foreign Languages (Spanish, German, Japanese). He also has two minors, in Business Administration and Leadership Studies. Sam has been awarded the Congress-Bundestag Fellowship, which will begin in August Germany. His long term career goals are to conduct international business and cross-cultural consulting. Some of his other dream jobs include working for the International Olympic Committee or National Geographic.

Bailey Gearhart (Spanish tutor, 5) will be graduating from DU with BA International Studies with concentrations in Security and Development, as well as BA Spanish. With her BA in Spanish, she is graduating *cum laude*. Bailey is hoping to begin an internship with BAIR Analytics, a private company that develops crime analytic software. In the meantime, she is currently a fellow for the Colorado Democratic Party and is interning with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network. Her hopes for the future are to work as a Foreign Service Officer or a Diplomat with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, or as an intelligence or field agent with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Chang Liu (Chinese tutor, 6) is graduating with an MA from the Public Policy program with a concentration in Energy Policy. Originally from China, Chang is hoping to find a job here in this beautiful country (In Chinese, America is called *Meiguo*, which means “a beautiful country”). He hopes to work in a place where he can use his language skills (English and Chinese). He also would like to work in consulting firms, especially energy consulting. Eventually, he hopes to return to China.

Jack Mao (former Chinese, Japanese, and Latin tutor, 7), a 2012 DU graduate, begins a Ph.D. program in Linguistics at the University of Colorado - Boulder this coming fall. He will be concentrating on perceptual phonetics and computational phonology. He will concurrently complete an MA in Japanese at CU - Boulder.

Selina Martinez (Italian tutor, 8) will be graduating with a BA in International Studies with a minor in Italian as well as a B.S in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She will be taking a year off after graduation to apply to medical school, with the long term goal of working in international health.

Kelli Mowrey (Spanish tutor, 9) will be graduating with a 4.0 GPA from the Korbel School with a Master of Arts in International Development, with concentrations in Non-Profit Management and Latin America. She is a member of numerous honor societies, including: Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish) Honor Society, and Sigma Iota Rho (International Studies) Honor Society. Post-graduation, Kelli will be working at Community Resource Center, Inc. (CRC), a Denver nonprofit organization dedicated to building the capacity of Colorado's nonprofit sector, as the Colorado Grants Guide Coordinator.

Meet Our Graduating Tutors, continued

Yadira Rodriguez Bernal (Spanish tutor, 10) is graduating with an MA in International Security with a certificate in Homeland Security. She would like to gain more experience working in the areas of emergency management, terrorism, or drug policy. Yadira also wants to pursue a PhD in Political Science or Public Administration in order to be able to teach at the undergraduate or graduate level. She would like to work for an international organization like the United Nations, Organization of American States, or the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Melanie Stowell (French tutor, 11) will be graduating *cum laude* with a BA in French and Psychology with a minor in History. She will be leaving the USA for Edinburgh, Scotland this September to work on a Master's degree in Medical Anthropology. She is eager to spend a year abroad and do some traveling around Europe during her studies. She hopes to use her French language skills in some way in her future career. She says, "I have loved my time working at the CWLC and will be sad to leave it behind. I couldn't have asked for better coworkers and tutees!"

Trevor Turner (German tutor, 12) will be graduating from Korbel with a Master's in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration, with a concentration in Economic Development and Microfinance. Trevor will be serving in the Peace Corps for the next two years in Armenia, working in the area of Community and Youth Development. After the Peace Corps, he hopes to either work for the Federal Government or work in the Non-Profit Sector, specifically an NGO that works with Microfinance.

Xizhu Xiao (Japanese tutor, 13) will be graduating with a degree in International and Intercultural Communication. She is currently looking for jobs both in US and Hong Kong. She hopes that in the future, she will be able to work for an international public relations company as either a financial PR account executive or a technology PR account executive.

Congratulations to all of our graduating tutors!!



Kathy Mahnke (Director, 14) is retiring after four years at the CWLC. Kathy plans to spend time with her family, travel, and work on a book project. As the founding Director of the CWLC, Kathy set the tone for a bright future. The CWLC staff would like to thank her for her leadership and dedication to promoting language and culture education! We'll miss you, Kathy!