

# Center for World Languages and Cultures

## Newsletter

### Notes from the Director

In the words of one who has been fighting for peace for a lifetime:

*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.  
If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.*  
(Nelson Mandela)

I invite you to take President Mandela's words "to heart" and work with us here in the CWLC this year to promote world peace through the study of a language or languages. We continue to provide face-to-face classes in Bosnian, Hindi, and Tibetan. Alternatively, you may wish to join one of our Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) Programs in Korean, Portuguese, or Swahili.

And if neither of these options appeals to you, we hope that you will still consider visiting us anyway - to practice at one of our conversation tables or clubs and/or to work with one of our tutors. We currently offer tutoring in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

Learn more about these and other of our offerings and activities at our website <http://www.du.edu/ahss/cwlc/index.html> as well as in this edition of our newsletter.



And remember, in the words of another statesman and peace seeker:

*Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi  
člověkem.  
The more languages you know,  
the more you are human.*  
(Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk)

—Kathy Mahnke

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Editor: Bailey Gearhart

# World Language and Culture in the News

## Why Study a Foreign Language?

By Bailey Gearhart

### Winter Quarter Tutoring Hours:

<b>Arabic</b>	Mon 2-4 Wed 2-4
<b>Chinese</b>	Mon 1-2; 3-4 Tues 11-2 Thurs 11-2
<b>French</b>	Mon 10-2 Tues 12-4 Wed 12-2 Thurs 12-4
<b>German</b>	Mon 12-5 Tues 12-5 Wed 8:30-1:30
<b>Italian</b>	Mon 9-12; 2-5 Wed 9-11 Thurs 2-4 Fri 12-3
<b>Japanese</b>	Mon 1-2; 3-4 Tues 11-2 Thurs 11-2
<b>Latin</b>	Mon 1-2; 3-4 Tues 11-2 Thurs 11-2
<b>Russian</b>	Tues 10-12 Thurs 12-2
<b>Spanish</b>	Mon 10-5 Tues 9-6 Wed 9-6 Thurs 10-1; 2-5
<b>Spanish Convers. w/ Native Speaker</b>	Mon 10-12 Tues 2-5 Wed 1-3 Thurs 2-5

This drop-in tutoring takes place at the CWLC office, Sturm Hall, Room 201

As students advance through their college careers, they may ask themselves a critical question: why study a foreign language? There are plenty of reasons to study a foreign language, all of which, if the student persists, have the ability to positively affect the student's future.

As students prepare for graduation and the real world that lies outside of the university, they may come to find that being able to speak a second language is a valuable and marketable skill for employers. There are some careers where being bilingual or multilingual is essential, and there are others where having the ability to speak a foreign language may help the applicant stand out amongst the ever-growing sea of applicants for a particular job.

Studying a foreign language also indicates a student's openness to the prospect of learning about another culture, especially if that student has a working knowledge of the language, which demonstrates the student's dedication to the language as well.

An article from *Omniglot*, an online encyclopedia about languages and writing systems, indicates the many reasons behind people's motivations to study a foreign language. Some of these reasons include: emigration, work, travel, research, family and friends, linguistic interest, culture, connecting with one's ethnic roots, religion, and to keep one's mind healthy.

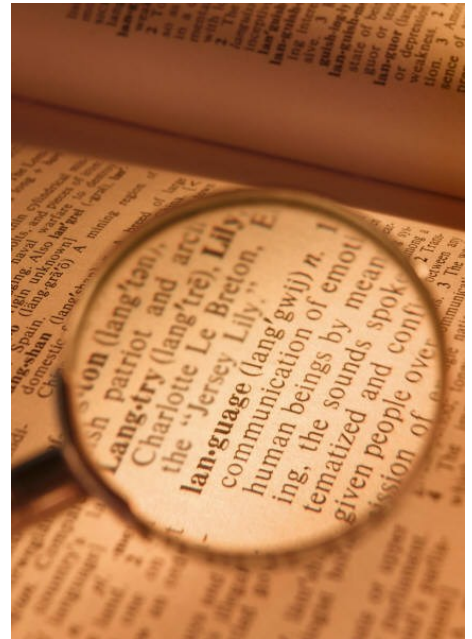
New research has even shown that bilingualism may help one's brain as it ages. Neuroscientists believe that the reserve brain power that is used for learning foreign languages may in the long run compensate for a loss of memory and thinking that comes naturally with age. This extra "brain power" that is used may protect the brain from deteriorating diseases such as Alzheimer's.

For further reading on the benefits of studying foreign languages, please visit the following articles:

"Why should I learn a foreign language?" <http://www.omniglot.com/language/why.htm>

["How speaking a second language can help your career"](#)

["Speaking more than one language could prevent Alzheimer's"](#)



## CWLC to Host Technology-Related Workshops

The CWLC is hosting four technology-related workshops this quarter. The first two are designed to provide an introduction to the new language learning software available at Penrose. Below are the details. Check them out!

Want to learn more about the features of the various online language learning programs offered via Penrose Library?

Adrienne Gonzales (CWLC) and Peggy Keeran (Penrose) will hold a workshop in which an overview of *Transparent Language Online*, *Livemocha*, *Mango*, *TellMeMore*, and *Pimsleur* will be provided. If there is time *SCOLA*, which offers international television and other types of programming, on trial until February 15, will be demonstrated. Come join us, and learn about these resources!

**The workshop will be held twice:**

**Tuesday—January 29**, 2-3pm, Center for World Languages and Cultures, Sturm Hall Room 201

**Wednesday—January 30**, 2-3pm, Center for World Languages and Cultures, Sturm Hall Room 201

If you have any questions about the workshop, please e-mail Adrienne Gonzales at [Adrienne.Gonzales@du.edu](mailto:Adrienne.Gonzales@du.edu) and Peggy Keeran at [Peggy.Keeran@du.edu](mailto:Peggy.Keeran@du.edu)

Our second set of workshops will provide an introduction to the use of the iPad in the language classroom. Rebecca Lynch, a language teacher who recently received her Master’s Degree in German from the University of Colorado, will be facilitating these workshops, which are scheduled to take place in Sturm 201 on the following dates and at the following times:

**February 19 — 1-2 pm**

**February 21 — 1-2 pm**

Stay tuned  
for more details!



### Upcoming Cultural Dates:

- Feb 4: Independence Day (Sri Lanka)*
- Feb 14: Valentine’s Day (US)*
- Feb 18: Independence Day (Nepal, Gambia)*
- Feb 24: Purim — Feast of Lots (Jewish)*
- Mar 3: Liberation Day (Bulgaria)*
- Mar 17: St. Patrick’s Day (US)*
- Mar 20: Spring Equinox*
- Mar 21: World Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination*
- Mar 26: First Day of Passover*



### Cherrington Corner

With the help of Penrose Library, the CWLC now has the most recent issues of international periodicals on display in Sturm 201.

There are currently 32 different magazines in 25 different languages. If you want the earlier issues of these magazines, please go to <http://library.du.edu> and click on the “Books, Journals and More” tab.

If you have any feedback or recommendations, please e-mail Peggy Keeran (Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian) at [peggy.keeran@du.edu](mailto:peggy.keeran@du.edu).

Come in to Sturm 201 and browse these awesome magazines!

# Tajikistan—Linguistic Melting Pot

By Joely Hildebrand

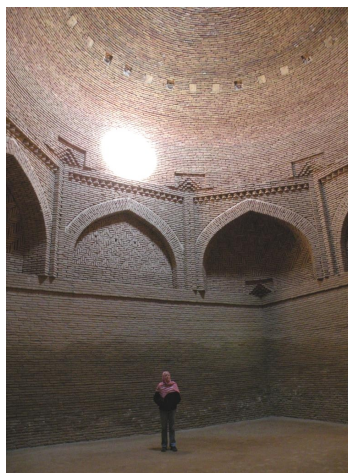
When I tell people that I spent the last four months in Tajikistan learning Farsi and Tajik (both are dialects of Persian), I usually wait for about “thirty” seconds while they try to figure out just where that “stan” country is. The five Central Asian republics are often grouped together as a single, mysterious region of the world that was once a part of the Silk Road from the exotic East. Actually, the suffix ‘-stan’ in the Persian language translates as ‘place of, land of, or country.’ So Tajikistan actually means “the land of Tajiks.” Tajikistan is a small country north of Afghanistan and west of China that is just slightly smaller than the state of Wisconsin. There are close to eight million Tajiks living within the official borders of Tajikistan, but there are also large Tajik Diasporas in the other Central Asian countries, most notably Uzbekistan, where unique forms of the Tajik (Persian) language have been evolving over the last several years. The people of Tajikistan are mostly Sunni Muslims, but there are also several groups in the Pamir Mountain area (Gorno-Badakhshan) called Ismailis that practice a particular form of Shia Islam.



My host family in Tajikistan was trilingual, code-switching between Tajik, Uzbek and Russian without missing a beat. Luckily, I also speak Russian and could follow most conversations. Given that Russian was the language of elites for about 70 years, it is still widely spoken in Tajikistan and many restaurants don’t even bother to publish a Tajik-language menu. Similarly, TV stations broadcast primarily in Russian and sometimes in Uzbek, with only

about two or three broadcasting in Tajik. So, you ask, what is the difference between Tajik and Farsi? Well, they are two dialects of the same language, which means that they are mutually intelligible, but there are significant differences in vocabulary and accent, not to mention that Tajik is written in a modified Cyrillic script, rather than the Arabic script. I found that Iranians and Tajiks think that they speak different languages if they haven’t had much interaction between dialects, but, in reality, I had few problems learning Farsi in class and speaking Tajik at home. The presence of Russian words in colloquial Tajik is probably the biggest hurdle for Farsi speakers. One friend even joked that my mix of Russian and Tajik made my everyday Tajik sound just like a native.

Whether your interest is the Soviet Union, Communism, Persian, Islam, Central Asia or the Middle-East, all you have to do is sit in a Tajik café long enough and you’ll find someone who will talk to you for hours. If you have any questions about life or language in Tajikistan, feel free to email the CWLC and they’ll put you in touch with me!



## DU Francoscope

DU Francoscope will be hosting their Annual Mardi Gras Party on Feb. 12th from 5-7pm at the CWLC, Sturm Hall Room 201.

It will be celebrated in the traditional New Orleans fashion with tons of food, beads, and masks.

Hope to see you there!

## Attention Students Studying Italian!

Any students who are studying Italian here at DU and who plan on studying abroad in Italy next year will have two opportunities to apply for grants from two community organizations. These two organizations are the Amici and the Dante Alighieri Society. For further information, please visit <http://www.du.edu/ahss/schools/langlit/programs/italian/amici>.

## El Silencio de Neto

The Spanish Program of the Department of Languages & Literatures is hosting a **free film** on Tuesday, Jan. 29th at 6pm in Sturm Hall Room 451.

The film is *El Silencio de Neto*, which is a political drama set in Guatemala during the U.S. funded government overthrow of the left-wing president Jacob Arbenz in 1954. This movie chronicles the life of a pre-adolescent boy who is growing up in such a difficult time. Come see this great free film!