

Notes from the Director

The Center for World Languages and Cultures (CWLC) is now officially one year old. Our start-up year has been marked by brisk growth. Our space, which was merely a set of drawings on a page several months ago, is now a thoughtfully designed suite of offices, meeting spaces, and tutoring rooms. Our furnishings have gone from bare bones (card tables and folding chairs in an empty room) to well-appointed and functional; our small staff of two has grown to three full-time and anywhere between ten and twenty part-time employees at any given time; and, we are now equipped with an impressive collection of desktops, laptops, iPads, Smartboards, and other technology assets. Undoubtedly, the greatest area of growth for all of us, however, has been in the number of initiatives that we have undertaken over the past twelve months. I invite you all to learn more about these initiatives as well as other topics of interest in the pages of this and future newsletters. Here we will update the DU community on CWLC activities, and we will treat other local, national, and international topics of interest related to the ever evolving and increasingly important domain of world languages and cultures. We invite your participation and your feedback. Come explore with us!



Kathy Mahnke (left) is the Director of the Center for World Languages and Cultures (above).

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Quick Links:

[CWLC Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Join our Listserv](#)

Contact us at:

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Fall Quarter Tutoring Hours:

Arabic	Mon 2-4
Chinese	Mon 3-5 Wed 4-6
French	Mon 9:45-11:45 Tues 2-4 Wed 9:45-11:45 Thurs 11:45-1:45
German	Mon 1-3 Thurs 3-5
Italian	Wed 3-5
Japanese	Mon 1-5 Wed 4-6 Thurs 3-5
Latin	Mon 3-5 Wed 4-6
Russian	Tues 4-6 Thurs 4-6
Spanish	Mon 1-3, 6-8 Tues 1-3 Wed 2-4 Thurs 1-5

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

Directed Independent Language Study (DILS)

DILS is an independent language study program designed to give students the opportunity to study languages that are currently not available at DU. Flexibility is one of the key components, responding to the student's needs and language capabilities. The DILS Program provides mentoring and materials to support students in their language study. Each DILS student is assigned a coach, a language partner, and an outside examiner.

DILS is open to qualified undergraduate and graduate DU students. It is designed for students who do not require academic credit, need a flexible schedule, and are highly self-motivated.

DILS courses in Swahili and Korean are scheduled to begin in January. Other languages are possible as well!

For more information concerning the details and dates of this program, go to [CWLC](#) or contact [Maria Lewis](#).

Summer Language Institute (SLI)

Planning for the second Summer Language Institute (SLI) is well under way. Each session of three weeks provides one quarter's worth of language study, allowing participants to complete one year's worth of language study in nine weeks. Class instruction is complemented by daily interactive sessions with language partners (Living Lab), cultural events, guest speakers and presentations, field trips, and other unique extracurricular activities. This is the perfect opportunity to prepare for the graduate language proficiency exam, fulfill the undergraduate language requirement, advance your career, or fulfill your dream of learning another language! 2012 language offerings are Beginning Arabic, Beginning Chinese, Beginning French, and Intermediate Spanish.

For more information, go to the [CWLC Website](#).

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

The weekend of November 18-20, Denver will be flooded with language professors and enthusiasts from all over the world at the annual ACTFL conference. The Center for World Languages and Cultures will have a table at the World Languages Expo at ACTFL and is helping to sponsor attendance by approximately forty language professors from the Front Range area.

The convention features over 600 educational sessions on topic areas such as: Assessment, Culture, Curriculum, Literature, Methods/Techniques, Advocacy and Policy Issues, Professional Development, Research, Standards, and Technology. For more information, go to the [ACTFL Website](#).

In Battle to Save Chinese, It's Test vs. Test

In China, students' increasing interest in learning English has some concerned that their Chinese language abilities have suffered. In response, the Ministry of Education is developing a new exam that will test students' listening, reading, speaking and writing skills in Chinese, which officials say is intended to improve students' Chinese-language abilities and increase their interest in studying their native language.

The test comes amid worrying signs of declining language proficiency in China. More than 30% of students failed a ministry-sponsored test administered last year to evaluate Beijing college students' language skills, according to Xinhua, a Chinese news agency. Many language instructors and others worry that young people in China are neglecting their mother tongue as technological advances like cellphones and computers have greatly reduced the need to hand-write Chinese characters— of which there are tens of thousands.

Read the whole article in [The Wall Street Journal](#).

Survival Speech

While the majority of soldiers presently in Afghanistan have not undertaken grueling language study, they have, fortunately, received a few basic and vital language and culture classes.

While deployed for a year with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Specialist Christopher Campbell attested to the fact that knowing culture was as important as having some language skills. "The cultural awareness training opened my eyes to a broader perspective. I learned what I should do or not do to give [the Afghans] the respect they deserve," said Campbell.

Read the whole article in [Language Magazine](#).

The core staff of the CWLC: Adrienne Gonzales (left), Foreign Language Technology Specialist and Maria Lewis (right), Officer Manager.



Upcoming Cultural Dates:

Nov 18: Independence Day

(Latvia)

Nov 24: Thanksgiving (US)

Dec 1: World AIDS Day (UN)

Dec 2: Independence Day (Laos)

Dec 5: Ashura (Islamic)

Dec 5: St. Nicholas Day (Int'l)

Dec 8: Bodhi Day-Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist)

Dec 12: Virgin of Guadalupe

(Mexico)

Dec 13: Santa Lucia Day

(Sweden)

Dec 16-25: Las Posadas (Mexico)

Dec 25: Christmas

Dec 21-28: Hanukkah (Jewish)

Dec 26: Boxing Day

Dec 26-Jan 1: Kwanzaa (African American)

Latin American Studies

Association (LASA):

Join LASA at the weekly *Charlas*, Tuesdays at 5 pm at Jordan's Bistro and Pub. The *Charlas* are informal chats targeted at Latin American issues and areas of interest. They provide an ideal means for individuals to practice their Spanish-speaking skills in a relaxed environment, either in preparation for language requirement exams or for the mere joy of the language. There will be beginner-level to native-level speakers.

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 5 pm-6 pm

Location: Jordan's Bistro and Pub

Contact: [Maria Rivera](#)

Local Community News

Volunteer:

Volunteer with the English Language Center's (ELC) Conversation Program.

It connects native English speakers from DU with international students learning English at DU's ELC. International students can practice English and learn more about American culture; American students can learn more about another culture.

Commitment:

Mondays and/or Thursdays:
2:15-3:15 pm

No prep necessary—just show up!

For more information contact:

[Kanoë Wentworth](#)



www.leehansen.com

Arabic Conversation Table:

Professor Maha Foster desires to start an Arabic conversation table, led by students, beginning in the Winter Quarter. This will be a place for students to maintain and improve their language skills. Participants will take turns choosing an article that the group will read and discuss.

If you are interested, contact [Maha Foster](#).



Happenings at the CWLC (pictured above): Professor Frederic's FSEM class consults via Skype with South African professors about the Apartheid (top right). The Center for Judaic Studies and the Department of Languages and Literatures sponsor a Hebrew-Arabic Film night (bottom right).



Spanish Club

As the quarter nears its end, the DU Spanish club is still hard at work at creating new and fun events to promote the Spanish language. In addition, the public relation and community outreach committees are creating various outreach programs in local high schools, middle schools, and Spanish-speaking communities to set up tutoring for students who need help in Spanish or Spanish speakers who need help learning English. If you are interested in any of these activities, join the Spanish club and gain experience in volunteering and insight into Spanish-speaking world. Meetings are currently being held in Sturm Hall, room 201, Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. [Spanish Club Website](#)

French Club

The first French Club event was a party called Bienvenue à DU, where club members provided various cheeses, grapes, baguettes, and sparkling cider and introduced the officers and faculty members of the French Department to the members of the club and those interested in joining.

Every other Friday, the French Club meets at the Starbucks on Evans and Franklin at 11 am. At these events, one professor from the French department leads a discussion with students who are interested in improving their French speaking skills.

Twenty members also ventured downtown for a group viewing of the play "The Liar" based on the French play, "Le menteur."

At the end of the quarter, the club sponsored a holiday party and film viewing in the CWLC on Tuesday, November 15 at 6pm. [Francoscope Facebook](#)