

Notes from the Director

Winter, with its limited hours of daylight and its chilly temps, is traditionally a quiet time, a time for reflection and recharging. Here in the CWLC, while we are taking time this winter for reflection and planning, our office seems to be as busy as ever. This is in large part due to the wonderful work of our dedicated students and staff. Our language tutors, now offering help with Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish have been busy since the first day of the quarter. We also have 11 students studying with us in the first pilot of our independent language study courses in Swahili and Korean, and we continue to work to refine our language placement and proficiency testing programs. To add to our repertoire of language learning aids, we've begun a process of testing and reviewing language study apps (thanks so much, Matthew Scarborough for your work on this!), and we invite you to check out the ones we've included in this quarter's newsletter and let us know what you think of them.

Adding to these goings on, we are beginning to think about future activities. We've started planning a class in Bosnian for DU students who will be studying and working there in the summer, and we are working on an independent study course in Portuguese. We've also begun an office mini-remodel, which should provide more private space for tutoring and for the administrative work of the office.

We like the hustle and bustle that this winter quarter is bringing our way. We hope that you do, too, and that, in addition to reading our news in these pages, you'll come and visit us here in the Center to experience first-hand some of what we are about. Happy 2012 one and all!

-Dr. Kathy Mahnke



Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2012

Inside this issue:

<i>Context of Learning</i>	2
<i>Language Learning Apps</i>	2
<i>Australia Includes Sign Language in National Curriculum</i>	3
<i>Basa Bali</i>	3
<i>Science Grows on Acquiring New Language</i>	3
<i>Japanese Anime Club</i>	4
<i>Reasons to Learn a Language</i>	4

Quick Links:

[CWLC Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Join our Listserv](#)

Contact us at:

Sturm Hall 201
2000 E. Asbury Ave.
Denver, CO 80208

303.871.4601

cwlc@du.edu

Winter Quarter Tutoring Hours:

Arabic	Wed 3-5 Thurs 3-5
Chinese	Mon 2-4 Wed 2-4 Thurs 1-3
French	Mon 10-12 Tues 2-5:30 Wed 4-6 Thurs 10-12
German	Mon 2-4 Wed 2-4
Italian	Tues 4-6 Wed 8-10
Japanese	Mon 2-4 Wed 2-4
Latin	Mon 2-4 Wed 2-4 Thurs 1-3
Russian	Tues 12:30-2:30 Wed 10-12
Spanish	Mon 11-1:15, 2-5:45 Tues 2-4 Wed 12-2 Thurs 2-4

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

Context of Learning and Second Language Fluency in French

In a study published in 2004, an analysis was conducted of three different language learning environments in order to analyze whether one plays a more prominent role in language learning than the others. The three environments are as follows: study abroad (SA), home institutionalized context (AH), and intensive domestic immersion (IM).

The results showed that students who have studied abroad are not necessarily the ones who make the greatest strides in oral proficiency development. In fact, in this study, students who had taken part in intensive domestic immersion programs actually showed greater gains in several significant measures. Notable among these were the number of words and the rate of spoken speech as well as speech fluency.

Read the whole article in the journal, [Studies in Second Language Acquisition](#).

Language Learning Apps

Using the iPad and the iPhone to bolster language acquisition and sharpen skills may seem like a straightforward process—acquire technology, purchase application, learn language—but what practical use does it have for students of various languages, particularly those students taking language courses in higher education settings?

The vast array of applications, ranging from free vocabulary builders to entire language teaching suites, may present a troubling and expensive dilemma to the college-level language learner. The Center for World Languages and Cultures set out to get a greater sense of what apps prove practical, innovative, and useful to this particular kind of student. Focus on the following app reviews is placed squarely on how the app will facilitate formal language learning, while always keeping in mind the kind of rigorous instruction and homework burden students face. The goal is to discover how the various applications reinforce and expand lessons learned in formal class settings.

Name: iAnnotate

Developer: Aji

Price: \$9.99

Type: Productivity, PDF

Summary: The premier annotation and PDF productivity app, iAnnotate, is a must-have for anyone who uses an iPad as a reader and research tool. The features of this app are too many to list, but its ability to make clear annotations, convert websites into PDF, and connect to external locations like email and Dropbox make iAnnotate a versatile tool for instructors and students alike. The price might scare some people off, but the rewards of having a portable library (simply scan your documents, books, and research into PDF and load onto your iPad) are invaluable.

More summaries on the last page.

Australia Includes Sign Language in National Curriculum

A new report from an Australian government authority has resulted in Australia adding more than a dozen languages to its official curriculum. The plan strives to have students spend 5% of class time studying another language during their first few years of school. Then, it would increase to 8% at 7 or 8 years old. Mandarin and Italian would be among the first languages added under the new plan.

Other languages being considered are Hindi and classical languages, as well as Australian Sign Language (Auslan).

Read the whole article in the [International Business Times](#).

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” —Ludwig Wittgenstein

Basa Bali

Balinese is a rapidly declining language, with only one million speakers left and a script that is already endangered. BASAbali.org is a non-profit, US-based organization that is bringing together experts in the Balinese language and language learning software in order to develop tools for learning Balinese. This particular language has declined for a multitude of reasons, including Bali's independence and globalization.

The Balinese language does not have a complex grammatical structure; however, the fact that there are different registers, depending on the situation, makes it a difficult language to learn. Thus, Transparent Language, a language software development company, has stepped forward to offer some tools to try to capture the intricacies of Balinese.

Science Grows on Acquiring New Language

Researchers have recently found that the window for learning a new language does not actually rapidly decline after age 7, nor does it close after puberty. Research conducted over the past five years at the University of Washington, Pennsylvania State University, and other colleges found that the time frame may be more flexible than first thought. Additionally, learning multiple languages aides in and increases the ability in other types of learning.

Read the whole article in [Education Week](#).

Upcoming Cultural Dates:

Feb. 8: Tu b'Shvat (Jewish);

Parinirvana (Buddhist)

Feb. 11: National Foundation Day (Japan)

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday

(Protestant, Roman Catholic)

March 4: World Day of Prayer

March 7: Lent Begins (Orthodox Christians)

March 8: Purim (Jewish)

March 17: St. Patrick's Day (Ireland, US)

March 21: Naw Ruz (Baha'i, Persia)

March 25: Feast of Annunciation (Christian)

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:
3:20-4:20 pm

No prep necessary—just show up!

For more information contact:

[Kanoë Wentworth](#)

“The sixth sick sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick”—
toughest tongue twister in English

Arabic Conversation Table:

Professor Maha Foster desires to start an Arabic conversation table, led by students, beginning this 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](#).

Japanese Anime Club

The University of Denver Anime Club's mission is to raise awareness of and appreciation for Japanese animation, and for contemporary Japanese culture at large, within the organization, and within the greater University of Denver community. The Club has been in continuous operation since 2003, and remains an open environment where people of all walks of life are welcome.

Meetings are Saturdays at 4 Pm in the JMac classroom. They involve watching anime and casual conversations. They do, however, strive to be an academic organization as well, with roundtable discussions and presentations planned for Winter 2012 on topics ranging from Symbolism in Anime to Gender and Sexuality in Japan.

In recent years, they have also developed a close relationship with the Colorado School of Mines Anime Club, and have a few joint meetings planned, both on Saturdays in JMac and during their usual meeting time Wednesday evenings at the CSM campus in Golden.

Winter Quarter promises to be a big time for the University of Denver Anime Club, as preparations are underway for Anime Wasabi, the younger of Denver's two anime conventions, with whom they will be actively involved this March.

The Club welcomes all levels of familiarity from those who draw fan-made doujinshi to newcomers with a passing interest. For more information, contact [Matt Frisk](#) or [Lia Paget](#) or stop in for a meeting. We hope to see you there!

Did you know that English is NOT the most commonly spoken language in the world?...reasons to study a language at DU:

1. Increase your ability to communicate with a broader network
2. Make yourself indispensable
3. Be more sensitive to cultural differences
4. Compete for jobs abroad
5. Gain independence
6. Improve memory
7. Enrich your travel experiences
8. Achieve a new goal or dream
9. Be more comfortable dealing with unfamiliar situations

To learn more benefits, [click here](#).

Continued from pg. 2...Language Learning Apps

Name: Al Maurid al Qareeb

Developer: Paragon Technologies GmbH/Digital Future LTD

Price: \$14.99/\$44.99

Type: Arabic-English Dictionary

Summary: Made for the English-speaking student of Arabic, these two apps are essentially feature-rich Arabic-English dictionary programs. The cheaper version has 33,000 entries while the larger and more expensive version has 95,000 words. Features include recorded voice entries made by native speakers, flash-card mode (create your own Arabic flashcards!), and Arabic keyboard support. The larger version contains a vast array of terms from various studies (business, art, science, etc.), advanced search methods and generally more polished appearance than the smaller version. Don't rush to get rid of your Hans Wehr dictionaries, Arabic students! This app should be used as a reference tool for late beginner and intermediate students.

Name: ConjuVerb Spanish Verb Conjugation Helper

Developer: Codepoet

Price: Free

Type: Spanish Conjugation Guide

Summary: Most students of romance languages have Barron's "501 Verbs" series. Well imagine that supremely useful text expanded to 600 words and available on your iPad, gratis. Simply search for the desired verb in English or Spanish and immediately access the indicative, subjunctive, and imperative moods, with all tenses for each of the moods. Use the customizable flashcards mode to prepare yourself for quizzes and exams. Free and easy to use, this app is an essential for the beginner—advanced intermediate Spanish learner.

Name: Flashcards Deluxe

Developer: Orangeapple.com

Price: \$3.99

Type: Study Assistant

Summary: Flashcards—they're numerous, they're messy, and they're useful for study. Enter Flashcards Deluxe, a fairly straightforward application that allows users to create flashcards on the go or on the computer. Upload and share your sets (or download any of the over 4 million pre-existing sets) with classmates and students, enter quiz mode and find your strengths and weaknesses and transfer cards effortlessly between you iOS devices. Especially helpful for language learners, Flashcards Deluxe is a relatively inexpensive and feature-rich app that can easily bolster your study efforts. The "lite" version can be downloaded for free.

German Club at their end of Fall Quarter party:

