

### Notes from the Director

The Center for World Languages and Cultures has welcomed spring 2012 with a new crop of students. Twenty-two people from the DU community are studying introductory Bosnian language and culture with us this spring. We are pleased that the response to this, our first offering in this “ouch” language for native speakers of English, has been so strong. Bosnian is classified by the Modern Language Association as a difficult “less commonly taught” language, but we hope to make it a common offering here at DU.

In this issue of our newsletter, you can learn more about other less commonly taught languages as well as about current language learning trends for all world languages offered at US colleges and universities. You will also find new reviews of language learning apps as well as our overview of community news.

Speaking of which—if you’d like to promote a club or an upcoming event, or if you have a general announcement related to world language (s) and cultures, we invite you to submit it to us for inclusion here in our newsletter. We’ll help you spread the word!

In closing notes for this issue, I would like to extend a special thank you to Miriam Townsend. Miriam, a graduate student in Korbels, has taken on the bulk of the duties related to the production of this newsletter since its launch last fall. She has put together our initial template, solicited articles and other input from the community, served as our in-house photographer, and researched and authored most of our articles. This will be Miriam’s last newsletter, as she is moving on to new challenges and adventures.

We’ll miss you Miriam, and we are ever so grateful to you for all that you have done.

—Kathy Mahnke

Happy  
Spring!



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#### Inside this issue:

<i>Directed Independent Language Study</i>	2
<i>Less Commonly Taught Languages</i>	3
<i>Status of Language Learning in the United States</i>	3
<i>Language App Reviews</i>	4

#### Quick Links:

[CWLC Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Join our Listserv](#)

#### Contact us at:

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**Spring Quarter Tutoring Hours:**

<b>Arabic</b>	Wed 1-3
	Tues 1-3
	Thurs 1-3
<b>Chinese</b>	Tues 12-2; 4-6
	Wed 2-4
	Thurs 12-2; 4-6
<b>French</b>	Mon 8:30-10:45
	1-4
	Tues 2:30-5:30
	Wed 8:30-10:45
<b>German</b>	Thurs 12:30-4
	Wed 2-4
<b>Italian</b>	Wed 2-4
	Mon 8-10
<b>Japanese</b>	Wed 3-5
	Tues 12-2; 4-6
	Wed 2-4
<b>Latin</b>	Thurs 12-2; 4-6
	Tues 12-2; 4-6
	Wed 2-4
<b>Russian</b>	Thurs 12-2; 4-6
	Tues 3-5
	Thurs 3:30-5:30
<b>Spanish</b>	Thurs 10-2:30
	Wed 2-4
	Tues 10-5
	Mon 2-5

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

## Directed Independent Language Study Program Pilot

The CWLC recently piloted two Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) courses. With help from funds made available by the Office of Internationalization, we were able to provide instruction for 13 students, 7 studying Swahili and 6 studying Korean. In addition to spending 7 to 10 hours each week in independent study of a specially designed syllabus and text, each student took part in one-on-one and small group meetings for two hours per week with a language partner. Our winter quarter language partners were Isabella Sauve from Kenya, a fluent speaker of Swahili, who holds a DU master's degree in International and Intercultural Communication, and Kang-uk Jung, a native speaker of Korean who is currently completing his PhD in DU's Korbel School of International Studies. To evaluate the effectiveness of their studies, our DILS students took midterm and final exams, which were administered by outside evaluators. Our Swahili evaluator was Professor Alwiya Omar, Director of the Swahili Flagship Program at Indiana University. Our Korean evaluator was Professor Sangbok Kim, who teaches Korean at CU Boulder.

During the spring quarter, we continue to offer both beginning Swahili and beginning Korean. In addition, we have added an intermediate level course in Korean. As we work to fine-tune these two language offerings, we are beginning development of a DILS course in Portuguese. Courses in Hindi and Farsi are being contemplated for the future as well. We encourage anyone interested in these or other DILS offerings to complete an application/interest form, which can be found at the [CWLC website](#). Further information is also available at: 303-871-4601.



## What are Less Commonly Taught Languages?

The broad definition of a less commonly taught language is any language other than English, French, German, and Spanish. However, according to a study conducted at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, there are four subgroups of less commonly taught languages. They range from the “principal less commonly taught languages” of Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian to the “rarely (or never) taught languages,” primarily African languages. In 2009, the Modern Language Association (MLA) conducted a study and found that compared with the same study conducted in 2006, there was an increase of 20.8% in less commonly taught languages being studied in the United States. Of these less commonly taught languages, 35 are indigenous to Europe, 37 to the Middle East or Africa, 41 to Asia or the Pacific, and 35 to North or South America.

To read more about the study conducted by the University of Minnesota, click [here](#).

## Status of Language Learning the United States

In 2006, the Modern Language Association (MLA) conducted a study to gauge the status of foreign language learning in the United States. They then performed the same study again in 2009, with quite different results. They found that in those three years, the number of students studying a foreign language increased by 6.6%. It seems that “students are clearly recognizing the importance of learning other languages as we become a more global society,” according to Rosemary G. Feal, the Executive Director of the MLA.

Those languages with the largest percentage increases are Korean, American Sign Language (ASL), Chinese, Portuguese, and Japanese. Not surprisingly, Arabic enrollments have increased by 46.3% since 2006. Additionally, students studying the Less Commonly Taught Languages grew by 20.8%, following a gain of 31.2% between 2002 and 2006.

Interestingly, according to the same study conducted in 2002, there are regional trends to language study as well. Italian and Hebrew are primarily studied in the Northeast; Asian languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese are prevalent on the Pacific Coast; and Spanish and Arabic are fairly evenly distributed throughout the country.

Read both studies by clicking [2002 study](#) and [2006 study](#).

### Upcoming Cultural Dates:

April 14: Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Sri Lanka)

April 16: Emancipation Day (African-American, US)

April 19: Yom Hashoah/ Holocaust Memorial Day (Jewish)

April 23: St. George's Day (English)

April 30: Beltane (Celtic)

May 5: Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)

May 9: Victory Day (Russia)

May 17: Ascension Day (Christian)

May 18: Israel's Independence Day

May 19: Malcolm X's Birthday

May 23: Declaration of the Baha'i (Baha'i)

May 25: Corpus Christi (American, Roman Catholic)

May 27: Shavuot (Jewish)

May 29: Ascension of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

### Arabic Conversation Table:

Professor Maha Foster hosts an Arabic conversation table, led by students, every Thursday, from 10-11 in Sturm Hall, Room 303. This is a place for students to maintain and improve their language skills. Participants take turns choosing an article that the group will read and discuss.

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

## Local Community News

### Language Learning Apps

#### 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](#)

#### LASA:

Join LASA at the weekly *Charlas*, Tuesdays at 5 pm at the Cyber Café. 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 are beginner-level to native-level speakers.

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 5 pm-6 pm

Location: Cyber Café in the Korbel School of International Studies

Contact: [Maria Rivera](#)

**Name:** Chinese Writer for iPad

**Developer:** Language Systems

**Price:** Free

**Type:** Chinese Script Instructor

**Summary:**

Popup Chinese developed this simple and free app as a beginner's guide to writing Chinese symbols. This fun app comes with 25 character lessons that teach you strokes with simple animation. This app can quickly become addicting; luckily you can unlock a further 1,000 characters by signing up with a free account with Popup Chinese. While it's not recommended to use this as a primary language acquisition tool, it certainly can teach beginners and those interested in possibly learning Chinese the very basics in Chinese script.

**Name:** OnLive Desktop

**Developer:** OnLive Inc.

**Price:** Free

**Type:** Virtual PC

**Summary:**

OnLive Desktop allows users to run a cloud-based Windows PC desktop directly from your device. Simply sign up at OnLive's website and log-in on your iPad to use programs like Word, Excel, and Internet Explorer. OnLive will save all your documents to their cloud server for use on any device. This app is great for managing and creating documents on the go in multiple languages.

**Name:** Google Translate

**Developer:** Google Inc.

**Price:** Free

**Type:** Translation

**Summary:**

Of the many free translations apps on the market, Google's has the most languages and features. Besides being able to translate text between 64 languages, Google Translate can translate voice in 17 languages and reads your translations aloud in 24 languages! A useful tool for quick, on-the-go translation of simple phrases and words, this app is useful for travelers and language students in need of a lightweight and well-supported app.

**Name:** Office<sup>2</sup> HD

**Developer:** Byte<sup>2</sup>

**Price:** \$7.99

**Type:** Document Editor

**Summary:**

Office HD allows you to create and edit a number of documents from the Microsoft Office family, on-the-go. While useful for viewing and editing documents, the app fails to be as useful as it could be because of the difficulties formatting documents and exporting documents in the original format. So until Microsoft Office releases an official Office app (which is rumored to be on the way), Office<sup>2</sup> HD might be your best bet for on-the-go iPad document management.