This summer, the Center for Language Education (CLE) underwent a historic change—closure of the Language Lab on the 5th floor of Krieger as of June 1st, 2013, and the creation of a renovated, central physical location for CLE faculty and infrastructure.

This decision arose in light of restructuring and enhancement of IT, the implementation of IT services that were previously handled by the Language Lab, and the availability of more modern technologies for language learning. As a result, the need for a central physical space with dedicated workstations, audio, video, etc. previously provided by the Language Lab became out of date and is replaced by a more distributed, up-to-date infrastructure of web-based IT tools, Blackboard, and so forth.

The change materialized even more quickly than originally imagined, though it was a sensible path forward. A very broad spectrum of administration and hard work was handled in a timely manner, and I appreciate the support provided over the years to

(continued on page 2)
**The First LCTL Conference Hosted by CLE: A Great Success**

A scholarly event entitled the “Conference on Less Commonly Taught Languages for Academic Cooperative Programs in Maryland” was held Saturday, May 11th at the Johns Hopkins University. Hopkins participates in the Academic Cooperative Program, whereby students are permitted to attend classes at each other’s institutions and transfer credits. In the Baltimore area, the universities with language programs involved in the exchange include: Towson University, Loyola University, UMBC, Goucher College, and Johns Hopkins.

Since our students regularly take advantage of the co-op program, it was a good idea to make a connection between language educators among the co-op universities and form something of a Language Consortium. To get the ball rolling, the one-day LCTL Conference was initiated with invitation to all LCTL educators from associated universities. A total of 37 people, including Chairs of language departments from these universities, gave presentations introducing their language programs, history, challenges, opportunities, and paths forward. We held a cluster meeting for individual language programs, which in turn continued on to dinner at the Hopkins Club. Faculty in each language area shared common concerns and learned from one another. They also created plans for future events to keep us connected and collaborating, including a speech contest, food and dance events, and singing contests, to name a few. We will meet again at the end of Summer 2014 to report the outcome of the discussion and the progress of such collaborative activities.

**A New Home for CLE**

(Cont’d from page 1)

the Language Lab and the important contributions from everyone in this important transition. I hope everyone benefits from the change and that our future pursuits in language learning are stronger than ever.

The 5th floor of Krieger space was converted to offices for CLE faculty and staff. In the last two decades, CLE did not have a focal point for personnel administration.

Offices for various language programs were scattered on the 1st and ground floors, many without windows in tired, dark corners of Krieger, some subject to occasional flooding. The Director’s office and administrators’ offices were situated outside the Language Lab on the 5th floor of Krieger, and there was little hope of daily face-to-face interaction among faculty. The renovation of the 5th floor offered an opportunity for a critical mass of language faculty and related resources in one place.

All CLE faculty are now in newly created offices in the Krieger 5th floor “penthouse.” We see each other every day and have regular opportunity for productive exchange. I truly look forward to increased unity and coherence that almost certainly benefit from the change in physical space, helping us to provide the best possible education

(Cont’d on page 11)
STUDY ABROAD NEWS

Exchange Program with University of Tokyo is Going Well

For the Academic Year 2013-2014, 2nd Year Japanese student, Ms. Allyson Roberts, went to University of Tokyo, and two students, Ms. Dong Sun and Mr. Kai Tamura, came to Hopkins. Both Ms. Sun and Mr. Tamura have been introduced in 1st Year Japanese and started to make connections and friends here at Hopkins already. I hope everyone has a great year at each institution!

Eight Students to Study Chinese in Hopkins-in-Nanjing (HIN) this Fall

This year, we sent a total of 9 students to the HIN program. They are: Ms. Kathryn Botto, Ms. Heather Feng, Ms. Elizabeth Fortson, Ms. Julian Fox, Ms. Hana Glasberb, Ms. Stella Kim, Ms. Christina Meyer, Ms. Ariel Multak, and Ms. Dakota Walker. Have a wonderful time in Nanjing!

ESL Summer 2013: INTENSIVE!

The Summer 2013 ESL program kicked-off its 5-week intensive program on July 2nd. We had a dynamic group of 49 students from 17 different countries. Despite cultural differences and a new environment, the students all grew comfortable around each other and set off on a grand summer adventure together. In budding new friendships, students worked to help each other with language learning and communication skills. However, their language learning was definitely not restricted to the classroom setting this summer. By exploring Baltimore, Washington D.C. and New York, many students took their English training out to the biggest cities in this country and immersed themselves in American culture.

The ESL staff also spent time with students outside of the classroom at Lunch Conversations twice a week. Whether the topic of conversation were movies, customs, or fears, the Lunch Conversations group allowed many of them to express their thoughts and by doing so learn from one another, staff included!

The ESL Summer Class of 2013 came to a close on August 2nd at the certificate ceremony. Students and faculty streamed into the Second Decade Society (SDS) room to receive their certificates of completion and enjoy an international potluck!

To all of the Summer 2013 students, you all showed a great passion and enthusiasm for applying and sharpening your skills and from everyone here at CLE, we know that this will take you far, wherever you choose to go in the future. We’re honored that you spent your summer here with us at Hopkins and we hope you will keep in touch with us, whether it be through Facebook or email. Once again, congratulations, and thank you for making this Summer 2013 an amazing and intense one!

NEW FACES

We are very excited and fortunate to have Ms. Yi-Chen Chiang join our Chinese Language Program. Ms. Chiang, formerly of Goucher College, received her M.A. from the Teacher’s College at Columbia University, New York, in 2009. Before joining Goucher, she taught at the University of Rhode Island as a Chinese lecturer and at Columbia University as a Teaching Assistant. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Chiang, and we all hope that you will be with us for many more years.

We are happy to recruit a wonderful new Academic Program Assistant this year to CLE, Ms. Julia Friedrich, who graduated from Hood College in 2012 majoring in English and Philosophy with a concentration in Creative Writing. Julia exudes professionalism and maturity and provides a great impression to CLE visitors. Please join me in welcoming Julia!

Ms. Anamaria Penagos joined CLE as a student employee this summer. She offered tremendous help during the CLE 5th floor renovation as well as with the Summer ESL Program. Although Anamaria will leave CLE soon to concentrate more on her Public Health studies, please join me in thanking her for all of the hard work she has given CLE in this short time. Good luck, Anamaria!


**RUSSIAN NEWS**

**BY OLYA SAMILENKO**

As usual my enterprising Russian students were far from idle this summer. After receiving a CLE grant, Russian major Frances Grinfeld headed for St. Petersburg on the Bard-Smolny four-week program. In the photo she strikes a picturesque pose against the backdrop of Peterhof, Peter the Great’s modest “villa” on the shores of the Finnish Bay. By the looks of her completely dry outfit she seems to have avoided stepping on one of his secret trick fountains hidden in Peter’s front lawn. Senior William “Vasya” Szymanski, who is minoring in Russia, did a very interesting internship in the former soviet republic of Georgia located in the magnificent Caucasus mountains. Traditionally the Georgians were fierce saber-rattling warriors who fought the Russian occupiers tooth and nail, but they were also amazingly hospitable and warm to guests. According to Vasya he was treated like a prince. Doesn’t the food look scrumptious?

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**STUDY ABROAD TRIP TO ST. PETERSBURG**

**BY FRANCES GRINFELD**

My name is Frances Grinfeld and I am a senior at Johns Hopkins University. Over this past summer, I attended the Bard-Smolny Summer Language Intensive Program for four weeks. Overall, I had a wonderful and educational experience with a few minor bumps in the road. One of my favorite parts of the trip was how far I could stretch the money I was awarded through the CLE department. Food was very cheap, and I was even able to attend the Russian ballet, Swan Lake, with the help of my scholarship money. Each day was filled with around 4 to 5 hours of Russian-only conversation. Moreover, I attended excursions every week and weekend. The excursions definitely broadened my understanding of Russian history and culture. My favorite excursion was to the Dostoevsky Apartment Museum. I really enjoyed comparing his personal history with his wonderful literature and poetry. The flaws within the program were my location and the lack of organization. It took most students, including myself, between 40 minutes to an hour and a half to get to class each day. Moreover, students were spread out between three major islands in the city; thus, forming friendships was highly based on location. The second issue stemmed from the absence of my grammar teacher. Although it is understandable for a teacher to become ill, I did not appreciate that there were no substitutes or alternative activities planned for students. The program should have been more prepared. However, in the end, I do not regret my decision to study in Saint Petersburg. The city was gorgeous, lively and filled with amazing architecture and a rich history. I was able to practice Russian, eat amazing Russian/Ukrainian food, and meet some incredibly nice people within the program.

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**MY EXPERIENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

**BY WILLIAM SZYMANSKI**

Over the summer, I worked for the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies based in Tbilisi. I stayed both at a bed and breakfast, as well as some time with a man named Guram and his family. The first 2 weeks were simply filled with culture shock! I was eating 5 course meals 3 to 4 times a day. The loyalty and hospitality could hardly be matched anywhere else. After several weeks, I was an “American son” and “American brother” to many different families. The Georgian “supra” was unlike anything I have ever been at in my entire life. A feast with many courses of khinkali, khachapuri and mtsvadi (shashlik) filled the table surrounded by goblets of red Saperavi wine; with the host master, “tamada”, controlling the story telling and toasts. Even though I couldn’t understand everything said, I could feel the passion and humor as the Georgians talked. All in all, I have many experiences and stories from the trip, but the phenomenal loyalty and hospitality of the people are something I aspire to take with me as I journey back to the states.
Warm Greetings and Warm Welcome to All Students of Arabic!

As you embark on your learning experience with Arabic, we welcome you to your “University Sanctuary” at Johns Hopkins University. In the Arabic tradition a “university campus” is called a “University Sanctuary.” This symbolizes the highly noble and spiritual aspect of pursuing knowledge and learning.

To the returning students of Arabic in their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of Arabic, we warmly salute you since you symbolize continuity and persistence in your noble pursuit of a higher level of proficiency in Arabic. We strongly believe that your pursuing learning towards a higher level of proficiency in Arabic will certainly enrich your lives and pay off in many ways.

To the new enrollees in Arabic in their first year, we warmly welcome you to the Arabic language family. We consider you a special group of pioneers who take the road less travelled towards a liberal and humanitarian education that will enrich your lives and connect you positively to the language and culture of some 400-million Arabs and some 1.5 million Muslims for whom Arabic is both their national language and their spiritual one. We further believe that your pursuit of Arabic learning will open for you tangible opportunities in your future careers after your college years.

May you all, our dear students, have a smooth and enriching sailing with the Arabic language and its extended rich culture! And remember that the doors of our offices are always open for any personal help we can offer beyond the classroom.

Ahlan wa-sahlan (Welcome!)

Ahlan wa-sahlan (Welcome!) to the Center for Language Education which became a real and an independent entity after converting the language lab to offices for all the language instructors! It took long thinking, planning and great courage from Professor Yuki Johnson, the director of the CLE, to go ahead with the plan which gathered the scattered offices in three floors to be on one floor.

The new place opens a great opportunity for the instructors to meet each other and discuss the obstacles they face and to share ideas in order to improve the quality of teaching and to help the students succeed.

Learning another language has become essential nowadays in a multicultural society where you hear people speaking languages other than English. It’s a healthy phenomena to see people around you speaking and acting differently. It invites you to explore other cultures so you can enrich your own with new ideas and to pave the way to understand why certain groups of people do things differently.

The world around us has become like a small village where we can communicate easily and leaves the door wide open for interacting with others in all aspects of life and to build relations based on mutual respect and trust. This new trend will be more effective if we are aware of other people's languages and cultures.

One of the goals of the Center Language for Education, however, is to encourage the students, who are the leaders of tomorrow, to invest some of their time in learning a second language or more regardless of their majors. President Obama, as an example, was positively received from his audiences when he spoke Spanish in his campaign.

Please join us to help make this world a better one by building bridges and demolishing the borders that divide us. In this sense, language students like you are pioneers working towards achieving this goal.
Participants at the first LCTL Conference for Cooperative Language Programs in Maryland hosted by CLE in May, 2013.

Some *Before* and *After* shots of what once was the Language Laboratory circulation area, now converted into the main CLE administrative office area.
Students attending the 2013 Summer Intensive ESL Program participate in activities in and outside of the classroom.
Learn to speak Mandarin Chinese and you can speak with millions of people around the world. You will also be equipped for future opportunities and have an advantage in the competitive world. Look at these facts: the Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd is fluent in Chinese; the former Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geitner studied Chinese at our university and attended Beijing University; the presidential candidate, John Huntsman is fluent in Chinese; the future queen of Belgium, Elisabeth, at the age of twelve, has learned Chinese for three years. Expand your view of the world, join us and learn a foreign language like Chinese. See you tomorrow!

It has been two years since I joined CLE. I appreciate every moment I spend here with my colleagues and students, and have been deeply inspired by everyone from this extraordinary team and warm family. I wish everybody a very happy and successful new academic year.
**HEBREW**

Things are hopping and Hebrew at JHU is growing! We have started this year with the largest beginners’ (“1st Year Hebrew”) class in memory, as well as solid intermediate and advanced classes (2nd and 3rd Year Hebrew, respectively).

Everybody is off to a promising start: our beginners have mastered the Hebrew alphabet, and are currently developing their personal introduction skills; the 2nd Year students are telling each other who they are and about their experiences over the summer, using and expanding their current Hebrew skills and, in the process, filling gaps to ensure that everyone is on the same page and ready to acquire a new set of language skills. Lastly, we have a very advanced group of 3rd Year Students – two who’ve returned from long stints in Israel and two others refining their skills for using Hebrew source materials in conducting their graduate research. This group is already reading essays and articles from the commentary and analysis pages of Israeli news media, and has begun to read a long article from an Israeli daily’s campus edition surveying the present-day popular music scene in Iran. These readings provide our 3rd Year students with ample opportunity to detect and address gaps in their understanding of the finer, most advanced points of Hebrew language and grammar.

In short, the Hebrew program now comprises students of all skill-levels, ranging from absolute beginners who have never seen a Hebrew letter before this fall, to one who recently lived in Israel for more than a year. (I should note that it is easy to get by using only English in Israeli day-to-day life, and it is not unusual for an American to return from that sort of experience still lacking the ability to engage with Hebrew texts written for a mature Israeli audience.)

Lastly, for the first time, we have attached a section in advanced Hebrew to the course on Israeli Literature and Film, which is otherwise taught entirely in English. This enables students who have already acquired advanced language skills to sharpen and refine those skills by applying them to high-level Hebrew materials about subject matter that already attracts their academic interest.

We look forward to an excellent year in the Hebrew program and to additional growth in semesters to come.

**ESL FOR INTERNATIONAL TAs**

CLE’s English program for International TAs offers much more than English language help for incoming TAs who speak English as a second language. Every semester we offer a course in Accent Reduction (AS 370.602) which is based on recent cognitive science research on language perception and learning and focuses specifically on various aspects of pronunciation and intonation in order to help international students and scholars feel more comfortable conversing in English and sound more like a native speaker. Beyond English language training, we also offer a course that familiarizes international students and scholars with the Culture and Communication in American Academia (AS 370.603). This course helps students to become more comfortable in various types of academic interactions: teaching classes, leading discussions, holding office hours, interacting with their peers and professors, presenting at conferences, etc. Both courses are offered every semester, including summer, and are open to any students and scholars who speak English as a second language.

**SPRING 2014 ESL OFFERINGS**

CLE offers English as a Second Language non-credit courses to help students and professionals sharpen their communication skills. Courses are designed for students with intermediate to advanced knowledge of English who want to increase their effectiveness at work, at school, or in social settings. Evening courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters to meet the demands of your busy schedule. For more information contact esl@jhu.edu.

**Spring ’14 Offerings**

492.071 M 6:15-9PM 
Strengthening Oral Communication Skills

492.077 T 6:15-8:45PM 
Academic & Professional Writing
GREETINGS FROM CLE FACULTY (CONT'D)

HINDI

हिन्दी प्रोग्राम की अध्यापिकाओं और इसके छात्रों की ओर से आप सबका स्वागत है। इस नए 2013 एकादमिक वर्ष की सफलता के लिए हमारी हादिक शुभ कामनाएं स्वीकार करें। आशा है, हम सब एक दूसरे से भाषा विज्ञान के नए नए विचार और सुझाव सीख सकेंगे और ‘सैन्टर ऑफ़ ऐजुकेशन’ में पढ़ाने का सुखमय, स्वस्थमय और आननदमय अनुभव करते रहेंगे। 

प्यार और शुभ कामनाओं सहित,

उमा

Translation: On behalf of Hindi faculty and its students, I welcome you all. Please accept our sincere best wishes for a successful 2013 academic year. We hope to get new ideas from each other to take our language teaching to further heights and to continue to have a happy, healthy and enjoyable teaching experience at the Center of Language Education.

Best,

Uma Saini, Hindi Instructor

KOREAN

안녕하세요. (An-nyong-ha-se-yo.) Hello. Welcome to the Korean language.

Can you recognize the Korean writing system Hangeul, which stands out among others on store signs or food packages? It's easy to learn. You can learn it within a few hours or 10 days.

Do you know one or two Korean phrases from a K-pop song or a Korean drama?

I hope you know at least one neighborhood in Seoul called Gangnam.

Have you tried any Korean food?

Do you have Korean friends?

Did I get you interested? This is a good start to learn a language. Try Korean!

Choonwon Kang, Korean Instructor
It’s so hard to believe that I am now starting my 11th year at Hopkins! In the past 10 years, many things have changed, but I continue to be impressed by our students’ dedication, enthusiasm, and the level of proficiency they’re able to achieve in such short time – especially as I reflect on my own failed attempts at learning foreign languages! As we begin our new school year, I wish continued success for our students!

My name is Makiko Nakao, and I am teaching the 2nd and the 4th Year Japanese this year. The 2nd year course is a challenge for our students, and at the same time, is the most fruitful year. The 4th year course is filled with amusing talks as well as serious discussion time. It is very exciting to see our students becoming fluent in the language as each year progresses.

A NEW HOME FOR CLE
(cont’d from page 2)

in Less Commonly Taught Languages.

Thus, the new academic year has started with a busy, educational, and rewarding series of events. Before the first day of class, we held a workshop on August 29th, marking the 19th such workshop since I joined the Center in 2009! We enjoyed a great discussion of shared issues faced by the faculty and found a variety of possible solutions. On Friday, August 30th, we had our second Potluck Party in our new conference room followed by the Open House. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who stopped by the 5th floor to see our new place.

Holiday Event:
Mark your Calendars for Monday, December 9th, 2013.

Our holiday get-together will be Monday, December 9th, 2013 from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M., now a customary annual event on the Monday of the reading period in December.

SUSTAINABILITY

CLE is working towards doing their part in being active members of the JHU community who advocate for more sustainable practices in the workplace. These practices not only help to protect the environment now and for future generations, but also have an impact on our financial well-being. Some actions we are currently doing include the following: purchasing recyclable copy paper; no longer purchasing disposable cups or plates (other than for events), installing a filtered water system, contacting Facilities to appropriately recycle unused furniture, toner cartridges, batteries, old computers and electronics, etc.; providing bins for recyclables. We encourage everyone to do their part in this initiative and welcome ideas and suggestions to improve sustainability in CLE. To read more, visit www.sustainability.jhu.edu/.
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