The Center for Language Education (CLE) started the academic year with five new faculty! We owe sincere thanks to those who left for their contributions to the CLE, and we offer a warm welcome to new faculty joining JHU and best wishes for the years ahead. An introduction of new and continuing faculty members is given in this newsletter.

All CLE faculty and staff are now located in new offices in the 5th floor Krieger "penthouse." Thanks to the new location, we see each other every day and have regular opportunity for productive exchange. I truly look forward to increased unity and coherence that will benefit from the new physical space, helping us to provide the best possible education to our students.

The new academic year is already presenting a busy, educational, and rewarding series of events. Before the first day of class, we held our annual potluck luncheon on August 29th followed by the Open House. We had many great discussions on shared issues faced by the faculty and identified a variety of possible solutions that will emerge this year.

I am looking forward enthusiastically to exciting times ahead, and I hope you can join the CLE team in the spirit of scholarly professionalism that joins our academic unit at Hopkins. As our ties grow closer and programs grow stronger – and now in a new place atop Krieger Hall – I look forward to seeing everyone’s fantastic contributions in placing The Hopkins CLE squarely on the map among the best places in the world for language education!

-Yuki Johnson, Ph.D.  
CLE Director

Pictured here are Yuki Johnson (center) with new CLE faculty members (left to right) Baraa Rajab and Sana Jafire (Arabic), Jayoung Song (Korean), Jing-Yun Chen and Yanfei Chen (Chinese).
Greetings from New CLE Faculty!

Here at CLE we would like to welcome both students and faculty to the fall 2014 term! We have many new wonderful faculty members and in the articles below we hope to introduce them to you! Continuing faculty also extend their greetings and best wishes for first year and continuing foreign language students. Happy fall term!

Chinese

I am teaching first year and fifth year Chinese at the Center for Language Education. As a young professional, I love the supportive and collaborative environment in the CLE. As a Chinese teacher, I value the hard work that my students put in and feel very fulfilled to see their achievement. I wish you all have a great academic year and see you around on campus.

There is an old Chinese saying: teaching benefits teachers as well as students. I enjoy witnessing students making progress in Chinese language. I also appreciate how much I have learnt from teaching and from my students. CLE is a warm family that always encourages you to learn and grow. Wish you all have a wonderful semester!

Arabic

Marhaba! (Welcome) to a new academic year at the Center of Language Education. I am very excited to join the team as an Arabic instructor at the CLE this year. Arabic’s importance has grown immensely in the last few years. Arabic is one of the official languages of the United Nations and there are more than 230 million Arabic native speakers around the world across 60 countries. Having said that, I welcome all students who have enrolled in 1st year Arabic. Get ready for exciting challenges and learning experiences. You will not just learn how to read, write and speak the language, but you will also learn many aspects of the Arabic culture.

To our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students, welcome back! I salute you for your dedication and eagerness to continue learning Arabic. This year we have many activities planned for our students to facilitate their learning experiences. From movie showings to cooking classes, I encourage all our students to take part in these activities. They are fun and at the same time they will teach you a lot about Arabic culture and traditions. In just a few short weeks, I can tell you that I have learned a lot from my fellow colleagues and students. I am looking forward to an eventful and productive year filled with new experiences.

My name is Sana Jafire and this is my first semester here at CLE. I am enjoying this semester a lot and admiring all the enthusiasm I see in my students every day to learn this new and beautiful language and culture. Warm greetings to all Arabic students at JHU! I wish you a wonderful semester full of success.

Second Year Arabic students met in the Wolman Hall student kitchens for an afternoon of traditional Arabic cooking. The two dishes prepared during the gathering—fuul and shakshouka—are often served as part of the Eid Al-Adha holiday.
CLE Study Abroad Scholarship

(cont’d from page 1)

at Princeton Beijing, China), Ms. Jessica Kahn (Chinese at Nanjing, China), and Mr. Nick Zazzi (Chinese in Shanghai, China). Mr. Alex Chambers (Japanese at University of Tokyo, Japan) and Ms. Kara McDonough (Chinese at Middlebury) received a scholarship for fall 2014. Congratulations to everyone and have a great time pursuing language learning abroad.

The CLE Scholarship will also be available for spring 2015. The application deadline is Monday, December 1, 2014.

The most recent recipient of the award is Mr. Dennis (Chan Min) Hong (Chinese). Dennis shares his study abroad experience!

Dennis Hong, Beijing

China fascinates me. Whether it is a daily news report on the Chinese government’s sweeping economic reform, academic research on contemporary Chinese foreign policy, or a political debate over the "Chinese dream" put forth by Chinese President Xi Jinping, I have enjoyed studying and researching some of these hot topics during my course of studies at Johns Hopkins University. Central to my studies and growing understanding of China has been the acquisition of the Chinese language. My interests in China and the desire to further my language skills have recently taken me to Beijing to study Chinese at Beijing Normal University. Spending nearly two months in China during the summer of 2014 has not only helped me to accomplish my short-term goal of improving my Chinese, but more importantly, it has taken me a step closer to discover where my future lies with this country.

To begin with, what was it like to study and live in China? Classes were held for four hours every morning from Monday to Friday, followed by individual tutoring sessions with native Chinese speakers in the afternoon and study halls in the evening. During the entire 8-week of the intensive language immersion, I started my days with vocabulary quizzes and texts on various aspects of China, including current videos and audio materials. I feel confident that lessons with authentic and interesting materials could enable students to be deeply engaged and motivated in learning Chinese. I look forward to an excellent year in the Korean program.

Korean

안녕하세요! Korean at JHU is growing with two beginning Korean classes as well as well-founded intermediate and advanced classes. I am glad that I could join the program starting this semester.

My name is Jayoung Song. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education. My passion for teaching Korean was not the result of a sudden epiphany. Rather, it started early and grew steadily. When I was an undergraduate student majoring in English Linguistics and Education in Korea, I volunteered as a Korean teacher for study abroad students who were studying Korean. I was fascinated by the fact that there were many foreigners who were interested in Korean language and culture and I dedicated myself to developing teaching materials. Over the semester, I could see that students had gained confidence and became more interested in learning Korean. This experience helped me confirm my love for teaching and realize that I would like to further an academic path in language education. While I was in the graduate school, I worked as a graduate assistant in the department of East Asian studies and taught Korean at Austin Korean School for two years. The experience has allowed me to sharpen my skills in developing comprehensive curriculum and effective methodologies for the teaching of Korean language and culture.

I believe that students could successfully facilitate their own learning process when provided with proper curriculum and materials. Additionally, it seems that foreign language learning is most successful when students are motivated to learn as learning a foreign language requires a long-term commitment. Thus, I am trying to develop a solid curriculum, which incorporates literary texts, current videos and audio materials. I feel confident that lessons with authentic and interesting materials could enable students to be deeply engaged and motivated in learning Korean. I look forward to an excellent year in the Korean program.

Dennis Hong, CLE Study Abroad Scholarship recipient, giving a farewell speech at the graduation ceremony at Beijing Normal University.
GREETINGS FROM CONTINUING CLE FACULTY!

Welcome to our Chinese program at the Center for Language Education. We offer Chinese classes from 1st Year Chinese through 5th Year Chinese. We also encourage our students to participate in various study abroad programs. This year, I am deeply impressed by the progress our students have made since they started to study in Hopkins in the Nanjing Study Abroad program. We got very encouraging feedback about our students’ performance from Dr. Yu Ningping, Director of Johns Hopkins China-STEM program, who came to visit CLE a month ago. We also talked about our center’s vision as set up by Dr. Yuki Johnson five years ago to make CLE one of the best in North America. Now I am even more convinced that if we continue to work together we will make that vision a reality!

Chinese Lecturer, Aiguo Chen

On my fourth fall teaching Hebrew with CLE, we seem to have hit the road running. The program is growing steadily and we are blessed with excellent, highly motivated students in all three levels of Hebrew language study. This growth was evidently helped by our decision, two years ago, to teach all Hebrew classes at the JHU Hillel’s (Jewish Campus Life) Smokler building. Our students include absolute beginners, who must first learn how to form and decode the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, as well as advanced users of the language, who’ve spent enough time in Israel to realize that, in order to perform at the intellectual level to which they are accustomed at home, they must have their Hebrew language skills challenged beyond their current comfort level. We have freshmen as well as dissertation-writing graduate students. Beyond the regular language courses, fall 2013 saw the launching of a collaboration with Neta Stahl, GRLL Professor of Comparative and Modern Hebrew Literature, in which I teach elective Hebrew-immersion sections that accompany her various courses on aspects of Modern Israeli Culture. Examples include last spring’s course on Modern Israeli poetry and the current course “Reflective Mirrors: Israeli and Palestinian Cinema.” In short, on this Jewish New Year’s I look forward with excitement and anticipation to another year of growing and enhancing our program.

Hebrew Lecturer, Zvi Y. Cohen, Ph. D.

The blowing of the shofar (a hollowed-out ram's horn) during Rosh Hashanah—the Jewish New Year—marks the creation of the world. This year the holiday fell on September 24th.

(continued on page 5)

FIRST INTERSESSION FOR JAPANESE POLITICS IN JAPAN, JANUARY 2015

There has been tremendous interest expressed by our undergraduate students on Intersession in Japan, and we are happy to report that this much anticipated intersession opportunity is finally realized. The first Intersession takes place in Nagoya, Japan lead by EAS Ph.D. candidate Mr. Fabian Bauwens. The title of the course is: From Meiji to Manga: Japanese Politics and History. We hope everything goes well and that students will have a great time in Japan!
Greetings from Continuing CLE Faculty! (cont’d)

Здравствуйте, and welcome to Russian. We are very happy to extend greetings to our wonderful new Russian students, and to say, “Welcome Back!” to our returning students. There are a number of exciting opportunities emerging this year in Russian.

The Goucher-Hopkins Russian Cooperative Program, LLC serves both campuses, as well as members of the College Town Consortium and Peabody Conservatory. Courses range from beginning language to technical translation, Russian culture to Russian literature. Included in the program’s goals is an effort to advance students toward specific careers in Russian. Our graduates are employed in law, medicine, human rights, and international economic concerns. In addition, we offer Community-Based Learning opportunities, ranging from orphanage work to translation assistance. It is wonderful to work for two such diverse institutions, both of which possess an international flavor.

Current endeavors will take us from translating for a new gallery exhibit at The Horowitz in NY, NY to being the special guests of His Excellency, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, Sergei I. Kislyak, at his address “Current State of Russia-U.S. Relations.”

The opportunities available to our students make working in the program a delight, as do our colleagues. Добрый пожаловать!

(cont’d on page 6)

EAS/CLE Faculty Potluck Party

This year again, the faculty potluck party was held at the Water Tower Event Room (Inner Harbor) on October 11th. All Chinese, Japanese, and Korean faculty joined the event for the first time and mingled with EAS faculty and students from various departments. It was truly great for CLE to be included among these strong academic units and for our new CLE faculty to meet EAS professors and graduate students. More opportunities will arise for the rest of the language faculty as well.

East Asian Studies and CLE faculty members enjoy dinner at the annual EAS/CLE Faculty Potluck Party.

New Exchange Program with Waseda University

A new exchange program started this fall with the prestigious Waseda University in Tokyo as part of the Global Leadership Program (GLP) with universities in the US. The first year, Waseda sent two students to JHU: Ms. Mizuha Ide and Mr. Hideyoshi Shinohara. They will study at JHU for one year, then two JHU students will join them at Waseda in fall, 2015. We hope that many students will be interested in this new exchange program.
I am teaching 1st year and 4th year Japanese this year, and it’s very exciting to see the progress that students make over their course of study at Hopkins. Many students start their first year with minimal or no exposure to Japanese, and by the time they reach their fourth year of study, they are able to hold sophisticated discussions in Japanese. We have a great group of new students this year, and I look forward to seeing them grow as speakers of Japanese. At the beginning of this semester, forth year students organized a dinner gathering for all the current students of Japanese at a local Japanese restaurant, and it was great to see the former newbies now serve as “guides” in the program. Language Corner kicked into gear as well, which provides opportunities for students in different skill levels to interact and chat in Japanese. This is a great opportunity for beginning students to see how far they can go in Japanese with just a few years of hard work! I wish everyone a successful year in their language learning!

This year, I am teaching 2nd and 3rd Year Japanese. All my students had a great start in late August and have settled into their homework routines by now. The 2nd Year students are gradually getting used to expressing themselves in Japanese, and not depending on English as much as possible. As the lessons progress, they are getting more fluent by practicing speaking in new situations and settings every day. They can even joke in Japanese nowadays! The 3rd Year students are enjoying learning about Japan including its technology, food, and geography. They like to discuss the Japanese culture and customs by comparing them with how and why they do what they do in their home country. In addition, they are gradually learning to organize their ideas both in speech and in writing through presentations and compositions. I am very happy to have such great students with commitment and enthusiasm to tackle the challenge and strive to become better. I am looking forward to another great year with wonderful students.

Translation: On behalf of Hindi faculty and its students, I welcome you all. Please accept our sincere best wishes for a successful 2014 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.
Greetings from Continuing CLE Faculty! (Cont’d)

At the moment the two of us (Annalisa and I) - with the help of our enterprising Russian majors – are busy translating and cataloging ten boxes of avant-garde journals for Hopkins Trustee and donor Richard Farry. It’s all about the glorious Russian avant-garde art, cinema and photography from the 1920’s. Each journal takes between one to two hours to complete and all translations must be ready by January 1. History buffs among you know what I mean when I say that opening each journal is like plunging head first into a time machine. Hopefully as a result of our concerted efforts the art and culture from what was hands down the most exciting decade of the Soviet Union will be preserved and appreciated for many centuries to come, at least by English speakers. Stay tuned!

This is the beginning of my third year as CLE full-time faculty, but my Hopkins journey began long before that taking me through graduate school at the Department of Cognitive Science and postdoc at the School of Education. I experienced first-hand that navigating the world of academia can be challenging. Add to this a new country, unfamiliar culture, and a foreign language and it easily became a downright daunting task. So the Center for Language Education offers a class – Culture and Communication in the American Academia (AS 370.603) – specifically designed to aid international Master’s and Ph. D. students on their academic journey. Introducing yourself or writing an e-mail to your classmates, undergraduate students you TA, or distinguished professors you meet at a conference; preparing a presentation for your lab, class, or a conference; leading a discussion in your section or fielding questions at a conference; preparing for an internship or job interview – we cover these and many other topics in this class, plus any other specific questions individual students in the class might have and need help with.

If you have already spent a few years in the US and feel like you’ve got the hang of the culture, but still kept a pretty strong accent, there is a class for you, too – Accent Reduction (AS 370.602). My graduate research focused on how our brain perceives and learns foreign language sounds, which is, undoubtedly, a great help in teaching my students to understand the differences and correctly make the sounds of American English, as well as develop fluency and adopt the appropriate intonation. Both of these classes are offered every semester, as well as during an intensive program in August, and are open to any international student or scholar who speaks English as a second language. I am looking forward to seeing you in our classes!

My name is Nan Zhao. I teach First Year, First Year Heritage, Fourth and Fifth Year Chinese this semester. It’s been amazing to see how fast our Chinese program grows! There is some great news worth celebrating this year: first, two very talented ladies, Jingyun and Yanfei have joined our Chinese teaching team; second, for the first time we’ve offered Fifth Year Chinese and the course has turned out to be quite successful. I’ve been deeply impressed by the students’ enthusiasm and long-term commitment to Chinese learning. I am proud of my students and I wish everybody a very productive academic year.

The Islamic Studies Working Group was formed by the former KSAS Dean, Katherine Newman last September, and a variety of positions were allocated in different departments. So far, a couple of faculty from Islamic Studies joined JHU. The trend will continue, and our Arabic Language Program will play an important role. The CLE will be increasingly involved in such academic activities outside the Center, and looks forward to continued growth in this area.

Holiday Event with Faculty from Maryland Consortium!

Our holiday get-together will be joined by faculty from the Maryland Consortium for Less Commonly Taught Languages. This will offer a wonderful opportunity to discuss future events at the consortium conference. The final date will be decided soon!
CLE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP (CONT’D)

China’s urbanization, Cross-strait relations, and One-child policy, just to name a few. Building upon my three years of Chinese studies at Johns Hopkins, my level of vocabulary and the grasp of Chinese grammars saw a great improvement this summer, and I was able to start reading Chinese newspapers. During my stays in Beijing, it came to my attention that studying abroad at the country of one’s target language is extremely important in the mastery of that language. Doing so not only exposed me to a native environment in which I fully immersed myself, but also gave me confidence as I started to witness my ability to communicate with native speakers.

In addition to improving my Chinese, some of the best parts about studying and living in China came from my interactions with local Chinese people outside of the classroom. The lessons I learned from my conversations with them still linger in my memory. Where in China are you from? Do you like Korean culture? What are your thoughts on China-Korea relations today? These were some of the questions I often asked at local supermarkets, shopping malls, and restaurants when meeting new people. Surprisingly, Chinese people had overall very positive views on Korea, and I listened carefully to what they had to say about their cultures and worldviews. Whether our conversations were light-hearted or serious, I reaffirmed that showing respect to other cultures and understanding how different cultures form different ways of thinking about various issues have become some of the most important virtues of our time.

Many of these Chinese people have become good friends of mine, and making friends in a foreign country have made my study abroad experience much more full and complete.

Having participated in the 8-week intensive language training program in China, I now see the relevance and importance that it holds in my life. Chinese is the language of the country where I see my future lies. As an avid student of international affairs from South Korea, I picture myself working in one of the fastest growing Chinese cities, be it Beijing, Shanghai, or Hong Kong, to help connect South Korean people and firms launching a new business and receiving the first-hand insights on the inner workings of China. I also hope to ultimately work for the South Korean government, improving the relations between the two countries as a South Korean ambassador to China.

Chinese is not only a soft tool that will position me to further deepen my interests and expertise in Chinese affairs, but also a herculean step for achieving my dreams and aspirations to become an individual capable of contributing to evolving Sino-Korea relations. I am grateful for my Chinese teachers at Johns Hopkins and the incredible opportunity to study in China this summer through the Center for Language Education Study Abroad Scholarship. I can’t wait to see what I can do in the increasingly dynamic world of Sino-global relations.

Dennis Hong ‘15

"Showing respect to other cultures and understanding how different cultures form different ways of thinking about various issues have become some of the most important virtues of our time.”
Best wishes to students, faculty, and staff of the Center for Language Education for a great fall term!

Welcome Back!

ברכות שוב

возвращение!

ようこそ

 다시 오신 것을 환영합니다!
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