Note from the Chair
I’m thrilled to share some of the many accomplishments of our talented students and alumni! From crossing the globe on study abroad adventures to receiving competitive scholarships and being accepted in prestigious teaching and graduate programs, there is much to be applauded. We’ve even seen some of their creative talents recognized in the first-ever foreign language contributions to Litmag. The past months have also brought many occasions to come together and celebrate languages and cultures on campus. Students of Japanese took part in Japanese Culture Day in the fall while the spring semester ushered in a week full of activities during National Foreign Language Week. Our pan-language and culture student organization, Lingua, pulled off another successful Working Languages Panel. Be sure to check out the faculty news to see just a few of the many contributions of our dedicated colleagues.

You’ll find an array of new and exciting courses for the fall semester along with news of recent presentations and publications. To celebrate the end of semester and our soon-to-be graduates, join us for our End of Semester Gathering at Ferguson Brewing Company on May 9!

With best wishes,
Sandy

Highlights of National Foreign Language Week

Japanese Culture Day
In November, the Japan-America Student Association hosted a series of events that corresponded to Japanese national holidays. For 文化の日 (Bunka no Hi, Culture Day) JASA organized two interactive cultural experiences for UMSL students: a calligraphy demonstration led by Hiroko Yoshii and a tea ceremony led by Prof. Keiko Ueda. Japanese major Amy Seidel, who took part in the calligraphy demo, enthused: “Actually working with the ink and brushes really gives you a different perspective on how kanji are written. I enjoyed it so much, I decided to take the Calligraphy class in the spring semester.”

Working in Languages Panel
On April 3rd, Lingua held its second annual “Working in Languages” discussion panel. Professionals from the St. Louis area spoke to students about opportunities and strategies for using second languages in the workplace. This year’s panel included UMSL staff: Cassidy Thompson of Study Abroad, Executive Director George Sipos of International Studies and Programs, and Professor of Spanish Maria Balogh, joined by graduate student Nigora Adilova and alumni Kristina Medvedeva, a project coordinator at UMSL, and Kristy Gammill, a business coordinator at Nidec Motors. Panelists highlighted the value of cultural and linguistic know-how, as well as challenges such as culture shock.
Eric Eggers and Sara McFarland, two Japanese majors studying in Japan in Spring 2019, and Jordan McCain, a Spanish major studying in Chile in Spring 2019, were among the first recipients of the Kit Bond Scholarship. This generous scholarship aims to “empower MU and UMSL students to become the next generation of global citizens and the future leaders Missouri needs.” Eric Eggers was also named a recipient of the prestigious Bridging Scholarship for Study Abroad in Japan. Congratulations to all our scholarship winners!

Costa Rica Study Tour (Winter 2019)

Fourteen Spanish students and Professors Tim Abeln and Amy D’Agrosa went to Costa Rica during the 2019 Winter Intersession. Students stayed with host families in San Jose, took intensive Spanish classes and enjoyed trips to Tortuguero National Park, Isla Tortuga. Other excursions included visiting a coffee plantation and the active Poas Volcano. Renee Dunn summed up her experience saying, “In a relatively short period of time, two weeks, I relaxed on beaches, swam in the Pacific Ocean, trekked a rain forest or two, taxied by boat on winding rivers, visited a volcano and coffee plantation...and that was just during the weekends! The weekdays were spent studying intensively, exploring San José, eating amazing food, and hanging with friends and my host family”.

What’s New with EAP

On December 5, international students of the EAP classes visited the First Capitol building in St. Charles and enjoyed the Christmas Traditions in Historic St. Charles.

The English conversation group Friends without Borders meets every Friday at noon in the Nosh during the spring semester. On April 5 and 12, students had the opportunity to write St. Louis-themed postcards to family abroad!

SAVE THE DATE:
World Languages Day
Friday October 4, 2019
A day of linguistic exploration for area higher schoolers
Student volunteers wanted!

2019 Strasbourg, France Program (Summer 2019)

Twelve students will spend three weeks combining coursework with UMSL faculty and language courses at Stralang language school. While experiencing the rich cultural heritage of the picturesque region of Alsace, students will explore the Alsatian wine route, Château de Haut Kœningsbourg, European Parliament, and more while honing their French skills.

Students will enjoy a scenic boat tour of old Strasbourg
Faculty News

**John Trevathan**, Assistant Teaching Professor of Spanish, has co-authored an essay with Prof. Viestenz, titled “Ecology without Sovereignty: Iberian Bio-Perversity in the Work of Manuel Rivas” to be published later this year. It is a contribution to a new volume of Hispanic Issues, called Environmental Cultural Studies through Time (Vanderbilt University Press). Their essay examines political sovereignty in the work of Galician author Manuel Rivas, paying special attention to the pyropolitics of both the Francoist dictatorship and ecological catastrophe.

**Keiko Ueda**, Assistant Teaching Professor of Japanese, presented on “Tadoku (Extensive Reading) in a Japanese Reading class” at the The 34th Annual Conference of the South-eastern Association of Teachers of Japanese (SEATJ) at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC on March 2, 2019. She gave a brief introduction to the practice of tadoku (Extensive Reading) and shared teaching strategies that help students develop their reading skills through tadoku and other relevant activities.

**Violaine White**, Assistant Teaching Professor in French, participated in the 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium held in Oklahoma City. The theme of the conference was “Catastrophes, cataclysms: adaptation and survival”. Dr. White presented a paper in which she reexamined the relationships between the poetic discourse of René Char and disaster. She argued that the poet’s retreat after World War II is not synonym of withdrawal: his poetic discourse maintained its revolutionary and therapeutic scopes.

Fresh this Spring:

**Biology 6250 / Political Science 6452** → LCS kindly lent out Prof. John Trevathan to co-teach an interdisciplinary graduate seminar on sustainability with Prof. Robertson of Political Science. In this class, students of policy and biology come together to ask: how societies govern the environment? Can they do better? What stories, images and symbols can we use to talk about alternatives? After a careful review of terminology and environmental history, students produce a paper issuing policy recommendations on a sustainability issue of their choice.

**Up Next in Fall 2019:**

**SPAN 4312 (Baroque)** → This course taught by Prof. John Trevathan will examine the dynamics of baroque aesthetics, ranging from the early modern period to the present day, from the overwhelming, exuberant and controlling style of the Spanish empire found in cultural objects such as dramatic plays, chapbooks and architecture to contemporary examples in television and news. Students will produce a research paper related to the seminar, which will be taught entirely in Spanish.

**JAPAN 1005 (East Asian Calligraphy)** → This course taught by Prof. Hiroko Yoshii s a one-credit class which introduces the history and development of writing in Japan and gives students a chance to practice writing the characters with calligraphy brushes and pens. Most of the class is hands-on practice—students develop their skills in class and then use them to create simple, culturally-relevant works of art. No prior knowledge of Japanese is required, and the language of instruction is English.

**FL 2110 (Parlez-vous French cinema?)** → This 8-week session-2 hybrid course taught by Prof. Sandra Trapani discusses diverse genres of contemporary French cinema. Through the lens of film, students will discover French culture by examining historical and social issues that have shaped French society. This course is taught in English, and films will be screened with English subtitles.

**FRENCH 3311/4311 (Sea, Sex, and Sun: Tourism in French and Francophone Cultures)** Through the discussion of films, songs, shorts stories, and excerpts from novels produced from the 1950s to the present, this course studies the representations of tourism in the regional, national, and international contexts. Under the direction of Professor White, students will discover the importance of “les vacances” and reflect upon the weight of the hospitality industry in French and Francophone societies. We will see why authors, artists, and filmmakers select tourism sites as ideal points to launch a reflection on gender, sexuality, capitalism, democracy, and post colonialism.

Sign up this Summer!

**Intensive French** (French 2115 A, B, & C) → complete your requirements in just one summer!

**Anime Nation: Pop Culture in Japan** (Japanese 1011)

**Spanish Language and Culture II** (Spanish 1002)

**Spanish Language and Culture III** (Spanish 2101)

Maria T. (Marité) Balogh has two forthcoming poems. One, “Saturday Afternoon Train on Game Day.” will be published in the St. Louis Anthology by Belt Publishing. For their series on cities, they called for fiction, non-fiction, and poetry from writers living in the St. Louis area. It will be available on pre-order at St. Louis Anthology. Her poem “Unruly” was originally written for the presentation of the movie “Pelo Malo” and will be published in 2019 in the anthology Liminal Women, an independent publication compiled by a group of female authors and editors in the St. Louis area. She was also asked to participate in a project on visual and word craft artists. She wrote an original poem inspired by Craft Alliance’s exhibit on portraits called “Weaver of Dreams,” which she read at the Gallery in March 2019. A haiku by Balogh follows:

For Gabo

Yellow butterflies fluttering among white sheets
one, tattoos a cloud
Abby Naumann, graduating senior in Spring 2019, will continue her studies at a two-year Interdisciplinary Masters Program in International Affairs at l’Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement in Geneva, Switzerland beginning in September. Abby completed the BA in Modern Languages—Dual Professional French and Japanese, in addition to a BA in Political Science with a minor in International Relations and in Psychology. She previously attended the Strasbourg Summer Immersion Program and completed a year-long study in Japanese at Waseda University, Tokyo. This combination enabled her to receive a number of the exciting certificates offered by LCS and ISP, including Modern European Studies, Language and Study Abroad, and East Asian Studies. Abby credits these opportunities and the support of LCS as instrumental in giving her the tools to continue her studies abroad. She said, “The LCS faculty and study opportunities opened doors for me which I hadn’t known existed. I am so grateful for their tireless support of my wacky adventures. I advise other students to take advantage of the great certificates and study programs LCS offers.”

Seth Huntington, who received the BA in Modern Languages with emphasis areas in German and Japanese in Fall 2018, has continued his professional development at LCS through an independent study with Founder/CEO Susanne Evens of AAA Translation. His projects include German-to-English translations in business and journalism. Seth previously completed a year-long program at Universität Leipzig in Germany and at Rikkyo University in Japan. He was inducted into the Japanese National Honor Society in Fall 2018. Regarding his studies Seth said, “It has helped me understand both Western and Eastern cultures going into my future career.”

Robby Suozzi, who received a BA in Modern Languages with an emphasis in Japanese combined with a BA in Communication in Spring 2018, visited the JAPAN1002 class on April 3rd to share how his study abroad at Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan positively impacted his life. He also explained how to prepare to study abroad and different scholarships available. Recently accepted into the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, (JET) Robby will teach English in Toyama Prefecture, Japan starting in April. Ganbatte, Suozzi-san!

Madisyn Hetelle, Communication and Modern Languages major with an emphasis in French, will participate in a one-month immersion course followed by a semester at the Centre Internationale d’Études Françaises in Angers, France in Fall 2019. She was recently awarded the Jane and Bruce Robert French Study Scholarship. Bonne chance!

Litmag Poets
This spring, LCS teamed up with UMSL’s Litmag to include foreign language submissions in their annual print anthology. LCS advised Litmag on 7 poems submitted in 3 different languages (French, Spanish, and Japanese) written by LCS students. The contest encouraged language students to engage with their second language in a new way and flex their creative muscles. The grand prize and a scholarship of $100 from LCS went to Abby Naumann for “狐色の目 (kitsuneiro no me)” a poem written in Japanese. The honorable mention went to Tarika Walton for “The Flux,” a poem in French.