

EVENTS

November 5

French Short Films
Clark 527
12-1pm

November 6

French and
Francophone Meet-up
Clark 527
3:30-5pm

November 8

Languages Open House
Clark 527
10am-1pm

November 9

JASA Calligraphy Demo
and Tea Ceremony
Clark 411 & Clark 527
11am-12:30pm

November 13

Traveling as a Student
Lunch and Learn
Fireside Lounge
11am-12pm

November 17

UMSL Day
Blanche M. Touhill
Performing Arts
Center
10am-4pm

December 5

Alumni Gathering
Ferguson Brewing
Company
4-6pm

LANGUAGE GROUPS

Alpha Mu Gamma

China-America Corner

Friends Without
Borders

HISLA

Japanese-English
Language Table

Kaffeestunden

La Table Française

LINGUA

Department of Language and Cultural Studies

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

Note from the Chair

The fall has been a whirlwind of activities with the start of a new semester followed by our first ever World Languages Day and Lingua's Beauty of Languages event. It has been wonderful to see so many people joining together to celebrate languages right here on campus.

In this issue, you'll find the highlights of our recent faculty-led study abroad programs as well as updates from some of our adventurous multi-program participants. You can also catch up on news and events from our faculty and read about our newest colleague in Japanese. Be sure to check out our student and alumni section to find about the teaching opportunities our students have found both locally and abroad. We hope that you will join us for two upcoming events. On Thursday, November 8, we will host our annual Language and Cultural Studies Open House, and on Wednesday, December 5, come celebrate the end of semester and our soon-to-be graduates at our Student and Alumni Gathering at Ferguson Brewing Company.

With best wishes,

Sandy



Students and volunteers gather for the opening ceremonies. Photo Credit: Jessica Rogen

Inaugural World Languages Day



Some of our many volunteers gathered after the event.



On September 21st, Language and Cultural Studies hosted its first annual World Languages Day open to high school students of French, German, Japanese, and Spanish in levels 3, 4, and 5. We welcomed hundreds of students from 6 area high schools along with nearly 100 volunteers including current students and faculty.

The event opened with a welcome from UMSL Modern Languages majors, Abby Nauermann, Seth Huntington, and Valerie Foster,

who wowed the crowd by kicking off the event in many languages. The three speakers introduced themselves, their studies, their study abroad experiences and their career aspirations. "I liked how they started with everybody speaking different languages," said Grace Puchalski, senior from Fort Zumwalt South High School.

The day's events included a scavenger hunt taking students all over campus; language and culture-specific games; and skit, poetry, and poster competitions. French students from Marquette High School took the trophy for their skit performance, while the German students from North-



west High School dominated the poster and poetry competitions. One of the participating teachers stated, "What a great day full of engaging activities! My students got a taste for what college life is like (such an important lesson!), but they also got to meet and make connections with fellow language learners and native speakers. Bravo! "

World Languages Day was a great success and we look forward to welcoming students back to campus next year!



The Beauty of Languages



Seats filled in front of the MSC's Pilot House stage on October 10 for the Beauty of Languages, an unforgettable merging of creativity and expression. Lingua and the UMSL Writer's Group partnered to bring together domestic and international communities for an appreciation of various languages through poetry and song. While there were a few presentations of pieces only in English, most of the event featured foreign language poetry with English translation. Staple languages, such as German, French, Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic were heard, but there was also a piece that coupled Dutch and Danish with German. It was a wonderful evening of celebrating languages, poetry, and song.



Multiple Opportunities Abroad



ed to bring my experiences abroad back to my community!"

Benefiting from department scholarships and the support of our tireless faculty, **Abby Naumann**, Dual Language Professional Track: French and Japanese, completed two study abroad experiences—in France and Japan. She began in Strasbourg, France with the summer immersion program led by Professor Sandra Trapani. The language and travel skills she acquired during this program empowered her to spend an additional two months of travel and study in France on her own, as well as the completion of a French to English translation project. Then it was on to Tokyo and a year at prestigious Waseda University. As a Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) scholar, she participated in a rigorous Japanese study program as well as political science studies with world-class instructors, including former Diet member Mieko Nakabayashi. In her free time, she engaged in some low-budget backpacking around the world—Iceland, Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. As the first member of her family to learn a foreign language and leave her home country, Abby said, "I am excit-



two years in a row because it was the easiest way for me to get the classes that I needed to complete my Spanish minor in only 2 years. My short-term trips have helped me to prepare for my next challenge, a semester abroad in Spain!"

Nicole Culbertson completed two short-term study abroad programs in Costa Rica. Additionally, she will spend the full spring 2019 semester taking classes in Spanish at a the Universitat Abat Oliba in Spain, to complete her major in Spanish. She reflects on her experiences abroad: "I chose to study in Costa Rica

No newbie to study abroad, **Seth Huntington**, German and Japanese major, completed his second study abroad experience at Rikkyo University in Tokyo during the 2017-18 academic year. Previously a student at Universität Leipzig, Seth believes the confidence and adaptability he learned while studying overseas in two different languages and cultures will make him a stand-out candidate as he prepares to enter graduate studies.



Dominican Republic Study and Service Tour



This summer, Professor **Natasha César Suárez** led a very successful two-week study abroad program in the Dominican Republic. Students attended Spanish classes and did service work through the Community Service Alliance. They installed water filters in rural homes which will provide families potable water for up to ten years, and worked with a women's co-op. Students enjoyed being able to interact with native speakers of Spanish during their stay, and came back motivated to continue their study of Spanish.

JASA's Playground



UMSL and international students gathered to play games such as Kagome Kagome, Down by the Banks, Hana Ichi Monme, and Musical Chairs. Students were also exposed to the Japanese and English languages as many incorporated songs into the games. JASA's Playground was a huge success in reminding people of their childhoods, while also exposing them to the childhood experienced in another country as well.

Japan Study Tour 2018

Professors **Keiko Ueda** and **Hiroko Yoshii** led a record-breaking 24 students on the 2018 Japan Study Tour. Students on this two-week faculty led short-term study tour enjoyed a Japanese festival experience at the Sanja Matsuri, visited major Japanese



companies like Nippon Express, and interacted with students at several campuses including Waseda University. They were also able to eat early-morning sushi at the now-shuttered Tsukiji Fish Market. Japanese major Molly Motes observed that "the trip was incredibly important to me educationally, regarding my major and life goals, but also for me personally." We are already looking forward to the Japan Study Tour 2020!

Check out our Featured Summer Faculty-led Study Abroad Program in Strasbourg, France July 10th-31st

Students will spend three weeks combining coursework with UMSL faculty and language courses at Stralang language school while experiencing the rich cultural heritage of this beautiful city in the crossroads of Europe. The program will include excursions to major sites of interest. For the first time the program will be open to students who have completed French 1002 as well as to graduate students.

Faculty News



Welcome to Our New Faculty Member

Hiroko Yoshii, Assistant Teaching Professor of Japanese has been devoted to language teaching for over 15 years. Born and raised in Japan, she started her career as an English teacher at secondary schools in Japan. She completed her master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language through the department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of British Columbia in Canada. After arriving in the States, she completed the [WUSTL-ALEX \(Alliance for Language Learning & Education Exchange\)](#) intensive teacher training program and served as an adjunct Japanese instructor at UMSL and Webster University. Hiroko's expertise is the practice and mastery of spoken Japanese language. She teaches the Japanese language as part of Japanese culture, rather than treating the language and culture as separate entities.

Recent Presentations



Denise Mussman, Teaching Professor of English for Academic Purposes, presented at the MIDTESOL (Mid-America Teachers of English as a Second or Other Language) Conference in Kansas City on September 28. The session was titled "Activities for Teaching Rhythm and Intonation." She reviewed patterns in American English of words stress, rhythm, and intonation, which are unique in that English is a stress-timed language while

most other languages are syllable-timed. She then offered strategies to incorporate these patterns into communicative activities in the classroom.



Associate Teaching Professor **María (Marité) Balogh**, presented "How Creative Writing Could Be Used to Enhance Writing Skills and Fluency in an Advanced World Language University Class" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington in April 2018.



On November 8, students in Professor **John Trevathan's** Spanish for the Sciences course will attend the 2018 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum held at the St. Louis Zoo. The event is organized by the Harris World Ecology Center, housed within the Department of Biology at UMSL and works closely with the St. Louis Zoo as well as the Missouri Botanical Garden in order to promote research and training in basic ecology and biodiversity conservation across the globe. Three panelists will discuss indigenous forms of North American ecological knowledge in relationship to issues such as climate change, conservation and environmental justice. Professor Trevathan and his students look forward to comparing these presentations to course content, which focuses on these questions in Spain and Latin America.

Upcoming Presentation



Assistant Teaching Professor **Amy DAgrosa** and Associate Teaching Professor **María (Marité) Balogh**, will present at the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies (MALAS) in El Paso, Texas on November 15-17, 2018 on current trends in linguistic research to de-genderize the Spanish language and machismo/masculinities and femininities in Latin American culture.



Guixia Yu is a newly-arrived visiting scholar from China sponsored by the Department of Language and Cultural Studies. She is an associate professor of English at North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power in Zhengzhou, Henan Province. Her research focuses on study strategies of students across cultures. She plans also plans to study comparative education while at UMSL.

Featured Spring 2019 Courses

New in German!

All German courses are now offered using open educational resources, all course materials are free and uniquely created by our very own Professor Carol Jenkins.

East Asian Calligraphy (Japanese 1005) Learn the fundamentals of East Asian Calligraphy. Acquire writing skills with both brush and pen, applying them in the creation of art pieces. No language learning experienced required.

Introduction to Special Topics in French Culture (French 331 I) Explore the cuisine of the French and Francophone world through text, film, and tastings.

Special Topics in French Culture and Literature (French 431 I/531 I) Analyze various representations of immigration in French and Francophone literature and cinema.

Special Topics in Hispanic Literature (Spanish 4312) Understand the Latin@ experience/s in the United States through the study of literature and film.

Special Topics in Hispanic Culture (Spanish 431 I/531 I) examine contemporary Iberian and Latin American socio-environmental issues such as oil spills, hydroelectric dams, bullfighting, the regulation of human and nonhuman biological life, global warming and varying relationships between communities and the environment.

Summer 2019 Course Offerings

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

Anime Nation Pop Culture in Japan (Japanese 1011)

The World of Anime: Advanced Topics in Japanese Animation (Japan 2111)

Spanish Language and Culture II (Spanish 1002)

Spanish Language and Culture III (Spanish 2101)

Student & Alumni News



Angela Blash is a graduate student in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Saint Louis University. She earned a B.A. in Modern Languages: Spanish at UMSL where she was named Outstanding Student in Spanish. Angela's work as a Research Assistant focuses on the intervocalic /s/ voicing in Highland Ecuadorian Spanish, the aspiration of /s/ in Puerto Rican Spanish, and intercultural experience and cultural attitudes in learners of Spanish as a second language. She is the recipient of the Mazza Graduate Fellows' Grant as well as the GSA Conference Award. Her interests include modern and postmodern poetic expression, women writers, afrolatino literature, and literary translation. Angela also serves as the Graduate Student Association Representative.



Teaching in Japan
Japanese graduates **Taylor Clark, Erika Sonnevile, and Samantha Jarnagin** were hired as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in the prestigious Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in 2018. During their yearlong contracts, which could be extended up to five years, they will assist Japanese teachers in English language classes and serve as cultural ambassadors working toward the JET Program's goal of grassroots internationalization. Their applications were enhanced by their strong language skills, campus involvement (including work as language tutors and Supplemental Instructors) and study abroad experiences!

After receiving the Alliance Française Scholarship **Jeffrey Pryor** set off for another experience of a lifetime in Europe. During his second time abroad, he was able to work in two different museums, take in the serenity of the catacombs under Paris, and watch France win the World Cup. While reflecting on his summer spent in the Netherlands, Belgium and France, he stated, "The thrill of driving a WWII U.S. Army vehicle to a battle site in the Ardennes forest was a surreal event for me.... Seeing the Apocalypse tapestries in the castle at Angers was epic. As I roamed the hallowed grounds of the American cemeteries scattered throughout Europe, I understood the importance of those Americans that gave all, so others could be free."



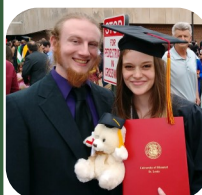
Teaching in France

French student **Lauren Alspach** was selected for the Teaching Assistantship Program in France (TAPIF). This competitive program gives students the opportunity to work in France for 7 months, teaching English to French students of all ages.

"As I write this I am in one of my favorite cafés in Amiens where, after just one month, I already feel at home. I was looking for an opportunity to be completely immersed in the

French language and culture, and TAPIF has made that dream a reality." - Lauren Alspach

BSeD with emphasis in Spanish alumna, **Kathe Bluemel** was hired at Fox C-6 School District. She teaches Spanish for Fox Middle School. She has created YouTube channels through which she supplements her lessons and also shares cultural experiences such as A Day in Barranquilla, Colombia and other interesting things like how to make empanadas.



Renee Kocsis, Dual Track: French and German alumna, reports from the Buckeye State that graduate school in German is a great fit for her. She received a Max Kade research fellowship for her first year, meaning that she does not yet have to teach. Looking back at her time with us at UMSL, she writes that "I truly believe the language professors at UMSL made all the difference for me. Having such positive, strong, and

intelligent female role models was a huge part of the reason I continued with the program, and later on you all got me through the long process of applying to grad. school. Having professors who wanted to hear what I thought in class and outside of class showed me that there were (and are) people who care about my future and who I am as a person, not only as a student."

Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients

Alliance Française Scholarship Goodard, Indovina & Krakowski Scholarship

(AMT National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society)

Jeffrey Pryor

Madeline King Erger

Rodney Whitney

Eugene J. Meehan Scholarship

Nicole Culbertson Abby Naumann
Deborah Garcia Amy Seidel
Kaitlin Johnson Steven Southerland
Scarlett Montilla

We would love to hear from Alumni!

Please send us your career updates, recent accomplishments, and any other news you want to share. We are working on the "Alumni News" section for our Spring 2019 newsletter.

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