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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LANGUAGE CENTER



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The Language Center Newsletter

This is our last Newsletter for the Fall 2018-Spring 2019 academic year! We hope that everyone had a fantastic year, or at the very least made it out in one piece. Just as we did for our last issue, this issue is a combination of April and May. We have had fun this past year, and we look forward to the last few events that we're having. Hopefully, we'll see you there.

In this issue is our last Newbie and Veteran Interview which involves our current staff. You can learn more about our video camera rentals and Chinese Conversation Hours inside as well. We also have a review of some of our past events including: International Karaoke Night, the Language Fair, and more.

We hope you enjoy!



From the Director

Hello,

I hope you are having a successful spring semester.

It has been a very busy semester. The last few weeks we had a fun event that challenged both Portuguese and Italian natives to come-up with two cultural relevant recipes based on three common ingredients. Then, Valentines approached and we invited every one on campus to join us for our Pen...Palentine's Day Sweets break. What a fun day it was!

More events have followed. We had an International Karaoke night and several movie nights at the Language Center Trivia Night. At the beginning of the semester we welcomed the Japanese program to the One Language, One Recipe. It was a success and we cannot thank Professors William Bridges and Keiko Nishioka enough for the amazing recipe they shared with us.

At the Language Center we strive to offer students a variety of services that will help them to improve their language knowledge when studying a foreign language. We also want to constantly support all language programs. For that reason, we have planned a Language Fair on March 27th at the Feldman Ballroom. This event occurs before the beginning of fall registration, and offers Students and Language Programs the opportunity to meet and, together, explore all courses offering. We can only hope that this year the Language Fair is as successful as last year. Many surprises and prizes awaits for those attending the event.

Finally, we are so pleased to announce that the Language Center will continue to offer Peer Tutoring and Conversation Hours in some of the Foreign Languages offered on campus. We know how valuable this resource is for your students and we want to keep improving it. For more updates on events please contact us or follow us in our social media pages.

Obrigada,

Teresa Valdez



Staff Interviews

Newbie Marco & Veteran Sharline

Interviewee: Marco Ramos

Major: International Relations with minor in Chinese 2020

From: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Languages: Fluent in Spanish and English

Favorite part of working at LC:

One of my favorite parts about working at the LC is being able to help the cultural events organized by professors. Whether it be helping a Spanish movie night, an Italian Carnevale di Venezia, or a Japanese One Language One recipe, being part of the Center that allows all of that to happen is very fulfilling. Of course, whenever we host a successful event, I also feel very proud. *(interview cont. on next page)*



Sharline Rojo '20



Staff Interviews



Favorite LC event:

Of all the LC events, I would have to say that the One Language One Recipe series is my favorite. I'm a foodie, so to see how food from other countries is cooked, while instructions are given in their language, hypes up the tasting at the end.

Why did you want to work at LC?:

I wanted to work at eh LC to be in a work environment that is more related to my personal interests. I often have very insightful days at the LC, and it's often because cultural events, conversation hours, or other events are occurring during my shift. I don't need to pick from either work or attending these events - I get both.

What have you learned?:

So far I've vastly learned about the foreign language community at the UofR, what their values and struggles are, and how we can cater to their needs.

Sharline Rojo '20



Staff Interviews



Sharline is so excited to work in the Language Center, she didn't let study abroad intervene from being part of team! Sharline Rojo, a 20' Political Science major from Oklahoma City, has been working with the Language Center since last spring, but went abroad last semester. A true linguist, she is fluent in English, Spanish, and currently on her way to become fluent in Portuguese.

She connects with those who come to the Language Center on a personal level and appreciates their commitment to becoming better. She said, "One thing I enjoy most about working at the Language Center is being able to interact with students who want to continue speaking and improving their language skills. Whether it is at conversation hours, movie nights, or our "One Language, One recipe" event, I see how invested students are in trying to immerse themselves."

Out of all the events offered at the Language Center, Sharline singles out the best. Her favorite event is the International Karaoke Night - our most popular! This was the first event that she attended at the LC before working there. "Karaoke nights allow students to have fun, show off their talents, or simply sing to music that they love. It allows you to understand other students' culture's while eating pizza and listening to students practice a language," Sharline shares. *(interview cont. on next page)*

Marco Ramos '20



Staff Interviews



Her desire to become part of the LC emanates from her curiosity. She decided to work at the LC because she believed that languages are intriguing. By knowing another language, she notes, it allows others to explore and even get a sense of another culture they may have not experienced before. Commending the LC, she said that the center does its best to provide students the opportunity to practice their speaking, writing, or reading skills through different activities.

Her job is not only about implementing her skills but also about learning. Sharline has learned about students interests in wanting to learn another language and how much they value it. Aside from this, the LC has exposed and opened up opportunities for students to consider taking a language during their undergraduate journey, which have helped others as much as they have helped her.

Marco Ramos '20



Our Resources

Our Resources: Video Camera and Sound Recorder

Here in the University of Rochester we have a variety of disciplines offered that range from engineering to humanities. Some classes require students to interact with some technological equipment to do assignments, like film, media studies and art history among others. But another big population of students also take languages. Those classes might also require the use of equipment like video cameras and sound recorders. Fortunately, the Language Center has all these resources available for students!

The good news are that video and voice recorders are available at the language center. And different to other resources they can both leave the center for a maximum of 2 hours after leaving your student ID. The only restriction is that they cannot leave campus. Come visit us at the center and check them out for class or different projects you may have.



Karina Vasquez, '21



Conversation Hours

Chinese Conversation Hours: Conversation Hour Interview

For our last newsletter of the semester, we interviewed our Chinese conversation hour tutor, Shawn Wu, a sophomore international student from Qingdao.

Shawn shared with us that what he likes the most about being a tutor is to get to know people from different backgrounds even from outside campus, that are interested in the Chinese language- his mother tongue. He finds it pleasant to be able to speak and teach his own language while being so far from home. "I love sharing my culture with other students interested in it" says Wu.

Shawn's focus during his conversation hours is getting students to feel comfortable speaking the language, whether they are beginners or advance learners. He brings and share with student's different common Chinese phrases and what is it like to speak and communicate around in China. *(cont. on next page)*

Last year the Chinese Conversation Hour hosted an event to teach a group of children about how the Chinese New Year works. *(shown right)*



Ana Casco, '21



Conversation Hours

Chinese Conversation Hours: Conversation Hour Interview

“Just the last week, we focused in how to order food when in China. How to address and call a waitress, to ask for menu, and pay the bill” mentioned Wu. Moreover, he mentions his efforts of teaching students to express themselves and immerse in daily basis conversations. He points out his strategy of always having a topic prepared to get to students to speak and be interactive, such as vocabulary games, videos, etc.

Why would you encourage students to join the Chinese conversation hours?

Because conversation hours have a different dynamic than classes do. Classes are more of textbook material based, which can be complex especially for beginners. Also, we learn every day phrases that are useful for immersing into the Chinese culture and to get into a conversation with native speakers. Exposing yourself and throwing yourself out there to speak is the best way to practice and improve. Which he believes is a unique benefit that classes itself do not teach.



Ana Casco, '21



Past Events

International Karaoke Night

The Language Center once again held one of our most popular events on February 23rd: International Karaoke Night. Thank you everyone, old and new faces, who were able to come! I typically host this event by myself (with a little help from our lovely director Teresa Valdez), but this time I had the pleasure of having my coworker Marco host alongside me. We both had a great time hosting, and we hope that everyone who came to the event enjoyed themselves.



The Center was packed with people enjoying wraps and fruit salad to the sound of their fellow students singing in foreign languages. We had a variety of performers that night, ranging from emotional Chinese ballads to a cover from *The Road to El Dorado* in Portuguese. We even had six members of the Japanese Conversation Hour singing in, you guessed it, Japanese. Some of the other performances were in German, Korean, and American Sign Language. But of course, the most exciting part of the night was finding out who would be voted best singer of the night. (cont. on next page)

Kinga Flaga, '21



Past Events

International Karaoke Night

In case if you haven't attended an International Karaoke Night before, people vote throughout the night for their favorite performers. There is no limit to how many times a person can vote, and you do not need to perform in order to be able to vote. However, you can win URoS and Language Center goodies if you perform. The hosts announce at the end of the night who is the winner.

As we finished counting everyone's votes, our very own Ana closed the night with a beautiful a capella version of a song dedicated to her home country, Nicaragua. Our winners in first to third place order were named Sean, Sangwoo, and Ife. We would also like to give a special shoutout to Etta for being our most frequent singer of the night. Thank you those who were able to come, and we hope to see you again!



Special thanks
to Daniel Cajé
for the
photography.

Kinga Flaga, '21



Past Events

Bingo Night

On March 6th, the Language Center hosted the International Bingo Night! We had many languages represented such as Spanish, French, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean and more! And when someone didn't know how to say a certain number in a language, the tutors were there to help out! As this event was held right after one of the ELP Conversation Hours, many of the people who came to the Conversation Hour, stayed for the Bingo Night! Because of this, the Center was filled with lots of people from different backgrounds! From those who stayed, we had speakers of Arabic, Catalan and Japanese to name a few. *(cont. on next page)*



Daiki Nishioka, '21



Past Events

Bingo Night



One of the main attractions of the event was the food! The Language Center managed to get sliders and fries from Bluwolf Bistro along with a vegetarian option! No doubt, this was the talking point of the entire event! At the end of the day, because it is a Bingo Night, of course we had winners! For prizes, we had three care packages; a hygiene pack, a stationary pack, and a food pack! Because of the new rule of filling out the entire board to win, it took us to find our winners but we found them! Each of the winners picked a package of their choice, in order of who got a bingo first. As for the others who participated, although they didn't win anything in particular, hopefully they had fun playing international bingo! Thank you to everyone who showed up for the event! Hope to see you all again!

Daiki Nishioka, '21



Past Events

World Poetry Day

Every 21st of March, poetry is celebrated around the world. Established by UNESCO in 1999, World Poetry Day is a day that recognizes the ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. Students and tutors from the Language Center were invited to appear on the show “Foreign Exchange” on WAYO 104.3 FM to read and talk about poems in some of the languages that are offered in our school, from German to Spanish. Students talked about the authors, and how impactful were the poems in their respective cultural context. Most of the literature studies in the States are focused mainly on English texts, so it is great to be exposed to other great authors from all the other parts of the world! It was a lot of fun, and we are all really thankful to be invited by the “Foreign Exchange” show which is a show that aims to showcase the multiple cultures living in Rochester. Make sure you check them out!



Carlos Bustamante, '20



Past Events

The Language Fair

The past Wednesday 27th of March, our spring Language fair took place in the Feldman Ballroom from 11:30am-1:30pm. The event consisted of stations representing each language offered to students on campus: ASL, Spanish, ESL, French, Italian, Portuguese, among others.

Our main objective for this event was informing our students about all the languages offered on campus for them to join, and making them aware about all the opportunities that learning a language gives them.

Each station offered useful information about the courses offered and both short and long term language programs offered abroad. *(cont. on next page)*

Above is an image of the Language Fair before all of the students arrived.

Ana Casco, '21



Past Events

The Language Fair



Our faculty and students from each language course shared their insights on the language, provided necessary information and taught students how to enroll in language courses for the upcoming semesters.

Students and staffs from different fields and years came over. We focused on doing an interactive and dynamic event, in which we offered delicious and well-known meals related to the language, which students could enjoy while going around the programs.

During the event, we included Kahoot, an online, learning based games for students to recall the information given about each language and the cultures they are associated with.

Prizes such as tickets for our last Acapella group concerts at the University were given along with Language Center t-shirts, URos, etc.

Ana Casco, '21



Upcoming Events



April 19th - Trivia Night

6-8pm @ the Language Center Living Room
Come test your knowledge on international languages and cultures! There will be food available and of course, prizes! Can't wait to see you there!

April 10th - Japanese Movie Night

6-8pm @ Language Center Living Room

The Language Center will be showing a Japanese movie in collaboration with JSA! The movie is called, *I want to eat your Pancreas*. It is a romance drama about a girl with pancreatic cancer and a boy who finds this about her. The two spend time together, making the most of her time left. Interested? Come check it out! Pizza will be provided.



April 13th - Vietnamese Movie Night

7-9pm @ Language Center Living Room

The Asian movie night theme continues! This time is in collaboration with VSA for a Vietnamese movie night from 7-9pm. The movie is yet to be decided, but will be announced soon. Look out for the flyers in the upcoming days! Private event.

Daiki Nishioka, '21



Upcoming Events

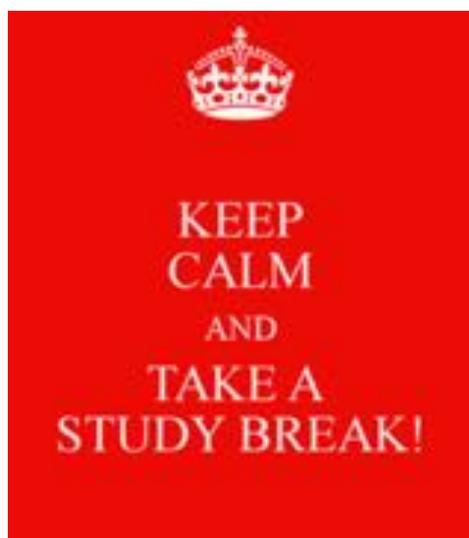


March 23 - Chinese Movie Night
5-7pm @ Language Center Living Room
The trifecta of Asian movie night closes out the year with the Chinese movie night! In celebration for the Chinese Language Day, the Center will be showing a Chinese film from 5-7. Again, the movie is yet to be decided so look out for the flyers that will start popping up!

April 24th - Cultural Intersections

TBA @ Language Center Living Room

We will be having a discussion about a particular topic that can be related to many students on campus. This time, it will be about how studying a language can be advantageous for many careers. There will be a couple of panelists who will lead the conversation but anyone is allowed to join! Hope to see you all there!



May 3rd - Study Break

Get ready for finals season! Maybe you are hungover from all of the studying you have been doing. If you are in desperate need for a break during your busy study sessions, come stop by for a breather!

Daiki Nishioka, '21

