2015-16 Annual Report

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www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu
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1. Overview

In 2015-16 the Language Institute continued to provide key support and advocacy for the study of language and languages on the UW-Madison campus and beyond. Activities of the Language Institute fall into five broad categories:

1) Academic programs (Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition and Russian Flagship Program)
2) Support for undergraduate students of languages
3) Campus programming for faculty, staff and graduate students
4) K-12 and community outreach
5) Research

While much of what follows represents continuation of successful activities from previous years, it is important to highlight new or expanded initiatives in the 2015-16 academic year.

What’s new this year:

- A small grants program for projects to enhance language learning at UW-Madison that provided support for innovative projects in Chinese, German and Spanish
- A new graduate teaching practicum, taught by Dianna Murphy, on technologies for language teaching and learning: Promoting Digital Second Language Literacies in Collegiate Language Courses
- A series of video shorts targeted at undergraduate and high school students. The videos were about:
  - Language study at UW-Madison, for undergraduate students in CCAS and L&S advising sessions at SOAR: https://youtu.be/0e2eiwh4kzw
  - The Russian Flagship Program, for prospective students: https://youtu.be/DtLRkuhOIZU
  - Studying a language in college, for Wisconsin high school students: https://youtu.be/CRvtdowWSzA
- Expanded career programming for undergraduate students, including networking events with UW-Madison alumni

The excellence of our staff in carrying out these activities was recognized this year by two awards:

- Wendy Johnson, UW-Madison Academic Staff Excellence Award: Robert and Caroll Heideman Award for Excellence in Public Service and Outreach
- Dianna Murphy, L&S Academic Staff Mid-Career Award

As will become clear from the following report, it has been a busy and exciting year for the Language Institute, and for language teaching and learning on our campus!
2. Academic Programs

2.1 Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition (SLA)
The Doctoral Program in SLA prepares students to research and teach in a rapidly growing interdisciplinary field that investigates second language learning and acquisition, bi- and multilingualism, second and foreign language teaching, and the relationship among language, culture, identity and thought in diverse social contexts.

SLA BY THE NUMBERS
• Current students: 23 SLA PhD majors; 45+ SLA PhD minors
• SLA majors who have earned the PhD since the program was established in 2002: 25
• Applicants for admission in the Fall 2016: 27
• Students admitted and planning to matriculate in the Fall 2016: 1
• Graduate School Fellowships awarded for 2016-17: 5 one-semester fellowships
• Anticipated graduates in Summer-Fall 2016: 5

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
• Sara Farsiu was named a College of Letters & Science Teaching Fellow.
• Colleen Hamilton received the Mellon-Wisconsin Fellowship for Summer 2016.
• Amy Clay and Sandrine Pell were awarded Dissertation Grants from the journal Language Learning.
• Seven students received SLA Program Travel/Research Awards to support their dissertation research and travel to conferences.
• Several students will begin permanent positions in Fall 2016:
  o Daria Aleeva, lecturer position at Portland State University.
  o Clara (Bicho) Azevedo, tenure-track position at the University of San Diego.
  o Fatemeh Mirsharifi, lecturer position at University of California, Berkeley

FACULTY AND STAFF
Core faculty in the SLA Program are from 9 departments and represent unique perspectives and backgrounds that inform a diverse program, research and teaching profile.

• Director: Junko Mori; program coordinator: Wendy Johnson. Incoming director for 2015-16: Catherine Stafford, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
• Gail Prasad, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, and Catherine Vieira, Department of English, joined the core faculty as its newest members.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
• Professional development workshops on crafting curriculum vitae and on publishing
• Informal student research poster session
• Faculty research roundtable
• Biweekly lunchtime chats with SLA students, faculty and alumni.

SLA student Lauren Goodspeed (left) and core faculty Heather Allen (right) working on collaborative research
SLA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, continued

• Annual SLA Student Symposium, co-sponsored by UW-Madison, University of Iowa, and, new this year, University of Minnesota. This year held on the UW-Madison campus and organized by three SLA students. Program included SLA core member Catherine Stafford as a featured speaker, and Mariana Pacheco and Katrina Thompson as panelists.

• Summer research grants program for SLA faculty. Five funded projects gave SLA students the opportunity to work closely with SLA faculty in Summer 2016.

For more information: sla.wisc.edu

2.2 Undergraduate Russian Flagship Program
The Russian Flagship is a non-degree program for UW-Madison undergraduate students of any major to reach a professional level of competence in Russian by graduation through intensive and accelerated programs of study on the UW-Madison campus and extensive study overseas. This prestigious program, funded by a grant from the National Security Education Program of the U.S. Department of Defense, is a collaborative initiative of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature and the Language Institute, with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) and the Doctoral Program in SLA.

BY THE NUMBERS
• 2015-16 external grant funding: $573,662 ($275,000 for institutional costs, $181,509\(^1\) for students scholarships, $15,070 for a book project, $102,083 to host 2016 Flagship Annual Meeting)
• Students: 49
• Students on the 2015-16 Russian Overseas Flagship capstone program in Kazakhstan: 8\(^2\)
• Tutors: 12
• Average hours/week of individual and small-group Russian tutoring: 44

FACULTY AND STAFF
• Karen Evans-Romaine, director; Dianna Murphy, associate director; Anna Tumarkin, assistant director; Laura Weigel, program coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
• Awarded continued grant funding from the National Security Education Program for 2016-20. For 2016-17, award of $409,123 ($300,923 for institutional costs and $108,200 in student scholarships).
• Redesigned Slavic 315-316: Russian Language and Culture, I, II based on a blended format of instruction.
• Funded the participation of two Russian Flagship students in UCLA’s Undergraduate Conference on Slavic and East/Central European Studies.
• Sent two graduate students to participate in the ACTFL 4-day Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Assessment Workshop, required for certification as an OPI Tester in Russian.

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1 This was the actual amount in scholarships awarded to students, based on their eligibility and following the federal student support guidelines. The initial award to UW-Madison for Russian Flagship student scholarships was for $262,874.

2 Seven of the 8 students completed the Russian Overseas Flagship Program in Almaty; one student was sent home after the first semester for medical reasons.
RUSSIAN FLAGSHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS, continued

- Led Russian Across the Curriculum tutorials for advanced Russian Flagship students on: Nikolai Vavilov: Martyr to Scientific Truth, Contemporary Russian Propaganda in Slovakia (linked to Slavic 440: Soviet Literature), The History of Koreans in Central Asia (Koryo Saram), Comparison of the Brezhnev and Putin Eras (linked to History 424: The Soviet Union and the World), The Development of Neoshamanism in Russia, General Theory of Relativity, War and Trade: Khorasan, Transoxania (Maa waraa' an-nahr) and the Steppe 800-100 AD (linked to LCA 640: Proseminar in Central Asian History)
- Supported the participation of Russian Flagship students in the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. Our students received a Silver Medal (1 student, Levels 4-5), Bronze Medal (2: Level 1, Level 2) and Honorable Mention (1, Levels 4-5).
- Offered a rich program of co-curricular activities that included roundtable discussions in Russian with visiting scholars from universities such as Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan; European University in St. Petersburg, National Research University Higher School of Economics in both Moscow and St. Petersburg, Omsk State Pedagogical University, and St. Petersburg State Economics University, in Russia; held a weekly Russian Flagship social hour and Russian tea; and organized language conversation exchanges with students from Kazakhstan.
- Conducted a site visit (Anna Tumarkin and Laura Weigel) to the Russian Overseas Flagship capstone program in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Hosted the national Language Flagship Annual Meeting in Madison in May 2016.

Students with Russian House Graduate Language Program Coordinator Madina Djuraeva

For more information: russianflagship.wisc.edu
3. Activities for Undergraduate Students

3.1 Undergraduate Academic and Career Advising
Undergraduate academic and career advising is offered through the Language Institute by International Directions Advisor Michael Kruse.

ADVISING & PROGRAMMING BY THE NUMBERS
- Advised 114 students (78 students in person and 36 by email or phone)
  - The largest number of students were interested in Spanish (44 out of 114), followed by French (27), Chinese (17), Japanese (12), and Arabic (10)
  - 40 out of 114 students indicated interest in two or more languages
  - 53 advising sessions focused on career advising, by far the most popular topic, followed by course selection (18) and policy issues (18)
- Met with over 500 incoming students at SOAR (Summer 2015 and Winter 2016)
- Organized or presented at 15 career-focused events for undergraduates with a total attendance of 340

3.2 Undergraduate Communications
Continued to develop and improve languages.wisc.edu, a web site that advocates for language study at UW-Madison and serves undergraduate students by:
- Providing information about languages offered, as well as advising and language-related policies
- Disseminating information about language-related events, news, and out-of-class learning opportunities
- Showcasing the post-graduation paths of language alumni

The web site saw over 20,000 unique visitors over the last year (May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016), with the ‘Languages’ section and the home page receiving the most traffic.

With Communications Intern Nicole Hurley, expanded the communications targeted at undergraduates, including:
- 20 original news features for the web site, highlighting the activities and accomplishments of UW-Madison language faculty, staff, and students in education, research, and outreach
  - Several stories were republished on L&S News and University News, including one on Monica Macaulay’s work on Menominee language preservation which was part of a statewide effort to highlight UW-Madison’s outreach work
- 116 Facebook posts to nearly 700 fans
  - The most popular post reached over 6,800 Facebook users
- 384 tweets to over 1,300 Twitter followers
  - The most popular tweet reached nearly 5,000 Twitter users
- Bi-weekly Love Languages e-Bulletin, which is sent to a list of over 1,200 with career tips, information about events, and scholarship, job/internship and other opportunities.

For more information: languages.wisc.edu
4. Campus Programming for Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students

4.1 Instructional Innovation Grants

- New grant program in 2015-16 to support projects in Van Hise departments to enhance language learning.
- Funded projects were:
  - Stasie Harrington (Spanish), Department of Spanish and Portuguese: Online activities for new blended course that incorporate video clips of native speakers from different Spanish-speaking countries.
  - Jeanne Schueller (German), Department of German: Annotated and didacticized clips from contemporary German films to accompany a new second-year German textbook, streamed online through the UC-Berkeley Library of Foreign Language Film Clips.
  - Bei Yang (Chinese), Department of East Asian Languages and Literature: Small-scale service projects in Chinese by students enrolled in Third Year Chinese, with support from ESL students from China.

4.2 Academic Staff Professional Development

- Professional development grant program for academic staff in Van Hise departments and programs.
- Over $6,700 in small grants awarded to 8 academic staff in 7 languages (Indonesian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai) to participate in scholarly conferences or professional meetings (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Open Education Conference, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education Conference), or to conduct research (study on heritage student perceptions of instructors who are native and non-native speakers of the language of instruction).
- 2015-16 grant recipients were:
  - Erlin Barnard, Languages and Cultures of Asia
  - Kannikar Elbow, Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia
  - Stasie Harrington, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
  - Todd Michelson-Ambeling, Department of Scandinavian Studies
  - Takako Nakabubo, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature
  - Barbara Rodriguez-Guridi, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
  - Anna Tumarkin, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature
  - Steel Wagstaff, L&S Learning Support Services

4.3. Graduate Teaching Practicum: Promoting Digital L2 Literacies in Collegiate Language Courses

- New 1-credit graduate course (Slavic 900) taught by Dianna Murphy
- Focus on mobile, place-based games to promote language learning. Used, ARIS: Augmented Reality and Internet Storytelling, software developed at UW-Madison.
- Digital project showcase at end of semester for a general audience

4.4. Lectures, Workshops, and Brownbags such as the following (see www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/events for the full listing):

- Workshop: Interdepartmental Orientation Workshop for New Language TAs and Instructors (3 days), Naomi Geyer, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature; Dianna Murphy, Language Institute; Jeanne Schueller, Department of German. Lead micro-teaching facilitators (with experienced TAs and instructors): Anna Gemrich, Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Andrew Irving, Department of French and Italian; Charles James, Department of German; Debbie Kaaakiola Strohbusch, Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Takako Nakabubo, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature; Tiziana Serafini, Department of French and Italian; Bei Yang, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature
Language Institute Lectures, Workshops, and Brownbags, continued

- Lecture: *Endangered Languages*, K. David Harrison, Swarthmore College, Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages
- Lecture: *The Perspectives of UW-Madison Graduating Seniors on the Outcomes of Foreign Language Majors*, Dianna Murphy, Language Institute
- Workshop: *Clipping the Curriculum: A Walking Tour of the UC-Berkeley Library of Foreign Language Film Clips (LFLFC)*, Mark Kaiser, University of California, Berkeley
- Lecture: *Developing L2 Student Competencies Through Film Clips*, Mark Kaiser, University of California, Berkeley
- Brownbag: *How Does it Look and Feel to be Plurilingual? Analyzing Elementary Students’ Visual and Multimodal Representations of Plurilingualism in Canada and France*, Gail Prasad, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Lecture: *Transdisciplinary Second Language Acquisition in a Multilingual World*, Elaine Tarone, University of Minnesota
- Lecture: *Advocating for Languages on Campus and Beyond*, Dennis Looney, Director of Programs and ADFL, Modern Language Association
- Roundtable: *Issues in Course Placement*, Heather Willis Allen (French), Department of French & Italian; Monika Chavez and Jeanne Schueller (German), Department of German; Dustin Cowell (Arabic), Department of African Languages & Literature; Diana Frantzen and Stasie Harrington (Spanish), Department of Spanish & Portuguese; Naomi Geyer (Japanese), Department of East Asian Languages & Literature; Weihua Zhu (Chinese), Department of East Asian Languages & Literature; Anna Tumarkin (Russian), Department of Slavic Languages & Literature; Jim Wollack and Sonya Sedivy, Testing & Evaluation Services
- Student Project Showcase: *Experimental Projects in Designing Mobile Games for Language Learning*, Dianna Murphy, with students in Slavic 900: *Promoting Second Language Digital Literacies in Collegiate Language Courses*

5. Special Projects

5.1 Nazarbayev University (NU) Phase IV Project

- Provided consulting services to the NU Department of Kazakh Languages, Literature and Culture (team leaders: Karen Evans-Romaine, Dianna Murphy) in the following areas:
  - Professional development: Workshops and site visits
  - Research: Consultation on research articles, conference abstracts
  - Curriculum development: Course design and development; instructional technology
  - Assessment: Standardized assessments
  - Outreach: Professional association of Kazakh scholars
- 2015 project team: faculty, academic staff and graduate students from German, Languages and Cultures of Asia, Language Institute, Slavic Languages and Literature, UW System Collaborative Language Program, Second Language Acquisition

For more information: http://nuinfo.wisc.edu/
6. K-12 Outreach

In the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea, Language Institute outreach programs connect Wisconsin K-12 students and teachers with the wealth of expertise in languages, literatures and cultures on the UW-Madison campus.

2015-16 K-12 outreach programs, spearheaded by Language Institute assistant director Wendy Johnson, were:

• **High School Tutoring in Less Commonly Taught Languages:** Partnered with three Wisconsin high schools (East High School, Madison; Lincoln High School, Manitowoc; and Plymouth High School, Plymouth) to connect UW students of Arabic and Japanese with high school students studying those languages. Fifteen UW-Madison students met weekly via videoconference or in person with participating high school students to provide crucial speaking and listening practice in the language. Wendy Johnson and two teachers presented on the partnership at the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) Conference in November 2015. In 2016-17, the program will support an additional two languages at the schools.

• **Experience Languages** school visits program: Hosted groups of teachers and students from 9 high schools: Badger High School (Lake Geneva), East (Madison), Fort Atkinson, Kimberly, Plymouth, Waterford Union, Wauwatosa East and West, Watertown. High school groups visited language classes, took part in demonstration language lessons, and met with UW-Madison students, faculty and staff from language programs, the International Internship Program, and the International Learning Community. Over 250 high school teachers and students reached. Will continue in Fall 2016.

• **College for Kids:** Two-week workshop for this School of Education program that offered introductory lessons in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Swedish, Russian, Turkish to middle-school students in the Summer 2015. In addition, for a third week, Johnson led a Russia-focused class.

• **Communication:**
  - Produced and widely disseminated a three-minute promotional video oriented towards high school students entitled “Why Study a Language in College.”
  - Articles and blog posts about the *High School Tutoring Program in Less Commonly Taught Languages* and *Experience Languages!* program appeared on the International Division website.

• **Looking ahead:** after taking a break from World Languages Day, we finalized plans to return to this popular program on April 12, 2017.
7. Publications and Research Projects in 2015-16
As part of its research mission, the Language Institute conducts and disseminates research that informs instructional practice.

7.1 Exploring the U.S. Language Flagship Program: Professional Competence in a Second Language by Graduation
- Book co-edited by Dianna Murphy and Karen Evans-Romaine.
- In 2015-16, completed editing of all chapters, wrote front and back matter, completed one chapter (with co-authors Valerie Anishchenkova, University of Maryland, and Zhuo Jing-Schmidt, University of Oregon). Submitted full manuscript and revised it, based on the outside review.
- Forthcoming in 2016, Multilingual Matters.
Funding: Grant from the National Security Education Program.

7.2 Survey of Graduating Seniors Majoring in a Foreign Language
- Study of UW-Madison graduating seniors majoring in a foreign language on their perceptions of the learning outcomes of the major.
- In 2015-16:
  - Completed data analysis
  - Gave UW-Madison brownbag on preliminary findings.
  - Presented findings at Georgetown University Roundtable on Language and Linguistics (GURT), focused on 2016 on assessment in language programs.
- Preparing an article on the study for submission to a professional journal in the Summer 2016. Co-authors: Dianna Murphy, Lauren Goodspeed (SLA student), Colleen Hamilton (SLA student).
Funding: University Assessment Funds grant

7.3 The Goals of Collegiate Learners of Russian and the U.S. Standards for Learning Languages
- Co-authored by Dianna Murphy, Narek Sahakyan, Sally Magnan
8. Acknowledgements

The Language Institute is an initiative of the College of Letters & Science, with substantial support from the International Division.

The primary source of campus funding for the Language Institute is from L&S.

The Russian Flagship Program is supported by a grant from the Language Flagship of the National Security Education Program, U.S. Department of Defense.

Generous funding from the International Division for 2015-16 Language Institute programming supported:

- Undergraduate programming: Video about UW-Madison language programs, to be shown to incoming students in L&S and CCAS advising sessions at SOAR in the Summer 2016; expanded career programming for undergraduates
- Instructional innovation: New grants program for projects in Van Hise departments to enhance language learning.
- Academic staff professional development grants to 8 academic staff in 7 languages (Indonesian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai) to participate in scholarly conferences and conduct research. Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition: SLA graduate student research and conference travel
- Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition: SLA graduate student research and conference travel

The activities of the Language Institute are possible because of the outstanding work of the many faculty, staff and students who are involved in Language Institute programs, projects and activities. We are deeply grateful to these colleagues for their contributions of time, talent and expertise to promoting the mission of the Language Institute and the Wisconsin Idea.