

LTC CONNECTION

LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTER
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

August, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

Message from the Director

With our second issue of LTC Connection, I welcome you all to academic year 2007-08. I hope you are all rested and looking forward to meeting with your colleagues and new students.

Here in your absence, we at LTC have been very busy during this year's steamy summer months. Thanks to Carol, Cindy, Jesse, Pat, Phyllis and Valeria for their help in making another ESL Intensive program a success. The program offered ten courses for approximately 70 students, representing 19 different countries taking one to three courses.

The third ITA/ESL 3-week summer program began on the 8th and concluded on the 28th of this month. This year we had 21 incoming international teaching assistants and had to divide the class into two sections. Pat and I have been busy in preparing these students for their respective assignments for their departments.

Khalil Tahrawi offered an intensive



UMA SAINI
DIRECTOR OF LTC

Beginning Arabic course during both summer terms... and guess what? He just returned from vacationing in Hawaii! I am sure, he will have lots to share with us.

As you all know the enrollment in Arabic and Chinese Programs has been increasing for the past few years. In order to accommodate the students and the course offerings, we have added a full-time instructor for each of these programs. Please join me in welcoming Fadel Abdallah to the Arabic Program, and Josephine Matthews, returning this year, to our Chinese program. Swadesh

Rana could not continue to teach for personal reasons. Her position has been filled and Radhi Datla will join our Hindi Program. Of course, we will meet with them on the 4th of September at Freshman Orientation to be held at noon in the Language Lab.

A special surprise awaits you in your offices and on the 5th floor. I look forward to welcoming you on the 4th!

Freshman Orientation – LTC Open House

On September 4, from noon-1:30, LTC will host an Open House for the class of 2011!

JHU's Orientation theme for 07-08 is 'Hop on', as in ...a roller coaster ride. It's a chance for all of campus to showcase the many resources available to our students and our chance to guide them on their ride to Language Learning!

As in the past, stations will be setup in the Language Lab for each of our languages. You will have the opportunity to meet students and orient them to their language of interest. Lunch will be provided.

Also, keep in mind that LTC will once again host a spring open house during Admissions Open House in April 2008.

This has become a creative and fun annual event

for us, as well as for current and prospective students alike. We welcome your ideas, so please email them to ltc@jhu.edu.



RUSSIAN PROGRAM SETS UP DISPLAY
AT LTC'S OPEN HOUSE SPRING 07

"IF EVERYONE IS

MOVING

FORWARD

TOGETHER, THEN

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ITSELF."

– HENRY FORD

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New Faces in the LTC

This coming semester, we welcome three new faculty to the LTC team.



Fadel Abdallah joins us as a full-time Arabic instructor. He hails from IQRA International Educational Foundation in Illinois, where he was head of the Arabic Program.

Fadel has over 35 years of teaching experience in all levels of Arabic. He is also involved in writing, cultural consultation, translation work, and curriculum development.

Most recently, he has been in collaboration with LTC's own

Khalil Tahrawi in the development of a 3-volume series for teaching Arabic as a second language for college students and adult learners.

Fadel will be teaching Beginning and Intermediate Arabic.

Returning to LTC for the 07-08 academic year as a full-time instructor is **Josephine Matthews**.

Josephine is a familiar face to most around the LTC as part of the Chinese program and comes to us from Loyola College where she was an Assistant Professor in



the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

In the fall, Josephine will teach Intermediate Chinese as well as a course in Chinese Literature, Passions of Ancient China.

Joining the Hindi Program as a part-time instructor is **Radhi Datla**. Radhi holds a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Hyderabad in India and has recently been teaching Hindi at Berlitz International in Odenton, MD.

For the fall semester, Radhi will be teaching Intermediate and Conversational Hindi.

“WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT WORKING IN THE LAB IS THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE I GET TO WORK IN.”

Student Employee Spotlight

The Language Lab has been fortunate enough to have a very dedicated and hard working student bringing invaluable help and support to the Lab team.

Aaron Lazorwitz has been working in the Lab since his freshman year of Fall 2004. He is a senior Psychology major who plans to move on to medical school upon graduation from Hopkins.

“What I like best about working in the Lab,” he says, “is the relaxed atmosphere I get to work in.”

In his years with the Lab, Aaron has learned much

about technical computing and multi-media editing which has helped him contribute to many Lab and LTC projects, and which he also says will be very useful skills in the future.



AARON AT THE LANGUAGE LAB'S FRONT DESK

ESL for International TAs Celebrates a Great Year

This past academic year the ESL program for International TAs welcomed for the first time students from Mongolia, Colombia, and Croatia. Gordana Siftar from Croatia soon became famous in the class for her baking and treated the students to special desserts in December and again in May at a reunion picnic.



GORDANA TREATS HER CLASS TO A CROATIAN CHEESECAKE

Students in Communication Strategies in Spring 2007 also organized a picnic and hike and, with the help of one additional car belonging to Jesse Warford of the Language Lab, were able to get from the campus to Lake

Roland. Thank you, Jesse.



STUDENTS FROM COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SEMESTER AT LAKE ROLAND

Congratulations go to Jun Ma, a graduate student from Biomedical Engineering, who was elected president of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association for 2007-2008. In class Jun impressed his classmates with his

supportiveness. No matter what question they asked during their practice teaching, Jun attempted to answer it whether it was from a field of engineering or the sciences, and he almost always got it right. In addition, he graciously volunteered to film all the students' practice teaching samples.

ESL Heats Up the Summer



PAT PALMER'S SON, MARK, IN CHARGE OF THE GRILL

The English as a Second Language program enjoyed one of its most successful summer sessions this 2007 term.

ESL staff and faculty welcomed 70 students representing 19 different languages.

Pat Palmer, ESL coordinator and lecturer said of the intensive summer program, "One thing that doesn't change is the enthusiasm of our ESL students, staff, and faculty."

The dedicated faculty team this session was made up of lecturers Pat Palmer, David McNeal, Carole Poppleton, Christine Waddail, Jill Williams, and Julia Yarmolinskaya.

Students took a combination of

classes including Oral Communications, Reading and Writing English, Strengthening English for the TOEFL, American Culture, and English for Medical Professionals.

When students weren't working hard in the classroom, they were playing hard in and around Baltimore. ESL Summer activities include sailing on the Inner Harbor, picnicking, Friday night movies at Homewood and in Little Italy, and an Orioles baseball game.

It was certainly a summer full of learning and fun that we all hope continues into the new semester.



JILL WILLIAMS TEACHES A STUDENT THE ART OF S'MORE MAKING



ALL SMILES AT THE ESL PICNIC

SUMMER ESL STUDENTS REPRESENTED NINETEEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES :

Arabic, Farsi/Persian, French, Chinese, Korean, Turkish, Portuguese, Japanese, Slovak, Mandarin, Punjabi, French, Taiwanese, Spanish, Russian, Haitian Creole, Thai, Mandarin, and Amharic.

Exploring Arabic

Five months ago while still enveloped by the cold Ithaca winter, I started pondering how to spend the summer before my junior year. I, who had just become a Middle Eastern studies' major, at Cornell University thought I needed a way to branch out and expand upon my interests. At Cornell I had already been taking Hebrew for quite a while in addition to taking classes about Islamic history and culture. Given my previous classes I thought looking into taking Arabic would be the next logical step for a better understanding of the area. I went to the head of the Arabic department at Cornell for his advice on the matter. He quickly recommended Johns Hopkins as a good place to start my foray into the Arabic language. With his encouragement I thought to myself "sure, why not" and enrolled at Hopkins for two semesters of introductory Arabic.

While walking in for my first class ever at Hopkins I had a good deal of trepidation, but quickly realized my fears were rather unfounded. The class was quaint and small with only 5 other students joining my exploration of Arabic. The professor of the class, Dr. Khalil Tahrawi, was a sweet Palestinian man who

seemed genuinely interested in our advancement and passionate about the subject.

The start of the summer now seems very distant and I have shockingly realized that I have learned quite a lot in these short weeks. Coming from not knowing a Lam from an aliph I could now read and write Arabic rather well and was constantly expanding my vocabulary. And now in a moment of pause I have to realize how lucky I was to find a competent and fun professor to spend a large portion of my summer with. Furthermore, I hope I will be able to continue to have a positive relationship with professor Tahrawi for years to come.

In addition to the strong urge to continue my Arabic in the coming months I have also come to realize the deep importance of learning Arabic. In our current political and economic climate it becomes ever more important to try and branch out. I hope by learning several languages that I will be able to further my goal of receiving a Ph.D. in history of the Middle East and as well grow to understand and appreciate many cultures beyond my own.



BY HARRISON GUTHORN CORNELL '09

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FROM LTC!**

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

August

1st - Valeria Costadoni
7th - Rachel Moran (ESL)
16th - Mahvash Shahegh
18th - Olivia Claxton
21st - Liping Feng
26th - Wenhao Wu

September

15th - Patricia Palmer
20th - Jill Williams (ESL)
22nd - Carol Young

October

29th - Jaclyn Lim

November

8th - Makiko Nakao
11th - Radhi Datla
27th - Phyllis Steiner
28th - Aaron Lazowitz

December

4th - Chenqi Zhou
25th - Khalil Tahrawi
25th - Rika Seya

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 15, 2008
SEND CONTRIBUTIONS
TO LTC@JHU.EDU!**

Language Lab Gears Up for Fall

As the fall semester approaches, be sure to familiarize yourself with all the services the Language Lab has to offer. Take a moment to check out our website at langlab.jhu.edu for the many resources and useful links for your specific language.

With 31 workstations and conference table which can seat up to 15 people, the Language Lab is also available to hold class. Please send an email request to Cindy

Simpson (csimpson@jhu.edu).

Also keep in mind that the LTC Lounge is available for a small group to meet or hold class on an occasional basis. It is only available during normal language lab hours and should be reserved through Carol Young at ltc@jhu.edu.

We look forward to serving you and your students this fall!

Upcoming Events

September 4—LTC Open House, noon-1:30 in Language Lab

September 6—First day of classes; Continental breakfast in LTC Lounge

September 20—Business Dinner, 5-7 p.m. at Hopkins Club

October 15—Fall Break Day

November 12-21—Undergraduate Registration begins for spring term

November 22-25—Thanksgiving Break

December 10—Last day of classes

December 11-12—Reading period

December 13-20—Final Exam period

December (tba)—Holiday Party

January 28—First Day of Classes

Important Info is Just a Click Away...

Registrar's Website—<http://www.jhu.edu/~registr/>

Course Roster Access—<https://isis.jhu.edu/sswf/>

Course/Room Schedule—http://www.ltc.jhu.edu/course_schedule.htm

Academic Calendar—<http://www.jhu.edu/~registr/calendar.html>

Important Dates—http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/important_dates.html

Final Exam Schedule—<http://www.jhu.edu/~registr/exam.html>

Academic Advising—<http://www.jhu.edu/~advising>

Undergraduate Handbook—Academic Ethics—<http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/ethics.html>