2014-15 Annual Report

Submitted June 10, 2015 by
Rob Howell, Director
Dianna Murphy, Associate Director

www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu
# Contents

1. Overview ................................................................................................................................................. 2

2. Academic Programs .................................................................................................................................. 3  
   2.1 Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition (SLA)................................................................. 3  
   2.1 Undergraduate Russian Flagship Program ......................................................................................... 4

3. Activities for Undergraduate Students .................................................................................................... 5  
   3.1 Undergraduate Academic and Career Advising ............................................................................... 5  
   3.2 Undergraduate Communications ........................................................................................................ 5

4. Campus Programming for Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students ......................................................... 6  
   4.1 Lecture Series and Workshops ........................................................................................................... 6  
   4.2 Academic Staff Professional Development ....................................................................................... 6  
   4.3 Instructional Technology Seminar: Technologies for Language Teaching and Learning................. 6

5. K-12 Outreach ........................................................................................................................................ 7

6. Special Projects ....................................................................................................................................... 8

7. Publications and Research Projects in 2014-15 ..................................................................................... 8  
   7.1 Book Project: The U.S. Language Flagship Program: Professional Competence in a Second Language by Graduation ....................................................................................... 8  
   7.2 Survey of Graduating Seniors Majoring in a Foreign Language .......................................................... 8

8. WLLC Task Force ................................................................................................................................... 8

9. Acknowledgements .................................................................................................................................. 9
1. Overview

In 2014-15 the Language Institute provided key support and advocacy for the study of language on the Madison campus and beyond. Activities of the Language Institute fall into four broad categories:

1) Academic programs
2) Support for undergraduate students of language
3) Campus programming for faculty, staff and graduate students
4) K-12 and community outreach

While much of what follows represents continuation of successful programming from previous years, it is important to highlight new or expanded initiatives in the 2014-2015 academic year.

What’s new this year:

- Development of the new web site languages.wisc.edu, designed specifically to cater to the needs of undergraduate language students
- Expanded career advising for undergraduate students of language
- High school tutoring by advanced UW-Madison undergraduates in less commonly taught languages (Arabic and Japanese).
- *Experience Languages* programs hosting students of language from 9 southern Wisconsin high schools on the Madison campus.
- Academic staff professional development program providing grant funding for academic staff involved in teaching languages.
- Yearlong instructional technology seminar for graduate student instructors and instructional staff in the languages.

As will become clear from the following report, it has been a busy and exciting year 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. The 2014-15 academic year was an exciting year of continued success among students and faculty, and engaging professional development activities.

SLA BY THE NUMBERS
• Current students: 22 SLA PhD majors; 45+ SLA PhD minors
• SLA majors who have earned the PhD since the program was established in 2002: 23
• Applicants for admission in the Fall 2015: 42
• Students admitted and planning to matriculate in the Fall 2015: 3
• Travel/research grants awarded to SLA students in 2014-15: 5
• Graduate School Fellowships awarded for 2015-16: 2 full-year and 2 one-semester fellowships

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 co-ordinator: Wendy Johnson
• Jacee Cho, Department of English, joined the core faculty as its newest member

New program website with short video interviews with core faculty

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
• Yearlong series, Technology-Mediated Language Teaching and Learning. Lectures by 3 outside scholars; 5 brownbags with UW-Madison faculty, students, and staff; and a student panel. Attendance of over 280, drawing from departments across campus.
• Workshops on conducting library research and on writing conference abstracts.
• Informal student research poster session.
• Biweekly lunchtime chats with SLA students, faculty and alumni.
• Annual SLA Student Symposium, co-sponsored by UW-Madison and University of Iowa, held in 2015 on the University of Iowa campus. Program included SLA core members Junko Mori as a featured speaker, and Jacee Cho and Dianna Murphy as panelists. Six UW-Madison students presented.
• New this year: Summer research grants program for SLA faculty. Three funded projects gave SLA students the opportunity to work closely with SLA faculty in summer 2015.

For more information: sla.wisc.edu
2.1 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 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

- External grant funding: $567,552
- Students: 49
- Hours/week of Russian tutoring: 56
- Students on the academic yearlong capstone program in Kazakhstan: 12
- Recipients of the Boren Scholarship of up to $20,000: 8

FACULTY AND STAFF

- Karen Evans-Romaine, director
- Dianna Murphy, associate director
- Anna Tumarkin, assistant director
- Laura Weigel, program coordinator
- Lecturers, teaching assistants and tutors on program website

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- *Russian Across the Curriculum* tutorials linked to courses in linguistics, geography, political science, literary and theater studies, and linguistics, and to topics such as oil in the Arctic, the treatment of WWII in Russian and Soviet history books, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and Ukraine-EU relations.
- Rich program of co-curricular activities that included roundtable discussions in Russian with a prominent Russian journalist and a documentary filmmaker, teleconference seminars in Russian with a university in Ukraine, lectures by visiting scholars and public figures sponsored by local community groups, and weekly Russian Flagship social hour and Russian tea.
- Summer language conversation exchange with students from Kazakhstan.
- Site visit by director Karen Evans-Romaine to new overseas capstone program in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Presentations about the program at the University of Virginia and at national academic conferences: American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages; American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.
- Outreach visits to Chicago area high schools.
- Award to UW-Madison to host the national Language Flagship Annual Meeting in May 2016.

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 BY THE NUMBERS
- Advised 85 students (70 students in person and 15 by email or phone)
  - The largest number of students were interested in Spanish (54 out of 855), with French (19), Chinese (13), and German (9) next
  - 30 out of 85 students were studying two or more languages
  - 53 advising sessions focused on career advising, by far the most popular topic, followed by internships (20) and professional/graduate school (9)
- Met with over 500 incoming students at SOAR (Summer 2014 and Winter 2015)
- Presented at or organized 10 events for undergraduates with a total attendance of 238

3.2 Undergraduate Communications
Developed and promoted languages.wisc.edu, a new web site that advocates for language study at UW-Madison and serves undergraduate students by:
  - Providing up-to-date advising and language-related policy information
  - Disseminating information about language-related events, news and out-of-class learning opportunities
  - Showcasing the post-graduation paths of language alumni

Recruited, trained and supervised Communications Intern Nichole Francois, who produced 9 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:
  - Story about German professor Mark Louden was featured on the L&S News page, the UW home page, and was later picked up by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.
  - Bi-weekly e-Bulletin sent to a list of about 1,000 with career tips, information about events, and scholarship, job/internship and other opportunities.
4. Campus Programming for Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students

4.1 Lecture Series and Workshops
Lecture Series: Language Matters: Language, Power, Equity and Justice. Invited lectures by outside speakers and brownbags by UW-Madison faculty, attracting a total audience of over 600:

- "Until I Became a Professional, I Was Not Consciously Indigenous": One Intercultural Bilingual Educator's Trajectory in Indigenous Language Revitalization, Nancy Hornberger, University of Pennsylvania
- Ikema Ryukyuan: Investigating Past Experience and the Current State through Life Narratives Shoichi Iwasaki, University of Hawaii
- Development and Variation in African American English, Lisa Green, University of Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania Dutch in the Public Eye, Mark Louden, Department of German
- Native American Language Revitalization in Wisconsin: the Case of Menominee, Monica Macaulay, Department of Linguistics
- Language in Education: A Return to Critical Bi(multi)cultural Education, Mariana Pacheco, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Homeland Literacy Learning under Conditions of Brain Drain: A Case Study of Migrants’ Left-behind Family Members in Latvia, Kate Vieira, Department of English

Pedagogical Workshops and Webinars
- 3-day fall orientation workshop for 50+ new language TAs and instructors.
- Live streaming of ACTFL webinars on Supporting Heritage Language Learners in language courses.
- Workshop, The Case Scenario Critical Reader: Engaging Students Both In and Outside of the Classroom, Blaire Bundy, Division of Information Technology.
- Workshop, Developing Language Communication Skills with 21st Century Tools, Lauren Rosen, UW Collaborative Language Program.

4.2 Academic Staff Professional Development
- New professional development grant program for academic staff in Van Hise departments and programs.
- Over $7,000 in small grants awarded to 13 academic staff in 10 languages (Chinese, German, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Norwegian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Urdu) to:
  - Participate in scholarly conferences or professional meetings: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, American Association of Teachers of Japanese, American Association of Teachers of Turkish, Chicago Language Symposium, Council on the Teaching of Southeast Asian Languages, Hmong National Development Conference, North American Drupal Convention.
  - Attend professional development workshops: Collaborative Language Program workshop: Flip It!: Increase Communicative Practice with a Flipped Lesson Approach, Goethe Summer Institute for Teachers of German as a Foreign Language: Teaching Literature and Film in German as a Foreign Language Classes.

4.3 Instructional Technology Seminar: Technologies for Language Teaching and Learning
- Yearlong professional development seminar for language instructors.
- Bi-weekly meetings for study group, presentations, discussions, and SLA-sponsored brownbags and outside lectures.
- Thirty-one faculty, academic staff and graduate students applied; 19 selected. Languages of participants: Chinese, ESL, French, German, Hmong, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kazakh, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Yoruba.
- Led by Dianna Murphy, with Rob Howell and Theresa Pesavento, L&S Learning Support Services.
- Future plans: For-credit topic-based teaching practicum on instructional technology to be offered by Murphy in the Fall 2015.
5. K-12 Outreach

Language Institute outreach programs connect Wisconsin teachers and students with language expertise at UW-Madison, to inspire sustained language learning and support teachers in their classroom efforts and in advocacy.

2014-15 K-12 outreach programs, spearheaded by Language Institute assistant director Wendy Johnson, were:

• **High School Tutoring in Less Commonly Taught Languages**: In collaboration with teachers from East (Madison) and Plymouth High Schools, developed a program to provide tutoring to high school students of Arabic and Japanese through a facilitated language study model. UW students at advanced levels of proficiency met once/week via Skype with participating high school students. Program will continue in 2015-16 in Arabic, Japanese and Chinese. Presentation about the project accepted for Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) Conference in November 2015.

• **Experience Languages school visits program**: Hosted groups of teachers and students from 9 high schools: Cashton, Cedarburg, East (Madison), La Follette (Madison), Plymouth, Sauk Prairie, Tomah, Verona Area, Waterford Union. High school groups visited language classes and met with UW-Madison students, faculty and staff from language programs, International Internship Program, International Learning Community. Over 250 high school teachers and students reached. Will continue in 2015-16.

• **Global Youth Summit**: Johnson recruited and trained 16 volunteers to lead demonstration introductory language lessons at this daylong program of the Division of International Studies and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Reached over 170 Wisconsin students from 35 high schools.

• **College for Kids**: Two-week workshop for this School of Education program that offered introductory lessons in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Swedish, Portuguese, Polish, Spanish, Russian, Turkish to middle-school students in the Summer 2014. Reached 24 students. Another languages workshop is planned for summer 2015.

• **Booth at UW-Madison Day at the Wisconsin State Fair** in August 2014. Reached 100s of Wisconsin residents attending the fair.

Visiting students from Cedarburg High School at the French House
6. Special Projects

6.2 Nazarbayev University (NU) Phase IV Project

- Provided consulting services to the NU Department of Kazakh Languages, Literature and Culture, 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
- 2014-15 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
- Current contract with NU ends December 31, 2015.


As part of its research mission, the Language Institute conducts and disseminates research that informs instructional practice.

7.1 Book Project: The U.S. Language Flagship Program: Professional Competence in a Second Language by Graduation

Edited chapters for volume on the history, goals, programmatic and instructional practices, outcomes and impact of federally funded Language Flagship Programs.

- Convened meeting of book authors.

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 2014-15, developed survey instrument and administered it to graduating seniors in the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. Currently analyzing data.
- Preliminary findings to be disseminated in early fall.

Funding: University Assessment Funds grant

8. WLLC Task Force

This year marks the final year of deliberations by the World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (WLLC) Task Force on the future of language departments on the Madison campus. The work of the Task Force culminated in February 2015 in a recommendation to the Deans of the College of Letters & Science to encourage the formation of a federation of departments of language, literatures and cultures. The goal of this federation would be to allow departments to more effectively collaborate in curricular development and in advocating for the importance of language study on the Madison campus and beyond. For more information: http://uwmadison-wllc-taskforce.net

In addition to providing two members of the Task Force, the Language Institute delivered essential administrative and logistical support to the effort. The Language Institute generated copious statistical data on the study of languages on the Madison campus and nationally which allowed the Task Force to discern trends and identify particular strengths and weaknesses of our many programs. The Language Institute also provided a note taker for all meetings and posted minutes of each meeting on a the Task Force website in order to facilitate ready access to the Task Force deliberations to all members of the campus community.
9. Acknowledgements

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

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.

Funding from the Division of International Studies for 2014-15 Language Institute programming supported:

- New resources for undergraduate pre-major and career advising in languages, including the new Languages at UW-Madison website: languages.wisc.edu
- Wisconsin high school tutoring in less commonly taught languages and the Experience Language! at UW-Madison program
- Professional development grants awarded to 13 academic staff in 10 languages: Chinese, German, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Norwegian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Urdu
- Yearlong instructional technology seminar for 19 instructors of Chinese, ESL, French, German, Hmong, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kazakh, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Yoruba

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.