University of Wisconsin-Madison Language Institute
Annual Report
2008-09

Submitted by
Sally Magnan, Director
Dianna Murphy, Associate Director
August 6, 2009
The University of Wisconsin-Madison Language Institute (LI) promotes and supports collaboration for research, education, and campus and community outreach in world languages, literatures, and cultures. The LI is an initiative of the College of Letters and Science (L&S), with substantial support from the Division of International Studies (DIS).

GRANTS

With the support of L&S and DIS, the LI actively pursues outside funding to support its activities in all three areas of its mission: research, education and outreach.

RESEARCH

In 2008-09, we are pleased to report that the LI submitted a successful proposal for $554,674 to the U.S. Department of Education in support of a 3-year (2009-12) research study, directed by Sally Magnan, on the alignment of language students’ learning goals with the goals of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning. This new project builds on a pilot study conducted by the LI in 2007-08, extending the pilot by enlarging the sample to include foreign language students at other postsecondary institutions as well as UW-Madison, incorporating a qualitative as well as quantitative component, and drawing on expertise and logistical support from the UW Survey Center and the Wisconsin Center for Educational Research.

We also worked in 2009 with Robert Howell, International Academic Programs, to design a study that compares the global engagement of students who study abroad and students who don’t. The study was funded for 2009-10 through a grant from the UW-Madison Office of the Provost for $26,255.

To further strengthen the research arm of the LI, we worked in 2009 with Richard Young, Department of English and PhD Program in SLA, to identify potential new research projects. Then, we conducted an extensive review of funding programs to look for sources of grant funding for those projects. (Support for a student hourly employee to assist with this research came from Sally Magnan's retention fund.) To support the research of students in the PhD Program in SLA, administered by the LI, we submitted a successful Language Learning dissertation grant proposal for $1,160 on behalf of doctoral student Suyeon Kim.

EDUCATION

The LI took the lead in planning for and writing a proposal, submitted with Michigan State University, to the Language Flagship Program in support of an undergraduate Central Asian Turkic Languages Flagship Program at UW-Madison and MSU. The RFP for the competition was canceled, and no award was made. We are continuing to work with Uli Schamiloglu, Languages and Cultures of Asia, and other colleagues in L&S and
DIS, to respond next month to a newly-announced RFP for a one-year (2009-10) planning grant for a Central Eurasian Turkic Language Flagship Center.

We also worked this year with the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia (CREECA) on a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information (TICFIA) program in support of NewsLab Eurasia. The proposal was, unfortunately, not successful. CREECA is currently looking for other sources of funding for the project.

In 2008-09, we continued work on several ongoing instructional projects supported by grant funding, and launched a new one in Persian, with funding from the Middle East Studies Program (see below).

OUTREACH

We find that it remains a challenge to secure outside funding for K-12 outreach programs: we submitted unsuccessful proposals to the Madison Arts Commission and the Alliant Energy Foundation in support of World Cinema Day and World Languages Day, respectively. However, we continue to receive excellent support for outreach programs from other campus units, including the Title VI area studies programs, many of which include a line for World Languages Day in their budgets, as well as from the L&S Anonymous Fund.

We are pleased to report that the LI received $2,000 from the Year of the Humanities Initiative to support a World Languages Day event for the community. Scheduled to take place on March 13, 2010, the public event will highlight the university’s offerings and expertise in languages and cultures. We look forward to offering this popular high school outreach program to the broader public.

Also for the Year of the Humanities, the LI co-sponsored a successful proposal to organize a symposium in 2010 on Languages as Homeland. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program, American Indian Studies Program, Folklore Studies Program, LI, Max Kade Institute, and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, and funded through the Year of Humanities initiative and the L&S Anonymous Fund.

INSTRUCTIONAL INITIATIVES

In 2008-09, the LI continued work on many ongoing projects to develop innovative courses, instructional materials and curricular models. New funding for these projects totaled $307,418 for this fiscal year. The projects are:

1. National Online Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) Teacher Training Initiative (completed June 30, 2009)
Co-directors  Sally Magnan, Antonia Schleicher
Personnel  Erlin Barnard, Joseph Chikowero, Sally Magnan, Margaret Merrill, Dianna Murphy, Aeree Nam, Modupe Olubiyi, Antonia Schleicher
FY09 funding  $85,000, U.S. Department of Education International Research and Studies Program; Department of French and Italian (course release for Sally Magnan)
Description  Project of the LI and the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) to develop and offer online methods courses for postsecondary instructors of LCTLs.
Website  www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/methods

In 2008-09, researched, wrote and developed:

• 4 lessons for 2-credit course, *Fundamentals of Language Teaching Methods*  
  (authors: Dianna Murphy, Sally Magnan, Erlin Barnard, Robin Worth)

• 6 lessons for 1-credit course, *Introduction to the U.S. Educational System for Language Instructors* (authors: Sally Magnan, Dianna Murphy, Erlin Barnard, Margaret Merrill)

• 6 lessons for 1-credit course, *Teaching African Languages* (author: Antonia Schleicher)

Produced 130+ video clips (footage from LCTL classes; interviews with LCTL administrators, instructors and students; videotaped lectures) for use in courses. Developed for-credit version of *Fundamentals of Language Teaching Methods*, and non-credit version of all 3 courses.

In the Fall 2008, piloted *Fundamentals of Language Teaching Methods* (offered as French/Italian 821; taught by Sally Magnan) in the Fall 2009; students in the course were graduate TAs with the Departments of Languages and Cultures of Asia, East Asian Languages and Literature, French and Italian, and Slavic Languages and Literature. Conducted an external evaluation of the project and reviewed and revised all course materials. The course will be offered again in the Fall 2009, taught by Isabelle Drewelow and Dianna Murphy. Drewelow’s salary will be paid through the LI; Murphy will teach the course as an overload. At least two students in the Fall 2009 course offering are expected to come from other CIC institutions, through CIC CourseShare.

Dissemination activities for the project included presentations at the 2009 Language Teacher Education Conference and the U.S. Department of Education Title VI 50th Anniversary Conference.

2. CAILS: Central Asian Advanced Interactive Listening Series  (no-cost extension requested through September 30, 2009)

Director  Uli Schamiloglu
Personnel  David Dettmann, Wendy Johnson, Dianna Murphy, Bayram Rahimguliyev
FY09 funding  $132,000, U.S. Department of Education International Research and Studies Program
Description  
A project to develop web-based, cross-dialect training materials in Kazak and Uzbek.

Website  
www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/cails

In 2008-2009, developed 5 Kazak lessons and 10 Uzbek lessons with accompanying authentic audio and video clips; published completed lessons to website. Disseminated materials nationally through targeted email notices on professional listserves, and advertisements in scholarly journals and conference bulletins.


Co-directors  
Sally Magnan, Dianna Murphy

Personnel  
Xiaojuan Jin, Claire Kotenbeutel, Ying Du, Aeree Nam, Piyanut Sripanawongsa

FY09 funding  
$65,086, Claire Giannini Foundation

Description  
Ongoing project (2007-11) to develop and offer online Chinese language courses for high school students

Adapted course materials from online Chinese courses for business professionals to a high school student audience. Completed preliminary drafts of 4 lessons for 1st semester course. Edited and produced 11 video episodes based on original footage filmed in Beijing in 2008. Working in 2009-10 to complete 1st semester course and to offer it as a pilot. Began conversations with an area school and DPI about ways to bring the course to high school students.

4. Online Chinese for Business Professionals (ongoing)

Co-directors  
Sally Magnan, Dianna Murphy

Personnel  
Yang Liu, Piyanut Sripanawongsa

FY09 funding  
$9,000 from the Center for East Asian Studies to support TA salary and fringes; Carryover from 2006-07 award from the Credit Outreach Program

Description  
Ongoing project offer online Chinese language courses for business professionals

In 2008-09, offered Elementary Conversational Chinese for Professionals I (3 cr). In the Fall 2008 and Elementary Conversational Chinese for Professionals II (3 cr.) in the Spring 2009. With CIBER, marketed the course to broad audience in the international business community. Integrated original video footage into the 1st semester course and revised course activities accordingly. We are planning to offer both courses again in 2009-10.

4. Utamaduni Online: An Advanced Level Course in Swahili Language and Culture (ended May, 2009)

Director  
Magdalena Hauner

Personnel  
Beatrice Mkenda, Zablon Mgonja, Dianna Murphy

FY09 funding  
$12,332, Magdalena Hauner (UW Foundation funds)
**Description**

Ongoing project to develop online Swahili language and culture lessons for intermediate-advanced level learners

In 2008-09, completed the project, developing 12 lessons, a cultural glossary and dictionary.

**5. Novice-level listening in Persian**. A small project to research and review existing instructional materials for novice-level learners of Persian, and to develop model listening/viewing comprehension materials and classroom activities.

**FY09 funding** $4,000, Middle East Studies Program

**Personnel** Fatemeh Mirsharifi, Erlin Barnard, Dianna Murphy

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**ACADEMIC PROGRAM: SLA DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

The LI serves as the administrative home to the interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition (SLA), with 26 doctoral majors in 2008-09. Two students earned the Ph.D. in 2008-09. The program received 45 applications for admission in the Fall 2009, 8 more than in the previous year. Seven students were admitted; one will begin the program. The others told us that the funding packages were substantially larger elsewhere, which lead them to choose these other institutions. The program’s ability to offer competitive funding packages to admitted students thus remains a major issue. This year is the lowest number of acceptances to the program to date, and is a concern.

Through $900 in support from the Graduate School, the LI was able to provide support to several SLA majors to give papers at scholarly conferences, and produce materials for recruiting applicants in the future.

The SLA Graduate Student Organization, with graduate students in the Foreign Language Acquisition Research and Education Program at the University of Iowa, organized the second annual Graduate Student Symposium, held in Iowa in April, 2009. The LI assisted in writing and administering ASM funding in support of the Symposium.

The Executive Committee of the SLA PhD Program submitted a thorough self-study report to L&S in the Fall 2008 as part of the 5-year joint review of the program. The L&S Academic Planning Council reviewed the self-study and recommended that the program be continued.

The LI organized SLA-focused talks by visiting scholars David Block (University of London) and Joan Kelly Hall (Pennsylvania State University). Support for these talks was through the L&S Anonymous Fund and the University Lectures Committee.

In addition to supporting the SLA Program directly, we support other academic programs in many ways. In 2008-09, these activities include:
• Sally Magnan consulted with the Center for European Studies about their next round of applications, provided outreach in French through the French Centre de ressource, and participated in numerous campus meetings and committees.

• Dianna Murphy served on committees to advise the Arabic and Persian Immersion Program, and to consider an e-center on campus; she also served on the L&S Professional Development and Recognition Committee.

• Wendy Johnson presented a workshop on close readings of the Brothers Karamazov at the Center for Humanities’ Great Texts in Wisconsin teachers’ workshop.

CAMPUS PROGRAMMING

For Faculty and Graduate Students

Our lecture series this year, Culture, Literature and Language: Power and Pedagogies, was designed to engage faculty and students with interests in culture and literature, as well as language teaching and learning. Funding for the series was from College of Letters and Science Anonymous Fund. Featured talks were:

• B. Kumaravadivelu, San José State University, “Transforming Pedagogies: Identity Formation in the Age of Cultural Globalization”

• Charlotte Melin, University of Minnesota, “Between the Lines: When Poetry, Language, and Culture Meet in the Classroom”

• Mary Louise Pratt, New York University, “Land of the Free and Home of the Phraselator: The Weaponization of Language” (with the Center for the Humanities)

The local audience for the lectures was 50-100; the lectures were webcast live for a remote audience, members of the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT). Lectures in the series were published in the journal Language Teaching.

We also organized a talk and workshop by Gareth Walker, University of Sheffield, with funding from the Ford Language and Interaction fund, administered in the LI:

• “On the Division of ´Prosodic´ and ´Non-Prosodic´ Resources in Talk-in-Interaction” (lecture)

• Fundamentals for Hearing, Describing and Acoustically Measuring Phonetic Resources (workshop)

As in previous years, the LI coordinated the annual cross-departmental pre-service workshop for new graduate teaching assistants. In 2008, over 90 new instructors participated in the 3-day workshop.

For Undergraduate Students

To promote the study of world languages and cultures and stimulate enrollment in language courses, the LI maintains a comprehensive website on the University’s language programs (www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu). We actively promote these programs by creating and disseminating materials on each language offered during the upcoming academic year to incoming and current students, and organizing events and programs for
undergraduates that raise awareness of opportunities to study languages on campus and through study abroad. In 2008-09, these events and programs were:

- **Language for Life**

- **Lecture** on language learning strategies by Dianna Murphy reached an audience of approximately 45.

- **Lecture** on improving language proficiency during travel or study abroad; Dianna Murphy with undergraduate students from International Academic Programs; audience of approximately 30.

- **Love Languages Campaign**, to highlight the importance and vitality of language learning through engaging, student-friendly online and print-based media and materials and strategically-timed publicity efforts. In the Fall 2008, residence hall mailboxes were stuffed with *Love Languages* flyers, and posters were distributed in campus buildings. Information from current UW students and alumni who studied languages was collected for a Profiles section of the LI website to highlight language students and their academic and personal interests and achievements.

- Efforts to represent languages at this year’s **Summer Orientation and Advising (SOAR)** include a 5-minute video presentation, produced by the LI with L&S Learning Support Services, featuring language classroom footage and interviews with language faculty and students; online resources and handouts on individual languages; booklet for advisors on Fall 2009 language offerings and information on why to study those languages, and other printed material directing students to language-related information. The video was shown during L&S and a Cross College Advising Services’ presentations; it also played during a resource fair at SOAR. LI outreach coordinator Wendy Johnson advised students daily on language-related matters as SOAR foreign language consultant. Melissa Miller, a graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literature, answered questions and encouraged language study daily at the SOAR Resource Fair. A professionally designed email encouraging language study was sent to all incoming students one week before their participation at SOAR throughout much of the summer.

To promote greater student input on programs and activities, we formed an LI Student Advisory Committee, which met in the Fall 2008 and provided input throughout the 2008-09 academic year.

We also convened a meeting this year with representatives from the language programs to discuss ideas for how the LI might work on their behalf to stimulate enrollments. Ideas from the group included organizing programs for admitted students and parents, providing expertise and securing funding for events such as LCA Culture Night to showcase language programs, or organizing an event featuring current students in languages classes across.
Finally, we participated in many campus events, including the Majors Fair, Returned Study Abroad Students Fair (IAP), and the Spring Advising Fair (CCAS).

RESEARCH

The LI conducts and supports research that supports the teaching and learning mission of the College and the many departments in which languages are taught. In 2008-09, Sally Magnan and Dianna Murphy submitted an article based on LI research, written with SLA students Michele Back and Paula Garrett Rucks, to *Foreign Language Annals*, and planned for a second article, also based on studies conducted in the LI, to be submitted to another journal. Much of our efforts in this area this year were in researching and writing grants to support future research projects.

Findings from the 2007-08 research project on student goals and the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning were presented in Essen, Germany by Sally Magnan and an SLA graduate student, Suyeon Kim. This study served as a pilot for our successful grant application to the U.S. Department of Education.

We were pleased this year to continue provide support to Cecilia Ford, Department of English, by administering an award through the UW Foundation, $12,576 in FY 09, in support of her research, and to help to plan a workshop scheduled for the Fall 2008 related to it.

OUTREACH

K-12 Outreach Programs

In 2008-09, the LI continued to coordinate popular outreach programs for Wisconsin K-12 students and teachers:

- **World Languages Day (April 20, 2009):** An award-winning, annual event that brings over 700 high school students and teachers from across Wisconsin to campus to participate in approximately 50 sessions on world languages and cultures. We continue to actively recruit new schools and top UW-Madison feeder schools. As a result, of the 25 Wisconsin high schools that participated this year, 11 attended for the first time and 11 participating schools were among the top 100 feeder schools for the UW-Madison. The event was supported by the Anonymous Fund; the Evjue Foundation; African Studies Program; Center for East Asian Studies; Center for European Studies; Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia; Center for South Asia; Global Studies; and Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program. In order to more successfully target high school seniors for recruitment to the university and to language and culture-oriented programs, beginning in the fall 2009, World Languages Day will take place in the fall, before the February deadline for UW-Madison admissions.
• **World Cinema Day (April 3, 2009):** An annual program that introduces Wisconsin high schools students to international cinema and provides teachers with curricular materials. This year’s WCD brought 500 students and teachers from 12 schools to attend a screening of the German-Iranian documentary *Football Under Cover.* Venkat Mani, Department of German, Fatemeh Mirsharifi, doctoral student in Second Language Acquisition, and German director David Assmann took part in the pre- and post-screening discussion. Mani and Mirsharifi also contributed to a discussion guide, along with Charles James, Department of German, who worked with students in his German classes to develop materials for the guide. The guide was co-authored and compiled by Wendy Johnson. WCD was produced in partnership with the Wisconsin Film Festival with support in 2009 provided by the Center for European Studies, Center for German and European Studies, Middle East Studies Program, and Madison Arts Commission.

• **College for Kids:** Three, one-week language sampler workshops for highly motivated rising 6th graders through the School of Education program. Coordinated in 2009 by SLA doctoral student Carolina Bailey. Languages represented in the workshops were Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Norwegian.

We continue to work to connect with Wisconsin high school teachers by offering live webcasts and online archives of LI lectures to members of the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT), with WAFLT contributing $200 toward the cost of this service. We also actively participate in the annual WAFLT meeting.

We worked to connect with Wisconsin high school teachers by helping to organize the 2009 WAFLT Summer Language Institute at the Pyle Center, and participating in the annual meeting of WAFLT in Appleton.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank the College of Letters and Science and the Division of International Studies for their continued support of our mission. We also thank the members of our 2008-09 Advisory Board for their insights and suggestions:

• Erlin Barnard, Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia
• Susan Brantly, Department of Scandinavian Studies
• Bruno Browning, Letters and Science Learning Support Services
• Monika Chavez, Department of German
• Magdalena Hauner, College of Letters and Science
• Robert Howell, International Academic Programs
• Junko Mori, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature
• Ellen Rafferty, Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia
• Jane Zuengler, Department of English

We are grateful for the excellent support that we have received this year from staff with the College of Letters and Science Learning Support Services and the Division of
Information Technology, especially from David Macasaet (L&S Learning Support Services) and Michelle Glenetski (DoIT), who devoted an extraordinary amount of their time and expertise to several of our projects this year.

Finally, we acknowledge the outstanding contributions of faculty and staff listed above who contributed their expertise and time to our individual projects, and to outreach coordinator Wendy Johnson, financial specialist Malliga Somasundaram, undergraduate students Marissa Mastrangelli and Mia Johnson, and SLA doctoral student Christine Elliott, whose work on many LI projects and programs has been invaluable.