

Waves

Connecting the World through Languages and Cultures

GVSU's Modern Languages and Literatures Magazine

Vol. 2 2013-2014



BREAKING DOWN
BARRIERS THROUGH
SHARED LANGUAGE



08 | Learning Abroad in Lebanon



09 | Japan's Unique Brand of Globalism



10 | Lessons from My Trip to Nanjing



THIS IS MY STORY

08 | Politics with a Princess

Learning Abroad in Lebanon

09| Teriyaki McBurger & Bento

Japan's Unique Brand of Globalism

 AT GVSU

SUCCESS STORIES

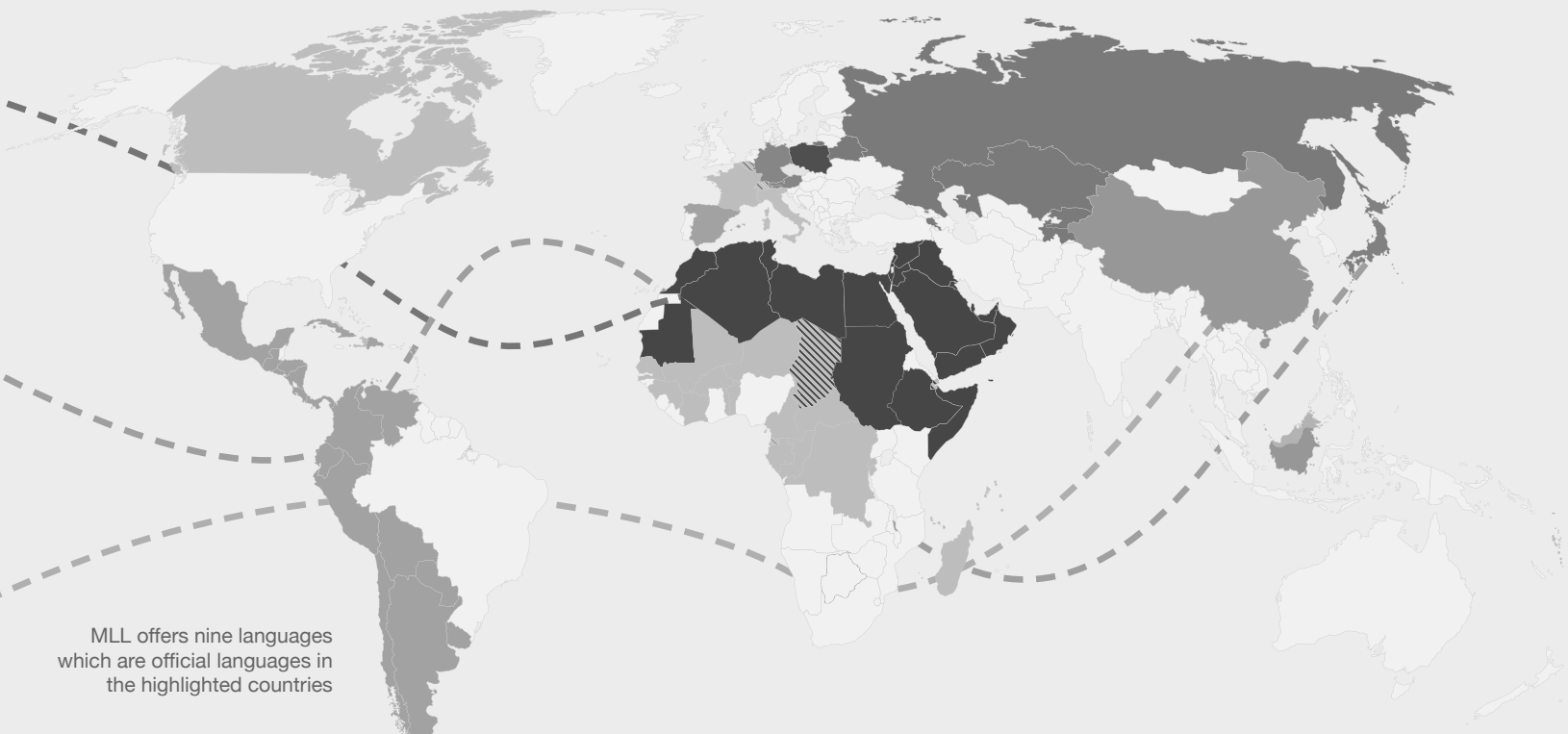
12 | From Gorillaz to Global
Q&A with Josh Kahn of Sony Music

16 | Alumni Successes

16 | Faculty Publications



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY



MLL offers nine languages which are official languages in the highlighted countries

	ARABIC	CHINESE	FRENCH	GERMAN	ITALIAN	JAPANESE	POLISH	RUSSIAN	SPANISH
MAJOR			✓	✓					✓
MINORS	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
COURSES IN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CLUBS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

RESOURCES

LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER (MAK D-2-221)
SPANISH WRITING CENTER (MAK B-2-244) FRENCH WRITING CENTER (MAK B-2-244)

DEPARTMENT PEDAGOGY

The approach to language learning offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures differs from the pedagogy in which many high school students receive instruction. In some cases, students come into their collegiate-level courses with a few years of experience under their belt, but still cannot “speak” the language. While the department recognizes and appreciates variation, there is an emphasis among faculty on proficiency-based instruction, where the ultimate goal is communicative competence. The four pillars of the MLL curriculum include: language skills (listening comprehension,

reading comprehension, speaking, and writing), cultural awareness, literary analysis, and linguistics.

MLL professors achieve this goal by immersing students in the language. This means professors are speaking in the target language during the majority of class time. Grammar instruction is given, but with contextual significance. This way, grammar becomes meaningful, rather than abstract, and language becomes not just something students know, but that they use.

Another goal of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is to enhance students’ analytical and critical skills through linguistic and

cultural education. This pedagogy helps students develop strategies for understanding, even if they are presented with unfamiliar vocabulary. Ultimately, MLL’s goal is to establish a comfortable environment which decreases performance anxiety and cultivates optimal language learning. “We’re all learning together,” said Professor Menke of the Spanish section. “We’re all willing to make mistakes.” Language students reap the linguistic benefits when they are willing to experiment in these low-stakes settings among classmates.”





Majd Al-Mallah is an associate professor of Arabic at GVSU. He teaches a variety of Arabic and Middle East Studies courses and leads the Jordan Study Abroad program held during the Spring/Summer semester. Below are several pictures of the 2013 study abroad group in Amman, Jordan

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

MAJD AL-MALLAH



I am pleased to introduce the second volume of our annual magazine and hope you will find the variety of articles and news as well as the visual beauty of the magazine appealing and worth your time!

The current volume features a continuation of the magazine's vision: to provide a meaningful publication that communicates the values and accomplishments of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures while also providing excellent content that is useful and worthwhile. While this volume maintains the main sections of the first volume, it also introduces new features that are intended to strengthen the magazine and make it more appealing for our prospective students and general reader. Of special note is a revision of the way that we introduce study abroad experiences. In this volume, we decided to give each person the freedom to write his/her own story and reflection on his/her study abroad experience. We also added a section on language clubs specifically geared for prospective and new students. Last but not least, we added a section that includes a poem written in English and translated into the languages that we teach at MLL, a visual demonstration of the variety and diversity of our offerings.

This volume focuses on the theme of careers connected with students who study a language or gain a degree from our department, but end up working in fields that are not necessarily or typically the first thing that comes to mind when we think of someone studying languages. The main feature of the magazine focuses on this theme, highlighting the potential of those studying languages and cultures in the growing fields of health and business, for example. Knowledge of a language and culture distinguishes students in a growing need to accommodate and understand people who come from varying backgrounds but who might not have the proficiency in English. Our Q&A section features an alumni who studied languages and who now works with Sony in the music industry.

The magazine also highlights important events and faculty/alumni news that communicate our values. This past year featured a wide range of cultural events that faculty in MLL organized or helped organize, but we picked two major events to include here: an international conference hosted by the department, one that drew scholars from all over the world, and an outreach program to Forest Hills Middle School that was a collaborative project intended to introduce the school to the variety of possibilities that studying a language and a culture might offer students.



I am very proud of this volume and hope you will enjoy the content and visuals it contains. 🌟

Regards,

MAJD AL-MALLAH

Majd Al-Mallah, Associate Professor
Chair, Modern Languages and Literatures



True Citizens of the Global World

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS THROUGH SHARED LANGUAGE

BY: NIKKI FISHER

Welcome to the Global World

As a nation, we are growing ever closer to the melting pot roots which extend past American soil and connect us to the global world. The Migration Policy Institute reported that in twenty years,



between 1990 and 2010, the number of U.S. citizens who speak English “less than very well” increased 80 percent. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies these individuals as “linguistically isolated.” According to the 2010 Census, 8 percent of all Americans face this brand of isolation which separates them from the mutual understanding of a shared language.

But perhaps “linguistic isolation” does not do justice to communication barriers facing Limited English Proficiency (LEP) speakers in the United States. Language learning has two pillars: language and culture. While linguistic features build the skeleton of language, cultural differences, too, challenge shared understanding between two individuals. American culture often places the communicative burden on these people, making it their job to acquire English and mainstream culture.

What Does This Mean?

Demand for bilingual employees is rising, particularly among the service sector of the economy, where employees are in direct communication with LEP speakers. **Anthony Balderrama, researcher for CareerBuilder.com, reports that eight industries in need of bilingual workers are: healthcare, hospitality, law enforcement, customer service, social services, finance, and communication.** Studies show these fields and many more are stepping up to break down linguistic and cultural barriers and reach out to a new client base.

Graduates of modern languages may expand the scope of their job search by thinking outside the realm of direct application of their target language. Language instructors are constantly battling the myth that language degrees are reserved for those who aspire to be teachers, translators, or interpreters. In the modern world, there are other career options available for the linguaphile.

Foreign languages provide the learner with a toolbox packed with skills, such as critical thinking or multitasking. These skills, along with cultural understanding, make the bilingual employee appealing, even if his/her career does not require him/her to speak a second language on a daily basis. The following sections highlight three fields where bilingualism is a major asset—healthcare, the legal system, and business—and how bilingual employees in these fields use language and cultural skills in the workplace.

(LEP= Limited English Proficiency)



Source: “LEP Data Brief,” Migration Policy Institute, 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Survey, 2011



Healthcare Meets Linguistic Humanism

The healthcare field is always seeking multilingual employees in order to provide safer, more comfortable service to LEP patients. In a survey of over 800 hospitals, researchers at George Washington University found that 90 percent hire bilingual nurses and physicians. While 74 percent of these hospitals report working with patients whose primary language is not English, only 30 percent hire translators to meet these patients' needs.

74%
of U.S. Hospitals
Serve Patients
Whose Primary Language
is Not English

Language barriers can prove dangerous in emergency situations where communication cannot be reached between caregiver and patient. John Tucker, instructor at Harvard Medical School, along with colleagues Alice Chen and Richard Glass, write that language barriers often lead to misdiagnosis, medication errors, and inappropriate treatment.

Even when patients are able to communicate in English, cultural barriers can impede the quality of service given to them. Physicians who are not aware of Arab dietary traditions, for example, may not have an accurate picture of their clients' health. In order to avoid such misunderstandings, the primary health center in Dearborn, Michigan—where the population is 30 percent Arab—has five Arabic-speaking physicians on staff, as well as one Arabic-speaking patient advocate.

Barriers like these demonstrate the need for cultural education when learning a foreign language. True fluency demands more than memorizing definitions because seamless communication between two people requires a shared cultural understanding. In the hospital setting, this shared understanding can prevent malpractice and save lives.

Language in the Legal System

Language degrees are also popular among workers in the legal system. Police departments, court systems, and social work agencies in linguistically diverse areas are always in need of employees with knowledge of language and culture.

"We're constantly running into situations where we need somebody bilingual," Sergeant Sam Solivan of Allentown, Pa. told reporters at Morning Call. Shared language can make all the difference; for instance, the difference between determining whether a victim is suffering from the stomach flu or having a heart-attack, as narrated by officers from Apple Valley, Minn. to the Minnesota Star Tribune. Furthermore, language barriers can prevent dispatchers from understanding the name and address of distressed callers or prevent suspects from being informed about the terms of their arrest.

As a result, many police and fire departments in California are requiring officers to pick up "survival" or "occupational" Spanish to prevent these sometimes dangerous miscommunications and provide their towns with the best help possible, and this trend is spreading to other states as well. But while survival courses give officers a cursory glance at their target languages through the memorization of key phrases, this education lacks the cultural and immersive qualities that allow language learners to converse fluently.

Outside police work, lawyers, parole officers, and social workers, among others, also benefit from bilingual skills. "Being fluent in Spanish is a big plus in social services," Evie Engler, vice president for Metropolitan Family Services in Chicago told an interviewer at CareerBuilder.com. "In many of the communities we serve, our licensed clinical social workers, case workers and counselors must be bilingual to serve families in need of our counseling, mental health and financial management services."

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires meaningful access to be available to LEP speakers in federally-funded courtrooms. When courtrooms lack interpretation services, people like Flor Giusti—who leads an organization which helps protect Latino women against domestic violence, but speaks little English according to the Baltimore Sun—suffer misunderstandings which jeopardize their cases. In places like Giusti's Maryland courtroom, bilingual niches exist which modern language graduates are apt to fill.

Bilingual Employees Mean Business

When faced with linguistic diversity, local businesses boost their odds of success by maintaining a multilingual staff. In Farmington Hills, Mich.—an area inhabited by many Eastern European immigrants—Jim Manna, broker-owner of the local RE/MAX told reporters at the Detroit Free Press that his office is "like the United Nations" with agents who speak Arabic, Polish, Russian, Italian, and five other languages. Manna says the advantage over his competitors is obvious. His real estate agents often have to explain





miscommunications deeply rooted in cultural differences, as many of his customers come from a cash-based culture where bartering is more socially acceptable. A nearby company, Shore Mortgage, which runs six offices in the Metro-Detroit area, has an equally diverse staff with agents who speak Chinese, Japanese, French, and German, among other languages.

Multinational corporations, hallmarks of the global world, reflect a similar multiculturalism. Here, languages transcend the relationship between employee and customer, extending between employee and employer and amongst employees. Fortune Magazine reports that 4,000 foreign companies have subsidiaries in the United States, which means many Americans are employed by supervisors in Germany, Norway, France, Sweden, Japan, and Britain, among others. Shared understanding of language and culture boosts corporate culture. The American Management Association surveyed Forbes' top 500 corporations and found "speaking and understanding local language and culture" one of 60 major difficulties. While employers may perceive this cultural gap as a stressor, workers educated in a modern language can ease tension and enrich their corporate community.

"It's absolutely a necessity for anyone in a senior management position in our company to have a very good grasp of another language," Gale Griffin, vice president for corporate communications at Best Foods told a reporter for New Jersey's The Record. Griffin himself speaks German and French and says that many of his workers speak another language at home as well.

Joyce Sharkey, language teacher at Berlitz Language school says 55% of her customers are learning a language for business purposes. "While English may be the language of business, after 5 o'clock people speak their own language," she says, "so if you're socializing with them, you're cut out of developing trust and social relationships."

Cultural Sensitivity: Your Ticket to Global Citizenship

The rewards of studying a language and understanding a new culture are vast and applicable both practically and personally. Researcher Daniel Shanahan describes learning a second language as learning "to live psychologically in two cultures," where one can step into a new persona and see the world through the eyes of another group of people. This kind of understanding leads to cultural sensitivity, which helps the learner become perceptive and sympathetic to all cultural differences both inside and outside of the workplace.

In a nation so threaded with various languages and cultures, many U.S. businesses and human services that exist at the intersections of these languages are making an active effort to reach out to non-fluent English speakers in their areas by hiring bilingual employees to bridge gaps. Multilingual workplaces like these provide opportunities for modern language degree-holders to use their linguistic and cultural skills in ways that do not directly involve teaching, translating, or interpreting their target language.

From Arabic-speaking nurses and physicians in Dearborn to police troops learning occupational Spanish all over California, from Jim Manna's United Nations-esque RE/MAX in Farmington Hills to Gale Griffin's multilingual staff at Best Foods in New Jersey, these people live and work on U.S. territory, but they—along with millions of other language learners everywhere—represent knots of interconnected language and culture that make them true citizens of the global world. 📍

Researchers surveyed 171
Human Resource managers.
Of these managers,



78.9%

expressed a need for
foreign language
fluency in their
businesses.

Source: "Foreign Language Needs
of U.S. Businesses," by William
Kordsmeier, Joe Arn, and Betty
Rogers, published in the Journal of
Education for Business, 2011.



Politics with a Princess

Learning Abroad in Lebanon

Today, I tried Turkish coffee—or the Lebanese style of it, anyway. It was pleasantly bitter and nothing at all like the sweet mint tea I came to love while studying Arabic in Morocco earlier this summer. Hard to believe that in just one week, I've gone from sitting in a classroom in Morocco to sitting on a terrace in Lebanon—sipping coffee served by a princess, no less! It's the last day of my summer 2012 in-country study visit sponsored by the National Council on US-Arab Relations (NCUSAR), but unlike a typical study abroad, my experience has included formally meeting two dozen experts on Lebanese affairs. Imagine what a pleasant surprise it was to wake up this morning and hear that my in-country fellowship sponsor, the Lebanon Renaissance Foundation, was able to arrange a visit with royalty: Mrs. Hayat Arslan, a princess of the Druze, one of the many religious groups that live in Lebanon. Her residence resembled a French château or an Italian villa with a Middle Eastern twist. And even under a simple black sweater and slacks, Princess Hayat herself had a natural outer beauty that perfectly complemented her charming eloquence. As she was only the second woman I have formally met here in Lebanon, I was captivated as

she recounted the time she organized a successful national campaign to promote women's equality. She had inspired hundreds of thousands of Lebanese women to stop and get out of their cars, honking their horns at noon for justice.

Even through simple observation, I can see that there is a great liberal movement taking place in Lebanon. In my ten days of traveling throughout this small country which neighbors Syria, Israel, and the Mediterranean Sea, I have witnessed a world completely different from the one I knew in Morocco. The different Arabic dialect was the one thing I had braced myself for but, aside from this difference, it surprised me how much the Moroccan and Levant regions differ. While passing women on the streets here in Lebanon, I have seen a few of the familiar Moroccan-style long-sleeved and floor-length kaftans, but I have seen even more bare shoulders and knees than I ever expected. Muslim mosques dominate the Moroccan landscape, but Lebanon has places of worship for the country's eighteen religious communities. Even my daily helping

of couscous and sweet mint tea was replaced with lamb shawarma and Turkish coffee, like the coffee I drank earlier this afternoon on a royal Lebanese terrace.

And it was sitting there, discussing politics with a princess, which made me most pleased I had made the decision to study abroad. My visit has meant far more than gathering research for my Honors College Senior Thesis; with a BA in International Relations and minors in Middle East Studies and German Language & Literature, I now have life experience that stands out. As if getting a better sense of the language and lifestyle of Lebanon wasn't enough, meeting with two dozen Lebanese experts has ensured that I have lasting contact with influential and experienced agents of change half-way around the world. Whether I enter a governmental or NGO career track, these connections and what they taught me about Lebanon have forever shaped the way I will approach Lebanese and Middle Eastern affairs. 🍵

THIS IS MY STORY

Aubrey McMahon



Teriyaki McBurger & Bento

Japan's Unique Brand of Globalism

Stay awake! My eyes flew open for the tenth time as I mentally reprimanded myself. Despite having been awake for over 24 hours, I could not let myself fall asleep – not yet anyway. I was in a car driven by Haruka, the landlord's daughter, heading toward the first view of the university I would be attending for the next four weeks. As Haruka drove off the highway onto a side street, I was greeted with my first view of suburban Japan. Narrow streets, small shops, bike racks, bright karaoke signs, and houses with tiled roofs – everything converged in my mind and resulted in utter awe. This first drive into Japan proved to be only a taste of what was to come: a month that showed me that Japan is much more of a cultural melting pot than I first perceived.

On trips to downtown Osaka, the influence of globalism can be seen starting from the local train stations. Each station is clearly marked in both English and Japanese. Walking out of the station, one may see a golden arch or two, and possibly a familiar "Subway" sign in the distance. Before going into a restaurant though, customers tend to stand outside to look at their options first, as the Japanese make wax replicas of their dishes and display them right outside. It's not uncommon to see spaghetti and meatballs, pizza, and parfaits. The movie theater nearby advertises Hollywood movies, with the names written in Japanese katakana, making "The Avengers" turn into "アベンジャーズ" or "Abenjyazu."

However, among all the things that seem familiar, the feeling of being in Japan remains. Perhaps it's the fact that the menus in popular American chain restaurants are completely different—have you ever tried a Teriyaki McBurger? Walking down a

street, one can see a Spanish restaurant surrounded by noodle shops and a traditional shrine located on a main street, positioned in between large western-style buildings. Waiters and waitresses stand outside their restaurants, passing out flyers, or shouting, "Irasshaimase!" meaning, "Welcome" over and over. And despite the great electronics that Japan exports to America, it is difficult to find Wi-Fi in public areas.

These small details, however trivial they may seem, were the first things I noticed when I arrived, and the last things I savored before I left. Before studying abroad, I had an image in my mind of what Japan should be like: filled with anime, girls in sailor uniforms, samurai, more anime, sushi, a homogenous culture, and anime. This is an image that America seems to reinforce as, other than these staple items, Americans are exposed to little else regarding Japanese culture. However, my time abroad showed me that while embracing globalism, the Japanese have kept a strong hold on their traditions. That first day in Japan, as we pulled into the university, Haruka turned off the dubstep playing on her stereo and opened the passenger

door for us. After a quick orientation, our landlords handed us bento lunches—a meal arranged in a box-shaped container, with different compartments for each dish—as a welcoming gift. These were accompanied by bottled tea. My adventure into 21st century Japan had officially begun—an adventure that continues to this day, as I not only study the Japanese language, but through self-study and events at GVSU, make conscious efforts to continue to learn more about Japanese culture and the ever-evolving Japanese society. 🍱

THIS IS MY STORY

Sheila Garcia



*No Little Mistake Will
Be the End of the World
Lessons from My
Trip to Nanjing*



My mind was fried. After four straight hours of Chinese class, I was finally free for the rest of the afternoon. With a few other international students, I headed out to 'cheap street,' a popular place to grab a cheap, but quality lunch after a long morning. Being a group of fair-haired, white-skinned people, we were quite a sight to the locals on this little side street. Many people stared, and a few brave ones even yelled things like "Hello, you are American? Picture!" as they pulled out a camera. We arrived at the regular lunch spot: a small shop that sold just one thing, pork dumplings. This made ordering food no more difficult than grunting a four syllable phrase, "八个包子" (Bā gè bāozi, meaning "Eight dumplings").

I returned to my apartment and sat near the windowsill of my room on the 17th story, getting lost in the beautiful Nanjing skyline as I ate my lunch. I snapped out of it long enough to pluck the now cold dumplings from my bowl with my chopsticks and toss them into the trash. It was at least the fourth day in a row I had eaten the same pork dumplings for lunch, so I was eager to try something new. This, however, was easier said than done for a first year Chinese speaker on a trip designed for second and third year students. Food ordering scenarios are not taught in the GVSU Chinese program until the second year, leaving first year students like

me a bit unsure how to order many kinds of food. My roommate, the only other first year student on the trip, agreed that it was time to test our speaking skills and go to a fancier restaurant for dinner.

We had become quite familiar with the area, and decided on a restaurant in the neighborhood that specialized in the popular Hunan cuisine, where we would be joined by a few other friends. We entered, were seated, and began to check out the menu. We found some dishes that looked good, and were able to order thanks to our beginner Chinese skills and the translator app on my iPod Touch. Food arrived and was served 'family style,' meaning each person took a little of each dish and didn't have one all to themselves. Each dish was delicious, but the meat in one dish looked quite different than anything we had encountered thus far. Looking back at the menu, we realized it was the pork dish. I got out my translator app and looked up every character in the name of the dish. It turns out, my friends and I had been eating pig intestine the whole time. While this is certainly a fine thing to eat, and popular in many cultures, we were a bit shocked to find out what we were eating. After we calmed down, however, we made sure to finish that plate off; it was still delicious after all!

Up until this point in the trip, I had been quite reserved and cautious. The combination of my inexperience with speaking Chinese as well as all of the travel safety programs left me feeling extremely nervous. However, this silly experience of a mistranslation taught me that no little mistake will be the end of the world. From this point on, I spent little time sitting in my apartment and instead, spent my time making the most of the trip. I was eager to get out and do any interesting thing I could find.

Adventures included joining in with chanting fans at a pro soccer game, enjoying the Nanjing night life with new friends from around the world, catching a traditional Chinese opera, and being the only white-skinned, blonde, hairy-chested person at a water park, which made me stick out like a sore thumb. These adventures didn't come without bumps on the road, of course. Anything and everything happened: from getting on the wrong subway, to turning down the wrong street, to having all my belongings stuck in a faulty water park locker and not knowing how to describe my problem to an employee. None of this was something that some quick thinking and creativity couldn't fix though! As soon as I decided to stop worrying about what could go wrong on my trip and started having fun, I learned things I would never even begin to have understood from a classroom in Allendale. 📷

THIS IS MY STORY

Greg Rupp



OPED

CRITICAL THINKING: CRITICAL TO LANGUAGE CRITICAL TO LIFE

BY: TAYLOR JOHNSON SMITH



The basic process that drives university life is familiar to us all: taking classes, studying, completing homework and exams, earning grades to fulfill course requirements, all with the end goal of obtaining a degree. What we learn in our coursework is undoubtedly important, but what is of even greater importance are the skills we develop along the way. There are few skills more valuable than solid critical thinking skills. The ability to absorb information, analyze it and make decisions based upon the conclusions we draw, and do so in a timely fashion is as crucial in academics as it is in the professional world.

Learning a foreign language is another process that appears to be straightforward; a vocabulary is built in the language to fill the structures provided by the grammar one learns, and the language is practiced through active use in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The outcome also appears to be straightforward; a mastery of a foreign language is gained and the student is able to function as both an active and passive participant in communication.

How does critical thinking work in conjunction with foreign language learning and usage? Simply put, language usage is driven by critical thinking. In a verbal exchange, there is little time to plan out what one wants to say or take a pause to consider any grammatical or sociocultural factors that need to be employed for the communication to be effective. Language, just like life, happens in

the moment. It is only by employing critical thinking skills that a speaker will be able to absorb, analyze, and process the information quickly enough to respond and maintain the flow of conversation. I can further employ critical thinking as I take in not only what is being said, but also how it is said and any facial expressions or body language that I see in my conversation partner in order to better assess his/her reactions. These observations, attained via critical thinking, serve to enhance my understanding of the proceedings and improve my role as an active participant.

// Language, just like life, happens in the moment. It is only by employing critical thinking skills that a speaker will be able to absorb, analyze, and process the information quickly enough to respond and maintain the flow of conversation. //

When I speak Spanish, I have to immediately answer a volley of questions, ones that are answered automatically in my native English. Verb tenses, concordance, gendered endings, concrete vs. conditional and/or hypothetical; there is a lot to juggle and much room for error. By thinking critically about what I am saying, I can avoid difficulties in communication and keep my speech fluid and accurate. However, error is nothing to fear in itself. In language, what one does with errors is crucial to maintaining a steady and gainful progression of abilities. Making mistakes, receiving the correction, and assessing their

relationship to one another builds not only skill with the language, but also with applied critical thinking.

To provide an example from my employment background, I once was involved in providing medical treatment to an injured exchange student from South America. I introduced myself and initiated a brief preliminary conversation in English. As I began to explain to the patient what procedures we would be performing over the next few hours, the facial expressions and gaze I was receiving told me that my patient was confused and not following what I was saying. Using this non-verbal information, I switched to speaking Spanish and offered the patient the option of an explanation in what I was hoping might be his native language. The instant look of relief and smile of gratitude let me know that I had achieved one of the more difficult accomplishments in the medical setting; I had provided a young patient who was far from home and in crisis a bit of comfort and clarity in the midst of a scary and disorientating situation.

Foreign language usage is one of any number of areas in life where we have to operate out of our comfort zones in a smooth and fluent fashion. Well-developed critical thinking skills give us the tools we need to manage learning and using a foreign language to its fullest potential. Critical thinking turns error into growth and misunderstanding into communication and takes the process of learning about language and transforms it into a new way to understand life. 🍷



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Taylor Johnson Smith, BA, CMA, graduated from GVSU in 2013 with a degree in Spanish and has her eye on a future as a professor of Spanish-language literature. In addition to her healthcare experience, she also has a background in classical ballet and theatre. In her spare time she enjoys yoga, cycling, writing, and playing pinball.

Q&A

FROM GORILLAZ TO GLOBAL

WITH JOSH KAHN
OF SONY MUSIC

Josh Kahn studied German and French through the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures before graduating from GVSU in 2006. Compelled toward the music industry, Kahn began working with the Gorillaz as an undergraduate before the band had been signed. He followed the Gorillaz to Capitol records, and a few years later, was hired at Sony Music. Josh now works globally, travelling to the UK, France, and Germany. His latest project, "Pinball Rocks HD," is now out on the App Store.

Q: First off, can you tell us about a day in your life at Sony?

I look after digital product development for Sony Music globally. We're tasked with developing new business channels by way of innovative ideas, so we're always working to come up with the next concept. Lately, we've been very focused on games. We think about how we want to approach every new product, meet with the artists to incorporate their vision, and then work with the developer to get it built. Seriously, I've been very fortunate to have worked with some incredible artists.

Q: Can you tell us about your experience at GVSU's MLL program? Why study French and German?

When I went to Europe in high school, I got frustrated when I didn't know how to communicate with people. I think you should always make an effort to understand the world. I came from West Michigan, so I found it important to get a background on how other people think in a deeper way than how to construct a sentence. I was very lucky to study under some inspirational faculty members. Professor Golembeski always talked about his research on French speakers in Mayotte and Ontario. Professor Place opened my eyes to German movies and various cultural experiences. You get a different picture from each professor. To understand more about the world and have that accounted for in studies at GVSU was absolutely super!

Q: Did you study abroad while at GVSU? If so, what did you take away from this experience?

I went with Professor Smith on the faculty-led program to Tübingen, Germany. It was great. The reality is you don't get to talk to many people in German when you're hanging out at Kirkhof, so to get away and live the language and culture is a priceless experience. I had a very adventurous host family, and I was always trying to ride the train to another city and take advantage of everything the region had to offer. The Black Forest was right there, and Stuttgart just a half an hour away. Speaking German every day is much different than speaking it Monday to Friday 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Coming from West Michigan and being able to live that life, albeit for a short period of time, was very fun.

Q: How have your studies in German and French been helpful in the workplace?

I do get to travel internationally every so often, and I think having that background—culturally as well as linguistically—is really important. Most people communicate mainly in English, but having that cultural understanding is useful. By understanding what the culture's all about, you can better understand why certain artists are big in those countries. This is all slightly off the beaten path from conjugating verbs, which all the professors will tell you as well. Understanding culture and people, that's what it's all about!



Q: What was it like hanging out with the Gorillaz?

After the legendary gig at the Camden Brown House where the band was signed, Murdoc Niccals got a little wild. My first job for the band was to bail him out of jail! It was pretty nuts, but I love them. It was a crazy ride over the course of 10 years. 2D is like a brother to me at this point.

Q: Anything else we should know?

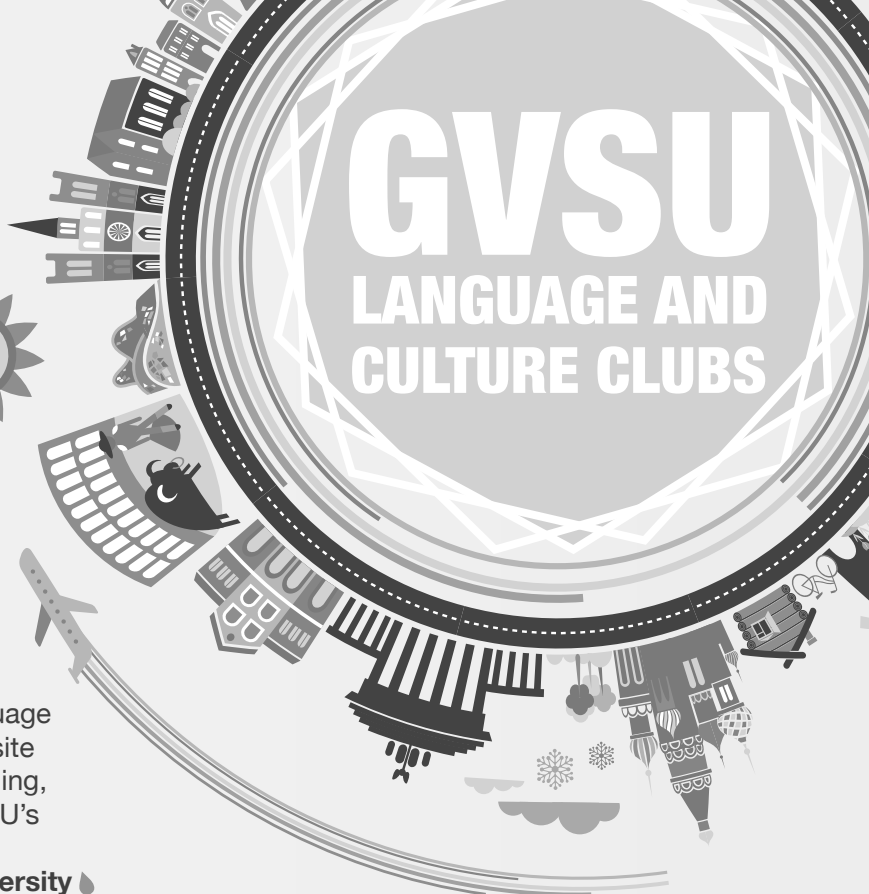
GVSU offers a lot of opportunities to get hands on experience in leadership roles. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures was obviously a great place to study with options like the Language Lab available. In addition, though, my leadership roles—through the Office of Student Life, the Student Senate, and working as the head of the campus radio station—were invaluable. Your college experience is invariably what you make of it. Having the resources available and the ability, if you want it, to make a real impact on the community—these are things some people from other schools don't really get. It's a privilege to have those opportunities in Allendale. ♡



All of the GVSU language and culture clubs are safe places to learn a language and establish a friend group on-campus. Each language offered through the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has a student-run club assisted by a faculty advisor. Many of the clubs hold standard meetings (weekly, biweekly, or monthly), which are variable per semester as determined by the current officers. In addition to these meetings, many of the clubs sponsor events where the public can enrich their understanding of language and culture, as well as meet fellow language lovers. Across the board, club presidents encourage those with interest in culture to join, even if they cannot speak a word of the target language itself.

If you would like more information regarding the language clubs, we advise you to check out OrgSync, the website which the Office of Student Life promotes for scheduling, voting, and contact information. You can access GVSU's OrgSync at the following address:

<https://orgsync.com/login/grand-valley-state-university>



Arab Culture Club

#motivated #global-citizens #open-minded

As its name suggests, the ACC is known for its events which exhibit Arab culture and language to the public. Last year, this event list included Taste of the Arab World, which drew 300 attendees and included an authentic dinner, henna, and live music; Arabian Nights, a two-day event put on in conjunction with the International Students Organization; Teach Me How to Debke, where the group learned a traditional Middle Eastern dance; and Sahtein, a dinner similar to an American potluck with authentic recipes from exchange students. Other events included a henna night, a Middle Eastern film festival, and an Arabic language table. **"I have met a lot of interesting and motivated young people who share similar passions and helped me make my college career a success,"** said president Rachael Luce.



Chinese Language and Culture Club

#intelligent #passionate #excited

The CLCC keeps meetings interesting by exploring different facets of language and culture. Meetings last year were spent playing traditional Chinese board games like Mah-Jhong and Go, watching Chinese or Taiwanese films, discussing architectural and musical history, trying different kinds of Chinese tea, listening to alumni present on their study abroad experiences, and learning the words for various types of animals. In addition, the club also held group dinners at the China Chef in Standale, a restaurant run by native speakers who were friendly and fluent in Mandarin, the Chinese dialect taught at GVSU. **"Chinese culture is so different. You have to be passionate. You can't be lukewarm about it,"** said president Phil Karagoulis. **"There are few better ways to get involved than with a group of interested students."**

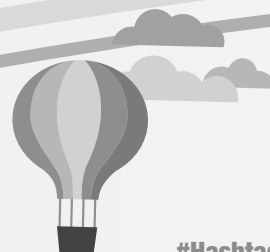


Les Francophiles

#passionate #fun #creative

Les Francophiles translates to "French-loving," which means the only prerequisite for membership into GVSU's French Club is an admiration of the French language and culture. Regular events include Pause Café, a conversation table where members speak French in Kirkhof for an hour, and La Croisette, a film night. Their biggest event, Fête de la Francophonie, draws roughly 100 attendees and includes African dancing, live accordion music, games such as pétanque and tarot cards, presentations from students and staff, and a large array of free-food, including a crepe bar, African chicken skewers, couscous, a large selection of cheeses, and a gourmet coffee bar. **Member Dawson Barnes said his favorite club experience was when he left Pause Café thinking in French. At that moment, he said, English felt awkward and French was natural for thought-processing.**





#Hashtags represent adjectives used by club presidents or officers to describe their members



German Club

#exciting #talkative #adventurous

Last year, the German Club offered events such as a trip to Christkindlmarket, Chicago's largest open-air Christmas festival, and the Mini-World Cup, a soccer tournament among teams of language clubs and international exchange students in which the winner receives a trophy displayed in the Language Resource Center. The club also offered an informational study abroad workshop, biweekly film nights which included the Harry Potter series and the Bourne Trilogy, and a cuisine night, where members joined the Grand Rapids Edelweiss Club to make Spaetzle, a Swabian noodle dish. Weekly or biweekly gatherings include Kaffeeklatsch, coffee and conversation, and Stammtisch, a gathering for food and games such as Apples to Apples or Taboo in German. **The club's president, Alsatia Lohr, entered presidency as a Freshman not fluent in the language, which only goes to show how accepting the GVSU language clubs are to new members.**



Il Geranio (Italian Club)

#pazzi #belli #fantastici

Italian Club meetings feature topics like national card games, films, dancing, gestures, language, and cuisine. This past year, the club offered events such as making Venetian masks in celebration of Carnivale; Q&A sessions, where members had the opportunity to chat and ask questions of native Italian speakers; and Italian dinners, where the group either went out to local restaurants or gathered to make food such as bruschetta, cannoli, or pan di stelle with Italian espresso. Next year, officers are planning a trip to a major city's Little Italy. **President Jenna Bernson said one of her highlights with Il Geranio was when the club went to dinner at Amore, an Italian restaurant on Alpine, and the owners gave members free appetizers and desserts!**

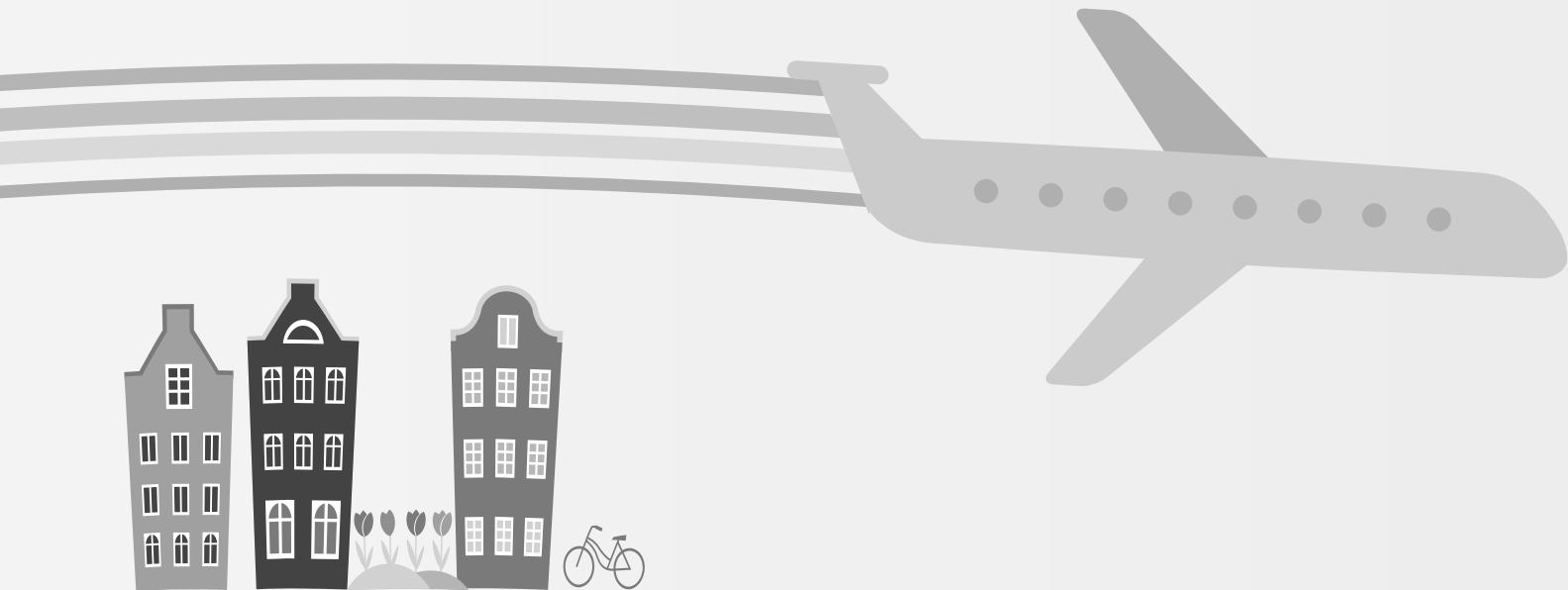


Japanese Culture Association

#eccentric #quiet #laidback

Last year, the JCA sponsored Michigan's first Japanese Heritage and Culture Conference, which drew speakers and attendees from across Michigan to GVSU's Loosemore Auditorium. At weekly meetings, members get together and talk about music, folklore, legends, and more. The club also offers a biweekly Japanese Film Series, held during the club's standard meeting time, as well as cuisine nights, a gathering at one of the member's apartments to cook authentic Japanese food such as curry rice or yakisoba. This past year, the JCA also worked to renovate the campus Japanese Gardens and invited drummers from the Michigan Okinawa Association of Chimugukuru-kai to perform at GVSU's Intercultural Festival. **President Dave Channess hopes the club can spread awareness that Japanese culture is "more than anime and manga."**





Klub Polski

#relaxed #good-senses-of-humor #loyal

Klub Polski offers many events which encourage members to connect with Polish culture and heritage and get involved with the local Polish community. Last year, the group attended the Polish Consulate's Annual Christmas Party held in Chicago, where they had the chance to talk to government representatives from Poland over dinner. In addition, the club also held film nights; Andrzejki Festival, a celebration with traditional food, music, and fortune-reading via the customary methods of Tarot cards and melted wax; a traditional, seven-course Wigilia Dinner around Christmas time; and a Fat Tuesday celebration where they handed out free paczki. Members also attended Pulaski Days and the Grand Rapids Polish Festival. **After speaking to members of the Polish government at club events, president Eric Tetsworth gained a network of connections who supported him when he applied for jobs and graduate schools.**



The Russian Circle

#fun #interesting #unique

The Russian Circle is a close-knit group with democratic leadership. The meetings, held primarily in English, begin with discussions of current events happening in Russia and end with a film, screened through GVSU's Language Resource Center. Last year, members took a trip to the Kalamazoo Russian Festival, a widely attended celebration hosted by Western Michigan University. Officers are also planning a trip to Chicago where they hope to attend a Russian ballet and visit the city's large Eastern European area filled with Russian restaurants, shops, bookstores, and more. **Officer Tim McLogan chose GVSU for its Russian program. After joining the club in his second week on campus, he felt more comfortable having an established group of friends on-campus who were also in his classes. He says the Russian Circle's relaxed atmosphere produces an excellent environment for language learning.**



La Tertulia (Spanish Club)

#funny #entertaining #chidos

La Tertulia translates to "a small gathering of close friends." Members celebrate Spanish culture at their weekly gatherings by playing games like Loteria, a traditional Latin American game similar to bingo; watching movies; dancing salsa, merengue, or tango; or eating at a local restaurant. Last year, GVSU's Spanish Club also held a conversation table and regular film nights, as well as a Christmas-time piñata-making event and a trip to Chicago, where they attended a classical guitar concert, an interpretative dance performance, and an El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) exhibit at a Mexican museum. **"You get to meet people with the same interests," said president Cruz Paniagua. "[The club] gives you insight outside of the classroom setting. You learn more Spanish and feel more comfortable speaking with people who know the language, particularly with native speakers."**



ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Aubrey McMahan
2012 Graduate
Major: International Relations
Minors: Middle East Studies
and German

Shortly after graduating, Aubrey McMahan was the recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Oman. In 2012, she was one of five students across the world to receive a full Ibn Battuta Merit Scholarship for Peace and Diplomacy, a scholarship which funds tuition and housing for a four-week intensive immersion program. In addition, she also received a Lebanon Summer Fellowship for the Cultural and Educational Exchange Experience for American University Students and was a Truman Scholarship finalist. McMahan's long term goal is to work at the U.S. Department of State in Middle East relations.



Katie Kirouac
2010 Graduate
Major: Political Science
Minor: Spanish

Kirouac joined the Peace Corps shortly after graduation. From May 2010 to August 2012, she served in Ghana testing over 4,000 individuals for HIV and providing information

to more than 10,000 others. In the fall of 2013, she plans to return to GVSU to complete a master's degree in publication administration while beginning a nonprofit organization which provides tutoring to underserved and at-risk students.



Kate Lautenbach
2007 Graduate
Major: Spanish
Minor: Latin American Studies

Lautenbach used her dual passions in Spanish and non-profit organizations to secure a position as a migrant advocate with the Migrant Farmworkers Project, an organization which helps meet the health, educational, and legal needs of migrant workers in Kansas City, Mo. Lautenbach herself works with the youth group, the women's group, and the ESL group on site.



Ben Symko
2005 Graduate
Major: Spanish
Minor: Philosophy

In 2010, five years after graduating from GVSU, Symko was honored with a Ten Outstanding Young Americans Award, one of the oldest and most prestigious recognition programs in the U.S. While providing service work in the

Dominican Republic for four years, Symko met Bren Simon, who saw potential in him and later funded his education. Symko went on to graduate with high honors from Thomas Cooley Law School and to hold a position as the Kent County Officer of the Defender. In recent years, he has become a named-partner at the firm Jensen, DeHaan, & Symko, P.C. and was recognized in 2012 and 2013 as a Michigan Super Lawyer, Rising Star.



Rick Rossow
1998 Graduate
Major: Russian Studies
Minor: Economics

Fifteen years after graduating GVSU, Rossow is now director of operations at the US-India Business Council, the sector of the US Chamber of Commerce responsible for promoting economic policy change in India.



John Beyrle
1975 Graduate
Major: French
Minor: German

Thirty-eight years after graduating from GVSU, Beyrle now speaks Bulgarian, Russian, French, German, and Czech! He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria from 2005-2012, as well as a member of the senior Foreign Service and a counselor for political and economic affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Prague.

{ 2012-2013 } FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



■ **Majd Al-Mallah,**
Associate Professor of Arabic

Published translation:
"Ibn Darraj al-Qastalli, Ode in Praise of al-Mansur's Victory" in *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources* in 2012

Published review essay:
"Classical Arabic Poetry" in *Contemporary Studies, A Review Essay* in 2013

■ **David Eick,**
Associate Professor of French
Published article:
"Basnage de Beauval's 'Reformation' of the *Dictionnaire universel*" in *Religion in the Age of Enlightenment* in 2013

Published book review:
"Les Oeuvres complètes de Voltaire, Questions sur l'Encyclopédie" in the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* in 2012

■ **Yan Liang,**
Assistant Professor of Chinese
Published article:
"A Myth about the Present: Shaw Brothers' *The Monkey Goes West* Series in the 1960s" in the *Journal of Popular Culture* in 2012

■ **Zulema Moret,**
Associate Professor of Spanish
Published books of poetry:
Lo gris and *Apenas epica* in 2012

Published poem:
"Epistola" in *Alicia Kozameh: ética y estética y las acrobacias de la palabra escrita* in 2012

Published short story:
"Los ojos en la noche" in *Revista Malabia* in 2012

■ **Gabriela Pozzi,**
Full Professor of Spanish
Published articles:
"Moda y nacionalismo en Teresa de Rosa Chacel" in *Diálogos transatlánticos. Memoria del II Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Españolas Contemporáneas* in 2013

"La función disciplinaria del ridículo en la narrativa de Carmen de Burgos" in *Rumbos del hispanismo en el umbral del Cincuentenario de la AIH* in 2012

■ **Medar Serrata,**
Assistant Professor of Spanish
Published journal article:
"Anti-Haitian Rhetoric and Monumentalizing of Violence in Joaquín Balaguer's *Guía emocional de la ciudad romántica*" in *Hispanic Review* in 2013

Published edited book:
El sonido de la música en la narrativa dominicana: Ensayos sobre identidad, nación y performance in 2012

Published book chapter:
"Merengue, lujuria y violencia: El espectáculo de la barbarie en el imaginario de la nación dominicana" in *El sonido de la música en la narrativa dominicana: Ensayos sobre identidad, nación y performance* in 2012

■ **Michael Vrooman,**
Associate Professor of Spanish
Published book review of *Palabras moribundas* in *Hispania* in 2013

■ **Diane Wright,**
Full Professor of Spanish
Published articles:
"Painting With Words: the Interior Journey in Siervo libre de amor" in *Notandum* in 2012

"El diálogo histórico-milagroso: La función de la voz del histor en las Cantigas de Santa Maria" in *Rumbos del hispanismo en el umbral del Cincuentenario de la AIH* in 2012

From Earth to Cyberspace

Spanish Section Hosts
International Conference

It's broad daylight and uniformed guards line the stone steps of Guatemala's pillared Court of Constitutionality. A young woman in a black dress walks slowly away from the porch and the guards, leaving a trail of footprints all the way to the National Palace. The white bowl abandoned by the steps is filled with human blood.

Not many would have the courage to protest so boldly against the figurehead of a violent dictatorial regime. Regina José Galindo, a performance artist who uses her body to denounce violence toward women and minorities, did have such courage. She titled her performance "¿Quién Puede Borrar las Huellas?" or "Who can Erase the Traces?" Galindo, along with three other keynote speakers, graced GVSU with her art and stories at the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica conference last November. The conference served as a meeting place for women across cultural borders to discuss feminist ideas relevant in today's world.

The AILCFH is an organization which promotes women's writing and feminist scholarship. The 2012 conference was the first held in the Midwest, and as a result, 141 scholars visited GVSU from 38 different states, as well as Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Canada, Mexico, Norway, and Sweden. Organizing committee members from GVSU included: Professors Zulema Moret, Gabriela Pozzi, Diane Wright, Mayra Fortes, Keith Watts, and Nicole Rasch. The event took place in the second story of the Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids, a space with wide windows overlooking the Grand River.

The conference's theme?: "From the Earth to Cyberspace."

According to Professor Gabriela Pozzi, the organizing committee picked this theme to reflect two forces present at GVSU which influence women's self-perception: earth and cyberspace. "We are a campus rooted in the earth, with our location in the ravines and emphasis on sustainability," she said, "but we are also a campus rooted in cyberspace, as evidenced by our status as one of WIRED magazine's 'most wired campuses.'"

In light of AILCFH's mission, the goal of this theme was to generate discussions of ecofeminism and cyberfeminism, discourses which question cultural assumptions about women and their bodies in relation to the earth and cyberspace. Taken together, these discourses put forth the full continuum of natural and artificial influences which affect women's cultural production. Thirty-five sessions or panels were held both on this theme and on topics such as: memory and history, political violence and activism, art,

sexuality, and even Chicanafuturism. In addition, two workshops on poetry and theatre were offered, as well as a series of new book presentations and an exhibition of artwork from local Latino painters.

Each of the keynote speakers either spoke about or expressed through art the thematic connections to earth and cyberspace. Belén Gache, a writer from Argentina and Spain, took the group on a virtual tour of her cyber-poetry website. Cecilia Vicuña, a poet, visual artist, and filmmaker, performed with string and cloth to demonstrate the interactions between the earth and the symbolic function of textiles. Lola López Mondéjar, a Spanish novelist and psychologist, discussed the act of creation from a psychological perspective.

In addition to the 100 GVSU students who attended the conference, 28 Spanish students volunteered their time, greeting visitors at the top of the stairs and guiding them through the registration process. Marcy Spalsbury, one of these student volunteers, said, "My favorite part of the conference from the volunteer's perspective was really meeting people from all over the world. It was also a fun and comforting environment that was centered around the agency of women."

Professor Zulema Moret, who served as secretary and board member of the AILCFH from 2005-2007, led her SPA 460, Women Authors course, students on a "whispering tubes" performance which they presented at the conference. Each student decorated a cardboard tube and then chose a poem written by a woman author to whisper through it. "It was just a different way to experience poetry," said Trazy Richter, one of Moret's students, "both in the hearing and in the sharing."

Many international presenters approached organizing committee members after the conference to relay how impressed they were with the GVSU students' professionalism. "The conference was a great opportunity for Spanish students to get a broader sense of what the discipline is about," said Pozzi. "They were more excited about cultural products after seeing how all these other people from all these other places talked about ideas."

The 2012 AILCFH conference concluded with a performance by the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus. The event began and ended as a community event, uniting the minds of women across cultures and continents to create space for discussions about gender roles and identity.

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
FEMININE HISPANIC
LITERATURE &
CULTURE

525 MEMBERS
INTERNATIONALLY

CREATED IN THE
MID-1970S

PROMOTES
WOMEN'S WRITING



Past conference themes and locations include: •"Inhabiting Gender," University of Barcelona, 2011 •"Ethics and Cultural Expressions," The University of Texas, 2010 •"Memory and Borders," FLACSO (Quito, Ecuador), 2009 •"Mothers and Daughters: Corpus of Representation, Production, Cultural Subversion," Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, 2008 •"Transatlantic Women: Crossing Languages, Meeting places," Hispanic Studies School (Seville, Spain), 2007

TRANSFORMATION, NOT INFORMATION

MLL Reaches Out to
Northern Hills Middle School

A batman puppet pops up from a black-and-red-striped theatre box. His mission? To help two tourist critters locate the bathroom while on a trip to a Spanish-speaking country. "Why don't you ask this guy over here?" Batman barks at the two puppets, but they shake their heads. "We don't understand him," says one of them sadly. "Well," their caped crusader responds, puffing up his chest and shuffling across the stage, "Lucky for you, I'm Batman."

Outside the box in a packed auditorium, over six hundred 7th and 8th grade students—along with their teachers, administrators, and staff—laugh at Batman's antics. This act is all a part of Professor Jason Yancey's Spanish puppet show, which he and his students performed for the MLL outreach program at Northern Hills Middle School on March 22nd, 2013. On the auditorium's stage, seven MLL students gave four-minute presentations on their experiences learning foreign languages and studying abroad. The hour-long event ended in a sing-along guitar performance called "Cielito Lindo" led by Professor Medar Serrata. "Ay, ay, ay, ay," the auditorium rang as students caught onto the chorus, "Canta y no llores," meaning "Sing and do not cry."

MLL Department Chair Majd Al-Mallah said the purpose of the outreach was twofold: to educate students about language and culture, and to bring the department together to highlight its variety, complexity, and diversity. It was Al-Mallah's hope that the Northern Hills students would walk away with a better understanding of "the richness of culture and the value of language" and that the program would "open their eyes and minds to exploring a variety of possibilities."

"It was great to have the ability to share a life-changing experience with future language learners!" said Andrew Baalerud, who quizzed the crowd on France facts after his presentation, awarding winners with a baguette and nutella. "This presentation may have been their first exposure to the opportunities that language study offers, and effectively prompted them to create their own memories."

Becky Telzerow, a guidance counselor at Northern Hills, was a part of the committee that planned the event. What really surprised her students was the diversity of GVSU's presenters. Her students' jaws dropped during the first few presentations, she said, because it was outside many of their worldly schemas to see a blonde woman speaking Arabic or an African-American man speaking Japanese. "Middle school development is all about self and self-identity," Telzerow continued, "It's so important for students to get their eyes off themselves and start looking at other people—in their neighborhoods, communities, and ultimately, the world. If we can show students that real people break stereotypes and that's cool, we can really open up their eyes."

Northern Hills Middle School offers courses in Spanish, French, and Chinese. About thirty percent of the seventh and eighth grade students have been enrolled in the school's Spanish immersion program since preschool. By the time these students reach middle school, two of their six classes, Language Arts and Social Studies, are instructed almost entirely in Spanish. As a result, Telzerow said it was really cool for students to see Lindsay Corbeill's presentation on assisting Spanish-immersion classrooms in Grand Rapids, which showed students that "you don't have to go across the ocean to benefit others, you can do it right here in your backyard."

The outreach program exposed Northern Hills students to languages and opportunities they may not have otherwise encountered. Telzerow believes

it is important for students to recognize the true power of knowledge does not lie wholly in self-fulfillment, but in bettering the lives of others.

"Knowledge isn't about information," she said. "It's about transformation. Not just to earn an A or win an award, or go to the college of your dreams, but to transform you as an individual so you can go out and change the world. If we can get students to understand that then we've really done our jobs."

Telzerow expressed her hopes that the partnership between GVSU and Northern Hills continues to further mutually benefit the new waves of students which pass through both school systems every year.

2013 STUDENT PRESENTERS:

- Andrew Baalerud: French
- Austin Knight: Japanese
- Dave Chaness: Japanese
- Lindsay Corbeill: Spanish
- Michael Bartus: German
- Phil Karagoulis: Chinese
- Samantha Conrad: Arabic



NATURE'S CLARITY | A POEM IN TEN LANGUAGES

Shimmering rays
transcend the mouths of culture
to pierce the eyes
of understanding.

Through clarity of mind,
the spectrum is visible
in the nature of translation.



Written by: Jason Michálek
Major: English Language and Literature Minor: Applied Linguistics



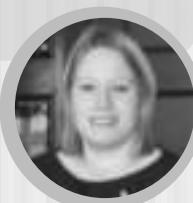
Arabic Translation
by Graham Liddell
Major: Writing
Minor: Arabic

أشعة متألّنة
تسمو فوق أفواه الثقافة
لتخترق عيون الفهم.
و من خلال الوضوح الذهني
يبدو الطيف مرئيا
في طبيعة الترجمة.



Chinese Translation
by Phil Karagoulis
Major: Chinese Studies
Minor: Chinese Language

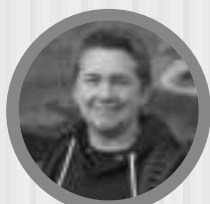
閃耀的光線
超越文化的嘴
為了突破理解的眼睛
心裡必須像明鏡
才能見翻譯裡的光譜



French Translation
by Carina Roethig
Major: French & Marketing

Les rayons chatoyants
dépassent les bouches de la culture
pour transpercer les yeux
de la compréhension.

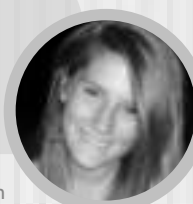
Par la clarté de l'esprit,
le spectre de la nature de la traduction
devient visible.



German Translation
by Michael Bartus
Major: German & Education
Minor: Math Secondary Education

Schimmernde Strahlen
transzendieren die Mänder der Kultur,
und durchdringen die Augen
des Verständnisses.

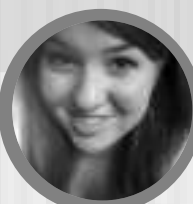
Durch gedankliche Klarheit
ist das Spektrum sichtbar
in der Natur der Übersetzung.



Italian Translation
by Christine Jarboe
Major: Psychology
Minor: Mathematics

Raggi scintillanti
trascendono le bocche della cultura
per trafiggere gli occhi
della comprensione.

Per mezzo della chiarezza della mente
le possibilità sono visibili
nell'essenza della traduzione.



Japanese Translation
by Sara Chittenden
Major: Women &
Gender Studies
Minor: East Asian Studies

瞬く光線が
文化の口を超越し
理解の目を通る
清い念頭で
翻訳の本質の
分光が見えてくる



Polish Translation
by Eric Tetsworth
Major: Biomedical Sciences
Minor: Chemistry

„Błyszczące promienie,
przenikające usta kultury,
tak aby dotknąć oczy pełne zrozumienia.

Dzięki jasności umysłu
Pryzmat świata jest widoczny
w formie tłumaczenia.



Russian Translation
by Leslie Veltman
Major: Criminal Justice
Minor: Russian Studies

Мерцающие лучи
превосходят уста культуры
прокалывая глаза
понимания.

Через ясность ума,
Спектр виден
в природе перевода.



Spanish Translation
by Joe Gibson
Major: Engineering
Minor: Spanish &
Computer Science

Rayos brillantes
trascienden las bocas de la cultura
para penetrar los ojos del entendimiento.

Atravesando la claridad de la mente,
el espectro se hace visible
en la naturaleza de la traducción.



MAGAZINE STAFF:

Majd Al-Mallah
Department Chair
Waves Director

Nikki Fisher
Editor-in-Chief
fishnico@mail.gvsu.edu

Autumn Gorsline-Davis
Project Manager

Chelsea Godmer-Blair
Designer and Creative Director
chelseamarieblair.com



WRITERS:
Nikki Fisher
Aubrey McMahan
Sheila Garcia
Gregory Rupp
Taylor Johnson Smith

CONTRIBUTERS:
Jessie Miller
Proof Editor

Doriana Gould
Office Coordinator

**The Department of Modern
Languages and Literatures Faculty**

Padnos International Center

EDIT-A-THON VOLUNTEERS:
Kevin Joffre
Xinyi Ou
Jason Michálek


**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
MODERN LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES
www.gvsu.edu/ml


**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES