

# 'laNGgwij

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LANGUAGE CENTER



## WHAT'S NEW

From the Director - 2

Staff Interviews - 3 to 6

Our Resources - 7

Conversation Hours - 8 to 10

Past Events - 11 to 12

Upcoming Events - 13

Peer Tutoring Program- 14

## *The Language Center Newsletter*

Even though November was more peaceful than October for all of us at the Language Center, we still kept ourselves busy this month. Our weekly conversation hours and tutoring drop-in sessions continued, and on top of that we continued having a steady stream of events. Even though winter break is coming soon, we're still not slowing down!

We had two One Language, One Recipe recipes in our last Newsletter for Korean and ASL, and while we don't have any new ones for you this Newsletter, the recipes will return in our next issue.

Enjoy and have a lovely winter break! For those who are staying on campus, we will be holding events just for you, so please look inside.

# From the Director

Congratulations on another successful semester.

We have had a very busy semester, with some of our major events highlighted in our monthly editions. An important initiative this semester had been the series of talks Cultural intersections. We are delighted to see student engagement with the topics proposed and also to how receptive all campus community are to this event. We want to thank you all for your participation.

During this semester, the Language Center in collaboration with Departments and several centers around campus, offered a number of events, weekly conversation hours, and activities that focused on language and cultural awareness. These were successful events that brought together students, faculty and staff and made the Language Center a destination on campus for so many. Our tutoring program is continuing to grow and we notice that our tutors are becoming more and more busy during their drop in hours but also outside their regular schedule.

Our Multilingual Gazette continues to be well received by our students. The articles, proposed and written by students are always interesting and well informing. We continue to invite you to become a writer and be part of this great project. We would love to have you as part of our growing team.

As the semester rapidly approaches to its end, because and some of us won't be able to visit their relatives and friends, I am very happy to announce that the Language Center planned several events to help you connect with others here on campus. We will be hosting a Brunch & Bingo on December 28th at 11:00 AM, and Movie and Pizza afternoon on January 3, 2019, starting and 1:00 PM. For more information stop by our center or visit [www.rochester.edu/winter](http://www.rochester.edu/winter). We cannot wait to see you.

Finally, I would like to wish good luck for your exams and a wonderful winter break.

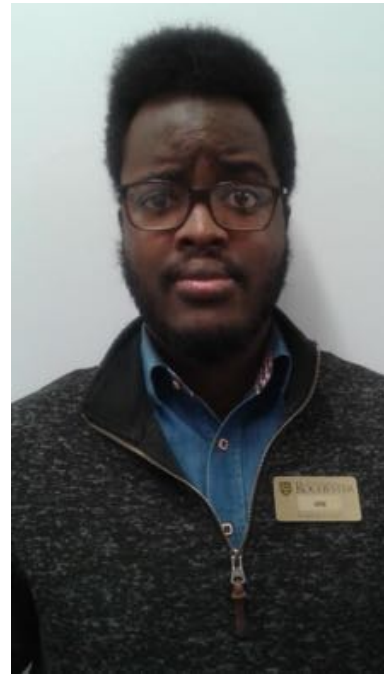
Obrigada,

Teresa Valdez

# Staff Interviews

## Newbie Hana & Veteran Ian

Ian joined the Language Center team as a senior majoring in Economics in October 2017. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Ian came to Rochester from Kigali, Rwanda, where he did his primary school education and early secondary school in French. In eighth grade, his parents and teachers transitioned him into a full-time English high school, making English his third language. During his second semester at the University of Rochester, he decided to add Spanish to his linguistic arsenal. As he gets ready to leave for home at the end of this year, Ian's travel dream is to explore the African continent as much as possible, for the next two years. He also hopes to improve his Swahili skills during that time.



### **What made you decide to work at the Language Center?**

When Carlotta and Teresa walked into the Center on that pivotal Wednesday morning, I'd been working for the Burgett Intercultural Center for a little over two months. They walked in bearing gifts for the LC team: new swag. They asked if I would be interested in sporting the new swag and help them choose the new official LC staff wear. I tried the new quarter zip sweater and polo shirt, loved them and asked to be hired on the spot. That's my LC origin story. On a more serious note, though, my interest in working with the LC stems from my interaction with the Director and Administrative assistant, and my interest in languages and multiculturalism. It was also an environment in which I could speak French, and I appreciated being able to express myself in French for the first time since coming to the U.S. *(cont. on next page)*

*Hana Kallen, '20*

# Staff Interviews



## **What's something you've learned while working at the Language Center?**

I think my time at the Language Center has exposed me to the inner working of the University, in a way that most students don't get to experience. Since working with the Language Center & the Intercultural Center, I have observed how much work administrators, faculty and staff put into supporting the student body population, and creating conducive environments. Whether it's through working with Teresa Valdez, Director of the Intercultural Center, to create events and programs for students, or working with Carlotta Gambato, our administrative assistant, to respond to every concern and cater to the needs of every student who walks in and ask for our help, I have come to appreciate the knowledge that as students we have reliable supporting systems.

## **What has been your most memorable/enjoyable experience, encounter or moment during your time at the Language Center?**

During my senior year's Spring Semester, I was lucky enough to be free during lunch time every Wednesday and that meant I could help Teresa and Carlotta with the One Language, One Recipe lunchtime demonstrations. I have learned how to make incredible dishes from France, Italy, Portugal, Peru, Turkey and other places, and had the good fortune of learning about language and culture through an interested new medium. I enjoyed watching the process of making this signature dishes, but I had the most fun when I was in the kitchen helping make them.

*Ian's interview with Hana is on the next page!*

*Hana Kallen, '20*

# Staff Interviews

Hana is a junior at the University of Rochester majoring in French. She is from a small town in Vermont, and loves to travel. She has been to France three times and has enjoyed it so much that she is going back for the 2019 spring semester for study abroad. Her biggest goal at the moment is to become fluent in French!

## **Hana, what made you decide to work in the Language Center?**

My intermediate French class worked on a project my sophomore year, and we used the Language Center space for it. I was really intrigued by the space, and thought it was awesome that there was a location where everyone could collaborate. I was further exposed to the space through The French Writing Fellows Program. I love languages, and I wanted a job on campus that would allow me to use my knowledge and help others. *(cont. on next page)*



*Ian Manzi, '18*

# Staff Interviews

## **What's something you've learned while working at the Language Center?**

I have learned so much about different cultures! From hearing Portuguese conversation hours, to the movie *Coco* in Spanish, I have definitely been exposed to many more cultures than I ever had before. It's really neat to see ways in which these cultures compare to the culture I'm currently studying (French culture). I learned about the Spanish Day of the Dead, and Portuguese food! I have also been exposed to how much students at the U of R are interested in languages.

## **What has been your most memorable experience, encounter or moment during your time at the Language Center?**

I think so far my most meaningful encounters have been the ones where I have been able to encourage students to keep taking French. Every so often a student will come in and ask about a French textbook, and tell me they're not sure they're competent enough in the language to be successful in the course. Each time this happens, I have been able to share a bit of my background regarding learning French and I think overall it's been helpful!



*Ian Manzi, '18*

# Our Resources

## Textbooks

Don't you hate it when you are at the Language Center and you forgot to bring your language textbook with you? Well no worries! The Language Center got your back! At the back of the room, there is a large bookshelf with all the textbooks used for the courses offered at the University. So the next time your forget to bring your *Genki* textbook for Japanese or *Ponto de Encontro* for Portuguese, just ask the person at the desk and you are welcome to borrow it while you are in the Center.

Even if you aren't taking a certain language course, you can still take a look at the textbooks! While you are planning your classes for next semester, maybe you are interested in Spanish, go to the bookshelf and look for the Spanish textbook (if you can't find it, we can help!) and flip through it! It will be a great preview of what you will be learning in the course.

Or, maybe you are like me and like to learn different languages just for fun or want to retain a language you learned in the past. The textbooks are great for that! I have learned Mandarin Chinese in the past but because of scheduling conflicts, I haven't been able to take a class. But I sometimes take the textbook and test myself how much I still remember and find out what I have forgotten or learn something new. I've also been interested in learning another language so I often take a look at textbooks for French, German and Korean and trying to figure out what I should learn next! Whatever it is that you need, the textbooks are always there for you!



Daiki Nishioka, '21

# Conversation Hours

## German Conversation Hour

Conversation hours are a great way to continue practicing languages you are interested in. According to the language center website: "Conversation Hours are open to all and require no advanced knowledge in the desired language." Whether it is your mother tongue or you learned it years ago in high school or if you are taking a class here in the University of Rochester or even if you are not familiar with it at all we encourage you to come and get more exposure to the languages of your interest.



The meetings happen every week. Our tutor Chethana is an international student minoring in German, before coming here she studied the language for four years. Come to talk to her in German!



# Conversation Hours

## Interview with ASL Students

ASL Club hosts Silent Coffee at the Language Center on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 pm. They also have Silent Coffee at Starbucks at the same time on Mondays if you cannot attend the Language Center meetings.



### **How long have you been learning ASL and how long have you been in ASL Club?**

*Speaker 1:* He's been coming since last fall for ASL Club, but he didn't start taking classes until this fall. There were some required classes he had to take for his major, and he was going to take ASL in the spring, but the timing did not work.

*Speaker 2:* She's been learning ASL for 4 years, and in club since last spring.

### **What made you interested in ASL?**

*Speaker 1:* His best friend was President last year and encouraged him to go. His hearing also began to worsen, so he decided to learn it in order to communicate in the future.

*Speaker 2:* Her family friend has a younger daughter who is deaf, so the mother learned ASL. The mom then told her that she should learn ASL, and she became inspired to continue learning. She realized that she couldn't stop herself from learning more. (cont. on next page)

# Conversation Hours

## Interview with ASL Students

**What do you like about having Silent Coffee at the Language Center?**

*Speaker 1:* The lighting in the Language Center is really bright, and the seating is movable so we can easily sit where we can see each other well.

*Speaker 2:* There isn't the distraction that there is at Starbucks. It's much easier to be focused, and we can have discussions about ASL and deaf culture.



**What keeps you coming back to Silent Coffee?**

*Speaker 1:* He doesn't have to wear his hearing aids! It's also a great community and a great place to practice ASL too.

*Speaker 2:* The people, of course! And the opportunity to practice signing. Since ASL is her major and also the career area she's hoping to go into, she always welcomes the opportunity for more practice. It also feels good to see the people in ASL 101 and 102 grow.



*Kinga Flaga, '21*

# Past Events

## Israeli Movie Night

For our Israeli movie night, we showcased “Zero Motivation,” a funny and captivating movie that also sheds light on sexism within the Israeli army. The event was kicked off by a room-full of students grabbing pizza, popcorn, and drinks, followed by our guest speaker Tal Hadad sharing his own experience and perspective within the IDF. After Tal gave us insight into the positives and negatives of service in the IDF, a round of applause for our guest speaker introduced the movie. The viewing was mixed with laughs and serious silence as some of the aspects that Tal shared with us were directly reflected in the movie. Not only did we learn from a social aspect of military service in Israel, but those studying Hebrew were able to practice their listening and understanding skills. All in all, a great success! We hope to see you at another event like this in the future.



*Marco Ramos, '20*

# Past Events

## Cultural Intersections: "How Does Speaking a Different Language Shape our Personalities?"



Cultural Intersections is a new event and opportunity that the Language Center offers as a platform for students to discuss and exchange ideas over certain cultural topics that have a connection to language.

This fall 2019, there have been 2 cultural intersections: The first one on the topic of "Speaking a Language or Speaking a Culture?" And the second one on "How does speaking a different language shape our personalities?"

Both events were joined by students and staff that spoke from their personal experience and background knowledge on the topics. Interaction remained fluid in both occasions and students were the whole time engaged on the conversations.

Cultural Intersections is a safe platform for students to share their ideas and perspectives on certain topics related to language, in which all students are respected and listened, leaving the center with new insights and perspectives that help to gain a better understanding on the topics discussed.

*Ana Casco, '21*

# Upcoming Events



December 14th: INTERNATIONAL KARAOKE NIGHT - Come sing your heart out in different languages from 8:30 to 10pm! There will be prizes, food, international songs, and fun! Winner of our karaoke will be chosen by students. YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS OUT!

## For those of you staying on campus for winter break, we have events just for you!

December 28th: BRUNCH & BINGO - Did you enjoy our last bingo event? Were you not able to come to our last event, but love playing bingo? Do you really enjoy brunch? If the answer to any of these questions was "yes" then please come join us at the Language Center from 11am to 12:30 pm!

The Language Center presents

### BRUNCH & BINGO



The Language Center presents

### WINTER MOVIE BREAK



January 3rd: WINTER MOVIE BREAK - Have you ever wanted to watch Shrek in Spanish? Well now is your chance! From 1 to 3pm, the Center will be showing Shrek in Spanish and serving pizza, popcorn, and drinks.

*Carlos Bustamante, '20 and Kinga Flaga, '21*

# Peer Tutoring

Are you struggling with one of the language classes offered at the UofR? Do you feel like you would benefit more from 1 on 1 help with a student that has already taken the class you are taking and/or is proficient in the language? Then you should come to peer tutoring!

We are working right now on the tutoring schedule for spring semester! Stay tuned and when available you can find it on our website: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/languages/students/peer-tutoring.html>. The current drop-in schedule for the fall semester is continuing until December 15th if you need some last minute help studying for your language classes. If for whatever reason you cannot attend the drop-in hours, you can schedule an appointment to meet with your language's tutor through CETL. We wish you good luck on your finals, and we hope to be able to help you next semester as well!

DROP-IN TUTORING SCHEDULE	
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	Tue. 4-5, Sun. 5-6
ARABIC	Tue. 12-30+30, Wed. 12-30+30,
CHINESE	Fri. 10-11, Sunday 4-5
FRENCH	Thur. 5-6, Sun. 5:30-6:30
GERMAN	Thur. 6-7, Sat. 3-4
HEBREW	Thur. 1-2
ITALIAN	Tue. 12-1, Sat. 2-3
JAPANESE	Tue. 3-4, Thur. 3:30-4:30
KOREAN	Wed. 7-8, Sat. 3-4
POLISH	Tue. 5:30-6:30, Sun. 3-4
PORTUGUESE	Wed. 12-1, Fri. 12-1