**Wells Hall Renovation Underway**

With the ceremonial digging of shovels, work began Sept. 16 on an addition to Michigan State University’s Wells Hall, an addition that will eventually become the university’s language education hub.

The project will add three stories and create about 88,000 gross square feet of space above the B-wing of Wells, which is located on Red Cedar Road next to the MSU International Center.

The addition will serve as home to a number of departments that will eventually be relocated from Morrill Hall, including English; Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages; Spanish and Portuguese; French, Classics and Italian; and the English Language Center.

Religious Studies and African American Studies also will be relocated to Wells, while the History Department will be moved into renovated space in the Old Horticulture Building.

In addition to bringing these units into one modern, state-of-the-art facility, it also will place them within proximity to colleagues in the College of Education and International Studies and Programs.

“Understanding of world languages and cultures is a prerequisite to the ability to be successfully engaged in government, diplomacy, business, research, and the arts in the 21st century,” said Karin Wurst, dean of MSU’s College of Arts and Letters.

“This new building will be a visible beacon highlighting MSU’s global-international focus, that places major emphasis on language learning and teaching, and that has the strongest Study Abroad Program in the country.”

The new Wells Hall addition will feature classroom and office space, a two-story presentation room, an atrium and a coffee shop. Included in the three-story addition is a one-story section that will extend out toward Red Cedar Road that will be topped by a green roof.

**Letter from the Chair**

Dear Friends of Linguistics and Languages at MSU,

I am happy to say that my first few months on the job have been exciting, enjoyable and educational. Getting to know all the people in the various departmental programs has been extremely informative, and learning so many new things at this stage of my career has been invigorating and rejuvenating.

For the past 24 years I have been coordinating the first-year German language program and supervising the teaching assistants in German.

I am pleased and honored to be able to address you as the new chair of the department. Despite the fact that I am in my 25th year at MSU, this is my first year as chair.

David Prestel for his service over the last 10+ years. He is now serving as Senior Associate Dean for Research and Personnel in the College of Arts & Letters.

In addition, I would like to thank the staff for their patience and helpful input as I transition into my new role. Without all of them it would have been much more difficult.

(continued on page 2)
Letter from the Chair, continued

The news that one often receives these days about Michigan outside of the state tends to be somewhat discouraging. Yet I have to tell you that the institution, the college and the department have done an excellent job of positioning themselves for the future. There is palpable excitement on the campus – and not just surrounding a successful football team and a highly ranked men’s basketball team.

The new Edythe and Eli Broad Art Museum is going to dramatically alter the image of the entire campus, and the Department hopes to be an active player in the activities planned for this new space on campus.

The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, while not even in our college, has already injected a new spirit to the campus, the community and the state that we hope will have spin-offs for the community and the state in years to come.

Finally, we are in the midst of a building boom on campus, which will directly benefit our department when the new 3-story addition to Wells Hall is completed in 2012. If you haven’t recently been to the MSU campus, you might be surprised by the changes that have occurred over the last few months and years.

One thing, however, that has not changed is the beauty of the campus in fall – the red, orange, yellow and green of the trees and the Red Cedar River.

As you probably know, Michigan State University has been recognized as the national leader in study abroad programming for the sixth year in a row, and our College and our Department play a critical role in study abroad. This issue of the newsletter highlights some of the many successful study abroad programs that take place over the summer months. This newsletter also profiles the successful attainment of endowment status for the Mayen Scholarship. The German Language and Culture Program in Mayen Germany is one of the oldest study abroad programs at MSU and we are thankful for the generous support for this scholarship by H. Craig Melchert, who completed his German degree at MSU in 1967.

To help everybody stay in touch with the Department we have updated our web page to include a list of the faculty and instructors that work in the department. You may be surprised to learn that the Department houses PhD programs in Linguistics and German, MA programs in Linguistics, German and TESOL and BA programs in Linguistics, German, Russian, and now Japanese, Chinese and Arabic. The new Japanese BA is profiled later in this newsletter.

Our success at securing native speakers through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program enables us to supplement our current teaching staff in languages like Hindi, Arabic, Russian and African languages as well as offer some of the less commonly taught languages. Information about this program is also offered in this newsletter.

The section on Faculty Notables highlights some of the many scholarly achievements of the past few months. I especially encourage you to read about a new faculty member in the Linguistics Program – Prof. Diogo Almeida – as well as the promotions of two current members.

I hope that everybody who reads this newsletter finds something of interest. We urge friends and alumni of the Department to stay in touch through the web page (www.linglang.msu.edu) or by emailing me with news and comments at Lovik@msu.edu. I hope to be able to establish one or more additional study abroad scholarships in the Department and welcome any and all contributions to that endeavor. I wish everybody a healthy and happy 2011.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program

This year we have nine new Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs). The FLTAs teach their language and culture at MSU.

FLTAs add a youthful, up-to-date cultural component to foreign language classes, as well as uniquely contribute to student life on campus. FLTAs host language tables, cooking sessions, cultural presentations, and other co-curricular events, allowing U.S. students to work with young native speakers in non-traditional settings. This interaction makes studying a foreign language more meaningful and real.

The MSU FLTAs are also learning about American culture. They each attend two to four courses a semester in Linguistics, language pedagogy, and American studies.

To further facilitate learning about American culture, the FLTAs also participate in a number of MSU/US cultural events such as attending MSU tailgating and football events, painting the rock, traveling to Lake Michigan and the Detroit area, and even going square-dancing.

The FLTAs are frequently able to honor requests for guest speaking or cultural exchange events in the area. Please contact steider@msu.edu with specific requests.

MSU FLTAs 2010/2011: Left to right: Gana (Senegal/Wolof), Ferdane (Turkey/Turkish), Yuliya (Russia/Russian), Anjum (Pakistan/Urdu), Abiola (Nigeria/Yoruba), Bakhtiyar (Uzbekistan/ Uzbek), Agnes (Tanzania/Swahili), Idris (Nigeria/Hausa) and Houssem (Tunisia/Arabic)
Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Summer Orientation

The Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) program and the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA) were awarded a grant to host one of eight national Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Orientations for the first time from August 8-12, 2010.

The orientation is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute for International Education. Faculty, staff, and students from nine departments and centers across campus worked together to make the orientation insightful, exciting, and fun for the FLTAs.

Fifty-seven FLTAs from twenty-seven countries, representing seventeen different languages participated in MSU’s orientation. MSU was their first point of entry in the U.S. and for many their first time outside their own countries.

The FLTAs then continued on to their host institutions all over the U.S., where they are spending the year teaching their languages and sharing their cultures. The orientation was designed to provide FLTAs with an introduction to the academic and social cultures of U.S. institutions, to offer a platform for networking with fellow FLTAs, and to facilitate their transition into the program. Nine FLTAs are staying at MSU for the 2010-11 academic year (see related article.)

Faculty Notables

Diogo Almeida received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Maryland and joins us as the director of the newly established Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Lab after spending one year as a postdoctoral researcher at the Auditory and Language Neuroscience Lab in the Department of Cognitive Science at the University of California, Irvine. His research in psycho- and neurolinguistics spans different levels of linguistic processing, from speech perception to sentence comprehension, with a focus on lexical level processing, ultimately seeking to uncover the neural circuits underlying language use by employing a variety of behavioral and brain imaging techniques, such as EEG, MEG and fMRI.

Brahim Chakrani successfully defended his dissertation entitled “A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Language Attitudes Among Youth in Morocco” and received the PhD degree in August 2010 from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. He takes over as coordinator for the Arabic Language Program and director of the proposed Study Abroad Program in Casablanca, Morocco.

Mutsuko Endo Hudson was awarded promotion to Full Professor on July 1, 2010. Mutsuko is a member of the Language Learning and Teaching faculty and coordinates the Japanese Language Program. During the past two semesters she has been on leave, working on her books Teaching Japanese for Proficiency (single author) and Modern Japanese Grammar (co-author), and articles on Japanese honorifics and current trends in the Japanese language. She gave seven presentations, invited and refereed, around the country and in Japan. With a grant from the Japan Foundation and the Alliance of the Associations of Teachers of Japanese, she attended a month-long summer institute at the Japan Foundation Language Center in Japan.

Shawn Loewen was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor on July 1, 2010. Shawn is a member of the TESOL faculty and teaches in the Second Language Studies PhD Program. Shawn is currently working on three projects: 1. The effects of textual input enhancement for L2 Spanish reading, as measured by eye tracking and tests of Spanish past tense, 2. The effectiveness of corrective feedback during communicative activities for second language learners of Chinese, and 3. The similarities and differences of L2 task-based interaction in three contexts - face-to-face, synchronous written computer-mediated communication (CMC), and synchronous voice CMC.

Thomas Lovik participated in a weeklong seminar at the Herder Institute at the University of Leipzig on aligning the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines with the Common European Frame of Reference. Other invited participants represented the Center for Applied Linguistics, the U.S. State Department, Cambridge University, the American Association of Teachers of German, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the host university in Leipzig.

Catherine Ryu (Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Culture) is certified as an NEH Summer Scholar for having participated in a five-week program on “The Silk Roads: Early Globalization & Chinese Cultural Identities” (May 24-June 25, 2010).

This NEH Summer Institute was organized by the East-West Center at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa, with the aim of reassessing the relationship among the notions of Globalization, Silk Roads, and Identity.

Professor Ryu describes her participation in the Institute as an intellectually stimulating and challenging experience. As part of the final project for the program, she revised her Silk Road course (“Deconstructing the Silk Road”), which she had offered as an Honors Research Seminar (UGS200H) in the 2009-10 academic year.

In addition, Professor Ryu will be contributing a chapter to an anthology compiled by a group of the Institute participants. Her chapter will focus on the relationship between the Silk Road imaginaire and The Tale of Genji.

This tale, written by Murasaki Shikibu in early eleventh-century Japan and widely appreciated as the first psychological novel in the history of world literature, will be the main text for JPN 469 (Japanese Literary and Cultural Studies II), which Professor Ryu will teach in the Spring of 2011 for the Japanese program newly launched in the Fall of 2010.
For the 37th year in a row, 18 MSU students and three non-MSU students participated in the 6-week summer program in Mayen, Germany from May 14- June 25, 2010.

Directed for the eighth time by German Professor Tom Lovik, students lived with host families, attended daily classes in the Altes Rathaus and participated in excursions to local, regional and national sites, including the Haus der Geschichte in Bonn, the DDR Museum in Berlin, and Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Weimar.

City tours of Koblenz, Köln, Jena, Dresden, Weimar, and Berlin provided students important background information on the major cities, while excursions to Burg Eltz, Maria Laach, and Monreal in the Eifel region highlighted the historical, economic and cultural aspects of smaller locations.

As always, students used the opportunity on the weekends to travel to other cities and countries in Europe, but in the end most appreciated the small town ambience that Mayen has to offer and the familial contacts that the program provides.

For the sixth time since 2005, the Mayen Scholarship enabled two students to receive a modest stipend to offset their program costs.

Photo: 2010 Mayen students pose with Marx and Engels
Donor Spotlight: Craig Melchert

Craig Melchert (BA, German, 1967) recently made a $20,000 commitment to provide much needed support necessary to fully fund the Endowed Scholarship for German Language and Culture in Mayen Program.

Dr. Melchert, who currently is a faculty member in the Linguistics Department at UCLA, provided this support because, as he says, "Not going abroad as a student to learn German onsite was the one big mistake of my academic career." The endowed assists students who wish to study German as part of the program that takes place in Mayen, Germany. Since 2005 the following students have been awarded Mayen Scholarships – Mark Miller, Jessica Chronowski, Brianna English, Zachary Holmes, Nicholas Coombes, Azra Sihalovic, Amanda Dalaba, and Cameron Gibson.

The original impetus for the Mayen Scholarship came several years ago from Vicki Fox and Beth Fahy and later joined by Brad Deacon, all of whom have pledged their financial support. (See the article on the 2010 Mayen Program on the page opposite.)

The Department is looking to expand study abroad scholarship opportunities to students participating in other Study Abroad programs. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Bridget Paff, Director of Development for the College of Arts and Letters at 517-353-4725 or via email at paff@msu.edu.

Summer Cooperative African Language Institute 2010

SCALI 2010 was a cooperative effort between the Association of African Studies Programs and the following: Title VI National Resources Centers for Africa (funded by the U.S. Department of Education), Boston University, Indiana University, Michigan State University, Ohio University, University of Florida, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Kansas, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Yale University.

Overall, 65 students and 22 African language instructors came from universities across the United States to attend SCALI 2010. Fifteen African languages were taught during the program, including Acholi, Afrikaans, Amharic, Bamana, Chichewa, Hausa, Igbo, Kinyarwanda, Somali, Swahili, Wolof, and Yoruba.

Both students and instructors participated in the eight week SCALI 2010 African language immersion program, which included four hours of language instruction each day, research programs, field trips, cultural events, and extracurricular activities.

SCALI 2010 at MSU began with a SCALI planning committee, composed of Dr. James Pritchett, Director of the African Studies Center, Dr. Yacob Fisseha, Assistant Director of the African Studies Center, Dr. David Prestel, Dr. Malik Balla, Dr. Deo Ngoyani, Dr. Abdul Salau, and Ms. Joan Peterson, Program Manager of the African Studies Center. The committee met throughout Fall 2009, and Spring 2010 for planning purposes. The planning committee benefited from Dr. Deo Ngoyani’s experiences in directing and hosting the previous MSU SCALI program, in 2002. Dr. David Prestel, former chair linguistics and languages contributed his extensive MSU administrative experiences to the SCALI program, and administrative staff from the African Studies Center and LGSAAL: Ms. Lisa Fruge, Ms Joanne Peterson, Ms. Michelle Beavers, Ms. Cathy Fields, Ms. Jennifer Nelson, Ms. Rebecca Rhodes, and Ms. Julie Delgado provided administrative support for SCALI 2010 by helping with registration of classes, assigning rooms for classes, providing instructors offices and computers.

SCALI 2010 was also supported by MSU’s International Studies Programs, MSU Administration, the Department of Linguistics & Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages, and the African Studies Center.

Photos:
Above: Yoruba language instructors and students during Cultural Night
Left: SCALI instructors and students during Cultural Night
Former LGSAAL Chair Wins Prestigious Award

David Prestel was awarded the 2010 World Language Educator/Administrator of the Year Award at the annual conference of the Michigan World Language Association on October 22, 2010.

Named for the long-time Chair of the Department of Romance and Classical Languages at MSU - George Joyaux - the award recognized David’s significant contributions to the development of world languages at Michigan State University and in Michigan.

His nomination documents noted his tireless commitment to all languages, his endeavors to support and strengthen existing world language programs, and his efforts to bring new less commonly taught languages into the department. The result is a department that now offers up to 25 or more languages a semester, from Arabic to Uzbek and Vietnamese.

From his experience as the TA coordinator for Russian to his current positions as Acting Co-Director of the Center for Language Teaching Advancement and Senior Associate Dean for Research and Personnel in the College of Arts and Letters, David is in some ways the face of world languages for our department and arguably for the entire MSU community.

His emphasis on teaching for proficiency, modeling departmental curricula according to the National Standards, promotion of study abroad experiences, and utilization of new technology ultimately rests on his desire to change students’ lives for the better in the process. Congratulations!

Photo: Dr. Tom Lovik (left), and Dr. David Prestel (right) at the 2010 MiWLA Awards Luncheon

Student Spotlight: Recent Graduates

Mitchell Brown graduated in May 2010 with a degree in Finance, along with an additional major in East Asian Languages and Culture (Chinese), and specializations in Asian Studies and International Business. He studied abroad during the fall semester 2007 in Hangzhou, China at Zhejiang University where he enrolled in language courses. Currently, he is working as a Corporate Banking Analyst at PNC Financial Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Nick Elliott graduated in 2009 with a BA in East Asian Languages and Cultures (Chinese focus) and a BA in International Relations, with a specialization in Asian Studies. Currently, He is an officer in the United States Navy, stationed in Pensacola, FL and is going through flight training to be an aviator. His hope is to apply his skills and background on a national security focused aircraft.

Rebecca Floyd graduated with her BA in linguistics with a concentration in Japanese in December 2008. She immediately began her MA in TESOL at MSU. She will graduate with that degree this December, 2010. Currently, she plans to teach ESL at the English Language Center at MSU following graduation. In the future, she hopes to continue working in ESL or in a linguistics department. Rebecca was also the winner of the 2010 LGSAAL Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Jessica Hagen studied German, English, and secondary education at MSU, and graduated in May 2009. In January 2010, she started the German MA program at MSU. This year, she has put her MA program on hold to work as a Fulbright English teaching assistant in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany. When she returns from her Fulbright year, she intends to continue with her Master’s program.

Kirsten Lamb graduated from MSU in August, 2010 with a degree in Russian, and also studied Geography and History. Shortly after graduating, she made a permanent move to London in the UK and was quickly employed. She is now working at the Latymer School, which is one of the most prestigious grammar schools in the country, and the top school in London. She develops educational technology and resources for staff and students, including educational tools for the Russian department.

Joy Nakfoor (BA German and Economics 2000, MBA MSU 2005) is living in Atlanta. Since graduation she has worked for Intel Corporation, Northwest Airlines and Delta Airlines. In 2009 she attended a reunion of the Freiburg Program alumni.

Matthew Husband just completed his doctorate from MSU in Linguistics in Summer 2010. Prior to this, he was a visiting instructor at Brown University in the Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences department, and is now doing a one semester visiting assistant professorship back at MSU in Linguistics. He will be starting a research post-doc next spring at the University of South Carolina in the Psychology department with Fernanda Ferreira.

Joe Ravesloot graduated from MSU in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Linguistics. He also completed coursework in Japanese, Second Language Acquisition, and English Pedagogy, all of which he is currently utilizing working as an Assistant Language Teacher in Japan (under the JET Program). His current plan is to work in Korea for a year in a similar capacity, and then look to obtain a Master's in TESOL (perhaps even at MSU).

Kevin Stowe graduated from Michigan State with a B.A. in Linguistics in 2009, and went on to graduate school at Indiana University. He is currently finishing his Master’s Degree in Computational Linguistics at IU.

Graduate Students

Matthew Husband just completed his doctorate from MSU in Linguistics in Summer 2010. Prior to this, he was a visiting instructor at Brown University in the Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences department, and is now doing a one semester visiting assistant professorship back at MSU in Linguistics. He will be starting a research post-doc next spring at the University of South Carolina in the Psychology department with Fernanda Ferreira.
Japanese Program Updated

Beginning in the fall semester of 2010, MSU students can earn an undergraduate degree (major, dual, additional, or minor) in the Japanese (JPN) program.

Previously, students in the Japanese and Chinese programs earned their degrees in East Asian Studies. By successfully completing the new JPN degree requirements, students will gain both Japanese language proficiency and cultural literacy.

The Japanese curriculum offers streamlined language courses from the first- to fourth-year levels (JPN101-402). Currently, Ms. Mariko Kawaguchi and Ms. Tomoko Okuno are in charge of these courses, which are expressly designed to enhance students’ language facility, from mastering communicative Japanese for use in everyday situations to acquiring the linguistic and cultural proficiency to analyze such authentic materials as newspaper articles and Japanese dramas.

In conjunction with the basic Japanese language curriculum, Dr. Endo Hudson offers courses on advanced Japanese acquisition, Japanese linguistics, pedagogy, and the short story. Dr. Catherine Ryu is in charge of courses in Japanese literary and cultural studies, including classical Japanese.

Students can further enrich their Japanese academic and cultural experiences by participating both in extracurricular opportunities available on campus and in study abroad programs at various institutions in Japan. To learn more about the new Japanese program, please visit us at http://linglang.msu.edu/asian/japanese/.

CeLTA Summer Programs: Hands-on Language Learning and Teaching

The Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA) was involved in a variety of programs over the summer.

In addition to co-organizing the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Summer Orientation, we offered week-long language and culture summer day camps for children in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish.

Linguistics and Languages graduate and advanced undergraduate students taught the Chinese, German, and Japanese camps. 32 children ages 5-13 participated in the LingLang camps, which also provided 17 undergraduate students and 1 advanced high school student with experiential learning opportunities.

Assisting with the camps allowed the undergraduates and high school student to see their studies in a real-world context and to interact with native speakers. The graduate instructors gained valuable teaching, leadership, and mentoring skills.

Each camp had an overarching topic that connected language and culture and included hands-on learning through games, arts and crafts, and projects.

The participating children learned about a variety of cultural topics from Chinese history and fables to German children’s novels by Erich Kästner to Japanese astronomy and festivals.

The campers also took field trips to MSU sites including the planetarium, football stadium, and dairy store, where they had to complete tasks in the target language.

CeLTA also continued its Teaching Internship in Germany and sent 5 undergraduates to elementary schools in Southern Germany for 3 weeks over the summer. The internship is part of an exchange program that placed 6 elementary school teachers from Germany at Lansing area schools in the spring. The MSU students observed grade levels 1-9, taught modules on the English language and American culture, and immersed themselves in the German language and culture during their home stays.

More information about CeLTA’s upcoming programs and events can be found on our website at http://celta.msu.edu.

Photos:
Above: David Stohrer was placed at Karl-Erhard-Scheufelen Grund- und Hauptschule in Oberlenningen.

Left: Yi-Jen Huang and Jing Fu with their group of Chinese campers.
Stay in Touch!
Let us know what you’ve been up to. Send your news to The Ling Lang Letter, Department of LGSAAL, MSU, A-614 Wells Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824 or lovik@msu.edu

Wells Hall Renovation Begins, see page one for full story