

Welcome to our

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES & CULTURES NEWSLETTER



As we reflect on another remarkable semester in the Department of Languages & Cultures, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the vibrant community we continue to build together. This newsletter highlights the incredible accomplishments, events, and experiences that showcase the power of language learning to connect people across cultures, perspectives, and communities.

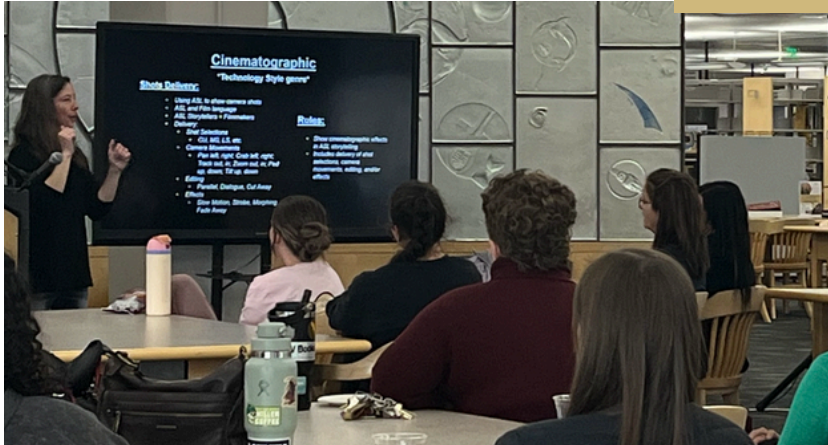
From study abroad opportunities and cultural showcases to student leadership, academic excellence, and community engagement, our students and faculty continue to demonstrate curiosity, creativity, and a passion for global understanding.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our faculty, staff, student employees, and supporters whose dedication makes these opportunities possible. Most importantly, congratulations to all of our outstanding students and graduates whose achievements we proudly celebrate in these pages. Thank you for being part of our Languages & Cultures community. We hope you enjoy reading about the many accomplishments and memorable moments from this academic year.

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

ASL SHOWCASE



What an incredible year for the ASL program! We energized intercultural communication classrooms with “Non-Verbal & Verbal Communication in ASL” presentations and captivated audiences with an “ASL Literature” showcase at the Kramer Family Library.

ASL CLUB

We teamed up with the ASL Club and Excel Language Center to host high-energy events: a tower competition, an Escape Room, a fingerspelling workshop, and Jeopardy! Even more exciting events are on the way!



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



We proudly celebrate seven ASL minor graduates: Kelsey Bell, Steffany Hernandez, Precious Holland, Emma Lepine, Sarah Lochridge, Sydney McDaniel, and Sydnee-Anne Moeller. Congratulations—we cannot wait to see the impact you make!

EXCEL LANGUAGES CENTER

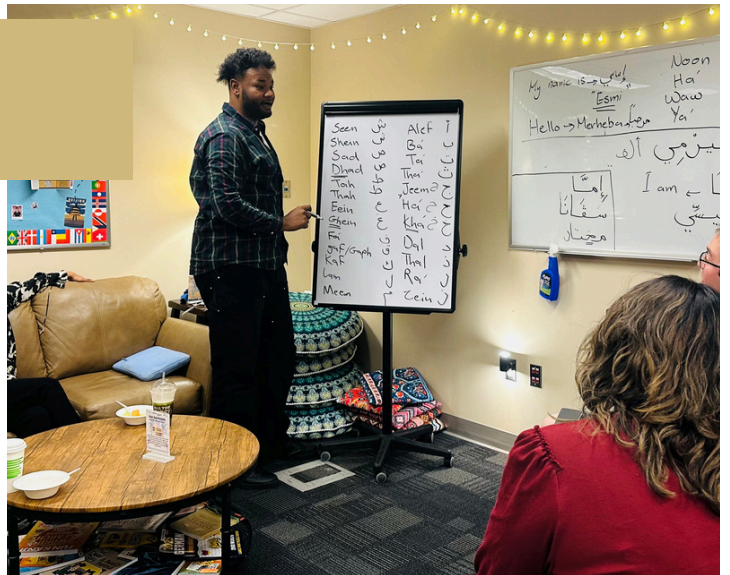
ASL ESCAPE ROOM



At the Languages Center, our Languages for Life series bridges language learning to student goals in careers, connection, culture, and travel. In the ASL Escape Room, students worked in teams and solved puzzles highlighting Deaf history, Gallaudet movements, and Deaf art.

POP-UP CONVERSATION

The Languages Center's Arabic Conversation Pop-Up created a space for students to engage with a language not regularly offered. Participants practiced, listened, and connected in a welcoming environment, with hopes of expanding pop-up opportunities into a recurring multi-language series.



HUNTER ROREN

Languages Center student employees lead far beyond tutoring, balancing academics, athletics, internships, jobs, study abroad, and community service. We're proud to spotlight German tutor Hunter Roren, elected Senator-at-Large for the Student Government Association, where he will advocate for Languages and Cultures.



FRENCH

STUDENTS SHARE GAF-FUNDED STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES

Henry Cummings spoke about fast fashion and sustainability initiatives by French luxury brands at the UCCS Fashion Club's Fashion Show; Rin Westbay presented highlights at the Sustainability Speaker Series, including French luxury brands and City of Paris sustainability initiatives; Rin, Henry, and Caleb Foulks spoke at the French senior recognition event



FRENCH CLUB, WORKSHOPS AND YEAR-END CELEBRATION

French Club students met for a game night and later at Paris Crêpes for food and community. Our French tutor, Paul Pourkarimi offered two workshops: French for travel and French slang. Finally, students gathered for a celebration of graduating seniors and awards. Students enjoyed meeting our dean and other students of French.



UCCS LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL FRENCH HUB THIS FALL

We are becoming an official testing center for the Professional French Diploma (DFP), an internationally recognized certification offered by the Paris International Chamber of Commerce. A grant from the French Embassy will subsidize the testing fee for students.

GERMAN



GERMAN TUTOR

Hello! My name is Hunter Roren, and I'm the German Peer Tutor and an SGA Senator-at-Large. World languages are my passion, and I've been studying German for five years now. I think everyone should learn a new language because it helps you connect with your past and better understand the cultures and histories that shape your identity.

STUDY ABROAD

The College of Business and the Department of Languages and Cultures recently traveled to Berlin for an unforgettable Study Abroad experience. Highlights included a cruise on the Spree River, a guided tour of the Reichstag building, and a visit to Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam. Special thanks to the College of Business and the International School of Finance for making this incredible trip possible.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

The Outstanding Student Award for German was presented to Joshua Billeg, who also became the newest member of the German National Honor Society in recognition of his outstanding academic achievements. Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Joshua!



JAPANESE



KANAZAWA UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

UCCS hosted two groups from Kanazawa University, allowing students to participate in language classes, cultural events, meals, city tours, and friendship-building opportunities. This is KU Group's fourth visit to UCCS.

JAPAN TRIP PRESENTATION

UCCS student Joseph Marsh was awarded a one-week trip to Japan through the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Kakehashi Project. In February, he visited sites in Tokyo, met Princess Takamado and government officials, and participated in a homestay in Nagoya. Joseph also experienced Japanese culture through calligraphy and traditional cooking activities with Japanese university students.

After returning, he gave a presentation at UCCS attended by Consul Kanno, Ms. Shaw from the Denver Consulate, and Japanese language students. Students asked questions about Japan and the JET Program, encouraging cultural exchange and discussion.



SPANISH

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



The Spanish department was honored to recognize these three outstanding graduate students at the LAS Award Ceremony. Pictured with dean Bret Amundson and Dr. Cota-Torres. All three students are seeking careers in teaching Spanish to further encourage the love for languages.

SNHH & MARIACHI

The Spanish National Honors Society collaborated with the UCCS Mariachi class to put together a Cinco de Mayo event. It was an amazing night full of culture through games, songs, food and collaboration which we hope to continue in years to come. Thank you to the UCCS Mariachi for making this event possible!



SNHH INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Spanish National Honors Society was able to honor four new members into their society as they continue to strive towards growing their community and further the impact of language on our campus. Congratulations to Edwin Flores, Savannah Vasquez, Miriam Farhat, and Maraya Tejeda-Rodriguez!



KOREAN

SHOPPING TRIP



The Beginning Korean 2 (KREN 1020) class took a field trip on May 1st. The class visited a newly opened Korean convenience store (featuring frozen goods, cosmetics, and a ramen corner) in the Briargate area. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience authentic Korean food culture.

FOOD CULTURE

The KREN 1010 (beginning 1) class also took a field trip on May 8th. Many students were able to visit 3 Korean stores in town to experience authentic Korean food and culture - a Korean restaurant, a Korean traditional souvenir shop, and a grocery store. It was a fun activity and students expressed that they would like to go on adventures to Korean places around the town again.



HUMANITIES PANEL

Careers in Humanities Panel



Dr. Cota
(Spanish)



Dr. Montez de Oca
(Sociology)



Dr. Jimenez
(History)



Dr. Kling
(Philosophy)

Special Guest:
Education Advisor — Q&A Session

Wednesday, May 6th | 4:30–5:30 PM | UC 122
Bring your questions, bring a friend. We hope to see you there!

Our Department Chair, Dr. Édgar Cota Torres, participated in the Careers in Humanities Panel organized by the Office of Academic Advising. Joining him on the panel were Dr. Montez de Oca (Sociology), Dr. Jiménez (History), and Dr. Kling (Philosophy). The event provided students with a valuable opportunity to explore academic and career pathways within the College of LAS and engage directly with faculty across the humanities and social sciences.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Catalina Arreola Ramirez
**Outstanding Spanish Student
Award**



Kelsey Bell
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**



Joshua Billeg
**Outstanding German Student
Award**



Henry Cummings
**Outstanding French Minor in
STEM**



Bradyn Groat
**Outstanding Japanese Student
Award**



Steffany Hernandez
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**



Precious Holland
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**



Emma Lepine
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**



Sarah Lochridge
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Ytzel Lugo
**Outstanding Spanish Student
Award**



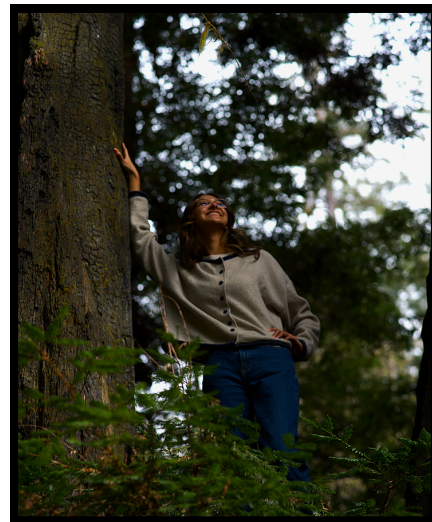
Sydney McDaniel
**Outstanding ASL Student
Award**



Yolanda Ofori
**Outstanding French Minor
in STEM**



Erik Saldaña
**Outstanding Spanish Student
Award**



Rin Westbay
**Outstanding French Minor
Overall**

MOVING ONTO NEW HORIZONS



Andrea Brehm

Teaching Professor of German



Blanca Glisson

**Teaching Professor of
Spanish**



Maria Jose Goni

**Teaching Professor of
Spanish**



Sabrina Hottle-Valencia

**Assistant Teaching Professor
of ASL**



Yang Yang

Lecturer of Chinese



Catalina Arreola Ramirez

Student Employee



Abby Carroll

**Marketing Student
Employee**



Bailee Steward

**Marketing Student
Employee**

WE WILL MISS YOU ALL, THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION!