

# Languages and Cultures Department Newsletter

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## Chair's Corner

Welcome Back!

It has been an unpredictable summer as I am certain you are aware and I personally am looking forward to a fall full of ups and no downs. Positive thinking, it is said, works. I would like to thank each and every one of you in the Languages and Cultures Department for your patience and good humor as we anticipated and experienced furloughs, were denied travel, were given more administrative tasks and wondered, with some trepidation, what was coming next. However change is not always bad. We also look forward to welcoming our new faculty members, civilian and military alike, and an opportunity to hire new tenure track faculty in Arabic and Chinese. The Leadership has in fact been very supportive of our department, allowing us to hire more that was expected and granting all the sabbaticals that were requested. We are working hard to get travel back to what it was before last year.

### Contents

Chair's Corner	1
Associate Chair	2
Summer Seminar	2
Validations	3
ACR	3
Plebe Parents Weekend	4

### Brown Bag Schedule

- ◆ **4SEPT13:**  
Mottaleb
- ◆ **17 SEP:**  
Cancelled
- ◆ **24 SEP:**  
COL Montanus  
(All Hand)

A small but hopefully positive addition in tasking is this newsletter. I hope that by publishing this on our web page and in hard-copy format as well, we will be able to share more of the wonderful things we do in this department both with each other and the rest of the yard. Please submit anything you think might be noteworthy: Movement Orders, guest speakers, special projects, publications, conference abstracts, poems or anything else you might consider noteworthy to anyone on the newsletter committee and we will incorporate it! Perhaps one day it will count as a publication (ok, that may be stretching it.)

Again, thank you all for everything you do every day. I look forward to checking in with you and you stopping by throughout the semester and talking any time.

Have a great semester!

Clementine

## From Summer to the New Semester

I look forward to working with all of you. It has been a busy summer. Several activities took place: Summer Seminar, ACR, Plebe Parents Weekend, validation, STARTALK, many administrative matters, and of course, Furloughs. We had outstanding support from our new graduate ensigns who stepped up to the challenge and helped in all these activities.

As you know scheduling has been a persistent problem. We had over 100 sections to fill, which makes it hard to find enough classes close by Nimitz. However, we tried to keep everyone as close as possible to Nimitz.

Clementine, Heidi, and I are working hard on making the administrative process transparent and smooth.

I look forward to a great academic year with all of you. Please contribute to the Brown Bags and the department Newsletter with new ideas and presence.

Ayman

## Summer Seminar

Apart from figuring out when senior skip day is or what to wear to their last pep rally, the single most difficult decision on the mind of any rising high school senior is that of which university to attend after finishing up their last year of high school. Each summer, over 2500 rising seniors attend one of three week long United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar to figure out whether or not they will choose USNA for their collegiate career. During their weeklong stay in Annapolis, the candidates attend various academic, physical, and leadership seminars in order to provide them with an idea of all that the Naval Academy has to offer. The Language and Cultures Department held a total of 24 seminars throughout the three weeks in order to give the candidates an idea of the incredible opportunities midshipmen have to not only learn foreign languages in the classroom, but also to

various professors in the department, the candidates were able to learn of the academic rigor required in order to successfully learn a new language. Each seminar also included a presentation from Ensign Matt Disher, who presented the perspective of a recent graduate on the importance of learning new languages and understanding foreign cultures and the incredible opportunities he was afforded during his time as a midshipman. He presented on his LSAP trip to Salamanca, Spain and the relationships he made with many of the exchange midshipmen who came to study abroad at the US Naval Academy for a semester. Overall, the Summer Seminar sessions were a tremendous success and helped to encourage the USNA class of 2017 to participate in the many incredible programs afforded to them during their four years at the Naval Academy.

## Validations

In the process of establishing their academic foundation, the Class of 2017 came to Nimitz Hall where they tested for Language Validation.



Professor Fletcher, who led the operation, briefed the Plebes on the diversity of the Department and explained the path to a Major/Minor within a particular language.

In regards to the exams, the Plebes were spread out across five different computer labs in the Nimitz basement where TAD Ensigns/2<sup>nd</sup> LT's proctored them to ensure

## Academic Counseling and Registration

This year, the Academic Counseling and Registration session took place from July 15–22. The Languages and Cultures Department gained more interest with this year's incoming class than ever before! Inside Rickover Hall, members of the Language department spent the week fielding questions about the opportunities available with taking a language while registering those qualified to begin taking classes this fall.

Specifically, the class of 2017 is incredibly interested in the LSAP and LREC programs. As Plebe Summer comes to an end, the Plebes have never seen more excited to start class and begin working on a path that will put them in a position to take advantage of the classes offered by the Department.

The interest was so high, professors spent additional time screening candidates and adjusting schedules to ensure there was enough room within a given class. No doubt this year will have numerous challenges with such a capacity but it is incredible to see this kind of interest and enthusiasm heading into the Academic year.

On that note, I would like to give a special thanks to Profs Peart, Zimmerman, O'Neil, Hu, Brosh and LCDR Murakoshi for their time to these sessions.



# Plebe Parents Weekend

Finally, the big event that marks the end of a hard summer is Plebe Parents Weekend. In an attempt to bring the parents closer and more in tune to what their children have gotten themselves into, every Department opens a booth in Dahlgren Hall to answer questions and introduce parents to the academic side of the Academy. This year, the Language Department created a wonderful display and had solid staff on hand to talk with the parents.

Led by CDR Weber and LCDR Romero, the Department worked on a wonderful display for the parents and also created a game for the children in attendance.

Overall, the Department showed its diversity and was truly one of the family favorites among other Departments.

Special thanks to LT Angelo and Prof. Brosh for spending time on both days at the booth and introducing parents to the Language Department.

