

# LANGUAGE LINKS

Fall 2014



## My Washington Center Experience

by Raisa Colon, BA Spanish

How do I even begin to put into words the experience I had in Washington D.C.? The things I learned, the people I met, and the opportunities I had are beyond what I would have ever imagined. Each component of The Washington Center offered me a new opportunity to learn and to grow as a person. They did an amazing job at incorporating both professional and personal opportunities for growth which have allowed me to further develop myself into the woman I would like to become.

Looking back on my first few days I was incredibly nervous, but now as I sit here and write this, it's amazing how my

life has changed. I strongly believe that I walked away as a much stronger leader than I was before I went. The Washington Center has helped me narrow down my career options, explore my passion for immigration matters, boost my own confidence, and explore the type of work environment I would like for my future.

During my time in D.C. I had the opportunity to utilize my Spanish. My supervisors trusted me to answer phones and speak directly to the Spanish-speaking clientele. They also allowed me to translate documents and sit in on simultaneous interpreting sessions. It was an incredibly gratifying feeling to utilize

what I have learned here at Kutztown in the work place.

As I sit here and reflect even further I can't help but want to express one of the most exciting portions of my time there which would be the amazing friends that I made. At The Washington Center I finally felt like I found a group of friends that I could relate to, other college students my age who are aspiring to succeed and who come from all over the world bringing different perspectives to the table. I tell myself that my time in D.C. was not the end but rather just the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

[www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu)





## Model UN Trip: Kutztown Wins Big in Milan

By Peter Murray, BA German Communication and Culture

On May 17th, 2014, seven members of the Kutztown Model United Nations Club arrived in Milan, Italy to attend the 9th annual Milan Model United Nations Conference. The conference was hosted by the elite Bocconi University of Milan and spans five days of vigorous and contentious debate. At every model UN Conference delegates are challenged to test their knowledge on a broad range of subjects from international law and trade to sometimes little known but critical parts of global history. To effectively employ this base of knowledge, college students of all ages must learn the art of public speaking, thorough research, stratagem, and above all else diplomacy.

The students of Kutztown University expertly applied these crafts in their respective councils. In the simulated U.N. International Court of Justice Ezra Kane Salafia (United States of America) and his fellow delegates from across both Europe and the World spent painstaking hours dissecting the minutiae of international law to draft and release a court decision on the use of U.S. drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan. For his stellar performance in what was considered by many at the conference the most challenging simulation, Ezra was awarded an Honorable Mention (2nd place). Not to be outdone by their colleague, Musfrah Shahid Rana (People's Republic of China) and Shodiyakhon Toshkhujueva (Islamic Republic of Pakistan) brought home two awards for their diligent work on legislation for food

security in South East Asia and the emerging biofuels market. Musfrah was awarded Best Delegate (1st place) and Shodiya received the Honorable Mention.

In the European Council on Economic and Financial Affairs the university was represented by Alexander Benedict (Republic of Austria), Emily Thaler (United Kingdom), Peter Murray (Federal Republic of Germany), and Shirin Toshkhujueva (Hellenic Republic of Greece). Two resolutions were drafted to address the issues of innovation, industry, economic growth, and the female wage gap in the European Union. The four delegates from Kutztown were recognized for their substantial contributions to the debate and the writing of the resolutions. Peter Murray received the esteemed Best Delegate Award in this council.

Of the seven members who traveled with this year's team, four returned with top awards from the Milan conference. The outstanding performance by this year's delegates made it one of the most successful conference trips in recent years for the Model UN Club of Kutztown. Accolades aside, the greatest value derived from the trip are the bonds forged with teams from around the world, the opportunity to experience new and exciting cultures, and broadening one's scope of knowledge of the world in which we live. The team was highly successful in all of those endeavors.







From left:  
Mike Mahoney,  
BA, German  
Communication  
and Culture;  
Peter Murray,  
BA German  
Communication  
and Culture;  
Laura Berkel,  
BA German  
Communication  
and Culture, BA  
Philosophy;  
Mason Smith,  
BSEd, German  
and  
Mathematics



## First Class of KU “Hildesheimers”

This year, seven KU German students will be attending the University of Hildesheim as part of Kutztown’s newest exchange program in Hildesheim, Germany. Four students (pictured

above) are studying for the entire academic year, and three more will join them for the spring semester, which begins in April. Hildesheim, located in northern Germany

near Hannover, is a university of about 6,000 students. As part of the exchange, students from Hildesheim will study at Kutztown for a year or a semester in the near future.

## Former German minor at TEFL Worldwide Prague

Hannah Leidich (BS Psychology, German minor, 2014) was hired this past summer at TEFL Worldwide Prague in the position of Job Guidance/Admissions Coordinator. She also teaches English to individual students through the organization.

As for her German language use? Hannah was very excited to report this:

“I conducted my entire interview in German! When I arrived, the director asked me if my German was any better than her English and we proceeded to conduct the hour and a half long interview entirely in German, besides a 15-minute demonstration lesson in English. It was so exciting! I didn't expect it at all since all of our correspondence had been in English but it was thrilling to know that it was German that got me to the point I am now. Now I also have a native speaker that I can practice with while I'm here.”

[www.teflworldwideprague.com](http://www.teflworldwideprague.com)

“[I]t was thrilling to know that it was German that got me to the point I am now.”







Above right: Tricia Johnson, a student volunteer and German Education major here at KU, judges the German DefConDare event. The competitors were Kutztown's Deutsch Fünf, Nazareth's NAHS German, and Parkland's Trojaner.



Above: Roberto Clemente Charter School, led by Señora Olivari, won the 2014 World Languages Meet, besting Fleetwood German Club by only two points.

## 2014 LRC World Languages Meet

By eight thirty on the morning of Thursday, March 27th, high school students from all over Berks and the surrounding counties came to Kutztown University for the second annual World Languages Meet (WLM). Among the competing teams were students from Kutztown, Parkland, Fleetwood, Nazareth and Phoenixville high schools, as well as Roberto Clemente Charter School.

Over two hundred students from these high schools, divided into French, Spanish, and German teams, came for a full day of competitions, presentations, and tours. While the day centered on the benefits from continued learning of a foreign language, students were engaged in competitions such as Taboorades, DefConDare, Role-Play, and GoAnimate. These games were designed to cultivate 21st-century language skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, leadership, information and media literacy, problem solving, and creativity. They also presented Cultural Presentations on topics of their

own choosing and demonstrated what their research revealed about the products, perspectives, and practices of the people.

While the students were competing against each other to bring a trophy back to their school, they cheered each other on during each competition—they all shared the experience of learning a second language and supported each other. By integrating games, technology, and testing, as well as a presentation about future careers, the creators of the WLM designed the event so that students could actively use their language skills and realize the significance of what they could do and the importance of their study.

The Spanish team from Roberto Clemente Charter School was the winner with the most overall points; second place went to the Fleetwood German Club, with just a two-point spread (282-280).

For more information about the events, competitions, and game rules, check out the World Languages Meet link at <http://www2.kutztown.edu/LanguageResourceCenter>.



## KU Research Grant Allows Students to Work with German Author

This past summer, Tricia Johnson, BSEd German, and Greg Haney, BSEd German and Special Education, had the opportunity to work with German mystery novelist and journalist Veit Müller.

Dr. Lynn M. Kutch, associate professor of German, secured a KU research grant in December 2013 that provided travel assistance for her and the students, books, and a stipend for Mr. Müller.

The grant supported research on the applicability and effectiveness of the writing workshop model for boosting target language writing and critical thinking skills in advanced students of German.

Haney comments: "The course in Tübingen with Dr. Kutch was everything a language student could ask for. Living in the German culture and speaking the language every day helped me learn new ways to express my thoughts and opinions. With the many and various writing samples I really saw an improvement in my writing skills."

Johnson remarks that her most memorable moment was "the dinner we had during the Germany vs. USA World Cup game. The Müllers and their neighbors spoke about their childhood experiences with "Sankt Nikolaus." They also talked about their jobs, what they do in school (as the guests were teachers) and the places in the US that they have visited. The rich diversity of people and ideas made it an irreplaceable cultural experience. It was unbelievably beneficial to be able to sit in on an authentic German conversation and hear the language as it is spoken in a normal, everyday context. This experience was a great help because I gained so much cultural understanding of the Germans from just listening to them carry an everyday conversation on with their friends."

*The students met daily for two weeks with Dr. Kutch and Mr. Müller; and the "classroom" locations ranged from the Schönbuch Nature Preserve near Tübingen (above right) to Müller's back yard (right).*



## Modern Languages and Careers News Bites

**Graduates in Foreign Languages and Literatures are the highest earning new 2014 Bachelor of Arts recipients**, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. This news was reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, in Lauren Weber's article "The Liberal Arts Majors that Pay the Most" (May 15, 2014, [http://blogs.wsj.com/atwork/2014/05/15/the-liberal-arts-majors-that-pay-the-most/?mod=trending\\_now](http://blogs.wsj.com/atwork/2014/05/15/the-liberal-arts-majors-that-pay-the-most/?mod=trending_now) 5)

**Researchers at Stanford University released a study that found that students in a dual-language class have higher academic achievement**, according to an article by Linda Shaw in the *Seattle Times* on May 8, 2014. (<http://blogs.seattletimes.com/educationlab/2014/05/08/in-class-two-languages-better-than-one-new-big-study-says/#.U2ucaPMTUMs.hotmail>)

"[I]n a survey of 836 business leaders, Shirley J. Daniel, the director of the Center for International Business Education and Research at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, found that **43**

**percent said they believed their overall business would increase a great deal if they had more international expertise available among their staff**, while another 43 percent believed their business would increase somewhat. The executives overwhelmingly expressed a need for mandatory foreign language training and more emphasis on other world areas." (from Redden, Elizabeth. (2014). "Area Studies Mismatch." *Inside Higher Ed*. April 14. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/14/conference-focuses-state-area-and-foreign-language-studies#ixzz2yrb38LFT> )

**What are the statistics?** Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) recently produced a pamphlet that documents statistics showing how interwoven the economics of the US and Germany truly are. One of those statistics: **German companies employ almost 570,000 American workers**. ([http://www.rgit-usa.com/uploads/media/German-American\\_Trade\\_Investment\\_and\\_Jobs\\_2012-2013\\_01.pdf](http://www.rgit-usa.com/uploads/media/German-American_Trade_Investment_and_Jobs_2012-2013_01.pdf) )

## MLS Career Talk: The Professional Translator

On October 6, 2014, professional German-English legal translator Terry Coe gave a presentation on the translation industry and profession. Over forty MLS students of German and Spanish were in attendance.

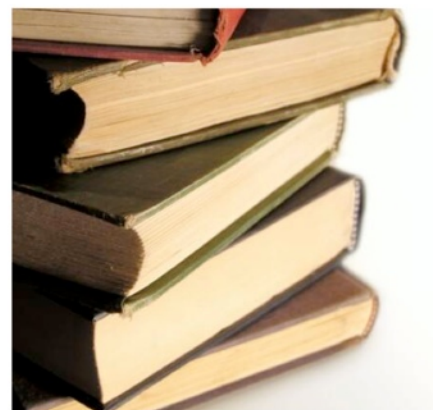
Students remarked that Coe presented an honest and realistic picture of the current translation industry, yet also had encouraging words for those interested in getting into the business.

Coe is a member of the American Translators Association, which requires its members to engage in outreach opportunities like the career talk.

[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

### 5 Myths about Translation:

- Translators are just people who can speak two or more languages.
  - Translating from one language to another (Spanish>>English) is the same as translating in the reverse direction (English>>Spanish).
  - Translators can also interpret.
  - Translators like to do free translation work.
  - Translators can produce any translation with little or no turn-around time.
- <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/translation/articles/translation-myths.html>



**THE PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR:  
AN MLS CAREER TALK  
WITH TERRY COE  
Monday, October 6, 2014**

**DF 102,  
3pm**

Learn about the  
possibilities of translation  
as a career, the translation  
industry, obtaining  
qualifications, and  
acquiring experience.

KU Department of Modern  
Language Studies  
German Students/  
Organization

**ata** American  
Translators  
Association

## LIVING LANGUAGES FAIR

On Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Modern Language Studies Department presented a showcase of unique opportunities for KU students to explore cultures and languages outside the classroom. Pictured above: Spanish professor, Dr. Angelo Rodríguez, discusses the KU-Valladolid (Spain) study abroad program. For more information on KU-led study-abroad programs in Spain, Costa Rica, Germany and Austria, please call: 610-683-4427.



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