

COLLABORATIONS

Nothing Gets Lost in Translation with Students' Language Exchange

On a recent rainy afternoon, students crowded into a classroom in Royce Hall to talk. Half the students were native English speakers, learning Japanese. The other half were native Japanese speakers, learning English.

The conversations were alternately halting and hilarious, as students shared impressions of Tokyo, New York, anime, television, Hideo Nomo—and other activities.

“Do you go to bars?” one English speaker asked a Japanese speaker.

“Bars?” the student repeated blankly.

“You know, bars. Like Maloney’s.”

“Oh! Maloney’s!” exclaimed the Japanese student with sudden recognition. “Yes!”

The students were participating in what has become a quarterly tradition. Japanese students from UCLA Extension’s American Language Center (ALC) practice their English on UCLA undergraduates studying Japanese. The undergraduates, in turn, get to practice their Japanese.

The ALC offers intensive English language instruction for international participants and non-native residents who want to learn English for business, pleasure, or preparation for further study. Headquartered on Lindbrook Avenue in Westwood Village, ALC attracts nearly 3,000 adult students from all over the world each year. Students enroll in 4-, 6-, or 10-week programs, focusing on either academic or practical English skills. Levels range from beginning to advanced. During the summer, many students stay in campus housing. The rest of the year they live in off-campus apartments or arrange to live with local families.

The recent exchange at Royce Hall is part of a larger effort called the Language Exchange Program, which partners ALC students learning English with native English speakers who need practice in other languages. Since the American Language Center began running the Language Exchange Program eight years ago, it has generated more than 300 language pairs a year, in nearly two dozen languages—everything from Spanish to Korean to Trukese, the language of the Truk Islands. ALC staff members work with graduate and undergraduate advisers at the various language departments on campus to match students.

Bill Gaskill, ALC’s director, says this kind of interaction provides an important supplement to classroom instruction. “In a classroom setting, as much as we try to make things real and relevant, you’re in some sense conducting artificial activities for practice purposes or to introduce new concepts,” he says. “In the Language Exchange Program, real communication is going on; people are really trying to find out about each other. They’re asking meaningful things and they really care about the responses.”

This not only helps students focus on learning a language, it also accomplishes the program’s second goal, to allow students to reach out across national borders. “Most of our students have come here to study English from other countries, and they’re eager to meet local people to talk to,” says Gaskill. “We’re always looking for ways to involve them in the local community.”

Staff members at ALC say the language exchanges have forged strong connections between participants—and that’s exactly what they intended.

“The Language Exchange Program isn’t only about learning languages. We hope that

people connect and develop friendships as well,” says Gaskill.

The connection was working well at Royce Hall. “Dude, you should come to my game tonight,” said one English-speaking student to his Japanese language partner, after a complex explanation of the intricacies of hockey. “What are you doing tonight? Want to come?”

Elsewhere, students exchanged phone numbers and email addresses, and plans were made to continue the discussions—maybe even while watching a hockey game at Maloney’s.

Health Care Management Certificate Program Debuts

Extension Partners with UCLA School of Public Health on Latest Offering

Designed to prepare leaders in a complex, dynamic field that is expected to grow at twice the rate of other occupations in the next decade, UCLA Extension and UCLA’s School of Public Health recently announced a unique new certificate program in Health Care Management and Leadership.

Jointly developed and overseen by both organizations, the program takes advantage of UCLA’s leadership in health care management to provide information on industry trends as they arise. Courses are taught by experts who deal with evolving issues on a daily basis, providing the latest in policy, strategy, and technique.

Continues on page 7.

Inside

[Online Courses: Looking Back at the First 10 Years](#)

[Distinguished Instructors Honored at Awards Dinner](#)

[Bringing Real-World Experience into the Classroom](#)

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Instructors Honored at Dean's Distinguished Instructor Award Dinner



Clockwise from top left: Public Policy Program Department Director Catherine Showalter with honoree Margaret Moore Sohagi; Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences, and Health Sciences Department Director Eve Haberfield with honoree Walter E. Brackelmanns and Lois Brackelmanns; Business, Management, and Legal Programs Department Director Karim Cherif with honoree Joseph G. Devanney; honoree Charles Lynn Batten, Jr.; honorees Judith Tanka, Adam Rado, and Isabella T. Anikst with American Language Center Department Associate Director Tara Neuwirth; honoree Sally Gross.

Congratulations to the many fine instructors honored with the first UCLA Extension Dean's Distinguished Instructor Award:

Isabella T. Anikst
Charles Lynn Batten, Jr., PhD
Paul Bergman, Esq.
Walter E. Brackelmanns, MD
Robert L. Brent, Esq.
Theresa M. Corbett
Joseph G. Devanney
Bruce R. Elbert
Lillian Goodman
Sally Gross
Michael Hricak
Wesley A. Lee
Jeff Lewis
Thomas A. Lockett
Dale W. Maeder, PhD
Arlene Matza-Jackson
Antonio B. Nassar, PhD ←
Laura Radchik, PhD
Adam Rado
Arnold M. Ruskin, PhD
Margaret Moore Sohagi, JD
Judith Tanka
Barbara J. Tarbuck

UCLA Extension celebrated its instructors recently with the inaugural Dean's Distinguished Instructor Award Dinner. The event honored nearly two dozen instructors who have taught with exemplary dedication and consistent excellence. Honorees were chosen based on length of service, leadership in curriculum development, exceptional mentoring, collaborative service to other instructors, and institution-wide contributions.

The event also served to formally announce the Instructor Recognition Fund, an effort spearheaded by instructor Steven Yamshon, PhD, who wanted to provide a way to promote and recognize superior teaching among Extension instructors. Dr. Yamshon has taught Security Analysis courses in the Financial Planning Program at UCLA Extension for the last 10 years.

The warm and lively evening quickly became a celebration not just of the instructors, but of their remarkable students and Extension itself.

"Teaching Extension is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," said honoree Charles Lynn Batten, Associate Professor of English at UCLA. Batten has taught more than 100 Extension courses over more than 30 years, and for the last 20 years he has shared his expertise in Extension's Instructor Development Program. Batten has quite a bit of expertise to share; he also has been honored with UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award.

The award winners all spoke about the challenges of teaching classes after a full day's work, but also about the tremendous rewards. "Teaching is like oxygen to me," said Dr. Walter Brackelmanns, an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA, who has been teaching Extension programs for mental health professionals for nearly 30 years. And it has been similarly sustaining for his students.

"Teaching is like oxygen to me,"
said Dr. Walter Brackelmanns.