The past several months found the faculty members and students in Modern Languages and Cultures actively engaged in excellent teaching, innovative research, and committed service. MLC was involved in several ways with the Texas Foreign Language Association, including by hosting a Summer Institute on the Baylor campus in June. We celebrated the recognition by Dean Larry Lyon of Baylor’s Graduate School of outstanding teaching by our Spanish graduate students. Many faculty and staff members, including Program Director Holly Joyner, helped to launch Baylor & Beyond Living-Learning Center (LLC), formerly known as Global Community LLC, which is enjoying significant growth and a new home in beautifully renovated North Russell Hall. Visit http://www.baylor.edu/baylor-andbeyondllc/ for more information. Thanks to Senior Lecturer in Spanish Deborah Manzanares, faculty advisor to Alpha Lambda Delta, National Honor Society for First-Year Students, at our

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The past several months found Modern Languages and Cultures actively involved with the Texas Foreign Language Association. On July 22–24, MLC hosted a TFLA Summer Institute here at Baylor, under the extraordinary leadership of Senior Lecturer Billie Hulke. This event drew more than 100 language educators from high schools, colleges, and universities across Texas, focusing on “putting proficiency into practice.”

The keynote speaker was Greg Duncan, a renowned second-language teacher who has made service to the profession a focus of his career. Several faculty members also presented at the TFLA conference in Houston in October, where MLC Chair Heidi Bostic accepted an award for 2015 Higher Education Administrator of the Year on behalf of the entire department.

After months of planning, the Global Community Living-Learning Center (LLC) officially transitioned to the Baylor & Beyond LLC and has grown from roughly 85 members last year to slightly over 260 this fall! This community, previously housed in Brooks Flats, is now housed in the first-year residence hall North Russell. The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures has partnered with several other departments in the humanities in this endeavor, but as a whole, our 77 students living in language-focused neighborhoods within the hall outnumber all other groups.

Over the course of the semester, our language neighborhoods under the direction of their faculty liaisons have been busy making their target language and culture come alive outside of the classroom. The Spanish neighborhood, led by Profs. Fernanda Bueno, Isabel Colorado-Edwards,
November departmental meeting MLC conferred upon Dr. Allen Seward, Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate in Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business, and Director of the Baylor Business Fellows undergraduate program, an Alpha Lambda Delta award. The award recognizes Dr. Seward’s outstanding efforts in advocating for Language programs. It is no accident that so many Business Fellows students enroll in Language courses!

We marked the end of the year by organizing once again the ever-popular Carols Around the World event at Baylor’s Christmas on 5th Street celebration on December 3 (special thanks to Regular Lecturer in Japanese Yoshiko Gaines and her committee) and by enjoying the traditional Christmas potluck lunch on December 8 (special thanks to staff members Ann Westbrook, Staci Hamlin, and Blanca Fajardo). In so many ways, whether through the Day of Languages Celebration, mentoring undergraduate researchers, expanding horizons of their scholarly fields, or providing Baylor students with an innovative and transformational education, MLC faculty pursued their dedication to fulfilling Baylor’s mission. I would love to...
This year’s Day of Languages celebration, held September 29, drew a record 100+ student participants. Many MLC faculty members worked to make this event a success. An event held annually in many countries, it is designed to call attention to the importance of studying other languages and cultures.

José Luis Escorcia, and Billie Hulke, celebrated Mexican Independence Day while eating tamales and learning Latin dances. Several neighborhoods—including Chinese, Korean, German, and Japanese—hosted cultural cooking events in North Russell, led by Profs. Holly Shi, Kim Uber, Jennifer Good, Yoshiko Gaines, Yuko Prefume, and assisted by Jay Yoo.

In addition, several faculty members have hosted off-campus meals and conversation hours: Profs. Adrienne Harris and Eva Hruška in Russian, and Mike Boerm, Marie Level, and Pat Pierce with the French neighborhood. The hall was filled with the enchanting aroma of coffee during Prof. Lynn Whitcomb’s Turkish Coffee Hour held for students of Arabic. Not to be outdone, Prof. Roberto Pesce hosted the Italian Club’s cooking night.

These events would not be possible without the efforts and dedication of our faculty liaisons and our student leaders, who are already planning engaging activities for the spring including a crêpe-making party and a decorating event to celebrate the Chinese New Year!