LEADERS from pg 1

1. As qualified to be a mentor as the language house or any amount to something as minor as age or place on the waiting list. Either way, both mentors and apartment leaders must possess a very high language ability, arguably an ability that very few UMD language students could hope to attain. Regardless of where you are, or how good your mentor is, there is much you can learn from your apartment leader.

This building is simply so full of language talent, and there is just not enough room or finances to have twenty or thirty mentors. Apartment leaders fulfill many of the duties of a mentor; the biggest difference between a mentor and an apartment leader is that apartment leaders are not paid. This should not diminish their value or esteem. However, it is only a dedicated individual that would shoulder such a burden for no financial compensation whatsoever.

I was an apartment leader for a year; I was able to impart much knowledge of Russian culture and language on my apartment mates. This knowledge deepened as they seemed to me to be “missing out”; that only through living with a mentor can one attain the full Language House immersion experience, would be mistaken. Apartment leader or mentor, the judgment should be on the individual fulfilling the role, and not simply the role.

MENTORS from page 1

Italian, means condoms? That’s not exactly a word you learn in Italian 103. Over the year it’s become quite apparent to me that those who don’t share the same apartment as the mentor are at a significant disadvantage in the Language House, unless their apartment leader is a native speaker and has been raised in the culture of the target language. The second I walked into my apartment in the spring 2013 semester, I was greeted by my mentor; having known Spanish as a third language and only having completed Italian 103, I was slightly terrified. Throughout the year I learned things about the culture, always buy DeCecco pasta, the art of using mocha and, the habit of having coffee after every meal. Overall, I gained a better perspective of the Italian culture by living with a real Italian, than anyone could from reading about it.

Spaghetti and Feta Fetayer

**Ingredients**

- 500g fresh spinach, blanched
- 250g Persian feta
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 dessertspoon sumac
- 400g puff pastry
- Flour
- Preparation
- Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4.
- Make sure that the spinach has all the excess water squeezed out, and then roughly chop.
- In a fry pan heat some olive oil; fry the onions until golden brown.
- Fry the feta cheese, allspice, sumac and season well. Make sure all ingredients are mixed well.
- Cut the puff pastry into 10cm rounds with a pastry cutter. Take a round of puff pastry and lay it flat in your hand and put a dessertspoon in the middle.
- To make a traditional three-sided pie, lift up two sides and pinch the neighbouring edges together, making a thin-ringed joint. Lift the third side and join its two edges to the other sides to make a pyramid with a small base.
- Seal the openings by pinching the edges firmly all the way to the top. Do this with all the discs.
- Place the pies on foil on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

**Preparation**

- Add the spinach, allspice, sumac and season well.
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**Feta Fetayer**

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**BELIEF see pg 4**

**FILM see pg 2**

**The Phoenix**

**Are Mentors Essential?**

**By Meghna Balakumar**

**Italian Cluster**

Peaches taste awful when you use protection. My mentor’s eyes widened. Whoops. Yet another moment when I was glad that she was there. Had I been in Italy, I may have been deported. Or in the very least, my host family would have had a good laugh at my expense. Anyone who’s been abroad knows, that making such language mistakes is embarrassing. Who knew that conservatives, in Hourton Wilson Russian Cluster

Certainly, Mentors in our language house are exemplary. But this ought not render Apartment Leaders necessarily less adequate or less able to perform their specific duty. That duty is as follows: to encourage and ensure target language immersion within their respective apartment.

**Film Festival a Success**

**By Cecilia Mukira**

**Spanish Cluster**

The Language House’s Around the World Film Festival educated and entertained family, friends, and faculty at the Hoff Theatre on Monday.

Each of the ten clusters’ films were student-produced and edited; they were judged by a panel of parents, alumni and university faculty. As the Language House’s Director Dr. Phoenix Liu mentioned earlier that evening, “I do not envy the judges’ job,” for each cluster delivered well made results.

As the Language House’s Around the World Film Festival approached, the Russian Cluster planned their film for a long time. Calling on their film Russian Cluster

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By Karina Panyan
Russian Cluster

For one week, the Russian faculty and students will be hosting Dmitry Bykov, a well known poet and journalist. He has previously hosted his own radio show on the Echo of Mos cow and is known for his satirical poetry, which often scrutinizes and denounces Putin. As an influential opposition author, Bykov has been invited as a guest by the Maya Brin Residency Program. He will host several discussions throughout the week, including a poetry reading (in Russian) and a lecture on Post Soviet Russia.

Dmitry Bykov Comes to UMD

By Inna Tsys
Russian Cluster

On October 14th, 2013, the President of Ukraine signed a law that changes the recruitment into the army from forceful draft to contract enlistment. Previously, every 18 year-old, healthy male was supposed to enlist. This created a lot of tensions between the male population and the government, because the conditions in the military were nowhere near pleasant. Rookies were often physically and mentally abused by the higher ranked officers. This led to a high percentage of suicides. Now, the President’s goal is to improve the armed forces by attracting people who are genuinely interested in serving and who have already developed a specific set of skills or a profession. This, Yanukovich believes, will improve the quality of experience in the army, as well as the service that the armed forces provide for the country.

I believe that in the long run this can improve the Ukrainian military. However, since the percentage of men, who would join the army of their own free will is very low, Ukrainian government will need to provide some sort of compensation for the service. Other than that, I can see this being a very good thing for the army – it will bring diversity and eventually stop the abuse of the new recruits.

Hello from Abroad: Meet Shifra

By Tyler Crowe and Alexandra Glakas
French Cluster

In many European countries, the debt crisis and difficult economic situation has heightened resentment towards immigrants. France, in particular, exemplifies this reality. Just last week, police detained a 15-year-old Roma schoolgirl. She and her family were deported back to Kosovo because her family failed to obtain political asylum. Though President Hollande’s decision was subjected to intense media scrutiny and public outcry, opinion polls indicate the majority of the French people agree with the decision. Like the Roma people, Arabs, too, suffer the consequences of France’s intolerance. The 2011 French law banning face-covering garments illustrates the anti-Muslim sentiment.

Although France today hopes to limit immigration, during the French colonial empire the French were the ones going to different countries and spreading their influence.

Today, the majority of university French classes expose students to movies from France, literature from France, and vocabulary from France. Students look forward to studying abroad in Paris or Nice, without even realizing or considering options other than Europe. Did you know that there are communities in Southeast Asia that speak French? Or that Africa’s growing population will push the global number of French speakers past 700 million by 2050? Or that Beirut, Lebanon has a sizable French speaking community? Nowadays French is not just a ticket around Continental Europe, but to Africa, Asia, and even North America. Although France’s political goal is to minimize foreign influence and invasion, linguistically the fate of the French language is tied to other Francophone countries.