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 as qualified to be a mentor as the mentor; the difference could 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. Never did it seem as though they were “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.

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 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 so many things about 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

a weekly cluster meeting. However, that only applies to those who came to this program with a passion to learn and experience the culture of their target language. In Language House we have a handful of residents who aren’t here for that purpose, but rather for the exceptional amenities and convenient location. These students are typically not inclined to speak the target language. However, when living with the mentor those individuals are in the presence of an authority figure; that, as well as the mentor’s English abilities, are great contributors in enforcing that the student speak the target language. I believe students living with the apartment leader miss out on witnessing a culture entirely different from their own. Were it not for Marta, I would still be condemning safe sex for fruit.

Spinach and Feta Fetayer

Courtesy of: arabic-food.blogspot.com

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. Add the spinach, 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-ridged joint. Lift the third side and join its two edges to the other sides to make a pyramid with a rounded 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.

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子曰：“君子耻其言而过其行。” Confucius said: “The man of honor considers it a disgrace to let his words outstrip his deeds.”

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 preservatives, in

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Apartment Leaders are Undervalued

By Hariton 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.

Apartment leaders are often just **LEADERS see pg 4**



Photo Credit: Anastasiya Filloпова

Students, family, faculty and friends gather in Hoff Theatre for the second annual film festival.

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.

The Italian Cluster won first place for the second year in a row

with their film *My Dear Mary*, the Arabic Cluster won second place for their film *Going to America*, and the Spanish Cluster won third place for their film *Life: Today*.

My Dear Mary featured a female Italian protagonist who journeyed to America and experienced the American party scene, which left her confused and missing home. It was a cinematographic gem that not only grabbed the audience’s attention but also left viewers questioning what actually happened.

In *Going to America*, the Arabic Cluster tackled the emotional and social toll that Arab stereotypes play in modern-day America, through

FILM see pg 2

Dmitry Bykov Comes to UMD

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 Moscow 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.

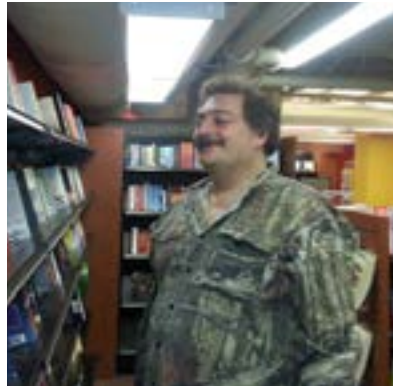


Photo Credit: Maya Brin Residency Program

Dmitry Bykov in the Stamp Student Union bookstore. Bykov was invited as a part of the Maya Brin Residency Program.

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the male lead, and his interactions with other people. The film not only brought up the misconceptions and struggles of being an Arab in America but also managed to employ humor.

The Spanish Cluster's film *Life: Today* had plenty of humor as well. The film had a male protagonist whose girlfriend broke up with him in a café. He went home heartbro-

ken, only to turn on the T.V. and see reminders of that relationship. The film ends with the main character finally taking control of his life only for it to be taken away by a car accident.

Though there were only three winners, all of the clusters managed to integrate their creativity with the culture associated with their language in their productions.

Hello from Abroad: Meet Shifra

Hi Language House! I'm Shifra from the Hebrew and Spanish clusters. I am studying abroad in Santiago, Chile with USAC. Chile is very similar to the United States, except that no one speaks English, there is graffiti everywhere, and milk is not refrigerated. Most young adults live at home until they get married, and many people I have met here are appalled that

American parents and adult children would choose to live separately. People hug and kiss once on the cheek as a greeting, which makes leaving any event a very time consuming process. In political news, presidential elections are coming up, and the two major candidates are female: Michelle Bachelet and Evelyn Matthei.

Contact me: shifra.erez@gmail.com.

Arabic: Women in Saudi Arabia plan day of action to change driving laws.

Chinese: Chinese court rejects appeal by one of top Communist Party members Bo Xilai, who has been sentenced to life in prison.

French: French president François Hollande and German chancellor Angel Merkel lead major push on EU summit to reshape intelligence sharing with U.S.

German: Allegations that U.S. monitored cell phone of German chancellor Angela Merkel has infuriated Germans and could disrupt trade and counterterrorist relations between US and all of EU.

Hebrew: After hard-fought campaign, secular mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat wins a second term, with 70% of popular vote.

Italian: After series of shipwrecks in Mediterranean, more than 700 migrants rescued off coast of Sicily by Italian navy.

Japanese: Japan issues minor tsunami warning after earthquake at sea.

Persian: In resistance to Iranian regime's recent attempts to ban public dog walking, many Iranians seen walking their dogs in streets.

Russian: Young Ukrainian white supremacist told he will serve at least 40 yrs in prison following terror campaign where he brutally murdered elderly Muslim man and bombed 3 mosques in Britain.

Spanish: Reports find the wealth gap in Spain is greater than in any other European country; top 20% of society is seven and a half times richer than bottom fifth; the number of millionaires having risen 13%.

Ukraine: No Longer Requires Army Service

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.

Important Dates to Note:



Students at Tai Chi club.

Nov. 1	4 p.m. Dance Club
2 p.m. Toastmasters	5:30 p.m. Cooking Club
4 p.m. Garden Club	9 p.m. Website Club
7 p.m. Movie Club	
Nov. 4	Club
4 p.m. Coffee Chat	Nov. 8
Nov. 5	2 p.m. Toastmasters
4 p.m. Running Club	4 p.m. Garden Club
Nov. 6	5 p.m. Tai-chi

“Cooking club made apple crumble squares. 12 people came. It was delicious, mainly due to the abundance of cinnamon used” – Belinda Shao (French Cluster)

French: A Global Language

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.