

## LANGUAGE from pg 1

I decided to major in Spanish I'll respond by saying that mastering the Spanish language will boost my brain power, postpone the effects of dementia (should that illness be in my distant future) and will make me a more efficient problem solver. In addition, being proficient in a foreign language is an asset in the job market because a bilingual candidate will be able to communicate comfortably with people from diverse back-

## HOSTELS from page 1

of our hostel –two Australian cousins, a Scot and a French guy. The tour was led by our hostel owner who told us stories of the Bosnian War and blasted Bosnian pop-music on our way to Kravica Waterfalls.

In Belgrade our experience was significantly different because, somehow, we ended up at a party hostel. As I snoozed off from the long day we spent traveling by train, my friends joined the other travelers and locals at the Belgrade Beer Festival. Some travelers look for this kind of experience while abroad, but I was just glad that, after two nights of loud music still playing at one in the morning, we were able to our next more quiet Pristina hostel. Finally, we made our way to our last hostel in Skopje. We spent two nights at the Macedonian capital where we lay in hammocks outside, listening to a

grounds.

If some readers are still not convinced of the measurable benefits of learning other languages, I suggest they read the article “Why Speaking English Can Make You Poor When You Retire” by Tim Bowler. This article highlights some key research done by Keith Chen, a behavioral economist. Being bilingual, my odds of surviving retirement are pretty high. Can you say the same?

debate between a Bulgarian conspiracy theorist and a German about the genocide in Kosovo.

Hostels do not only provide you with cheap accommodations but you will also experience the country in a way that you will not be able to through staying at a hotel. Hostels enable you to meet travelers from all over the world who are usually university-educated and just want to explore the world, the same as you. Whether you are looking for a good party or just want to have intellectual conversations with people from different cultures, hostels are great places to stay at when abroad. So next time you are contemplating traveling, think about these cheap traveler-friendly lodgings. I promise you that you will experience travel in a whole new way.

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## Japanese Okinawan Sweet Fritters



Courtesy of: [www.bento.com](http://www.bento.com)

### Ingredients

- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup chunky or smooth Japanese bean paste
- 6 cups peanut oil or vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup sugar (optional)

*Preparation Time: 15 minutes*

### Preparation

In a small bowl, combine egg and milk. In a medium bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt, brown sugar and cinnamon. Add the egg and milk to the flour mixture; stir until blended. Stir in bean paste. In a wok or shallow pan, heat oil to 350 F (175C). Drop batter into the hot oil by the tablespoonful. Fry fritters 3 to 5 minutes, turning often to brown evenly. Cut open one fritter to be sure the batter is cooked inside. Roll hot fritters in sugar or serve plain. Makes about 12 fritters.

# The Phoenix

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François Rabelais: Science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'âme.

Science/Knowledge without conscience is the ruination of the soul.'

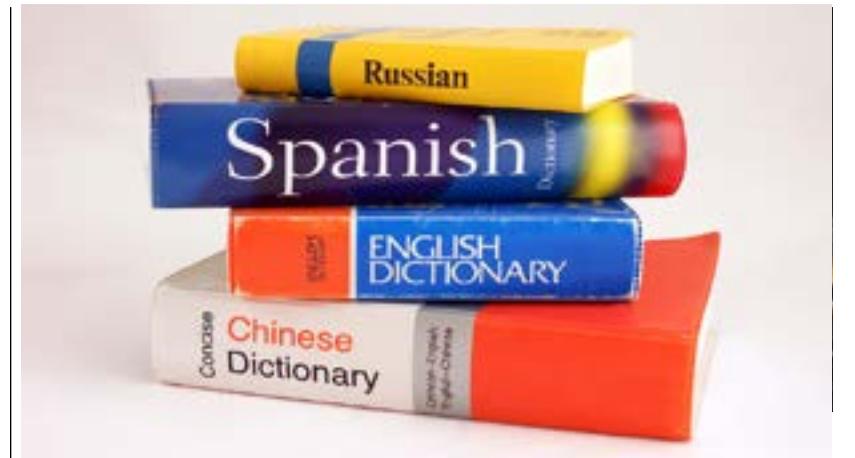
## The Case for Hostels

By **Shachar Gannot**  
Editor-in-Chief

Most of us dream about travel during the semester. But, at our age, we often feel discouraged at the costs of spending a few weeks abroad. In my experience, I've found that staying at hostels when traveling significantly decreases the budget needed for a trip. It is also a great experience and, I would argue, one that every twenty-something must have before upgrading to stays at hotels.

While the first time I stayed at a hostel dates back to the winter of 2010, I didn't get the full hostel experience until this summer, when I backpacked through the Balkans with two friends. In the span of nine days we stayed at five hostels, and each location could not be more different than the last. In Sarajevo, for example, we stayed up with the other travelers until the early hours of the morning: I argued with a German about philosophy when he claimed that “life is death” and an hour later was trying to prove I still remembered verb conjugations in French to two girls who had hitchhiked to Bosnia from France. In Mostar, we went on a day-trip with the other dwellers

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Courtesy of [www.openculture.com](http://www.openculture.com)

## Studying a Foreign Language

By **Cecilia Mukira**  
Staff Writer

I am sure I am not the only individual who has decided to major in a foreign language. Unfortunately, this decision has prompted others to ask me ‘why,’ citing “practical majors” like engineering, finance, and accounting asserting that “There will be a job for me when I graduate.” Now, don't get me wrong, we need engineers, financial gurus, and accountants; but my frustration at having to constantly justify my major has prompted me to investigate the utility of language learning beyond the potential financial benefits that often pale in comparison to those

enjoyed by others.

Here are three items to keep in mind: (1) researchers from Northwestern University concluded that the ability to speak more than one language boosts brain power, (2) scientists from Edinburgh University and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences carried out a study in which bilingual individuals who developed dementia did so five years later than their monolingual counterparts, and (3) researchers published a study in the International Journal of Bilingualism in which bilingual children proved to be better problem solvers than their monolingual counterparts. So, next time someone asks me why

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# FACES Fashion Show this Friday

By Brianna Patterson

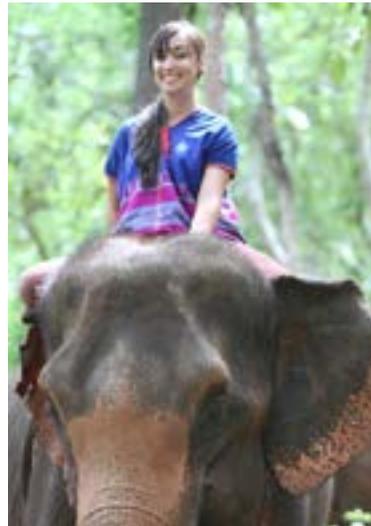
Section Editor

The Chinese Student Association, Korean Student Association and the Filipino Cultural Association at UMD are hosting the FACES Fashion Show: Nostalgic Nights on Friday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. . The fashion show will feature diverse models who will be wearing the latest clothes of the season from featured designers All Terp Everything, Banana Republic, Buckle, Discoveries, Rena P., Infinite Edition, SA Elite Sports Authority, according to the

event's Facebook page. There will be performances by UMD's best dance troupes for a night of entertainment and style. Tickets are being sold at the Hoff theater in Stamp for \$5 presale and \$8 at the door. All proceeds will be donated to The Philippine Red Cross to aid relief efforts for Typhoon Haiyan victims. The show is an annual event that draws many supporters on campus. Be sure to attend to support a charity and have a great night at the same time.

## Hello from Thailand: Meet Gillian

Hi! I'm Gillian from the French Cluster. I'm studying abroad through USAC in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It seems a little random, but I worked out my schedule so that I can still graduate on time as a French major and was able to pick the study abroad location of my choice. This has definitely been the craziest experience of my life. So far I have traveled to bordering countries including Laos and Cambodia, and in two weeks I'll be going to Vietnam. When we greet each other, we do what is called the 'wai', which consists of a slight bow with the palms pressed together. Most meals I eat range from \$1-2. My favorite dishes are khao soi, a famous northern dish that consists of egg noodles in a yellow curry, and the Thai omelets made as street food that are served in the evening. I wear a uniform to Chiang Mai University where I take classes, and I negotiate prices on almost everything. The language barrier is a challenge, but I can feel my Thai skills improving, which makes getting around



a lot easier. The annual lantern festival, Loi Krathong, is coming up this weekend and I can't wait to set off lanterns and see thousands in the sky. Life is so different here, but the locals are extremely friendly. If you have any questions about studying abroad in Thailand, feel free to e-mail me at gillmcbride@gmail.com.

**Arabic:** Recent report finds that Egyptian women are treated worst in Arab world.

**Chinese:** China eases decades old one child policy, allows couples to have two children if at least one parent is an only child.

**French:** Cameroonian gay rights activist and leader of AIDS organization found tortured and killed in his home.

**German:** Germany has persistently high export surplus; European commission may impose sanctions on country due to concern that it undermines recovering European countries.

**Hebrew:** Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, returns to politics after being acquitted of fraud charges.

**Italian:** Thousands protest against illegal dumping of toxic waste in Naples by mafia; 10 billion tons of industrial waste have been dumped in the past 20 years.

**Japanese:** Caroline Kennedy, daughter of former U.S. president JFK, to serve as American ambassador to Tokyo in effort to improve U.S. relations with Japanese PM.

**Persian:** (Secretary of State) John Kerry warns U.S. not to impose new sanctions on Iran, could hurt historic opportunity for nuclear pact with country.

**Russian:** Bolshoi dancer Pavel Dmitrichenko accused in January of organizing acid attack on theater's artistic director tells of beatings and force to make confession.

**Spanish:** Six thousand street and park cleaners took strike in Madrid in early November; trash piles up to horrific levels in Spanish capital.

## An Israeli App Sold to Google for Over One Billion Dollars

By Julie Bayer

Hebrew Cluster

Last June, Google spent over a billion dollars on the Israeli start-up *Waze Mobile*, founded by Uri Levine, Ehud Shabtai, and Amir Shinar. Google beat out other competitors – including Facebook – for *Waze's* navigation application. *Waze* is a GPS that tells commuters where traffic jams, speed cameras, police cars, accidents, and other hazards are located on the route to a destination. Users of the app report traffic jams and accidents, providing *Waze* with the information of these hazards to share with other users. The app also finds alternate routes and calculates the travel time for each option in current traffic. *Waze* currently has accurate data for thirteen countries, including the United States and Israel. Forty-six more countries will soon also have completed road maps. The app can be downloaded for free on smartphones.

*Waze* is another example of Israel's contribution to the advancement of technology. Israel's inventions go beyond everyday issues such as traffic. Israel has created numerous technologies that deal with pollution and droughts, such as drip irrigation and sea water desalination. Many of these inventions have already made their way to the United States and hopefully many more will come.

## Important Dates to Note:

**Nov. 18**

4 p.m. Coffee Conversation  
7 p.m. Pragda Film Festival:  
Pa Negre (Black Bread)

**Nov. 19**

4 p.m. Running Club

**Nov. 20**

No Club Meetings

**Nov. 21**

5 p.m. Tai-Chi Club

**Nov. 22**

2 p.m. Toastmasters  
4 p.m. Garden Club  
7 p.m. FACES Fashion Show

**Nov. 25**

4 p.m. Coffee Conversation

**Nov. 26**

4 p.m. Running Club

**Nov. 27**

No Club Meetings

*Thanksgiving Break: November 28th - December 1st*

## China Relaxes One Child Policy

By Esther Robinson

Chinese Cluster

China recently had its Third Plenary session, which is often viewed as an opportunity to make overarching policy changes, as the leadership has had time to adjust to power. One major change this time around was the relaxation of China's decades-old policy of restricting most couples to having only a single child, known as the "One Child Policy." This policy was originally put in place in order to curb China's population growth problems. However, the One Child Policy has caused problems of its own. For example, China now has a gender imbalance due to parents opting for sex-selective abortions to ensure male children. There is also the "4-2-1" problem, in which each working-age adult has to care for his/her two parents and 4 grandparents by him/herself.



*Courtesy of www.theguardian.com*

Under the new policy, families will be allowed two children if one parent is an only child.

I think that this policy reform will be a helpful way to resolve some of the issues that the One Child Policy engendered. However, I do not believe the government of China should have this level of control over family life, so this newly relaxed policy is only a "first step" rather than a long-term solution.