

# Polyglot

News and Information from the Language Learning Center

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## In this issue of Polyglot:

### Supporting the Work of the LLC

Learn how the LLC advances language study and instruction through technology, and find out how you can support the LLC to have a greater impact.

### Linguistic Diversity Beyond the University

According to the 2000 US Census, linguistic diversity in America is increasing, yet we are still primarily a monolingual nation.

### The 15 Values of Language Learning

Knowing other languages brings many benefits, but read here about the incredible value of the *process* of studying a language.

### How the Language Learning Center supports the language departments

Read up on the services and achievements of the LLC during the 2003-4 academic year.

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News and Information from the Language Learning Center

## Supporting the Work of the LLC

The Language Learning Center is an important part of a student's preparation to participate as a citizen of the world. No matter what path students choose after graduation, an understanding of the impact of language and culture will improve their ability to work with people and establish optimal career practices that will mutually serve them and the world they live in.

The Language Learning Center strives to provide access to materials that will help students satisfy their language course requirements, and learn to comprehend and convey messages in real world contexts. That's why we are always looking ahead, pushing the boundaries of technology to incorporate services such as live and recorded television programming in more than 30 languages from around the world, free video conferencing services to connect the

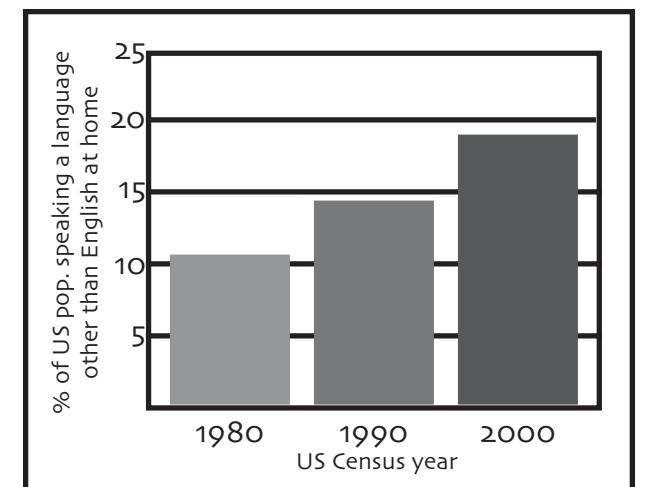
UW to points around the globe, high-end computers to enable quality audio and video of world language in action. We want to help students develop their world

*continued on p.5*

## Linguistic Diversity Beyond the University

More than half of the population of Europe speaks both their native language and another language fluently. Only 9.3% of Americans reported being true bilinguals in the 2000 US Census.

But that small number belies the linguistic and cultural diversity of this country. In 2000, 18% (47 million) of the total population of the United States reported that they spoke a language other than English at home. That's up from 14% (31.8 million) in the 1990 census and



11% (23.1 million) in the 1980 census. From 1980 to 2000, the number of people who spoke a language other than English at home doubled (accounting for

*continued on p.5*

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## The 15 Values of Language Learning

Knowing a world language allows an individual access to more career options, more diversity in social and professional interactions, and more freedom to live and explore around the globe. But even the process of studying a world language has its benefits. Language students have been shown to demonstrate greater listening and retention skills, develop more cultural sensitivity toward others, display higher

developed thinking skills, be more creative and have larger vocabularies, among other benefits.

Alan Frantz of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages perhaps said it best with the list he assembled of the values of language learning (drawn from books and articles published in the US on foreign language education). The 15 values of language learning are below:

### The study of a foreign language is valuable because it:

- 1 Offers a sense of a relevant past, both cultural and linguistic
- 2 Liberalizes one's experience (helps expand one's view of the world)
- 3 Balances content and skills (rather than content versus skills)
- 4 Contributes to the creation of a student's personality
- 5 Encourages critical reflection on the relation of language and culture, language and thought; fosters an understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
- 6 Contributes to cultural awareness or literacy (such as knowledge of original texts)
- 7 Contributes to achievement of national goals, such as economic development or national security
- 8 Expands one's opportunities for meaningful leisure activities (such as travel, reading, or viewing foreign language films)
- 9 Develops the intellect (includes learning how to learn)
- 10 Improves one's knowledge of the native language (through comparison and contrast with the foreign language)
- 11 Exposes the learner to modes of thought outside the native language
- 12 Builds practical skills (for purposes such as travel or commerce or as a tool for other disciplines)
- 13 Preserves (or fosters) a country's image as a cultured nation
- 14 Teaches and encourages respect for other peoples
- 15 Enables the transfer of training (such as learning of a second foreign language)

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## Linguistic Diversity *Beyond* the University

*continued from p.1*

25% population growth).

With the expanding multilingual landscape of America and the ever-changing political and business climate, the study of world languages is a crucial part of education in the United States. The University of Washington offers language instruction in more than 50 languages.

The Language Learning Center strives to provide multimedia support to make language learning as accessible as possible. Our technologies include laboratories for audio and computer-based work, live world language television streaming, video conferencing across the globe, and web-

based language instruction.

We're doing everything we can to enable UW students to become interactive citizens of the world.

Every year, we work hard to secure funding to sustain and develop our ability to connect language learners to the resources they need to advance their skills. State funding is dwindling every year. We are active in grant-writing to try to fill the funding gap. Even with our supplemental funding efforts, we are unable to provide all the services we feel are needed.

We have the ideas and talent on our staff to have a

greater impact on the university and the community, but we lack the funds to bring some of our visions to fruition. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Language Learning Center.

Donations can be made securely to the Friends of the Language Learning Center Fund here: <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/giving>.

Alternatively, you may send your gift by mail to: Friends of the LLC  
Box 353140  
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Thank you for your support!

## Supporting the Work of the LLC

*continued from p.1*

skills to handle contemporary media competently and to interact successfully with native speakers in the US and abroad.

To sustain our current level of service and look ahead to the future, the Language Learning Center must respond to increasing challenges in public university funding. If you value the advancement of language education,

we hope you will choose to support the efforts of the Language Learning Center with a tax-deductible gift.

Every single gift makes a real difference to us. The numerical strength of our community of donors will protect our standing within the University, irrespective of the size of each donation.

***Advancing language study and instruction through technology***

**You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Language Learning Center here:**

<http://depts.washington.edu/llc/giving>