

# LANGUAGE PRIZES 2012/2013

The prizes were set up in AY2009-2010 to honour the achievements of top students in the Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Tamil and Thai language programmes. These prizes are funded by donations. Awardees will be awarded book prizes. The prizes aim to recognize top students who have performed consistently well and to encourage the students to continue with their language learning efforts. The Centre would like to congratulate the following students who have received the award for 2012/2013



## CLS Chinese Language Prize – Ho Kinh Dat

As a Chinese-Vietnamese raised in Vietnam, I grew up not knowing a thing about half of my heritage; in fact, my mother used to joke to me that I had lost my roots as a Chinese due to my complete inability to comprehend the language. Little did she know that her sarcastic remark would spur my determination to pick up Chinese as part of completing my mixed identity and lead to my exploring and eventually falling in love with Chinese.

The Chinese Language Program at CLS has laid a strong foundation for my communication skills, as I have seen myself grow from a complete novice to becoming a relatively competent user of the language after just three years. Receiving the CLS Prize for Best Student in Chinese is not only a great honor to me as an affirmation of my passion and effort, but it also speaks volumes of my teachers' dedication and expertise and - most importantly - of the effectiveness of the Chinese Language Program at CLS. The class outings and group projects that supplemented our classroom instruction all contributed to the expansion of knowledge far beyond the bounds of any textbook, while proving to be extremely fun and edifying in their own right.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all my Chinese teachers at CLS, especially Professor Chin Kwee Nyet who has gone over and beyond her duties to mentor me throughout my learning journey. Today, whenever my friends tell me I have a Chinese accent (rather than a Vietnamese one!), I feel proud and thankful for having joined the CLS Chinese Language Program.



## CLS German Language Prize – Goh Li Wei Jan

I am really honoured and thankful for receiving this award. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my teachers, family and friends who have seen me through this linguistic adventure. They have always been there for me when I needed help with German and were always generous with their encouragement. It has been a truly enriching and eye-opening experience for me. Not only did I get to learn a lot about the language and culture of Germany, but I also had the chance to forge many lasting friendships while on exchange. I would definitely continue to learn and use German even though my lessons with CLS have ended.



## CLS Prize for Best FASS Student in Japanese Language – Teo Janvin

I am very honored to have been awarded the CLS Prize for Best FASS Student in Japanese Language as it is not only a nod towards my efforts for the past three years but more importantly a positive affirmation of the passion and dedication of my Japanese teachers and the effectiveness of the Japanese language program at CLS. Through the classes that I have attended as well as the various exchange activities that were organised by my teachers, not only has my grasp of Japanese grammar and vocabulary improved, my knowledge of Japanese culture and other aspects of Japan has also deepened. The relationships I have established with my non-Japanese classmates and Japanese friends have also endured beyond graduation. The commitment and love of the language displayed by my Japanese teachers are also a source of inspiration to me, which spurs me on to continue improving my command of the language. It's pure joy and pleasure to have been able to embark on and go through this journey of learning Japanese with my friends and teachers.



### CLS Japanese Language Prize – Cliff Anderson

Learning Japanese language in NUS has truly been a challenging, but fruitful journey. Being the recipient of the CLS Japanese Language Prize during the FASS Award Ceremony 2013 has indeed been a memorable moment to end my life as an undergraduate student. It would not be possible without the continuous effort of the teachers who have always stretched me beyond my limit and helped me soar to greater heights. I would also like to thank my friends for the constant encouragement, as well as their company, that is etched in my memory. During my last visit to Japan in June 2013, I could converse in Japanese comfortably without having to resort to English.



### CLS Korean Language Prize – Cheng Lui Ling

I am very thankful and honoured to be awarded this prize. It really came as a surprise as there were many classmates who did equally well or even better in class. I initially picked up Korean as I wanted to learn a new language. Having no inkling of what the language, culture or people were like, I attended my first Korean class and found it absolutely fantastic! Although the workload might seem daunting because it takes up almost double the time of regular modules (Korean classes include two-hour lectures twice a week and a two-hour tutorial), time flew by in every class and I looked forward to every single one of them. Lectures were always interesting and fun; the teachers put in huge amounts of effort to come up with engaging activities. Playing traditional Korean games, dressing up in Korean style, listening to podcasts in Korean while on the move, making kimbab and japchae - these are but some of the many ways through which we learnt about Korea. Korean classes made up a very important part of my university life - the dedicated teachers, my wonderful classmates, the demanding but fun homework and assignments (yes, even the homework!), fantastic summer programmes, and last but certainly not the least, the exchange programme to Korea. Taking Korean classes definitely helped in preparing me for exchange, where we could experience for ourselves what we learnt in Korean class. Learning Korean has truly enriched my life and I am extremely grateful to those who have accompanied me in this amazing learning journey. With this award, I am even more motivated to continue studying Korean at more advanced levels. A big thank you to CLS and all the Korean teachers who have always motivated us to persevere and try our best - I will never forget the past three years. Keep up the good work!



### CLS Malay Language Prize – Soh Xiu Yu Sylvia

Winning the Malay Language Prize has been my biggest surprise. Never did I expect myself to win a prize or to be a current student of Malay 4. I really enjoyed myself during this whole journey of studying Malay. Apart from the content, what made it so enjoyable were the friendships forged with Magdalene, Jazreen, Dorothy and many more as well as the constant support from my lecturer (Cikgu Aishah). As I continue to improve my fluency in the Malay Language, I would also hope to learn more about the Malay culture



### CLS Tamil Language Prize – Fawaz Firros

Although my actual mother tongue is Tamil, I studied Malay as my 2nd language throughout my years in school and had no knowledge of Tamil whatsoever. However, I began feeling around the age of 11 that something was missing from my life and identity, and that was my mother tongue, Tamil. Since then, I have yearned to be able to read, write, speak, and understand Tamil. Therefore, winning the CLS Tamil Language Prize is an especially sweet success for me as it represents a huge step in my life-long personal mission to know my mother tongue and regain my Tamil identity. I have to thank the Centre for Language Studies for giving me the opportunity to achieve a dream which is very close to my heart, and I have to thank my CLS Tamil tutor, Mrs. Saba, for having faith in my abilities and always

encouraging me to do better. Today, I can actually say that I can read, write, speak, and understand my mother tongue reasonably well, and I am proud and grateful to have been awarded the CLS Tamil Language Prize.