

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2013/2014

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 2013/2014



Wong Shao-Ren Boris with Assoc Prof Chin Kwee Nyet,
Convenor, Chinese Language Programme

CLS Chinese Language Prize – Wong Shao-Ren Boris

To win the CLS language prize is like the cherry on an already extremely delicious cheesecake - that is to say that the prize is an addition to the already valuable contribution to learning a language. In my case, I chose to do Mandarin, a language that is both an asset in the world, as well as a bridge to my own Chinese culture. Thus, winning the prize only motivates me to continue learning of Mandarin, and gives me greater confidence in speaking it as well. I can't thank the CLS Chinese Language Programme enough, especially Dr Chin Kwee Nyet. With her emphasis on teaching the practical usage of Mandarin in everyday contexts and her organization of excursions and activities, learning the language was made easy. It was really fun to have learnt the Chinese language amidst such passionate and engaging staff and students, and I would highly recommend everyone to consider it!



Devi Shree D/O Malarvanan with Assoc Prof Chan Wai Meng,
Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS German Language Prize – Devi Shree D/O Malarvanan

This award is a testament to how much I have enjoyed learning German in NUS. My obsession with Germany started when I was about ten. However, I never gave much thought to the prospect of picking up German and I am more than glad that this changed once I entered university. As I recall, during my first ever German lesson, Frau Geiser said, "We are all part of one big family. We help each other." True to those words, my classmates and language teachers have offered great support and made every German lesson really enjoyable. I am grateful for the bonds forged with my fellow German language learners even as we struggled to express ourselves and found amusement in each others' sentence constructions. It was also a delight to be able to engage with the locals on a very personal level when I was in Germany during my summer immersion and exchange semester. Sweet smiles, homemade honey and Hausmacher Leberwurst are just some of the perks German villagers offered my peers and me even as they indulged in hearing us speak their language. Therefore, I can say with conviction that enrolling in the German language classes is one of the best decisions I have made at the university and this award is the icing on the cake.



Shobana Balachandran with Assoc Prof Chan Wai Meng,
Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS Prize for Best FASS Student in Japanese Language – Shobana Balachandran

It is an honor to be the recipient of the CLS Language Prize and I really appreciate the Centre's recognition of my academic achievements in the Japanese language. I must express my gratitude to the unbelievably passionate and dedicated teachers of the Japanese language program who have tirelessly continued to challenge as well as motivate me in my learning of the language. They deserve kudos for delivering such a brilliant language program which, in my opinion, is second to none. Also, I would like to thank Kinokuniya for sponsoring the gift certificates which will greatly help me continue my academic and personal progress in learning the language.



Yoong Heng Yau with Mr Yamada Takuya, Managing Director of
Kinokuniya Books of Singapore

CLS Japanese Language Prize – Yoong Heng Yau

Learning the Japanese language was definitely the best decision I had made while pursuing my undergraduate studies in NUS. Over the past 4 years of Japanese language learning, I have progressed from a beginner without Japanese language knowledge to an intermediate Japanese language user. Also, the valuable friendships forged during lectures and tutorials had made my learning journey truly unforgettable. I am deeply honored to receive this prestigious prize as it would surely encourage me to further my knowledge in the Japanese language. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the sensei's that had taught me and made my learning experience so memorable. It is my great pleasure to have studied Japanese at the CLS!



Goh Lin Ying with Mr Ryu Jiman, Administrational & Educational
Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea

CLS Korean Language Prize – Goh Lin Ying

This award comes as a huge surprise as there are many others who I believe are equally or more proficient than me. Hence I am extremely honored and thankful. When I first started taking Korean 1, I never thought that I would come this far or receive this prize at the end of it. Looking back at the past 6 levels of Korean, although it was challenging and time-consuming, I truly enjoyed the constant process of being challenged and seeing myself improving. My interest in the Korean language and Kpop played a part in sustaining my interest but it was the passion and efforts of the Korean lecturers and tutors that were my biggest motivation and encouragement. I would like to thank all the lecturers and tutors for their hard work, for being so helpful and approachable all the time, and most importantly, for always believing in every single one of us. I enjoyed every single lecture and tutorial, and this is also definitely because of the awesome classmates I had at every level - you guys gave me a lot of strength and made me look forward to every class. Having not applied for the Language Preparation Programme, I had to bid for every Korean module which never failed to empty my P account every semester, but it was all worth it because I gained so much more from my Korean lessons. This is a very special award to me and I sincerely thank CLS, and everyone who has taught, encouraged and accompanied me at any point of the journey.



Lee Pei En Brenda with Assoc Prof Chan Wai Meng, Director,
Centre for Language Studies

CLS Malay Language Prize – Lee Pei En Brenda

I feel really honored and privileged to be awarded the CLS language prize for Malay Language. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Malay teachers and friends for these four semesters of Malay language learning journey. They had definitely made lessons more enjoyable and enriching. Malay language is a value-add for me as it has not only helped me in getting an internship in the areas which needed Malay Language, it has also helped me in my understanding of the Malay culture in Singapore and various areas in my daily life in terms of communication. This award is an affirmation and also motivation for me to continue my Malay language learning journey on my own in the future



CLS Tamil Language Prize – Gwee Chyi Yin

It's an honour to be nominated for the language prize and be recognized for the effort put in. Taking up a completely new language was definitely not an easy thing but at the end of the day it was a worthwhile experience. Mrs Saba has been a really patient teacher and even stayed back after class to clear my doubts and made sure that I was able to catch up with the other students. The most memorable part of taking Tamil would definitely be the great time spent in the class with all the other students, making mistakes together and trying our best to converse with one another in Tamil as much as we could.



Teh Kai Ling Charlene with Ms Sasiwimol Klaykleung,
Convenor, Thai Language Programme

CLS Thai Language Prize – Teh Kai Ling Charlene

It is an honour to win this language prize, and an unexpected surprise. Learning Thai has been one of the best decisions I made in my university life, and it has been such a joyous experience with the kind-hearted teachers and fun-loving classmates who make language learning enjoyable. Each class is filled with so much laughter but also much learning, and even special programmes like the immersion programme which I attended, has helped in my language learning tremendously. It is great that so many opportunities are given for students to learn and use the language that they learn, in addition to the wonderful Thai teachers who have guided me well. I am truly thankful to my teachers and all the opportunities I have been given to learn and practice Thai.