

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2014/2015

The prizes were set up in AY2009-2010 to honour the achievements of top students in the Arabic, 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 2014/2015



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2015

Celebrate Excellence
29 August 2015

Nusrat Jahan with Ms Faredah Alhabshi, granddaughter of the donor, the late Syed Abdulrahman Bin Taha Alsagoff

S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Nusrat Jahan

I have always been interested in languages, and I was delighted in year 1 when I realised that NUS offers a great variety of them. My interest in Arabic stems from a curiosity to know more about the Arab world, its culture and history and to better understand Islamic religious texts. Being a non-native speaker of Arabic with little prior exposure to the language, it was definitely not an easy journey for me and my classmates. The toughest section for me was memorizing huge lists of vocabularies in the advanced levels. However I was really fortunate to have extremely patient and understanding lecturers who made the lessons very interesting and enriching which made studying so much more enjoyable. I had very supportive classmates as well and we would discuss and review lessons and clarify our doubts with our lecturers. It is a privilege for me to have completed a wonderful journey of 3 years and to have met such encouraging lecturers.

Being one of the top most widely spoken languages in the world, it is definitely an advantage to know Arabic. Arabic is also considered a difficult language to learn. However I would recommend beginners to not be afraid to work hard and most importantly be passionate about what they are learning because I think NUS has excellent lecturers to guide students to do well. The future results are extremely fulfilling and rewarding when you can understand and apply the knowledge when reading Arabic texts. Arabic language will remain as one of the best and most enjoyable modules I have taken in NUS.



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Truong Bach Quynh Nhu, with Assoc Prof Suthiwan Titima, Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS Chinese Language Prize – Truong Bach Quynh Nhu

It is my greatest honor to be awarded the Chinese language prize. The award came as a great surprise for me too, because there were so many outstanding students in our Chinese Class.

I have attended Chinese level 1 to level 6 and I could say that I truly enjoyed every single class I went to. The classes are designed in such a way that will develop all four important skills in learning new languages for students. We were also given opportunities to attend many cultural events organized by the center and our lecturers, which had been extremely helpful for us to understand and appreciate Chinese culture.

From a complete beginner in Chinese language to where I am today, it has been a wonderful journey, which could not have been achieved without the help of my dedicated teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to send my whole-hearted thanks to my teachers in the Chinese language center, especially Associate Professor Chin Kwee Nyet, who

has always been willing to go an extra mile to help us achieve the best result. Winning this prize is a great motivation for me to continue trying harder and become a better Chinese user.



Rachel Lim Siew Min with Assoc Prof Suthiwan Titima, Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS German Language Prize– Rachel Lim Siew Min

Write-up is in progress



Lee Jia Jin Kristy with Assoc Prof Suthiwan Titima, Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS Japanese Language Prize & CLS Japanese Language Prize (Best FASS student) – Lee Jia Jin Kristy

I have always had an interest in Japanese comics and animation since my secondary school days. Right then I could not understand a word of Japanese, but I enjoyed listening to the sounds of it, and I marvelled at how beautifully the words flowed and the thoughts connected. The idea of actually studying the language never occurred to me until a friend invited me to join her for the Japanese 1 module, for which I will always be grateful to her. What started out as an elective module to fulfil UE requirements turned out to be something much more, and something so important that I would rather overload for three semesters than to give it up. As I learnt more about the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of Japanese, I began to appreciate my native languages in a way I never did before, and to see the things around me in not just one, but three ways– the English voice in my head comments, the Chinese voice follows up, and then my small, still clumsy Japanese voice chips in.

In receiving these awards, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following groups. To NUS CLS, thank you for offering the best learning experience. To all my sensei, thank you for your patient and kind guidance- all of you were the best teachers I could ask for. To all my nakama in Japanese class, thank you for pushing through with me through the hard times- your dedication to Japanese was a powerful source of motivation for me (I consider these awards to be as much yours as they are mine). Lastly, to my family, thank you for your support throughout these years – I hope I have done all of you proud ☺



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Lee Zi Ning with Mr Yoon Jaewoong, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Singapore

CLS Korean Language Prize – Lee Zi Ning

I feel really honoured to have been awarded the CLS language prize, which comes as a really unexpected but most definitely welcoming surprise. It is gratifying to have my efforts recognised, but I would also like to highlight the efforts of all the Korean teachers who are always warm-hearted and encouraging, providing us with a really good and comfortable learning environment. Learning Korean has undoubtedly been one of my best journeys in NUS, where I met not just the kindest teachers but also fellow like-minded friends. A strong interest in the language itself also kept me going all the way from level one to six. Even before I began to understand Korean, I have always had a liking for it as I thought Korean sounded so pleasant and melodious to the ears. It is bittersweet for me to have completed my Korean language learning journey in NUS, which I have enjoyed so much, and I will always look back on Korean classes fondly. I am thankful to all my teachers and CLS for the opportunities I am given to learn Korean, be it through the Korean Language Preparation Programme or the summer immersion. All in all, I am really glad I had the chance to learn, understand and appreciate this beautiful language.



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Lee Wei Yu Darryl with Assoc Prof Suthiwan Titima, Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS Malay Language Prize – Lee Wei Yu Darryl

It is an honour and privilege to be awarded the CLS Prize for Malay Language. Above all, I would like to dedicate the Prize to Cikgu Aishah, who had taught me for the three out of four Malay language modules that I took in my time at NUS. I would like to wish CLS the very best in its endeavour to offer a Language Minor. May it come to fruition in the near future!



Diana Afiqah Bte Mohamed J

CLS Tamil Language Prize – Diana Afiqah Bte Mohamed J

I would like to thank the language department for awarding me with the CLS Tamil Language Prize. Most importantly, I would like to thank my teacher, Mrs Saba, for being extremely patient, flexible and approachable towards my classmates and me. Though it was not always easy, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Tamil 1 and 2. It gives me great joy to receive the CLS Tamil Language Prize, and I feel so proud to have learnt one of the world's longest surviving classical languages. The rich culture and history behind the language makes Tamil such a valuable language to learn and know, and I look forward to continue learning and utilising Tamil outside the classroom.



Lim Kai Hui with Assoc Prof Suthiwan Titima,
Director, Centre for Language Studies

CLS Thai Language Prize – Lim Kai Hui

It is a pleasant surprise and great honour to win the CLS language prize. For me, learning Thai has been the most wonderful experience in my university life. It is a joy to attend classes with like-minded peers who are interested in learning more about the Thai language and culture. Our good-natured teachers have also made learning enjoyable with fun and laughter. Through the language program, I had the opportunity to attend an internship in Thailand, which has helped me gain valuable language skills and life experience. My Thai language skills also proved useful in my Honours Thesis research, when I did an ethnographic study on the community in Thailand. Now, I am more appreciative of the Thai culture and the beautiful country. Learning Thai has been one of the best decisions I have made. Thank you to my beloved Thai teachers, especially Ajarn Titima who has showered me with care, concern and love!