Huntington pledges to fund year abroad

By Toni Robin

The Huntington National Bank has pledged $250,000 to the Ohio State University Campaign to benefit students interested in international business and foreign languages.

The gift will fund a program to be known as the Huntington Fellows in International Business and Foreign Language Study. The program will permit students who are majoring in the humanities and are interested in international business and trade to spend up to an academic year abroad.

The first award will be made for the 1988-89 academic year. Awards of up to $8,000 will be made every year thereafter. The awards will cover travel, tuition and living expenses.

"The Huntington is committed to supporting students in their quest for knowledge, particularly in the areas of international business and the liberal arts," says Frank Wobst, chairman and chief executive officer of the Huntington parent company.

"The program will allow students to strengthen their fluency in a foreign language, and increase their knowledge of a foreign culture. It also will broaden their understanding of the workings and environment of international commerce," he says.

"The Huntington Fellows International Business and Foreign Language Study program will enable students of the University to go beyond the pages of their textbooks and enjoy first-hand knowledge of other countries," President Jennings says.

"We are honored to be selected as the recipient of this generous gift and we are pleased with the direct benefits our students will derive from the Huntington's commitment to education."

The program will be coordinated through the Foreign Language Center, which officially opened its doors in the Cunz Hall of Languages on July 1. The center will coordinate a variety of teaching and research activities related to foreign languages.

Gerard Ervin, director, says the center's educational purposes will be greatly enhanced through the Huntington National Bank's generosity.

"Students selected to participate in the Huntington Fellows in International Business and Foreign Language Study program will benefit tremendously from the experience. Also, upon their return to Ohio State, they will share their new knowledge with other students and the center," Ervin says.
Students can travel abroad with international fellowship

By Aaron Buckles
Lantern staff writer

The Huntington International Fellowship provides money that allows students to travel abroad and gain experience in foreign languages and international commerce.

The Foreign Language Center is coordinating the scholarships. Gerard L. Ervin, director of the OSU Foreign Language Center, said students, who want the scholarship, don't need to have a major in humanities, but they must have some background in a foreign language.

The Huntington National Bank of Columbus, a subsidiary of Huntington Bancshares Inc., started the scholarship to benefit students interested in international business and foreign languages.

"This program is intended to enhance students' fluency in foreign language, their knowledge of foreign culture and their understanding of the workings and environment of international commerce," said Dorothy Brownley, vice president and director of corporate relations for Huntington Bancshares Inc.

Last year seven students were chosen out of about 35 applicants to be the first recipients of the scholarships.

Lori Schwendeman, a senior from Lancaster majoring in international studies and Italian, went to Genoa, Italy.

Schwendeman said she learned more Italian on her short stay in Italy than in three years of studying Italian at Ohio State.

"I learned a lot here, but it's nothing compared to waking up hearing Italian, dreaming in Italian, and just singing in Italian," she said.

Robert Filburn, a junior from New Carlisle majoring in Landscape Horticulture, worked at a nursery in Radolfzell, West Germany for five months and said he received a wide and varied education.

"It really forced me to accept a lot of things and try some new techniques and open my mind to new ideas," Filburn said.

He said he set up his own program and made his own connections when he applied for the scholarship.

Scholarships are provided through an endowed fund set up by the Huntington that will give Ohio State $50,000 per year for five years. Ervin said by autumn quarter of 1991-92 the university will have $250,000 in the scholarship fund.

The money for the scholarships comes from the interest gained from the fund so the initial $250,000 is left untouched.

Applicants must be at least sophomores and have had some involvement in business, commerce or industry.

Students need to fill out a budget sheet stating how much money they will need to cover travel and tuition. The amount each student is given depends on the cost of living in the country they wish to visit and the length of time they plan to stay.
Foreign communications may help students

By Lisa O'reilly
Lantern staff writer

The use of radio broadcasts, television commercials, movies, novels, plays and even political speeches used in foreign language classes at Ohio State are increasing in an attempt retain students' interest in the classroom.

Linda L. Harlow, assistant professor of French and director of the French individualized instruction program at Ohio State, said although not many studies have actually tested whether students' overall knowledge increases because of the materials, research has shown authentic material which has not been edited can be used effectively in the classroom if the students are prepared.

Preparing the students for an activity that uses authentic materials makes students feel as if they already know the subject, Harlow said.

She said it is not necessarily the activity that counts, but the preview and review exercises that go along with the authentic material.

Brian Clouse, a Spanish teaching assistant, said these authentic items were made to be enjoyed by native speakers, but students know they are not studying something directly from a text book and can become more real and interesting to students.

"By taking more interest in that material they are going to be learning the language better," Clouse said.

Cindy Howman, a sophomore from Dalton, and a French 102 student, said it is beneficial to use authentic materials to tie together what she has learned.

"I feel it helps to bring a better understanding to the subject if professors use real products from the country to teach," she said.

The use of authentic material in the classroom is not new and is not recommended by Harlow as the only method of teaching a foreign language.

"From the viewpoint of a foreign language teacher, there are lots of things that you can do to make teaching, to make learning, more effective for students," Harlow said. "Authentic material is just one little part of the pie."

Harlow said that many teachers still just do a lot of talking about grammar and do exercises, which makes teaching difficult because students lose interest in the subject.

"For me, getting students to learn means keeping their interest," she said.

Authentic materials can be used to teach languages other than French and Spanish, but are harder to use with languages that have a different writing system because it is difficult to recognize words that are written differently, Harlow said.

In the Chinese language classes, authentic materials are used, but more like props, said Gala Walker, a professor of Chinese language and literature at Ohio State.

Walker said languages such as Chinese have a different writing system. The Chinese writing system is very complicated in that one graphic symbol is used to represent a morpheme which is the smallest unit of meaning. The alphabetic writing system uses one letter or combination of letters to represent one sound.

He said that to read a newspaper you would have to be able to recognize between 3000-5000 symbols. Therefore it would be hard to recognize something as simple as a Chinese bus ticket until you have studied the language for awhile.

"A lot of times it is more difficult for the students to use these (authentic) materials because they are not produced for somebody at their level of learning," Clouse said, "they can be very difficult to understand."

That challenge makes it interesting for the students, he said.

"I don't want to do the same thing everyday," Harlow said. "Variety is probably the most important."
Dear Colleagues,

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have designated 2005 the Year of Foreign Language Study in recognition of the contributions that foreign-language study makes to students' cognitive development, to the American economy, and to national security. The Ohio State University has long recognized the importance of foreign-language and culture study in a well-rounded undergraduate education. It has been demonstrated that the study of foreign languages increases students' general cognitive and critical thinking abilities, prepares them for full participation in the global economy, promotes U.S. national interests, and helps to build international goodwill. It also enhances students' ability to understand, appreciate, and interact with people of other cultures, both at home and abroad.

The Ohio State University offers a rich curriculum in foreign languages and cultures. Over forty languages are taught, many through advanced levels, and numerous courses in foreign cultures, literatures, media, folklore, and linguistics are available. The Year of Foreign Language Study has seen the opening of the World Media and Culture Center, one of the premier institutions for the study of languages and cultures in the U.S. It represents the synergy of the Departments of East Asian Languages and Literatures, French and Italian, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese; the Foreign Language Center; the National East Asian Languages Resources Center; the Department of Comparative Studies; and Humanities Information Systems. This innovative new resource provides the university community with ready access to global media through cutting-edge technologies.

Such an initiative has never been more important. Today, American expertise in foreign languages lags dramatically behind that of the rest of the world. According to the 2000 census of the U.S. population, only 9.3 percent of Americans are fluent speakers of more than a single language; by contrast, more than 52.7 percent of Europeans speak both their native language and another language fluently. In declaring 2005 the Year of Foreign Language Study, Congress further noted that American multinational corporations and nongovernmental organizations do not have sufficient personnel with foreign-language ability and cultural exposure; nor are there enough individuals with...
expertise in critical languages to work on crucial national security and foreign policy issues.

The Academic Plan of The Ohio State University undertakes to enhance the well-being of the people of Ohio and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge; to enhance and better serve the student body; to create a rich educational environment for undergraduates; and to help build Ohio's future in our increasingly global marketplace and in our ever more diverse population. Creating and disseminating knowledge of the world beyond America's borders are among the boldest steps possible towards each of these goals.

Globalization is bringing profound changes in the economic, political, technological, and cultural lives of peoples around the world. The Ohio State University is embracing these changes through the resources of the World Media and Culture Center and through the excellent, innovative teaching of the departments of modern languages of the College of Humanities. Therefore, The Ohio State University is pleased to support U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 122 and Senate Resolution 28, designating 2005 the Year of Foreign Language Study and calling for foreign-language study to be promoted in institutions of higher learning, as well as elementary and second schools, businesses, and government programs.

Karen A. Holbrook, President

Barbara R. Snyder, Executive Vice President and Provost