**Q:** What is the Centennial Challenge?

**A:** At the August 2014 Language Schools Commencement, Vice President Michael Geisler announced a $350,000 matching challenge, offered by Middlebury trustee Ted Truscott ’83, who attended the Chinese School, and Kathy O'Connor Truscott ’83, who studied at the School Abroad in Madrid. Inspired by the early success of their challenge, the Truscotts have increased it, offering to match additional gifts up to $150,000, and bringing their total challenge gift to $500,000. The Centennial Challenge will match every gift made to the Language Schools or Schools Abroad—of any size and purpose—with an equal gift to Language Schools financial aid. The challenge will continue through June 30, 2015.

**Q:** If I make a gift to the individual Language School I attended, will it be matched?

**A:** Yes, absolutely! All gifts—whether to the Language Schools overall or to one of the 11 Schools—will be matched through the Centennial Challenge. The same is true for gifts designated to individual Schools Abroad. Alumni and friends who give now will double the impact of their giving, leveraging equal support from the Truscotts for Language Schools scholarships.

**Q:** Are multi-year pledges eligible for the Centennial Challenge?

**A:** Only cash gifts received during the Centennial Challenge, not those pledged, will count for the $500,000 match. However, when we announce the impact of the Centennial Challenge at the campus celebration in July 2015, we will include pledges in the final total, in order to recognize the full generosity of alumni and friends who step forward to give at this historic moment. Pledging over several years is a popular option, including for alumni approaching a reunion year or another moment of celebration. For example, a Language Schools or Schools Abroad alumnus/a could create a named, expendable fund through a minimum commitment of $5,000 per year for three years ($15,000 total commitment), or pledge over five years ($25,000 total) for added impact.

**Q:** Do gifts to endowed funds qualify for the Challenge?

**A:** They certainly do! Both existing and new endowment funds are eligible. Last spring, two longtime Language Schools benefactors established an endowed financial aid fund to celebrate the centennial and honor President Ronald D. Liebowitz and his wife Jessica. Gifts of any size may be made to the Ron and Jessica Liebowitz Centennial Fellowships Fund, supporting students from all 11 Language Schools who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership. In fact, the Truscotts have committed their own support to this fund. Alumni and friends can also establish new named endowments—to support language teaching and extracurricular programs, student scholarships, instructional technology, and other core needs—through a commitment of $100,000 or more, pledged over five years or less.

**Q:** When does the challenge end?

**A:** The Centennial Challenge will continue through June 30, 2015.

**Q:** We asked the Truscotts, “What motivated you to make this challenge gift?”

**A:** Ted responded: “The 100th anniversary of the Language Schools is a really big deal! We have always been impressed by Middlebury’s commitment to language education. Middlebury led the way in 1915 with the founding of the German School. Middlebury continues to lead the way in immersive language education today with 10 schools and an 11th slated to open in the summer of 2015. That makes us so proud of our alma mater.” Kathy added: “Language reveals a culture. Speak the language, read the literature, and your outlook changes and is never quite the same. It opens up a much broader world and gives you a different perspective on your own country.”