

## News and Information from the Language Learning Center

# POLYGLOT

Volume 1, Fall Issue

November, 2000

We at the LLC want to partner with you to develop effective multi-media language learning materials and to ensure the pedagogically sound integration of technology into the language classroom. We welcome your ideas, comments, and inquiries at any time. Contact the LLC or your department's SA.

---

Language Learning Center  
Denny Hall, Room 108  
Box 353140  
Seattle, WA 98195-3140

llc@u.washington.edu  
206-543-0536

---

### Staff Associates:

Asian: mtlc@u  
ESL: hbast@u  
Linguistics: webster@u  
Near East: talgat@u  
Romance: romance@u  
Scandinavian: glenn1@u  
Slavic: friend@u

## Keeping ahead of the community's needs

**Paul Aoki**

Director, Language Learning Center

Over the course of the last half-century, the Language Learning Center has provided a vast array of technologies and services for the UW language faculty and students. The LLC conducted its ten-year review during the 1998-99 academic year. The review reflected the tremendous evolution of instructional technology from primarily analog to digital multimedia during the final decade of the twentieth century. With digital technology permeating the lives of students, faculty, and staff, it is difficult to avoid being affected by the acceleration of hardware and software development. These developments give all of us opportunities to learn, teach, and work in new and more effective ways.

The ten-year review set a timely context for the Language Learning Center's strategic planning process. The process allowed us to use the tremendous amount of data, historical information, and plans for the future as a springboard to connect with our faculty clients and student customers. During the 1999-2000 academic year, the LLC held a variety of focus group sessions with UW faculty and students and conducted additional surveys and interviews, including individuals and organizations on and off campus.

The numerous focus groups and interviews provided rich input for an environmental scan of campus and global trends in the areas of technology, language learning, learning environments, demographic and economic factors, accountability, and client language departments. The Language Learning

Center's strategic planning team examined the LLC's strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats. The planning team determined that there were four major key issues: resource management and development; communication and collaboration; technical knowledge preservation and dissemination; and resource reconfiguration.

With the feedback from our clients and the articulation of the major key issues, the members of the LLC recommitted themselves to a core set of values reflecting leadership, service, cultural diversity, and academic excellence. Our mission continues to be to empower people through technology to optimally learn, teach, and study world languages and cultures. We created a vision of the LLC as a fully integrated partner in all language programs and departments at the University of Washington and as a recognized asset vital to the UW community.

As mentioned above, one of our strategic goals is communication and collaboration. As part of this goal, we have reinvented our newsletter in both hardcopy and electronic formats to provide you with news and assistance on the uses of technology for language learning. We invite your input for topics you would like to see covered.

Finally, we have created a process whereby strategic planning will become an integral part of the Language Learning Center culture. We will annually review our goals and objectives with our clients and partners in order to best leverage our resources for faculty to be able to create effective language learning resources for students.

# On-line Audio — a great way to do language listening assignments

How many students would do all of their audio listening assignments if they could do it at home? Students tell us they find it more convenient to do their homework when they can just get it online instead of coming to the LLC to copy, purchase, or listen to their audio cassette assignments.

Listening to native speech is an important part of the language learning process, and at the LLC, we're increasing accessibility of these materials by creating online access to them.

Would you like to hear a sample? Just go to the LLC website (<http://depts.washington.edu/llc>), click on "online audio for language courses" and choose a language. You'll need your UW Net ID and password—just as you use for your UW email—to listen to certain files, since the materials are copyright-protected and are only intended for use by a restricted community.

We have experimented with different formats and recently acquired a streaming server, which means we can now serve up audio in near real-time. Students won't have to wait for the entire file to download over a slow modem on their home computer before they can start doing their work. On campus, we have a speedy Ethernet connection, but we are finding that some methods work better than others for modem access, and we are trying different processes to improve the quality and speed of home access for students.

When digitizing audio for online access, we generally focus on high-enrollment courses, such as 100-level Spanish. The remote access helps reduce "wait time" students sometimes encounter at the beginning of a new quarter when they come to the LLC to do their listening assignments. Also,

digitizing and preparing audio for the web is a time-consuming process, so one criterion by which we prioritize is how many students will be served.

We also focus on developing materials that will be useful for some time, so instructors who are committed to using the same text for a few years will receive higher priority than those who will be changing editions or texts soon.

Another determining factor is copyright. We strictly adhere to copyright restrictions with our online audio offerings. Before we can put audio online, we must obtain permission from the publisher of the material for that specific use. The UW Net ID and password entry is there to conform to publishers' requirements that access to the materials be limited to the UW community.

We also have a recording studio at the LLC. Instructors can schedule time with us to record their own voices or those of guest speakers as part of a listening assignment for students. We can place audio assignments online and make them available on cassettes at the LLC. Obtaining copyright permission for such a project is straightforward—we just need approval from the "publisher" (instructor) and the speaker if it is not the instructor.

If you are interested in having audio assignments for a course made available online, contact your Staff Associate at the LLC. S/he can talk to you about your idea and help determine the priority level of the project, arrange for copyright permission, and discuss a timeline to completion.

---

## Weekly seminar series returns

Beginning this quarter, the Language Learning Center is offering weekly seminars available to the campus community. The seminar topics change from week to week and touch on topics such as language, technology, pedagogy, instructional design, and how to utilize the LLC resources to meet your needs.

The LLC held a similar series a few years back with much success. Part of what made the weekly seminars a success were the discussions generated across the language departments.

Previous seminars this quarter have included an introduction to the Language Learning Center's facility, Unicode, basic voice recording, streaming audio on-line, moving from analog to digital media, and grants for incorporating technology into teaching.

Finding a common time when all

of the language instructors are available is an impossible task, so the seminars are currently being held at different times each week, typically on Fridays. This encourages new people to attend that previously could not fit into their schedules. When possible, some sessions are being offered at more than one time.

If you have not been receiving notices for the seminars, consider joining the llc-list ListProc (see related article, page 3).

If you have an idea for a topic, would be interested in facilitating a seminar, or bringing a guest speaker, please contact Bob Majors ([majors@u.washington.edu](mailto:majors@u.washington.edu)) at the LLC. We are always interested in getting fresh ideas and meeting your needs.

## Meet your Staff Associates

**Michael Tandy**  
**Asian Languages & Literature**  
**mtllc@u.washington.edu**

Michael is presently finishing his MA in Asian Languages and Literature, concentrating on medieval Hindi literature. He has traveled extensively in India and has also studied Sanskrit and Bengali. Michael plans to pursue his PhD at the UW. He is interested in foreign language computing and digital media production and hopes to contribute to web-based resources for Hindi at the LLC.

**Hidy Basta**  
**English as a Second Language**  
**hbasta@u.washington.edu**

As an Egyptian, Hidy's interest in Teaching English as a Second Language comes mainly from her personal experience as a second language learner herself. She is working on her MA in the MA TESL program. She hopes to contribute to the language resources currently available to the students in the LLC. She is interested in Web Based Instruction and distance learning.

**Gabe Webster**  
**Linguistics**  
**webster@u.washington.edu**

Gabe Webster is a PhD student in Linguistics. In addition to his UW Linguistics MA, Gabe has a BA in French from UC Berkeley and an MPhil in Computer Speech and Language Processing from Cambridge University. In terms of computers and language learning, Gabe is interested in language teaching programs interacting with learners in more natural, linguistically sophisticated ways. Currently studying at Berkeley, Gabe is returning to the LLC in the Winter quarter.

**Talgat Imangaliev**  
**Near Eastern Languages & Civilization**  
**atyrau@u.washington.edu**

Talgat is a post-MA student who has been working at the LLC for 4 years. He brings many technical skills to the LLC as well as language skills. Talgat speaks Kazakh, Russian, and English, and has a working knowledge of German, Turkish, and Uzbek. He loves

traveling and has been to Canada, Turkey, Russia, Germany, Holland and some of the United States.

**Lesley Carmichael**  
**Romance Languages & Literature**  
**romance@u.washington.edu**

Lesley is working on her PhD in Linguistics, investigating prosody in human and machine speech. She enjoys working at the LLC because of her interest in the application of technology to language learning. Through her work at the LLC, she hopes to contribute to the development of new techniques and technologies that can help facilitate language learning.

**Glenn Kranking**  
**Scandinavian Languages & Literature**  
**glenn1@u.washington.edu**

Glenn is a Master's student in Scandinavian Area Studies, focusing on history and politics of the Scandinavia and Baltic regions. He is hoping to continue on for a PhD in history. Fluent in Swedish, Glenn also has reading knowledge of Danish and Norwegian, and elementary skills in Spanish and German. He is going back to the language classroom this year to study Estonian.

**Laura Friend**  
**Slavic Languages & Literature**  
**friend@u.washington.edu**

As Staff Associate for Slavic, Laura hopes to contribute to the success of foreign language students and instructors by developing and distributing audio, video and courseware. Laura also teaches Russian, and she is committed to utilizing the Language Learning Center's technological resources within a sound pedagogical framework to enhance the language acquisition process for members of the UW community. As a PhD student in Slavic Languages and Literatures, Laura is focusing on 19th and 20th century Russian and East European literature.

### *New ListProc to enhance LLC communication*

Communication is key for the Language Learning Center. Keeping in contact with the language instructors and departments is vital towards meeting students' needs.

The Language Learning Center now has a ListProc e-mail list set up, called "llc-set." It is a great way to get weekly notices of the workshops, as well as a forum for the community to discuss issues relevant to language instruction and the use of technology.

The list will provide increased communication between the language instructors and the LLC and will highlight some of the technology currently available and projects that some of the language classes are currently working on.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to:  
**listproc@u.washington.edu**

In the body of the message type:  
**subscribe llc-list <your name>**

For answers to general questions regarding ListProcs, check out:  
<http://www.washington.edu/computing/listproc/>

There are instructions at this site regarding various options available for ListProcs and some of the guidelines for sending messages.

For questions specifically regarding the "llc-list" ListProc, contact Glenn Kranking at [glenn1@u.washington.edu](mailto:glenn1@u.washington.edu)

**Language Learning Center**  
**Box 353140**  
**Seattle, WA 98195-3140**

**POLYGLOT**

If you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list,  
or would rather check the newsletter on-line, please contact the Language Learning Center.

---

## **The mission, values, and vision of the LLC**

### **Mission**

The Language Learning Center empowers people through technology to optimally learn, teach, and study world languages and cultures.

We lead the University of Washington in the efficient development, dissemination, and preservation of technological language services and resources. We work with departments, students, and the community to provide resources that are vital in supporting the effective teaching and study of world languages and cultures.

- We provide access to a wide range of technological resources for language instruction and study.
- We offer training and support in the effective use of technological language resources of the Language Learning Center and our client departments.
- We develop pedagogically effective technological language resources by consulting and collaborating with individuals and organizations.
- We are a center of communication regarding the role of technology in effective language instruction, promoting use of and commitment to resources available at the Language Learning Center and elsewhere on campus, and encouraging discussion and research about language pedagogy and technology.

### **Vision Statement**

As a fully integrated partner in all language programs and departments at the University of Washington, the Language Learning Center is recognized as a vital asset to the UW community. The LLC creates a vibrant, cross-cultural environment, which fosters and encourages active language learning. Our clients can easily access our key resources in technology both at the Center and remotely. Our staff has a strong foundation of technical expertise and each member brings unique areas of technical and linguistic specialization. We use a highly effective core set of tools to create and maintain our resources. We energetically pursue relationships and partnerships with other organizations and individuals to continually build and enhance our infrastructure.