

News and Information from the Language Learning Center

POLYGLOT

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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.

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New PC labs to debut in Winter Quarter

Two new computer labs will open at the Language Learning Center in the Winter Quarter. These labs will consist of 57 Pentium III PCs featuring Sony's Soloist/Virtuoso digital media software. In conjunction with these labs, a new media server will house the digital audio and video used by Soloist.

Although UW students already have the capability to listen to language learning audio on the LLC's web site, Soloist/Virtuoso offers a number of advantages over web-based media, including higher quality media and support for interactive exercises based on digital audio and video. The LLC's web-based audio will continue to be offered for students who wish to work



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Foreign language web pages getting easier with Unicode

Windows 2000 and Mac OS X are making the future of foreign language computing a reality today. Both platforms are built on the Unicode character encoding standard, which provides a single character code for each individual character used in modern lan-

guages today. One of the benefits? Designing or viewing web pages containing multiple languages is possible with Unicode.

All of the Language Learning Center's 70 PCs will be running Windows 2000. The LLC's 44 Macs will be upgraded to OS X shortly thereafter.

While Windows 2000 and Mac OS X are Unicode-compliant, appli-

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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.

Getting Started with Unicode

you are invited to a special presentation

January 18, 2002, 3:30 p.m.

Using Unicode International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) characters on the web and in word processing

please RSVP to: llc@u.washington.edu

location TBA: stay tuned to LLC-LIST or depts.washington.edu/llc

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Mac, IE is not Unicode-savvy, so download (and pay for) OmniWeb (<http://www.omnigroup.com/applications/omniweb/>) and you're all set.

LLC Staff Associate Gabe Webster will be giving a presentation on January 18, 2001, at 3:30 PM, about using Unicode International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

characters on the web and in word processing. Though the presentation concentrates on the IPA, much of the content is relevant to anyone interested in using Unicode to encode web pages and documents. The location will be announced on the llc-list discussion group, on the LLC's web page, and in University Week.

New Digital Self-Study Lab and E-Classroom

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from home.

The first lab, room 114, is a dedicated individual listening lab, reserved at all times for students working with language learning audio and video. Soloist offers a superset of the functionality available with the previous analog listening system. In addition to voice record, recap, and bookmark functionality, students can now use these functions with video as well as with audio. Closed captioning can also be added to audio and video files, and instructors can create exercises in which students play an audio or video clip, then answer multiple choice or short answer questions. Students' responses are stored on the server, where instructors



can view them at their convenience.

The second lab, room 122, will feature the digital media functionality of Soloist combined with the Virtuoso electronic classroom package. Virtuoso allows an instructor to take control of student machines, playing media on all machines simultaneously or just to selected machines. Instructors can group students together for discussion and speak over students' headphones to the whole class or to individual students. Student machines have a "call" button to use their headsets to ask the instructor questions, and instructors have the ability to set a monitor to mirror the video on any of the student machines.

In addition to Solo-

ist and Virtuoso, students in room 122 can also take full advantage of the foreign language capabilities of Windows 2000 and Unicode. Combined with LLC staff expertise with foreign language computing, room 122 will be a powerful resource for instructors who want to include foreign language computing in their curricula.

In both new labs, as well as in the existing CALL lab (room 113), students will also be able to watch live foreign language video such as SCOLA. Eventually, additional channels will be available and all live video will be delivered digitally as the LLC completes its transition to an all-digital facility.

The new labs and server are funded by the Student Tech Fee and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Getting Started with Unicode

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cations and fonts that take advantage of this Unicode support are still only beginning to appear. Microsoft Word 2000 offers quick and easy Unicode web page design capability. For Unicode web page viewing, first make sure you have a Unicode font installed.

Arial Unicode MS is the most convenient, but is not installed automatically with Windows 2000. Mac OS X does not come with a full Unicode font, but since OS X recognizes Windows font formats, Arial Unicode MS will work just fine. Use Internet Explorer on Windows. On the

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Teaming Up with the LLC: Teaching with Technology

LLC Project Spotlight: Chinese

Chinese linguistics students will soon have an easier time hearing the differences between seven major dialect groups, thanks to a collaboration between Newell Ann Van Auken, a predoctoral lecturer in the department of Asian Languages & Literature, and the LLC.

Crisp, new digital recordings are replacing old, third-generation analog tapes. The versatile digital format allows for speedy navigation in the classroom (no more rewind/fast-forward) and immediate comparison of dialectal variants. Plus, the files are ready to be incorporated into a course website or an eventual self-contained computer- or web-based learning tool.

So far, Van Auken is very satisfied with the progress of her project.

"We have completed three sessions, two with Xiang speakers and one with a Gan speaker, and are planning to schedule several more before the end of the quarter. The sound quality of the recordings is outstanding; there is absolutely no comparison with the quality of the tapes I was using before," she said.

"The LLC staff have been extremely helpful and provided excellent technical support. When I embarked on this project, I knew nothing at all about the technology involved in creating digital recordings. I have been pleased that the LLC staff has taken the time and effort not only to help me with my project, but to explain the technology involved, and to educate me about the different options that are available, as well as the pros and cons of each. This has been and continues to be an exciting learning experience for me."

LLC Project Spotlight: Turkish

Turkish professor Selim S. Kuru has used the LLC to develop audio materials for his first and second year Modern Turkish students. Native speakers recorded dialogues to help students practice the material from the textbook. These audio

tools will be used to expand students' listening and comprehension abilities. Kuru is currently working with the LLC to add cultural materials, such as poems and songs, to his set of audio tools, and to incorporate them into web-based resources.

**Interested in teaming up with the LLC on a project?
Contact your Staff Associate!**