

News and Information from the Language Learning Center

<http://depts.washington.edu/llc>

POLYGLOT

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Why E-Classrooms?

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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World Languages Day: Friday, March 8

It is time once again for the UW to show its beautiful and varied colors of language and culture on World Languages Day. On Friday, March 8, high school students will come to the UW to learn about studying world languages and cultures here.

They'll find many exciting presentations and activities on a wide variety of topics related to world languages and culture, including Hispanic Dance, Polish Tongue-Twisters, Origami, world cuisines, and more. Students can attend mini-classes of various languages and tour the Language Learning Center.



An E-Classroom provides a unique learning environment, and when used properly, it can help instructors make the most out of class time and enhance student learning.

We've recently installed a new E-Classroom here at the LLC and are currently completing its configuration

for use by language classes. This new lab, with a teacher console and individual student terminals, allows for individualized attention as well as whole-class and small-group work. One major advantage of the E-Classroom setup is that it can maximize the use of class time: While some students receive assistance from the instructor, other students can continue working uninterrupted.

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Why E-Classrooms?

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Field studies have shown that E-Classrooms have a positive impact on student attitudes toward learning as well as their actual achievements in learning. Students find that the arrangement encourages them to participate in discussions and to pay attention. An instructor is able to control the use of class time and better engage students in the work by being able to check in and offer assistance at any time. The instructor can also control the student machines, so less time is spent organizing students and moving from one class exercise to another.

This kind of technology seems a natural choice for language learning. Instructors can disseminate multimedia materials to the students with uniform sound quality: No more straining to hear unfamiliar language sounds on the hissing analog tape recorder at the front of the room! Students can be organized into pairs or small groups for conversation. Importantly, the instructor can “visit” each student or group and offer assistance or correction to help prevent the fossilization of inaccurate language use. Class time is used better because other students can continue working with

each other or with multimedia tools while one student or group receives assistance. Students are empowered to take control of their own language learning experience.

The LLC is not a newcomer to the E-Classroom age. We also have an older “E-Classroom” that is frequently used by the English Language Programs department. Please read the “LLC Project Spotlight” on page 3 to see how ELP instructor Michelle Sadlier has used this technology in her classes!

World Languages Day: Friday, March 8, 2002

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At the LLC, we’ll provide tours of our facilities once an hour beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you have never toured our facilities, you are welcome to join in! Just arrive at the LLC a few minutes before the half hour. We’ll also be showing an entertaining video series on language acquisition all day in Denny 123.

This year, World Languages Day is responding to our nation’s tragedy last September by including several presentations related to Middle Eastern language

and culture, including Arabic lessons and a session entitled, “The Changed World after September 11, 2001.”

For more information on World Languages Day, please click on the **World Languages Day** link on the LLC web page. (Or directly visit: <http://www.outreach.washington.edu/k12guide/resourcepage.asp?ProjID=326>) You can also contact the UW Extension office by phone at: 206-543-2320 and ask about World Languages Day.

Teaming Up with the LLC: Teaching with Technology

LLC Project Spotlight: Using an E-Classroom

An ELP instructor shares her experience

Meet Michelle Sadlier, an instructor and the Specialized Programs Coordinator of the English Language Programs department. Michelle uses the LLC's digital audio system in room 109 Denny for some of her English language classes. She shared with us her experience of using technology to assist her in teaching language.

The system she uses includes a teacher unit plus individual digital audio units at each student station. Analog audio materials are converted to digital media and placed on a server for the classroom. The digital materials can then be broadcast to the student stations at the control of the instructor. The instructor can then work with individual students, pairs, groups, or the whole class as they practice their English skills along with the digital media.

Michelle likes to begin a session by working with the class as a whole, guiding them through particular parts of the text and audio, and then allowing them to focus on the areas they need to work on the most. She feels the technology facilitates language learning because individual students can choose

the specific activities they want to focus on and they can hear themselves clearly as they work. Also, tackling the areas they choose in the presence of the instructor means that they can have their problems more efficiently addressed. They can call on the instructor as a resource without interrupting the work of others, and they can get immediate help to make corrections right away.

One day a week, Michelle brings her class in to work in the lab together. This 50-minute class is intended to act as a springboard for their self-study and practice during the rest of the week. She is able to model the proper way to approach each listening assignment. Since pronunciation is a critical part of the course, she finds this practice to be very valuable.

Michelle said she'd recommend using this kind of technology to other language instructors. She suggested that the real advantages of the lab classroom are realized when instructors become comfortable with the technology and are able to let students go off in their own learning directions for part of the class time.

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

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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.

World Languages Day Friday, March 8, 2002

Presentations, activities, and mini-lessons on world
languages and culture all across the UW campus

LLC tours every hour:

**9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.
11:30 a.m.**

For information, please click on the *World Languages Day*
link on the LLC web page:

<http://depts.washington.edu/llc>