

Polyglot

News and Information from the Language Learning Center
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

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Language instructors: Switching to a new textbook edition? Planning to use the LLC's lab classrooms? Contact your Staff Associate now to prepare for your Summer and Fall quarter language classes.

Visit us on the web: <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/>

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News and Information from the Language Learning Center

Autumn 2005

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Early Language Learning Symposium a Resounding Success

The Early Language Learning Group held a symposium on November 11, 2005 in Denny Hall to provide a forum for dialogue among educators, administrators, college faculty, students, parents, and community groups about the value of providing early language learning opportunities for children. The symposium also covered implications to our educational systems, from pre-K through higher education, at a time when more students are beginning to learn languages earlier and continue to study them for longer periods of time. There were 140 participants from the Puget Sound area. They discussed questions and issues such as: What are the hidden benefits to beginning language learning early?; What does it take to offer early language learning in the schools?; Language acquisition and language learning — where do they intersect?; and, What can parents do to give their children the benefits of early language learning experiences?

Paul Aoki, Director of the Language Learning Center, hosted the event, while Julia Herschensohn,

Spanish Language Radio Broadcasts

Radio Sol (AM 1360), Seattle's Spanish-language radio station, is currently broadcasting weekly "capsulas literarias" (literary segments) that provide a link between the UW and area Spanish speakers. The program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, the Language Learning Center, and the Mexican Consulate, which has generously donated ten minutes of air time during its weekly



program "¡Viva México!" The Mexican Consul, Jorge Madrazo, and Ruth Perez, also of the consulate, have helped to make this possible.

So far, the segments have featured a variety of topics ranging from historical changes in the use of the Spanish language, the activities of various academic and governmental organizations that work with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, as well as recognizing and publicizing the "Year of the Quixote" celebrations. Faculty and student work have also been featured, and will continue to play a

Web Based Courses in Full Swing

The WEFLI (Web Enhanced Foreign Language Initiative) initiative, one of the flagship projects of the LLC, is now in full swing. This fall, a dedicated server was implemented with very good results, and three departments currently have courses in progress. In total, there are nearly 1,000 students using our server at any given time and the number of projected users within the next year will grow significantly.

Both German and Spanish are using our online courseware, Moodle, to service all of their 100- and 200-level courses.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies added a new course, Spanish 103, joining their Spanish 110, 200, and 300 courses. Spanish 103 offers a number of improvements over Spanish 110, which was the first course to go live in the winter 2005 quarter.

The Department of Germanics also has a very strong presence, with four new courses (101, 110, 103, 200) being put into production and tested in the fall. Germanics is continually innovating their online content with streaming video, streaming audio, and custom-made Flash movies in their Moodle courses.



Japanese (Asian Languages and Literature) has a smaller offering with courses for 112 and 113. The courses continue to innovate by using Moodle as a gateway to their pre-existing online material and the thorough use of non-Western character sets.

If the planning of an entire curriculum around online learning seems daunting, Moodle can also

be used as a supplement to classroom work: as a course website for online quizzes, forums, class links, and other material. Many language programs are developing smaller Moodle courses for their classes, including Russian, Hebrew, Scandinavian, Linguistics, Teaching Methodology, and Arabic.

All of the courses are continually being improved and will only get better as more students and faculty participate in using and developing courses. The use of Moodle in the WEFLI initiative and in other language courses will help to keep the UW in the vanguard of Computer Aided Language Learning.

For more information about Moodle and online language learning, please contact your departmental SA listed on page 1 or email: llc@u.washington.edu.

Burmese Distance Learning on the Horizon

The Southeast Asia program in the Jackson School of International Studies is continually investigating ways to improve and expand their language offerings. One possibility that is being explored for Burmese language studies is distance learning—UW students could take a class that would be taught at another university. If this program is negotiated and approved, the Language Learning Center would provide the resources and technical support for live, interactive webconferencing of the class. The exciting possibilities of this collaboration would provide UW students with educational opportunities they would not have otherwise had access to.

Spanish Language Radio Broadcasts

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part in the capsules.

This project is organized and led by María Gillman, coordinator of the 300-level and heritage learner classes in the Spanish department. Patrick Blaine, the Romance Languages S.A., has performed the recording and editing of the segments. The segments air every Monday from 10–11am. They will also be streamed from the LLC website in the near future as a resource for university language learners.

Visit us on the web: <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/>

Early Education Symposium a Resounding Success

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Chair of Linguistics, gave the keynote speech on her recent research in child bilingualism. Maria Gillman of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies led a discussion on heritage language learners and programs to meet their needs. A panel of teenagers shared their experiences of growing up in a bilingual/bicultural setting.

Besides fostering in-state education, there was also a focus on how to create collaborative relationships between Washington schools and partner institutions in other countries. This type of partner-

ship allows students to interact with people living in the target culture. A number of UW departments and local businesses contributed to the event which lasted 5 hours. The participant turnout was so large that all presentations had to be given twice in two different rooms.

The ELL Group is planning the next symposium for late winter quarter or early spring quarter. To join the list, send an email to michele@anciauxinternational.com and request to be added to the list.

To view streaming video of several of the sessions, visit <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/symposium.php>. We recommend a connection of DSL or faster. For links to resources on Early Language Learning, visit <http://internationaleledwa.org/groups/earlylang/symposium.htm>.

Many thanks to the event cosponsors:

University of Washington

- Center for West European Studies — <http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/cwesuw/>
- Department of Asian Languages and Literature — <http://depts.washington.edu/asianll/>
- Department of Germanics — <http://depts.washington.edu/uwgerman>
- Department of Linguistics — <http://depts.washington.edu/lingweb/>
- Department of Scandinavian Studies — <http://depts.washington.edu/scand/>
- Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures — <http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>
- Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies — <http://depts.washington.edu/spanport/>
- Division of French and Italian — <http://depts.washington.edu/frenital/>
- Language Learning Center — <http://depts.washington.edu/llc>
- Simpson Center for the Humanities — <http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/>
- University Book Store — <http://www.bookstore.washington.edu/>

And our community partners:

- Alliance Française of Seattle — <http://home.earthlink.net/~afdesea/network.htm>
- International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) — <http://www.iearn.org>
- Starbucks (Queen Anne Store) — <http://www.starbucks.com/>
- Washington State Coalition for International Education — <http://internationaleledwa.org>

Vocabulator Program

A former LLC SA, Jay Waltmunson, developed a self-contained, online vocabulary training program, dubbed the “Vocabulator” (vocabulary + emulator). Currently used by the Spanish, German, Korean, Czech and Russian language courses, it is easy to implement for all languages taught at the university. In its most basic form, the Vocabulator provides vocabulary drills using Flashcards, Multiple Choice and short answer interactions. There are also options of using sound and pictures to practice vocabulary solely within the target language, with culture-specific graphics and feedback. Just come up with a vocabulary list (in a text file) and we can create a fully-interactive program for your students to learn and practice vocabulary. Please contact your SA for further info.

