

Polyglot

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

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In this issue of Polyglot:

Polyglot Goes Electronic (page 1)

Heritage Language Learning and Teaching (page 1)

Russian Moodle (page 2)

Staff Associate Update: How the LLC Serves the Language Departments (page 3)

Professional Masters in Computational Linguistics off to Good Start (page 5)

Leveraging Technologies with the LLC for a Repository of Departmental Resources (page 5)

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

Polyglot Goes Electronic!

In keeping with the LLC's continuing mission to find and implement the latest technologies, the Polyglot will be moving to an all-electronic format beginning Spring quarter 2006. About 15 years ago, internet soothsayers predicted a ubiquitous paperless desktop. Although that has still not come to pass, online publishing is getting more common, largely fueled by the advent of blogs, which allow users to easily self-publish in a serial fashion, and also allow readers to contribute to the conversation in the same medium.

The shape and look of the new Polyglot are still being determined, but in broad strokes, it will consist of a separate, easy-to-access web-space on the LLC website, and will integrate both blog functionality as well as podcasting. Using these two relatively new technologies will not only save us from needlessly wasting paper, but should also greatly increase the sorts of material that we can offer.

In making this change, we hope to see the development of an active community within the university and elsewhere, a forum where people can share ideas and resources for language learning. One benefit of this will be that content will be renovated and distributed more frequently than before, with updates as

continued on page 2

Heritage Language Learning and Teaching

The UW Early Language Learning Committee and Language Learning Center, in cooperation with the Washington State Coalition for International Education and Washington Association for Language Teaching, are providing a forum for educators, administrators, college faculty and students, parents, and community groups to discuss the value of providing early language learning opportunities for children and the implications to our K-16 educational system when more students are learning more languages earlier and longer. Following the very successful Early Language Learning Symposium held on November 11, 2005, the group decided to offer a series of programs this spring. The first in the series – "Heritage Language Learning and Teaching" – was held on January 30, 2006 in the Walker-Ames Room in Kane Hall.

Michael Shapiro, Chair of Asian Languages and Literatures, and Paul Aoki, Director of the Language Learning Center, welcomed more than eighty participants. Dr. Shuhan Wang was the keynote speaker. She is the Supervisor for World Languages and International Education for the Department of Education in Delaware. Her research interests include intergenerational transmission of heritage language and culture;

continued on page 2

Winter 2006

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Russian Moodle

Work on the Russian Moodle courses intensified this year, with the addition of a permanent Russian coordinator in September and a second Slavic staff associate in winter quarter. We are inspired by Valentina's enthusiasm and excited that she has provided so much great new material for us to work with.

Anya Glazkova, who began at the LLC in January, developed a set of interactive grammar exercises based on the concept of case frames. The purpose is to provide comprehensive examples and drilling of representative noun phrases in all six Russian cases.

Laura Friend digitized extensive online video resources for First- and Second-Year Russian. The video is organized into dialogs and mini-clips illustrating special vocabulary or topics. Links to all the course clips are now embedded in Moodle. Laura has recently added scrolling text to the dialogs, with help from Gary Martin and Anya.

Paul Aoki led the Russian Moodle team, which met several times a week to plan and test the course, and Michele Aoki assisted with consultations. The project will be further developed in spring.

Heritage Language Learning and Teaching

cont. from page 1

heritage and foreign language education; teacher education and professional development; language policies, planning, and practices; and international education. Her presentation on January 30 included five strategies to help heritage language learners develop high levels of proficiency. The PowerPoint summary of her "A Conceptual Framework," can be accessed at: http://www.internationaledwa.org/groups/earlylang/ppt/Heritage_Language_Development.ppt.

Betty Lau, who is the ESL Department Chair at Franklin High School in Seattle and Supervisor of the Chong Wa Benevolent Association Chinese language school programs, led a panel of students and teachers from local Chinese language community schools. Participants had an opportunity to ask questions about their experiences in maintaining their heritage language. Some were more successful than others depending on the kind of support and infrastructure available to them.

Dr. Shuhan Wang gave a second presentation on Establishing High-Quality Chinese Language Programs. She provided Guiding Principles that the Asia Society is using to encourage states to establish such programs. The College Board and others are funding this project and the handbooks will be available later this spring. Of particular

interest was the section on curricular, instructional, and assessment development and implementation guided by current research and best practices. A PowerPoint summary of her second presentation can be accessed at: http://www.internationaledwa.org/groups/earlylang/ppt/Chinese_Handbook.ppt.

The program ended with a reception and resource fair with over twenty language and culture resource organizations. A list of them and their contact information can be accessed at: http://www.internationaledwa.org/groups/earlylang/pdf/heritage_resource_fair.pdf. For more information and resources from the "Heritage Language Learning and Teaching" program, please visit: http://www.internationaledwa.org/groups/earlylang/program_20060130.htm.

Polyglot Goes Electronic

cont. from page 1

news and events unfold. Additionally, the functionality of the publication will increase significantly when it becomes a hypertext. This will allow it to be a sort of meta-publication, to which readers can have easy one-click access. We will also be offering audio content through the pod-casting function. This will consist of resources additional to class-based materials, and will provide learners of all levels with authentic listening materials.

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

Professional Masters in Computational Linguistics off to Good Start

Last fall the Linguistics department introduced a new M.A. degree to its academic program. The Professional Masters in Computational Linguistics is a one year full time program that prepares students for careers in the blossoming field of computational linguistics. Students graduating from this program will face exciting challenges in areas like language processing, machine translation, and information retrieval and web search. The program was designed with input from local high-tech companies such as Microsoft and Boeing, and draws upon the excellence of UW's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments.

Professor Emily Bender, director of the program, has worked closely with the LLC to recruit students via quarterly online information sessions. These quarterly webcasts, broadcasted from Denny 109 over the internet, make use of the LLC videoconferencing system to deliver a live stream to those with online access. Questions to the participants are sent in from viewers via email,

which are then answered during the active session. The use of the video conferencing technology has undoubtedly spread the word of the new program and recruited many fine students into its inaugural class. Some prospective students that emailed questions in during the summer webcast are now in the program, and are looking forward to internships this summer with leading high-tech firms. These internships will serve as the basis of their M.A. theses while also providing valuable industry networking opportunities. Some students have even set their sights beyond internships and one student in particular has already landed herself a full-time industry job!

The use of the video conferencing technology is just one way departments are taking advantage of technologies and the expertise of their departmental liaisons to broaden and enhance their programs. Contact your liaison today to learn more about leveraging these technologies for your department.

Check out the archived Comp Ling webcasts at: <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/olr/linguistics/webcast-archive.php>

Leveraging Technologies with the LLC for a Repository of Departmental Resources

During the Winter quarter Professor Sharon Hargus and Linguistics liaison Steven Moran have been developing an online repository of streaming video clips for Linguistics courses. After obtaining copyright permission from publishers to use clips from BBC's *The Story of English* series, Hargus reviewed the films for content that illustrated interesting linguistic phenomena appropriate for undergraduate and graduate classes. Hargus and Moran then spent time editing and converting the clips into streamable formats before putting them online into a central repository. This resource now has the benefit of being accessible via the internet, which allows the Linguistics' faculty and TA's to take full advantage of computers and projectors in many classrooms and facilities on campus. This resource, however, is not being limited to just snips from *The Story of English*. Hargus is seeking copyright permissions from other publishers for

clipping instructional pieces from American Sign Language videos for LING 200 and LING 403 Structure of ASL. She is also investigating films that other faculty often use so that all Linguistics faculty can have access to the same central repository of online multimedia.

This is just one of many innovative ways that the LLC is helping departments use technology to leverage teaching. This quarter the LING 446 English Phonology course participated in a video conference with Hargus's colleague Professor Rob Hagiwara at the University of Manitoba. His lecture on the differences in Canadian and American vowel pronunciation was enhanced by students being able to interact with him in real time, though he was more than 1500 miles away. They were able to ask him questions during his talk in which he showed a PowerPoint presentation and played audio clips from his research. Lectures like this are also being converted in video streamable formats and are being added to the central repository for faculty and student access.