

## NEWS FROM SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

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Michigan State University Center for Language Education and Research ([CLEAR](#))

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Center for Applied Linguistics ([CAL](#))

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### University of Hawai'i National Foreign Language Resource Center ([NFLRC](#))



The University of Hawai'i National Foreign Language Resource Center engages in research and materials development projects and conducts Summer Institutes for language professionals among its many activities.

#### **[2007 PRAGMATICS & LANGUAGE LEARNING CONFERENCE](#)**

The NFLRC is pleased to be organizing and co-sponsoring the 17th International Conference on Pragmatics and Language Learning (PLL) on March 26-28, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i National Resource Center for East Asia (NRCEA) and the Department of Second Language Studies (SLS) also serve as co-sponsors of the event. The conference will address a broad range of topics in pragmatics, discourse, interaction, and sociolinguistics in their relation to second and foreign language learning, education, and use, approached from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. Highlights will include plenary talks by Junko Mori (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Steven Talmy (University of British Columbia), two invited colloquia, and two invited workshops. [Preregister by February 15, 2007](#) to enjoy special discount conference rates.

#### **[2007 NFLRC SUMMER INSTITUTE: \*Developing Useful Evaluation Practices in College Foreign Language Programs\* - May 28 - June 6, 2007](#)**

This NFLRC Summer Institute is designed to help college foreign language administrators and teachers engage in useful, practical, and effective program evaluations to meet a variety of purposes. It takes seriously the values, goals, and constraints that characterize college language programs and will provide language educators with a user-oriented approach to developing evaluations that maximize benefits for language learners and teachers, while minimizing potential negative consequences. It will also provide participants with tools and strategies for making program evaluation a systematic and consistently useful component of their FL departments.

The Institute will be run by Dr. John M. Norris (UH Dept. of Second Language Studies), an expert in language program evaluation and assessment. Activities over the 9-day institute will include lectures and demonstrations, in-depth analyses of practical evaluation examples, invited guest speakers (language evaluation experts), social events, and extensive hands-on development and discussion of evaluation plans, procedures, and instruments for immediate use in the participants' specific program settings.

This workshop is intended for U.S. foreign language administrators and teachers who are directly responsible for program evaluations in their foreign language departments. It assumes no prior grounding in program evaluation theory or practice, but it requires a willingness to help increase evaluation capacity in college FL education. In order to maximize the impact of this event across U.S. colleges, participants will be purposefully selected to represent diverse FL program types, based on size, languages taught, geography, and institutional status. Partial financial support is available to all participants in the NFLRC Summer Institute on a competitive and space-limited basis. Summer Institute participants are also highly

encouraged to participate in the ADFL SUMMER SEMINAR WEST (directly following the Summer Institute in Hawaii), where they will have opportunities to share their program evaluation work.

**[APPLY TODAY! \(DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 15, 2007\)](#)**

For more details about the Summer Institute (including information about affordable lodging options, fees, and more) or for the online application form, [visit our website](#).

## **2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TASK-BASED LANGUAGE TEACHING**

The NFLRC is pleased to be a co-sponsor and on the organizing committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Task-based Language Teaching to be held on September 20-22, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The theme of the 2007 conference is "TBLT: Putting Principles to Work." Plenary speakers will include Kris Van Den Branden (Katholieke Universiteit Lueven), Peter Robinson (Aoyama Gakuin University), Peter Skehan (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Virginia Samuda (Lancaster University). We look forward to bringing together both researchers and educators from around the world to learn from one another's innovations in task-based language teaching. For more information, visit the [TBLT 2007 website](#).

## **NEW NFLRC PUBLICATIONS**

### **NFLRC ADDS A THIRD ONLINE JOURNAL**

*Language Documentation & Conservation* (LD&C) publishes its inaugural issue in June 2007. LD&C becomes the only journal, electronic or otherwise, exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of linguists and language activists engaged in the essential work of documenting the world's languages. While no reliable data exist concerning the level of such documentation, a plausible estimate is that fewer than 10% are well-documented, meaning that they have comprehensive grammars, extensive dictionaries, and abundant texts in a variety of genres and media. The remaining 90% are, to varying degrees, underdocumented, or, for all intents and purposes, undocumented. Moreover, the languages of the world are now faced with an extinction crisis, the magnitude of which may well prove to be very large. Consequently, there is an evident and urgent need to document the many under/undocumented languages of the world, and, where appropriate, to assist in their preservation.

Check out [this new journal](#) and our [many other publications](#).

### **OUR ONLINE JOURNALS SOLICIT SUBMISSIONS**

*Language Learning & Technology* is a refereed online journal, jointly sponsored by the University of Hawai'i NFLRC and the Michigan State University Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR). LLT focuses on issues related to technology and language education. For more information on submission guidelines, visit the [LLT submissions page](#).

*Language Documentation & Conservation* is a fully refereed, open-access journal sponsored by NFLRC and published exclusively in electronic form by the [University of Hawai'i Press](#). LD&C publishes papers on all topics related to language documentation and conservation. For more information on submission guidelines, visit the [LD&C submissions page](#).

*Reading in a Foreign Language* is a refereed online journal, jointly sponsored by the University of Hawai'i NFLRC and the Department of Second Language Studies. RFL serves as an excellent source for the latest developments in the field, both theoretical and pedagogic, including improving standards for foreign language reading. For more information on submission guidelines, , visit the [RFL submissions page](#).

## Michigan State University Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR)



CLEAR's mission is to promote the teaching and learning of foreign languages in the United States. Projects focus on materials development, professional development training, and foreign language research.

### SUMMER WORKSHOPS

CLEAR is offering six opportunities for professional development this summer, on a wide variety of topics. Each workshop is three full days, and there are discounts for those attending multiple workshops.

- Conducting Action Research in the Foreign Language Classroom
- Integrating Technology and Assessment for Language Learning & Teaching
- Focus on Form in the Second Language Classroom
- Keeping Teacher and Student Talk in the Target Language
- Making the Most of Video in the Foreign Language Classroom
- Language Teaching and Technology

Full descriptions, dates, pricing information, and workshop applications are available [here](#).

### NEW WEBSITE

To coincide with our tenth anniversary in August 2006, CLEAR launched a new website. Please visit the updated site at <http://clear.msu.edu> and learn more about our new products and upcoming projects for the new funding cycle.

### MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

- Coming Soon!
- French Pronunciation and Phonetics (CD-ROM)
  - Introductory Business German (CD-ROM)

### Selected Free Products

- **NEW!** [Mashups](#) (combine media elements to create a new resource for language teaching)
- **NEW!** [Viewpoint](#) (record or upload videos to link from other sites or embed inside your own web pages)
- **NEW!** [Hausa Online](#) (virtual language resource page of multimedia language learning material for intermediate to advanced-level Hausa language learners)
- **Now in Russian!** [MIMEA: Multimedia Interactive Modules for Education and Assessment](#) (German, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian; online video clips and activities)
- **Now free!** [Business Chinese](#) (CD-ROM)
- [Language Learning Materials for Russian: A Content-Based Course Pack](#) (online learning modules)
- [SMILE](#) (tool for creating interactive online exercises)
- [Facilitating Connections to International Business: A Guide for Foreign Language Educators](#) (guide)
- [African Language Small Group Instruction Guide](#) (guide and video)
- [Thai Small Group Instruction Guide](#) (guide)
- [Vietnamese Small Group Instruction Guide](#) (guide)
- [Hindi Small Group Instruction Guide](#) (guide)
- [Modules for Assessing Socio-Cultural Competence: German](#) (CD-ROM)

- [Modules for Assessing Socio-Cultural Competence: Russian \(CD-ROM\)](#)

## CONFERENCES

CLEAR exhibits at local and national conferences year-round. We hope to see you at ACTFL, CALICO, MiWLA, NCOLCTL, Central States, and other conferences.

## NEWSLETTER

CLEAR News is a biyearly publication covering FL teaching techniques, research, and materials. Contact the CLEAR office to join the mailing list or check it out on the Web at <http://clear.msu.edu/newsletter/>. We welcome your submissions!

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## The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)



The [Center for Applied Linguistics](#) is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes and improves the teaching and learning of languages, identifies and solves problems related to language and culture, and serves as a resource for information about language and culture. CAL carries out a wide range of activities in the fields of English as a second language, foreign languages, cultural education, and linguistics.

Featured Resources:

- [The Center for Adult English Language Acquisition \(CAELA\)](#)  
CAELA was established in 2004 with funding from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education, and its primary mission is to assist states that have emerging ESL populations. Resources available on its Web site include [tools](#) for teaching adult English language learners, a new series of [briefs](#); and a newsletter, *CAELA Currents*, which includes subscription information.
- [The Cultural Orientation Resource \(COR\) Center](#)  
The (COR) Center continues to provide materials that inform refugee service providers about refugee cultures and help newcomers understand fundamental aspects of life in the U.S. [Culture Profiles](#) provide short introductions to the cultural background of refugee populations. *The Cultural Orientation for Refugees: A Handbook for U.S. Trainers* is a new guide that provides information, lesson plans, and training resources for U.S. cultural orientation.
- [CAL Services](#)  
CAL provides a variety of professional development and technical assistance services related to language education and assessment needs.

## Recent Publications:

- *Literacy and Language Diversity in the United States, 2nd Edition*
- *Creating Access: Language and Academic Programs for Secondary School Newcomers*
- *Language by Video: An Overview of Foreign Language Instructional Videos for Children*
- *What's Different About Teaching Reading to Students Learning English?*

Visit CAL's redesigned [Web site](#) to learn more about our projects, resources, and services.