NEWS FROM SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Sponsors

University of Hawai‘i National Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC)
Michigan State University Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR)

Co-Sponsor

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

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 workshops and conferences for language professionals among its many activities.

CULTURA: WEB-BASED INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES (OCTOBER 10-11, 2009)

The Cultura project, pioneered at MIT by Gilberte Furstenberg and her colleagues, has inspired a variety of online cultural exchanges based on a set of principles and best practices. The Cultura: Web-Based Intercultural Exchanges pre-conference event will feature presentations by a variety of educators who have created exchanges based on the Cultura model.

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN COMPUTER MEDIATED COMMUNITIES (LLCMC) CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 11-13, 2009)

Once, computers were seen as thinking machines or electronic tutors. Now the computer has become one of many devices that people use to form virtual communities of all kinds. In the field of language education, computer mediated communication (CMC) enables students to interact with one another free of space and time constraints and to participate in communities of learning with their counterparts in the target culture. The Language Learning in Computer Mediated Communities (LLCMC) Conference explores the use of computers as a medium of communication in language learning communities.

Conference highlights will include a plenary talk by Dr. Gilberte Furstenburg (MIT), a special panel presentation showcasing online cultural exchanges based at the University of Hawai‘i, and a variety of intriguing concurrent sessions. Preregistration deadline – September 15, 2009.

NEW NFLRC PUBLICATIONS

*Talk-in-interaction: Multilingual perspectives*

Edited by Gabriele Kasper and Hanh Thi Nguyen, this first volume in NFLRC’s new series *Pragmatics & Interaction* offers original studies of interaction in a range of languages and language varieties. These include Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, and Vietnamese; monolingual and bilingual interactions, and activities designed for second or foreign language learning. Conducted from the perspectives of conversation analysis and membership categorization analysis, the chapters examine ordinary conversation and institutional activities in face-to-face, telephone, and computer-mediated environments.
Check out 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

The Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR) at Michigan State University is offering several low-cost summer professional development workshops in July. These workshops offer hands-on experience and concrete ideas for language teachers, and are appropriate for foreign language teachers as well as ESL teachers.

CLEAR has been offering workshops since 1997, and foreign language teachers from all over the country have come to East Lansing to attend them. The workshops offered this year cover a wide range of topics, appropriate as “refreshers” for experienced teachers or as reinforcement on topics in language teaching for newer and pre-service teachers.

Each workshop is three full days, and there are discounts for those attending multiple workshops.

Full descriptions, dates, pricing information, and workshop applications are available here.

- An Online Language Portfolio Approach to the Development of Speaking and Listening Proficiency
  July 9–11, 2009

- Rich Internet Applications for Language Learning: Introductory Techniques
  July 13–15, 2009

- Rich Internet Applications for Language Learning: Advanced Techniques
  July 16–18, 2009
The Second “C”: Culture Teaching in the Language Classroom  
July 20–22, 2009

Teaching Writing in the Foreign Language Classroom  
July 23–25, 2009

Revisiting, Reinventing, and Restarting a Language Program: A Step-by-Step Approach  
July 27–29, 2009

MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

Selected Products

The list below comprises just some of our free and low-cost materials for language educators. Be sure to visit our Web site occasionally for updates and announcements on new products: http://clear.msu.edu.

• CLEAR’s Rich Internet Applications initiative has been underway for over a year. RIA is a research and development lab where our programmers are working on free tools that language teachers can use to create online language teaching materials – or have their students create activities themselves!
  o NEW! Revisions (process writing and feedback tool)
  o NEW! Broadcasts (create your own podcasts)
  o Worksheets (add multimedia elements to online worksheets)
  o Audio Dropboxes (put a dropbox in any Web page; students’ recordings get put into your dropbox automatically)
  o Conversations (record prompts for students to do virtual interviews and conversations)
  o Mashups (combine media elements to create a new resource for language teaching)
  o Viewpoint (record or upload videos to link from other sites or embed inside your own Web pages)
  o SMILE (tool for creating interactive online exercises)
• NEW! Introductory Business German (CD-ROM) – This CD-ROM provides a condensed, highly-focused set of activities intended for use by business professionals who conduct business with Germans and German companies and wish to learn more about the German business and economics environment.
• Celebrating the World’s Languages: A Guide to Creating a World Languages Day Event (guide) – This publication provides a step-by-step guide to planning “World Languages Day,” a university event for high school students designed to stimulate interest in learning languages and to highlight the importance of cultural awareness.
• La phonétique française (CD-ROM) – This cross-platform multimedia program consists of interactive lessons that can be used by French teachers to learn how to teach pronunciation, or by advanced students working independently.
• MIMEA: Multimedia Interactive Modules for Education and Assessment (German, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian; online video clips and activities)

Coming Soon!  
• More Rich Internet Applications
• Introductory Business Chinese

CONFERENCES

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

NEWSLETTER

CLEAR News is a free biyearly publication covering FL teaching techniques, research, and materials. Download PDFs of back issues and subscribe at http://clear.msu.edu/clear/newsletter/.

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.

CAL Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Visit our CAL50 Web site devoted to information about CAL’s history, new resources, and special anniversary events.

Featured Resources:

• CAL News
  
  CAL News is our electronic newsletter created to provide periodic updates about our projects and research as well as information about new publications, online resources, products, and services of interest to our readers. Visit our Web site to sign up.

• Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages
  
  The Alliance for the Advancement of Heritage Languages (the Alliance) consists of individuals and organizations who share a commitment to advancing language development for heritage language speakers in the United States. The work of the Alliance is carried out through publications, the ongoing development of its Web site, a newsletter, and a discussion list.

• Center for Research on the Educational Achievement and Teaching of English Language Learners (CREATE)
  
  Visit the CREATE Web site to learn more about CREATE, its research and upcoming events, including the October 2009 CREATE conference. To keep current on CREATE activities sign up to receive an electronic newsletter and periodic announcements.

• SIOP Model Professional Development Services
  
  CAL works with schools, states, and districts to design and deliver high-quality, client-centered professional development services on the SIOP Model.

• CAL Services: Institutes on Teaching Reading to English Language Learners
  
  CAL is offering institutes in 2009 featuring our What’s Different? professional development program. CAL provides a variety of professional development and technical assistance services related to language education and assessment needs.

Featured Publications:

• Refugees from Iraq (Expanded Refugee Backgrounder)
• *An Insider’s Guide to SIOP Coaching*
• *Developing Reading and Writing in Second Language Learners*
• *Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education, Second Edition*
• *Realizing the Vision of Two-Way Immersion: Fostering Effective Programs and Classrooms*
• *What’s Different About Teaching Reading to Students Learning English?*

Visit CAL’s Web site to learn more about our projects, resources, and services.