



**NEALLT Newsletter  
January 2005  
(Wrap-up from 2004!)**

**NEALLT 2004 Conference**

At NEALLT 2004 we were indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the newly-renovated Language Resource Center at Princeton University. The conference theme was “Technology and the Foreign Language Curriculum: A Constantly Developing Relationship.” Language Resource Center Manager Marianne Crusius was our most congenial host, and she spared no effort in ensuring that we had a marvelous time.



Conference Host Marianne Crusius

Quotes from some of the comments that were sent to Marianne after the conference:

“...well-organized and informative. The setting was beautiful, of course. Congratulations. It was just perfect.” (continued on page 2)

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**NEALLT 2005 Conference: The Language Resource Center: Trends and Visions"**

The Northeast Association for Language Learning Technology (NEALLT) will hold its annual conference March 11-13, 2005 at the state-of-the-art Foreign Language Technology Center, at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), in Rochester, New York. Our host will be Jack Burston, Director of the Foreign Language Technology Center.

The complete Call for Proposals may be found at <http://www.neallt.org>. Please send proposals to Claire Bradin Siskin at [cbsiskin@pitt.edu](mailto:cbsiskin@pitt.edu). She may also be contacted by phone at 412-6234-5939. Proposals should include the presenter’s name, contact information, type of session proposed, title of session, abstract of up to 250 words, and equipment needs.

**Proposal deadline: February 1, 2005**  
**Notification of acceptance: February 6, 2004**

**Conference hotel:** Park Plaza Hotel in Rochester  
**Conference rate:** \$79 (Sng) \$84 (Dbl), continental breakfast included.

Ask for “NEALLT 2005 Conference”  
Free airport shuttle bus service, also to and from RIT.

**Reservations must be made by February 10, 2005 to obtain the above discount.**

Travel and lodging information is also available at <http://www.neallt.org>.

## NEALLT 2004 Conference , Cont'd.

“I got a lot of helpful info and useful ideas from the workshop, the sessions, and talking with people, as usual.”

Overall, it was a wonderful experience and time well spent.

“I came away with far more information than I will ever use.

I think the conference was a great success by all accounts and it was a real treat to see your beautiful new facility.”

Special thanks are also due to Mike Jones, NEALLT Webmaster, who planned and organized the food for the reception with his usual panache!

Claire Bradin Siskin

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### Notes from a Newcomer

by Mary Toulouse, Lafayette College

The March, 2004 meeting was my first NEALLT conference, and it was, by far, one of the best conferences I have ever attended. The two days were so well organized that I was able to attend TEN highly informative presentations on teaching and language technology, three super relevant panel discussions on FL labs, one “thank-goodness I didn’t miss it” workshop on decrypting Microsoft’s multilingual features, and a tour of Princeton’s new, state-of-the art language resource center. NEALLT’s executive board certainly deserved the kudos conferred on them for setting the tone and making possible such a successful, collegial exchange of ideas. Moreover, I am sure that all participants will join me in extending a sincere thank you to everyone who shared his or her work and insights into teaching with technology. This was what conferences are supposed to be about. If you didn’t have a chance to attend this year, set aside the date for next year’s meeting in Rochester: March 11-13. Bring your ideas and questions.

The following is a list of the topics from the 2004 program as well as a few notes from sessions I attended. Let me apologize in advance for their brevity and/or any misinterpretations. I am sure that you all are welcome to contact any of the presenters for more detailed information on a subject of interest.

- **Workshop: Making Window 2000/XP and Office Multilingual**  
(Martin Hiejdra, Princeton University)

An in-depth workshop on working with languages other than English: The presenter stressed the importance of enabling all languages in the operating system as well as installing the proofing tools in Office.

- **Technology as a Bridge of Many Gaps**  
(Nina Garrett, Yale University)

The FLL curriculum was recently reevaluated at Yale; new requirements include completion of three semesters; it used to be four. Another change: all students must take one semester of a language in spite of their AP score. Some of the issues included in the review were: how to get more students to higher levels in more languages, how to better advise students, how to better include students returning from a study abroad program, and how to enable lifelong learners.

- **Integrating Digital Video into the FL Curriculum**  
(Claire Bradin Siskin, University of Pittsburgh)

Examples of how digital video are used in the curriculum at Pitt were discussed, a detailed demonstration followed on how to implement this technology. A list of the necessary equipment was shared (web cams, BTV was used on a Mac platform to capture the digital image).

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## Notes from a Newcomer, Cont'd.

- **All This—But How to Make Them Use It?**  
(Erica Gilson, Princeton University)

With Turkish serving as the example, the presenter discussed the pros and cons of using various technological resources to help student achieve the 480 hours of contact with the L2 that is needed to reach proficiency (US government standards) when students have only five hours of class time a week.

- **Business with Pleasure: The Use of Video Clips in the Teaching of French for Business**  
(Martine Benjamin, Princeton University)

Scenes from *Le diner de cons*, *L'auberge espagnol* and *Le placard* can be used as an integral part of the curriculum to illustrate different aspects of French and European business.

- **Natural Selection: Using Evolving Technology to Enhance Foreign Language Pedagogy**  
(Michelle Cheyne, Princeton University)

The presenter discussed the progression from unguided to guided learning of languages and the role of technology at each stage (interactive, CD ROMs, internet projects, blogs, and wikis).

- **Interactive Jeopardy**  
(Engracia Angrill Schuster, Onondaga Community College)

A demonstration of the educational benefits of a Web enhanced, custom-made Jeopardy board with examples of how it may be adapted to the curriculum.

- **Communication in Cyberspace: The US-Siber Dialogue**  
(Christine Foster Meloni & Susan Willens, George Washington University; Larissa Zolotareva, Yakutsk State University)

Overview of a collaborative internet project wherein students refined linguistic skills as well as discovered unfamiliar cultures. The Prometheus course management system was used, in particular, the e-mail, chat room and web board features.

- **Technology to Enhance Foreign Language Curriculum Outside the Classroom**  
(Jim Wang, Allegheny College)

Student performances for the Chinese New Year were videotaped and placed on-line. The presenter noted an increase interest in language learning as a result of the project.

- **Student Produced Video and Foreign Language Acquisition: A Process**  
(Mary Toulouse, Lafayette College)

The presenter designed a scaffolded learning module to teach the *Phantom of the Opera*; reading and writing assignments related to the novel as well as student created voice-overs of the silent film were used; the project culminated with students producing their own videos.

- **Let Thy Voice Be Heard: Technology and Montclair Sate University's Italian Language Program**  
(Michael Heller, Andrea Dini, Marisa Trubiano, Montclair State University)

Routine oral practice and assessment for beginning and intermediate students has been moved almost entirely on-line thanks to Wimba and the Blackboard course management system.

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## Notes from a Newcomer, Cont'd.

- **Developing Oral Proficiency Through Computer-Mediated Testing**

(John Esposito, College of Staten Island, CUNY)

The presenter described and demonstrated an oral testing program that was written for and administered in the college's language lab. Last year, over 800 students in 27 sections used this special program, which helped eliminate testing during class time.

- **Princeton University Online Language Placement Test**

(Fergus Bremner, CEO, Extra fin)

Demonstration of the online placement test and other language testing templates developed by a private company, Extra fin, for Princeton last year. Similar templates can be written for other colleges; if interested, contact Mr. Bremner.

- **Technology and the Hebrew Language Curriculum**

(Rivka Halperin and Hadassah Nemovicher. JTS)

Discussion of the methods and techniques used to teach Hebrew, including the New State authoring tools for composing language drills, e-mail and online newspapers.

- **Now That We Have IT, How Do We Use It? Lab Renovation and Departmental Direction**

(Jeff Ruth, East Stroudsburg University)

Description of the new renovations at ESU, followed by a solicitation for advice from the audience on how to staff the RC, outfit with software and determine hours given the parameters of funding and needs of the student body at this university. A wonderful example of how lab directors and instructors can come to a NEALLT meeting with

questions and find ideas from other participants.

- **Panel Discussion: Designing and Implementing New Labs**

(Marianne Crusius, Princeton University, Bradley Gano, Yale University; Stephanie Kufner, Bard College)

Each lab director described the lengthy process of setting up a new lab and the features required to reflect and have an impact on the curriculum of their universities.

- **Satellite Programming and Distribution... Opening Up a World of Possibilities**

(Michael Jones, Swarthmore College)

A custom cable system was set up in the RC so that 10 different foreign channels (TV5, RAI, German TV, BBC, TV Japan) could be accessed from any computer station at the same time. A detailed map of the distribution system, list of channels and necessary equipment (receivers, modulators) was shared with all. Anyone contemplating this kind of change in their lab should contact Mike.

- **Panel: When to Say 'No': Defining our Roles as Center Directors**

(Mike Ledgerwood. Stony Brook University, SUNY)

Suggested no's:

- No home computers
- No printing to the lab printer from their offices
- No impromptu digital video projects
- No substitute teaching

- **Open Mic: Your Turn**

A few questions:

- What is the equivalent program for I-movie on a PC?
- How do you handle dual layer foreign DVD's that stop after an hour?

## Notes from a Newcomer, Cont'd.

- What are people doing to replace their old SONY or Tandberg labs but keep the same features?
- What's a wiki and a blog?

A few ideas:

- Install Read-me software to let students hear the language they are reading. The ATT voices are good.
- IALLT has a language design kit
- Code free DVD players: Sampo or Dawoo

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### Minutes of the NEALLT 2004 Business Meeting March 21, 2004 Princeton University

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

The minutes from the 2003 Business Meeting were approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Marianne Crusius reported the following attendance at the conference:

15 from New Jersey (13 new members)  
25 from Pennsylvania (15 new members)  
12 from New York (5 new members)  
4 from Connecticut (1 new member)

All of the attendees registered in advance; there were no on-site registrations at this conference.

#### NEALLT Contacts:

President	Claire Bradin Siskin	University of Pittsburgh	cbsiskin@pitt.edu
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Crusius mentioned that there had been several hidden costs (such as charges for a security guard) for the conference and that the registration fees had barely covered expenses. After some discussion, it was agreed that the registration fee for next year's conference would have to be raised. It was further decided that the exact fee would be determined by the Executive Board in conjunction with the conference host.

Claire Bradin Siskin announced that we are looking for a host for the 2005 conference. Monique Burston said that the Foreign Language Technology Center at the Foreign Language Technology Center, directed by Jack Burston, might be interested in hosting.

Siskin pointed out that the current Constitution online at the website diverged in some points from our actual practices. The Executive Board will examine it during the year and determine what (if any) amendments should be made. It was suggested that we record the current practices and include them in by-laws.

Mary Toulouse of Lafayette College graciously agreed to become Newsletter Editor.

Marianne Crusius was elected Secretary/Treasurer for another 2-year term. Michael Heller of Montclair State University was elected Vice President. Congratulations, Marianne and Michael!

Cindy Evans was thanked for her service as President of NEALLT with a very enthusiastic round of applause. The president's "magic wand" was handed over to Siskin, and the meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Bradin Siskin