NEALLT

northeast association for language learning technology

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Claire Braden Siskin
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2006 Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Dear NEALLT Members,

This past spring we had a superb NEALLT conference hosted by University of Pennsylvania (see "Notes from the Editor"). The conference was very well attended but still offered the intimacy of a smaller, regional meeting where a small group of like-minded professionals have the opportunity to learn from one another. This is especially true for those of us at institutions where we are the only professional engaged in language technology. NEALLT's conference remains one of those "must-attend" annual events!

The NEALLT Executive Board is in the midst of planning our spring 2007 conference and the location, dates, and a call for participation will be announced in the coming weeks. The Executive Board is also exploring a potential fall conference hosted jointly with NERALLT. This fall conference would be in addition to the annual spring NEALLT conference.

This summer I attended the IALLT Summer Leadership Meeting as NEALLT's representative. Planning for IALLT 2007 is well underway and promises to be a great conference. IALLT 2007 will be June 19-23, 2007, in Medford, Massachussetts. IALLT is also engaged in an impressive marketing makeover that looks to further increase memberhsip in the organization, including K-12 membership and newly approved commercial memberships.

I look forward to seeing many of you this spring.

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Mark your calendars!   March 30-April 1

NEALLT 2007 at Cornell University

	Notes from the Editor

"Technology-mediated Language Learning Beyond the Classroom"—this was the topic of the NEALLT conference held at the University of Pennsylvania in April, 2006. Barbara and Peter Lafford gave a high-tech keynote address; the participants then had the opportunity to choose from over thirty presentations, a pre-conference workshop and several panel discussions. At the epicenter of all this were Nelleke Van Deusen-Scholl, Ed Dixon and other U. Penn faculty, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes as well as at the podium, sharing their vocation for excellence in language pedagogy and the supporting technology. In between sessions, our hosts regaled us with tours of the university's magnificent facilities and fine Philadelphia dining. I am confident that all conference participants will join me in thanking the University of Pennsylvania, Nelleke and Ed, the NEALLT executive board, as well as all presenters.

On a personal note may I add that at Lafayette College we have just finished renovating our language teaching and resource center; so much credit for the success of this project goes to the wonderful advice and support that we have received from NEALLT members as well as the opportunity to visit labs that have been showcased (virtually or in real time) at past conferences: Princeton, Swarthmore, Yale, Skidmore, Montclair, Hamilton, Pitt and, most recently, Penn.   Indeed, **the NEALLT conference should not be missed!** If you have not had a chance to attend, set aside the date for next year's meeting at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York: March 30-April 1.

Regards to all,
Mary Toulouse

	Conference Nuggets

The following is a list of the topics from the 2006 program as well as a few notes from sessions that I personally attended. Let me apologize in advance for the brevity and/or any misinterpretations. Given the number of presentations, it was impossible to attend every one. However, everyone should feel welcome to contact any of the presenters for more detailed information on a subject of interest (see the NEALLT website for abstracts).

Pre-conference workshop: Spiraled interactions: the dynamic nature of foreign language pedagogy in a CMC environment

Nelleke Van Deusen-Scholl, **Cristina Frei**, **Ed Dixon,** University of Pennsylvania

The Integrated Performance model took on a new life as presenters masterfully explained how technology can be used to support what they call the "dynamic, spiraling interaction" between each of the three communicative modes. Participants had the opportunity to try out a variety of computer-mediated communication tools, such as Wimba voice board, threaded discussions, chats, wikis –all of which can be used in in-class or online collaborations. Of special interest was the discussion on the changing learning environment in foreign language pedagogy and the potential use of data-driven learning. What fun it was to spend the afternoon talking pedagogy and trying out technology that could easily be implemented on any campus.

Keynote Address: CMC Technologies and Tasks for Teaching Foreign Languages: The shape of things to come

Peter A. Lafford and Barbara A. Lafford, Arizona State University

With Peter Lafford doing a videoconference out of Arizona and Barbara talking in Philadelphia, our keynote speakers shared the podium and gave a thorough overview of technologies, both synchronous and asynchronous, that support foreign language acquisition.

	Less Commonly Taught Languages

One of the outstanding features of the 2005 conference was the number of presentations on technology and techniques that are used to teach languages, traditionally considered more difficult to support.

- **Japanese:** A study to reclaim and reframe the role of technology in the foreign language classroom and beyond
  Yoshihiko Ariizumi, Lafayette College

- **Portuguese:** Aprender Cantando: an Online Curriculum Supplement for Portuguese Learning
  Megwen Loveless, Princeton University
- **Arabic:** A constructivist multimedia (TBL) framework to promote the learning of Arabic
  Hebatalla Elkhateeb-Musharraf, Ed.D. Princeton University
- **Japanese:** Technology? What do beginning students need to learn? Japanese typing instructions from the beginning level
  Atsuko Takahashi, Smith College
- **African languages:** Maximizing Foreign Language Curriculum Outcomes through Technology: A Case of African Languages
  Audrey N Mbeje, Elaine Mshomba, Esau J. Mavindidze, University of Pennsylvania
- **Sanskrit:** Inflection and phonology software for a digital Sanskrit library:
  Peter M. Scharf, Brown University
- **Turkish:** The Role of Creative Writing as an Enabling Activity in FL Language Acquisition
  Erika Gilson, Princeton University
- **Hindi and Tamil:** Learning from Context: Video Based Online Instruction for Hindi and Tamil
  Vasu Renganathan & Vijay Gambhir, University of Pennsylvania

	Tools

- **Podcasts as Instructional Tools: Taking Language Tasks Beyond the Classroom**
  Jenna Torres & Ryanne Araujo, St. Lawrence University
- **Enhancing the Teaching of Language and Culture through the Use of a MOO**
  Jennifer Austin, Ursula Atkinson, Anne-Catherine Aubert and Karen Campbell, Rutgers University
- **Internet2: Beyond Technology: Collaborations Across Classrooms, Campuses and Countries**
  M. Lamb-Faffelberger & Mary Toulouse, Lafayette College
- **Using E-Mail and Blogs to Encourage Comprehensible Output**
  Jocelyne Brant & Christine Foster Meloni, George Washington University
- **Internet: Teaching Contemporary French Culture with Web Resources**
  Duane Kight, Haverford College
- **Finding Cultural Resources in the Online Culture Club**
  Christine Foster Meloni and Jill Robbins, George Washington University
- **Cinema: Promoting Language Learning Beyond the Classroom**
  Martine Benjamin, Princeton University

	Commercial and Open Source Software

- **French: Speak More with Less In-Class Time in a Foreign-Language Classroom**
  Brandon S. Lee, UNC-Chapel Hill/Terra Dotta, LLC

- **Life suite:Comics with two "i's": Comic Life, iSight, and iMovie in the Italian Classroom**
  Shirley Ann Smith, Skidmore College
- **Supporting Foreign Languages with Revolution**
  Dan Soneson, Southern Connecticut State University
- **Revolution for Non-Programmers, or Yes, There Is Life After HyperCard!**
  Claire Bradin Siskin, University of Pittsburgh
- **Course management systems (CMS) to promote language learning**
  Hiroyo Saito & Yukino Tanaka, Haverford College, Ed Dixon & Jay Treat, University of Pennsylvania
- **Promoting Oral Proficiency Via Odeo.com**
  Jeff Ruth and, Leonardo Teixeira, East Stroudsburg University, Sara Villa, The New School
- **Drupal and language teaching**
  Bill Koulopoulos & Kevin Wong, Columbia University

	"In the Works"

A number of universities are committed to the development of new tools and software programs that will facilitate the study of languages. At NEALLT 2006, we had the privilege of previewing several of these initiatives.

- **A Look at WebSpeak**
  D. Bradford Marshall, Harvard University
- **Web Audio Lab: Bringing Power and Efficiency to Students and Teachers**
  Dick Feldman, Cornell University
- **Beyond the classroom with Pogos and Web templates**
  Regina DeAngelo & Bradley Gano, Yale University

	Pedagogy

- **Understanding Distance Language Learners: the Motivation Correlation**
  Noelle Isenberg, The Pennsylvania State University
- **Rethinking Grammar CALL**
  Nina Garrett, Yale University
- **"Virtual Embodiments: Video Games, Video Clips and Reality TV in Contemporary Spanish Narrative": Experiencing Literature Through Technology**
  Audrey Sartiaux & Christine Henseler, Union College
- **Data-driven Foreign Language Learning**
  J. Scott Payne, Pennsylvania State University
- **Developing Listening Comprehension Using SCOLA Online News Casts: Theoretical and Practical Considerations**
  Luba Iskold, Muhlenberg College
- **Teaching strategies:** Dancing and singing your way through grammar
  Asima F. X. Saad Maura, Haverford College

	Language Labs

- **Management:** Planning and Implementing a Unified Circulation System to Maximize Efficiency
  Susan Pennestri, Georgetown University
- **New Lab Models:** The Evolving Role of the Speech Center in New Administrative Initiatives
  Sean Palmer, LaGuardia Community College- CUNY
- **Specialized Use:** Self-Serve Video Recording in American Sign Language Classes
  Jami Clark, Penn Language Center, University of Pennsylvania

	Panel Discussions

- **Podcasting and foreign language education: current practices and future possibilities**
  Panelists: Lidia Agafonova, Pennsylvania State University; Noelle Isenberg, Pennsylvania State University; Michael Lipschultz, Pennsylvania State University;J. Scott Payne, Pennsylvania State University; Thomas Tasker, Pennsylvania State University
- **Language Teaching Material Archives on Blackboard in the French, German, Japanese, and Spanish Language Programs.** Panel members discussed the extent to which instructor sites of archived materials have contributed to building stronger and more cohesive language programs and have helped to offer well organized and well coordinated language courses for Penn students.
  Panelists: Ed Dixon, University of Pennsylvania; Victoria García-Serrano; University of Pennsylvania;Yoko Makishima, University of Pennsylvania;Joyce Martin, University of Pennsylvania; Kathryn McMahon, University of Pennsylvania; Nicole Mills, University of Pennsylvania; Melanie Peron, University of Pennsylvania; Hiroko Sherry, University of Pennsylvania
- **The Creation, Distribution, and Management of Media Files**
  Panelists: Marianne Crusius, Princeton University; Mike Heller, Montclair State University; Mike Jones, Swarthmore College; LaShanda Lemmon, University of Pittsburgh

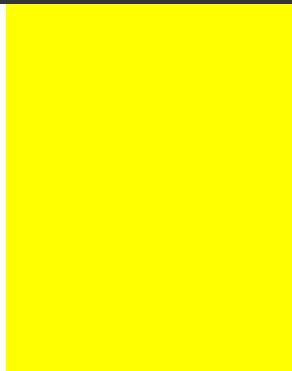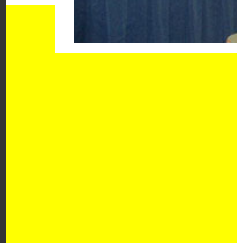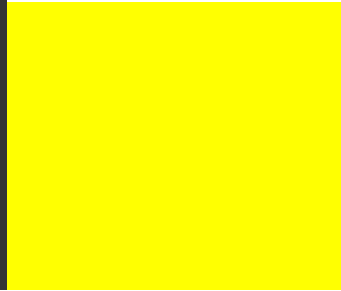Mark your calendars!   March 30-April 1

NEALLT 2007 at Cornell University

Conference Pic(k)s

Invited speaker Barbara Lafford during her videoconference with husband Peter

Many speakers, many new ideas.

Opportunities to talk shop in the fireside room and at dinners.

Thanking our hosts….

Passing the baton (top).
NEALLT board and hosts (bottom).