NEALLT

northeast association for language learning technology

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2007 Newsletter

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Note from the Editor

It has been almost a year since NEALLT members gathered "far above Cayuga's waters" in Cornell University's language resource center. As its alma mater justly foretold, we participants at the conference would like to "lift the chorus and loud her praises tell." The view from Director Dick Feldman's office was indeed "glorious"; and we were so very warmly received thanks to Dick, his staff and Cornell faculty members, who attended and gave talks at many of our sessions. I am sure that everyone who attended will join me in thanking the Dick, his wife, Beth, and all presenters. Hail, all hail, Cornell!

Our 2008 conference will be held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey from February 29 to March 2. Please consider *leaping* into the New Year with us! A call for papers will soon be sent out; hopefully this newsletter will give you some ideas of past talks that could be built upon for our next conference.

Lastly, a special effort is being made to reinforce the academic alliance between our secondary schools and colleges. We encourage you to invite your high school colleagues to present or simply attend NEALLT 2008.

> Regards to all,
> Mary Toulouse

Mark your calendars!   February 29-March 2

NEALLT 2008 at Rutgers University

Conference Nuggets

The following is a list of the topics from the 2007 program, **The Language Learning Space: Real and Virtual Uses**. PowerPoint presentations for many of the papers may be found on the NEALLT website.

Pre-conference workshop: participants explored THREE different learning environments: Mediate, CULTURA, and wikis

Mediate
Dick Feldman and Ute Maschke, Cornell University

Mediate is an open source, content management system as opposed to a course management system like BlackBoard. At Cornell, it is being used solely in the Language Resource Center where Prof. Maschke is testing it with her classes. A project-oriented, network-based environment for learners to study and evaluate selected media materials, and analyze and participate in alternative media (blogs, e-newspapers, pod casts, etc.). Learners pursue different paths to information as well as their own intellectual and research interests, maintain their own archives, generate materials, interact with interlocutors via blogs or podcasts hosted by German-speaking participants, and develop their own alternative media projects.

CULTURÁ

This is a multi-faceted environment for cross-cultural partnering and study. It presents a proven approach to mediating contact between an L1 English/L2 French (for example) and an L1 French/L2 English class. New work at Brown University has been put into this program, which has been available for a number of years.

Wiki

This increasingly popular collaborative creation environment is the most accessible of the three workshop topics. Most people are familiar with Wikipedia, the very large information source on most everything, created by a collaborative, fairly unstructured community. But a wiki can also be used by a class as an online space for students to collaboratively represent an idea in an iterative process of writing, editing and refining.

Dick also took us on a tour of the center's new videoconferencing facility (equipped with a polycom VS400 system), allowing students to work with other colleges on languages such as Turkish, Bengali, and Portuguese.

	Keynote Address

Keynote Address: CALL, What it's all in aid of?

Nina Garrett, Yale University

Early last year, Nina Garrett, director of Yale's Language Center and a long-time supporter of NEALLT's work and conferences, announced her retirement. We were privileged to have her give the keynote address (Listen to the podcast of her talk on the NEALLT web page). Nina touched on many topics: language centers should not be just service units to teachers, publishers are not delivering the proper technology-based materials, there are a number of changes in demands on language teachers and facilities. However, the point that she emphasized most was that students need to be taught "grammatical correctness". In 1984, Ted Higgs and Ray Clifford published an article in ACTFL and demonstrated that students who had picked up a language, without formal study, could not get to an advanced level without the formal grammar. The year may be 2007, but we still need to find better ways to teach grammar.

	Presentations

- **Teaching second language writing skills and collaborative learning through Wikis**
  Jenna Torres & Ryanne Araujo, St. Lawrence University
- **Learning while playing: The Sims 2 in language education**
  Karen Campbell, Rutgers University
- **Möchtest du meinen Podcast sehen? The iPod and digital media in high school German instruction**
  Peter Schultz, MMI Preparatory School

- **Professional development of foreign language instructors: Emerging technologies and new pedagogies**
  Nelleke Van Deusen-Scholl and Ed Dixon, University of Pennsylvania
- **Microsoft Word's tracking tool: Understanding the student writing and revision process**
  Jutta Schmiers-Heller, Columbia University
- **Online cultural resources for teachers of French and Italian**
  Christine Meloni and Jocelyne Brant, George Washington University
- **Blogs and podcasts - listening, speaking, and community involvement**
  Krystyna Golkowska, Cornell University
- **Learning unplugged: Using cell phones in language courses**
  Michael Heller, Montclair State University
- **Communal living in Russia 1920-2007: A virtual museum**
  Slava Paperno, Alice Nakhimovsky, and Nancy Ries, Cornell University
- **Using blogs to improve L2 writing**
  Jocelyne Brant and Christine Foster Meloni, George Washington University
- **A Lab Director's perspective on assessing speaking proficiency**
  Claire Siskin, University of Pittsburgh
- **ULearning with Technology: Comparative analysis of the Arabic and English phonology**
  Hebatalla Elkhateeb-Musharraf, Princeton University
- **ePortfolio and The Speech Center**
  Sean Palmer, LaGuardia Community College
- **Push vs. pull and LRC dissemination via technology**
  Jill Robbins, National Capital Language Resource Center
- **Using Moodle to support Languages Across the Curriculum at Skidmore**
  Cindy Evans, Skidmore College
- **"Same old song?" Pas du tout! Increasing the motivation of our students through an innovative and creative synergy of songs and video clips in the second language classroom**
  Martine Benjamin, Smith College
- **Professional development of foreign language instructors: Emerging technologies and new pedagogies**
  Nelleke Van Deusen-Scholl and Ed Dixon, Pennsylvania State University,

	Panel Discussions

- **New Directions: Innovations in language learning technology** Panelists: Ed Dixon, University of Pennsylvania; Mike Jones, Swarthmore College; Cindy Evans, Skidmore College, Dick Feldman, Cornell University, Mary Toulouse, Lafayette College
- **Your turn: Open mic**—a NEALLT trademark
  An opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, and present issues. In 2007, we touched on how to encourage and support faculty in the use technology and the problems of replacing old SONY labs.

Conference Pic(k)s

Invited speaker Nina Garrett and longtime supporter of NEALLT

Many speakers, thoughtful presentations.

Cordial exchanges of ideas, opportunities to reflect on what is a good fit for our respective schools

View from Dick's office!

Our gracious and hardworking hosts…

And, of course, plenty of good food!

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