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The NCLRC Language Resource



VOL. 11, NO. 6

June, 2007

Visit our website at: <http://www.nclrc.org>

This month's theme is **Reaching Out through Music**. We all know the power of music to help young people communicate their experiences. [Our feature story on Guitars in the Classroom](#) tells about an organization that promotes learning through teaching teachers to play music. [For your Classroom](#) explains how to tie music with assessment; as "music awakens inquiry and active learning in ways that rote memorization and fact recall fall short." [YANA](#) answers a question on using music. [Websites for teachers](#) offers links to useful song and music resources recommended on a teacher listserv. As always, you can read the input from our readers on this subject in the [Readers' Corner](#). We are very pleased to offer an excellent how-to in [Tech for Teachers](#) about MaxAuthor, which teachers can use (without any programming) to create language instruction courseware for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and 44 other languages. [The Culture Club](#) is packed with wonderful resources for teaching culture; this month the focus is on film (Pan's Labyrinth), books, teaching, and photos. [Teachers' Lounge](#) has a contest for the best lesson plan for teaching Italian culture using photos.



Emily's Class

★ Announcements:

- [UN proclaims 2008 as Year of Languages](#) Watch this newsletter for more on related activities as they are announced.
- [National Museum of Language announces its Annual Dinner](#) on June 16, with Guest Speaker J. David Edwards, speaking on: "National Language Policy: Major Changes?"
- NCLRC hosts the [Interagency Language Roundtable \(ILR\) Showcase](#) at George Washington University June 15.
- The Modern Language Association has posted a recent important report, "[Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World](#)."
- [NCLRC's Summer Institutes](#) are open for registration. Register now and reserve your space.
- Have you voiced your opinion yet through our [POLL](#) or our monthly [QUESTION](#)? Be sure to add your voice to those of our other readers on the topics of upcoming issues.
- Click on the [CALENDAR](#) to review conferences, calls for papers, and grant, proposal and scholarship deadlines.

Troubleshooting:

If your email client does not recognize the links in this webzine, or the links do not work, you can go straight to the NCLRC newsletter online page by clicking this link www.nclrc.org/newsletter/english_newsletter.html or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

★ Feature Story

Guitars in the Classroom: High-Yield Song-Based Learning

Interview with Jessica Anne Baron

Guitars in the Classroom (GITC), is a non-profit, California based, national program that brings music into public elementary and middle schools by offering regular classroom teachers free guitar, music education, song leadership, and music integration lessons through regionally based programs. We had the opportunity to talk with Jessica Anne Baron, M.A. the founder and director, and want to share with you her excitement about how this program may contribute to language

★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni

[Visit the Culture Club!](#) The following rooms have been renovated for June: the Speaker's Corner, the Screening Room, the Library, and the Photo Gallery. In the [Speaker's Corner](#) Sheila Cockey describes CulturaClub, a website with an abundance of resources for teachers of Spanish. [The Screening Room](#) offers reviews of films in Danish, French, Italian, and Spanish as well as a Letter to the Editor asking about the suitability of the film Pan's Labyrinth for children. [The Library](#) contains reviews of books in English, French, German, and Spanish.

The [Photo Gallery](#) invites you to enter two new contests: the

teaching. [Read more...](#)



Special "For Your Classroom" Using Music in World Language Performance Assessment

Dr. Jennifer Eddy, Queens College, City University of New York

Music can be integrated into all levels of the world language curriculum. Culturally authentic songs are works of art not only to be heard for appreciation of a particular musical genre or for a listening, cloze activity. These songs should be aligned to a theme, line of inquiry, or idea that appears in the curriculum. This article looks at song lyrics as culturally authentic material for developing standards-based performance assessment tasks with our communicative modes. [Download the article here](#)

★ Teacher's Diary

Sofia is a second-year Spanish teacher at a charter school in the Baltimore area. Each month she shares her journal of reflections on teaching.

Dear Diary,

I am pleased with the way that my classes wrapped up this year, particularly my Spanish IV sections. I was having a hard time getting my Spanish IV students to do their reading homework. I finally took the advice of one of my mentors and started having them do their reading in class utilizing some strategies she suggested. We started using the strategies on a series of essays about the education system in the Spanish-speaking world. ... I consider the unit to have been a success, and I attribute it primarily to the implementation of the reading strategies. In contrast to readings we did had done in the past, the students expressed interest in the subject matter and seemed confident with the content. Ultimately, the majority of them did well on their final assessment... [Read more...](#)

★ Readers' Corner

Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about teaching culture.

Which learning strategies have you taught to your class? Answer our [Poll](#)

What do you do to help your struggling students? Click here to answer the [Question](#)

Last month we asked: **How do you use music in year teaching? Do you ask students to sing in the TL? Do students listen to TL music you have chosen or do they find it themselves? Do you ask students to create their own songs in the TL?** [See the results here...](#)

★ Language at Work

Give your students real-life examples of "what you can do with foreign language." This month we talk to Matthew S. Morrison, International Financier [Read more...](#)



★ Tech for Teachers

by Scott Brill

MaxAuthor - a free multimedia authoring system for language instruction

The University of Arizona Computer Aided Language Instruction Group (UACALI) has produced MaxAuthor, a free for non-commercial use multimedia CALL authoring system.

Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest and the **What in the World? Mystery Photo Contest**. Find out who the winner of the May **Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest** was. No one has yet come up with the correct answer for the **April Mystery Photo Contest**. This is your last chance to win. (Hint: Think Germany!)

Teaching Italian Culture through Photographs: A Contest for Teachers of Italian Are you a teacher of Italian? If so, why not participate in the **Photo-Lesson Plan Contest**? You have an excellent chance of becoming a winner because the number of winners is unlimited! Each winner will receive a contemporary novel in Italian or a set of notecards from Artfully Yours. Go to the [Teacher's Lounge](#) in the Culture Club. Choose one of the four photos (or you may substitute one of your own photos) and use it as the focal point for a culture lesson. Send us your lesson plan including Title of Activity, Language, Proficiency Level, Brief Description of the Activity, Objectives, Materials Needed, and Procedures, Step by Step. In the [Teacher's Lounge](#) you will find a lesson plan based on Photo Number 4, entitled "Street Signs" that was created and submitted by L. Cavaglieri. If you have any questions, contact [Christine](#)

★ Dear YANA

Edited by Sheila Cockey. YANA stands for "You are Not Alone." Your questions on challenges in your classrooms are answered by an expert on languages and culture teaching. This month's questions:

- I have this really cool CD of a very popular singer and I want to share it with my classes. Do you have any suggestions for how I can incorporate it into my lessons and at the same time convey my joy in the music?
- I was on your web site and read some information you have provided for teacher teaching another language but English. I have a demo lesson to perform to a group of 4th graders in Social Studies where 50% are English speakers and 50% Spanish speakers. Could you give some ideas; I'm a little lost.

[Read YANA's answers...](#)

★ Websites for Teachers

Teaching Foreign Language with Music!

by Laura Blythe Liu

After working hard all year, you may be preparing for your summer vacation while also wanting to reflect on a few more creative teaching strategies for your classroom. If you have not already, consider introducing music into your curriculum to both: engage your students and bring an aesthetic emphasis to their work. A number of teachers have made recommendations for this very strategy on the FL Teach listserv. Gathered here are some of the resources and strategies suggested by teachers on this listserv. Enjoy!. [Read more...](#)

★ Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the [Teachers' Calendar](#). Many schools are offering summer institutes for teachers at various locations around the country. Learn about all the events coming up soon [here...](#)

★ Ask Dora

Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages. This month's question:

- I am looking for a part time job as an instructor for Tibetan; could you be very kind to tell me where I should look? [Read Dora's answer...](#)

★ Critical Languages

Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and more

Arabic teachers are needed at the Concordia language villages. Workshops for teachers of Arabic and Chinese are being sponsored by the [StarTalk](#) grants. [Read it all here...](#)

MaxAuthor has been under development for over a decade and was used by authors nationwide to create the eleven widely available Critical Languages Series CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs. Without any programming, MaxAuthor lets you create language instruction courseware for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and 44 other languages. Completed courseware can utilize audio, video, footnotes, and graphics. [Read more...](#)

★NCLRC Staff

It's the end of the traditional school year, and we sadly say goodbye to some of our staff. This month we have presented our last column (see [Websites for Teachers](#)) by Laura Blythe Liu, who is leaving to take care of her baby, and move across the country. We'll miss you, Laura! Thanks for your contributions to the Language Resource! - Jill Robbins, editor

The Language Resource is a monthly publication of the National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.nclrc.org> to provide practical teaching strategies, share insights from research, and announce professional development opportunities for all foreign language educators.

Funded by the US Department of Education through Title VI, we are a consortium of Georgetown University, The George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics.

Also available on our website

[Culture Club](#)

[Arabic K-12 Teachers' newsletter](#)

[Sailing the 5 Cs with Learning Strategies:](#)
A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators

[Portfolio Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom](#)

[Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide](#)

[The Essentials of Language Teaching](#)

[Developing Autonomy in Language Learners:](#) Learning Strategies Instruction in Higher Education

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