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The NCLRC Language Resource

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

A new school year is here, and we are pleased to introduce these new features this month:

- Our new [Study Abroad Blog, Candice al Dente](#), *live from Italy!* Read about her obsession with gelato...and comments on her language classes, too.
- Our [Teacher Diary](#) is now written by a teacher *educator*, Bill, who teaches language teacher candidates at a state university.
- [Teaching Heritage Learners: Root Words](#) provides insights from a teacher of Spanish and a researcher of heritage learners of other languages.



★ Announcements:

- **The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference is coming soon: November 16 - 18, 2007** in San Antonio, TX. [Register and make your travel plans now](#), or [See NCLRC's schedule of presentations at ACTFL](#).
- **The East Coast Organization of Language Testers** announces ECOLT 2007, Current Practices in Language Testing, November 2 - 3, 2007; at The George Washington University, see www.cal.org/ecolt/
- **The Language Materials Project (LMP)** has augmented its offerings for K-12 teachers. Now you can search for materials based on target audience (e.g., elementary, secondary, post-secondary or heritage learners.) The LMP has also added detailed citations of several hundred items for younger audiences. Find it at www.lmp.ucla.edu.
- **LinguaVista** is a new website that allows one to locate high-level language programs in the United States and abroad. You can take a look at LinguaVista at linguavista.casl.umd.edu
- Check out our expanded [Teacher's Calendar](#) with **international conference listings** and all **state and language-specific language teacher conferences**.

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.html or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

★ Feature article

Getting Students to Talk in the Target Language *Sheila Cockey*



What are some ways to engage and involve our students with oral conversation from the very beginning? What are some ways to continue that exciting entrée through the year and through their career as language learners? [Read more...](#)

★ Teacher's Diary

This year our focus changes from classroom language teacher to teacher educator. Bill is a teacher educator in Columbia, South Carolina, and shares his reflections on teaching new language teachers.

Dear Diary,

★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni

What's new in the Culture Club? Three rooms have been completely renovated. [The Banquet Hall](#) features a recipe for Very Versatile French Crêpes from the French Embassy in Washington. [The Music Room](#) includes reviews of CDs in French by Camille; in German by Nena, Annett Louisan, Sportfreunde Stiller, and Udo Lindenberg; and in Spanish by Vicente Fernandez. [The Photo Gallery](#) has two contests, the **Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest** and the **What in the World? Mystery Photo Contest**. Check out the Photo of the Month and photos of graffiti in Barcelona. In the [Internet Media Room](#) you will find a link to Candice's Blog from Rome (see below). Please take a few seconds to respond to the [one-question survey](#) on the Home Page of the Culture Club.

★ Study Abroad Blog: Candice al Dente

Wow, it's the beginning of a new school year ... More than any other year, I'm more anxious about the school year and so are my students, for different reasons... As for my students, they are multitasking constantly. Some are working in area schools as teachers with provisional teaching certificates... The others are enrolled in the traditional education program. Regardless of their current position, they all remain worried about spending so much time/money and exerting so much effort to become an educator while wondering if they'll get a job teaching upon graduation.
[Read more...](#)

★ Teaching Heritage Learners: Root Words



Edited by Jamie Lapore Wright. This new column features an article on a topic related to heritage language learning. We plan to alternate between articles on teaching heritage learners of Spanish and other languages. This month's focus is on teaching heritage learners of Spanish:

Case Study: Founding a High School Spanish for Native Speakers Program

by Belinda Sauret, Ph.D., Oakwood, Georgia Imagine that you are in this situation: As the school year starts you are looking forward to teaching the opening year of the Spanish for Native Speakers classes, the first in your school that is 36% Hispanic. When you go to the bookroom, you find no textbooks on the foreign language shelves other than those for beginners. [Read more...](#)

★ Readers' Corner

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

When you've given a reading or listening assignment how do you follow up in class for understanding?
Answer our [Poll](#)

What is the best listening material that you have found for your language? Click here to answer the [Question](#)

We received a surprisingly large number of responses to our back-to-school poll in the August 2007 newsletter! The question was: **How do you feel at the beginning of the school year?** [Here is a breakdown of the results, from 117 total responses ...](#)

★ Teacher's in the Classroom

Summer Institute Reflections: Kathy Watlington



This summer Panola College Spanish Professor Kathy Watlington attended *Total Immersion for Spanish Teachers* an institute provided by the National Capital Language Resource Center.
[Read more...](#)

★ Languages...? 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:

- My goal is to speak and read Arabic. I would like to learn in an environment that will progress at my pace, and not according to a set schedule.

[Read Dora's answer...](#)

Candice is a student friend of ours on a program in Rome, who is corresponding with Lisa Carlucci, an Italian teacher, and our own Christine Meloni. Follow her adventures throughout this semester as she learns all about Rome. You can comment or give her suggestions, too.

Friday, September 7, 2007: "I haven't had any Italian language classes yet, but I find myself learning words through street signs and ordering food. In Rome, I find myself constantly using the same words over and over again which helps me solidify not only the vocabulary, but also my accent. Additionally, it is extremely helpful to hear different Italians say words, because you can pick up on all the different intonations. Something I learned the other day after seeing what I thought was an argument on the bus was that when Italians speak loudly it is not a sign of disrespect or an argument. It is a way for them to show that they are paying attention to the conversation. ...This weekend we will be going to La Notte Bianca! If you have any suggestions on what to see during this event let me know!" [Read Candice's Blog](#)

★ Dear YANA

Classroom Solutions: Teaching in the Target Language

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 question:



- I want to teach in the target language (TL) as much as possible, but with level one students it is difficult. I will start doing it and we'll see how it goes. Do you have any ideas for me?

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

★ Tech for Teachers

Let the Dry Erase markers dry out; try Skrb! by Ben Redmond, George Washington University Borrowing its concept from schools around the world, Skrb! (pronounced "scribble"), a new online application, provides users with a simple and fun way to share ideas, files, and photos, all with the ease of writing on a classroom whiteboard. For language educators looking for a truly interactive, free discussion board to communicate with both colleagues and students in real time, this represents quite a step up from dry-erase markers.



[Read more ...](#)

beta
skrb!

★ Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the Teachers' Calendar. Find out what conferences are coming your way this year [here...](#) Also, see grants and scholarships [here](#)

★ Critical Languages

Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and more

Columbia University announces its **Asia in the Curriculum** symposium; CASLS is looking for teachers and students to participate in their third and final year of the **FLAP grant-funded project, NOELLA** [Read it all here...](#)

★NCLRC Staff

We asked for your contributions in August, and got several responses from readers with ideas for articles. Thanks for your contributions to the Language Resource! In September, we added to our staff of student interns. See their bios and pictures on [our staff page](#). The first new contribution, by Ben Redmond, can be seen in our [Websites for Teachers](#) column.- 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.

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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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