

The NCLRC Language Resource



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

We congratulate the [National Museum of Language](#) on opening its first exhibit. Our theme this month is **Content Based Instruction with Science. For Your Classroom** offers a lesson on **Fantastic Frogs**. **Root Words** discusses the I-Search Unit, an inquiry based approach to meet the research needs of diverse learners. We put the spotlight on our high-tech **summer institute, You-Tube Video**. Our **teacher diarist** talks about setting professional goals, while **YANA** helps a teacher who wants to improve student motivation. As usual, in the **Culture Club**, you can catch up on trends, read book and movie reviews, and interact on a blog where readers share experiences with **Culture Shocks**.



★ Announcements:

- ACTFL's 2008 conference will be in Orlando, Florida from November 21-23. [See their website to register and reserve housing.](#)
- STARTALK summer institutes for teachers and students of Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, and Persian will be held across the U.S. this summer. Many programs have generous stipends and scholarships. [See full list.](#)
- The 15 Language Resource Centers across the U.S. offer a wide range of low-cost government subsidized summer institutes for teachers of foreign languages. [See full list.](#)
- The [NCLRC 2008 Summer Institutes](#) in Washington, D.C. are beginning. Leaders in foreign language education share ideas and methods with small groups of teachers from around the country.

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

“Writing Language: Passing It On” Exhibit Opens the National Museum of Language

by Karelia Pallan

Scores of D.C. area residents and students enjoyed exhibits and activities



★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni

Complete the second annual [Culture Club Scavenger Hunt](#), and you may be the winner of a scholarship for an NCLRC summer institute.

Check out the renovated rooms for May: A new [Mystery Photo Contest](#) has been launched. The Screening Room offers new reviews of [French, Italian, Russian, Swedish, and Spanish films](#). Discover new [Russian](#)

aimed at teaching the importance of language at the grand opening of the National Museum of Language in College Park, MD on May 3. Visitors learned about writing systems around the world, including those that are written with letters from an alphabet like Arabic, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and those that use symbols like Chinese and Japanese. "Today is something very monumental," said Board of Directors member David Zorc at the opening. "There are only 3 such institutions in the world." [Read more...](#)



★ Teacher's Diary

Bill teaches a foreign language practicum course in South Carolina. Each month he shares his journal of reflections on teaching.

Setting Sail and Arriving at Your Destination

Dear Diary,

What a great year this has turned out to be! Sure, there have been moments that resembled a rollercoaster ride professionally, but overall, the year went incredibly well. Each year I set specific professional goals...write them down and post them on my wall in my office... I encourage my students to do the same. As Fitzhugh Dodson said, "Without goals, and plans to reach them, you are like a ship that has set sail with no destination."

[Read More...](#)

★ Readers' Corner

Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about connecting to the community in language teaching.

Which of these approaches do you employ to encourage your students to connect to the TL community? [Answer our Poll](#)

How do you connect your language class to the community of the target language? [Click here to answer the Question](#)

Last month we asked: What elements of science do you discuss in the Target Language? [See the results here...](#)

★ For your Classroom

Fantastic Frogs - Lesson Ideas for Science and Foreign Language Learning

Reviewed by Karelia Pallan



Language teachers often have lessons that revolve around culture: food, music, fashion, history, traditions, and sites

and Spanish music in the Music Room.

Also, be sure to go to the [CultureShocks blog](#) for amusing new stories about cross-cultural mishaps.

As always, Culture Club Editor Christine Meloni would like to encourage you to send her materials for the many rooms of the Culture Club. She is looking for photos, menus with recipes, lessons plans, essays on culture, URLs for foreign-language media sites, stories for the CultureShocks blog, and reviews of films, books, and music. She thanks you in advance!

★ Teaching Heritage Learners: Root Words



Belinda A. Sauret

Edited by Jamie Lepore Wright.

This column features an article on a topic related to heritage language learning and news for teachers of heritage learners.

This month: Using the I-Search to Promote Student Investigation

By Belinda Sauret

It's not always easy to find topics to interest and inspire students, and if I let them choose their own topics,

I'm likely to read a lot of narrative... However, last spring when a colleague presented a talk about the I-Search, I felt that I had found a method that would allow me to combine the motivational power of affect with some real student research, and even some expansion into a more academic mode of discourse. [Read more ...](#)

★ Classroom Solutions: 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 question:



- I am teaching levels 3 and 5AP this year and find that my students aren't as enthusiastic as they have been in the past about learning a foreign language. I would love for them to be more excited about learning culture through such things as music or television programs. When I ask them to watch a TV program at home, they don't want to do it. **What can I do to change their approach to learning the language? [Read YANA's answers...](#)**

★ Tech for Teachers in our Summer Institutes

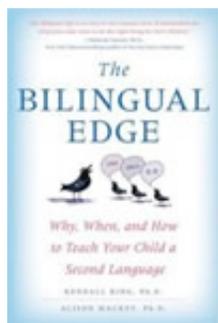


of a particular area. But few know how to teach an equally important subject - science - in a different language. Using the Background Knowledge technique, the Spanish "Fantastic Frogs" lesson plan in The Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide guides instructors through a

sample lesson integrating science in foreign language learning. In "Fantastic Frogs," instructors simultaneously teach students the life cycle of frogs and the language structure of sequences of events. [Read more..](#)

★ **Special Feature: The Bilingual Edge**

Our colleagues at Georgetown have published a book for parents who want their child to be bilingual. This may be a helpful resource for teachers of young children when answering questions from parents about the benefits of bilingualism and how to go about raising a bilingual child. [More information.](#)



★ **NCLRC Awards and Staff**



NCLRC has received the [Talking Hands Award](#) from [Lancaster's Laughing Place](#). The Talking Hands Award recognizes web site authors, who provide "a web site which teaches, contains

teaching elements in sufficient detail, and otherwise leaves a visitor with something of significant value." NCLRC is honored to receive this award, and conveys congratulations to our tireless webmaster, **Susana Echeverría**, for her constant efforts to keep the site in compliance with standards for accessibility and clarity of expression. And thanks to all of our staff who do their best to find all the useful information each month and put it into this newsletter for you, our dear readers!

Farewell to our graduating interns



We congratulate our graduating interns, Ben Redmond

by Jill Robbins, editor Our summer institutes have begun this week, and we are looking forward to seeing many of our readers in person over the next month. We're planning one high-tech institute, for video beginners: **"You Tube Video and Beyond"** which will help you create language videos for distribution on YouTube. Videos of interviews with native speakers help bring the language and the culture into the classroom. Once you get the hang of it, send your students out to shoot, interview, edit, and upload original authentic foreign-language material. [Read about all the institutes here...](#)

★ **Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities**

We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the [Teachers' Calendar](#) where you can find out what conferences are coming your way in 2008.

[See the revised grants section 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:

- Can you help us find resources about the **Karen language**? My students recently had a student enroll who is literate in that language, but they don't have anyone who can communicate with him. [Read Dora's answer...](#)

★ **Marcos in Madrid**

Marcos Murillo is an NCLRC intern who is studying in Madrid this semester. He is blogging in English and Spanish about his experiences there. Your students may be interested in reading about Marco's adventures in Europe.



- Since our last update on February, Marcos has been all around Spain, with stories and pictures about the many cities he has visited: Córdoba, Segovia, Salamanca, Barcelona, y Cotos. Unfortunately he has also been a little sick, so he has also a post about Spain Hospitals and health care system. [Read Marcos' blog...](#)

★ **Testing Tips**

Testing Needs *By Margaret E. (Meg) Malone, Ph.D. -*

and Mary Claire Peroutka, who have graduated from GWU and Georgetown University respectively. Thank you for the wonderful work you have done here and best wishes for success in your bright future!

The beautiful photo at the top of this month's newsletter is by our intern, Karelia Pallan.

Jill Robbins, editor

Center for Applied Linguistics

Last month, I wrote about audiences for testing and focused on students and the testing process. This month, we're going to think about a larger range of audiences and their needs both in the actual testing situation and in reporting student outcomes. To maximize test results, it is most important to plan for assessment to make sure that the needs of all groups- students, instructors, administrators, parents, the business community- will be met by the results. [Read more...](#)

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

[Russian for Russians](#)

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