

The NCLRC Language Resource



VOL. 13, NO. 1

[LTE 2009 Conference](#)

February 2009

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

Each month this year we are looking at a theme from the [Language Teacher Education Conference](#). This month's theme is [Collaborations in Language Teacher Education](#). Discover the government language initiative in the [National Language Service Corps](#) in our [Feature Story](#). See collaboration at work in the [Proficiency Oriented Curriculum Handbook](#) with sample lessons. [Teacher's Diary](#) finds Anita dealing with difficult students. This month's [Testing Tips](#) focuses on a new, free (!) resource for language instructors. Our [Critical Languages](#) news announces the 2009 Chinese Guest Teacher Program and much more. The newest edition of the NEALLT newsletter is available in [Tech for Teachers](#). [Dora and friends](#) answer a question about successful early language learning programs. [Culture Club](#) is updated with new music reviews, a photo contest, an Italian recipe, and book reviews. Be sure you check out our [Arabic and Russian Webcasts](#), which we're podcasting, too.



★ Announcements:

- Registration is now open for NCLRC's exciting [summer institutes](#).
- NCLRC & CARLA announce [Preparing Teachers for the 21st Century: the Sixth International Language Teacher Educators](#) conference in Washington **May 28 - 30, 2009**. [Read details of the invited symposia here](#).
- Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Applications are now available from the Institute of International Education and the [Department of State](#)
- Apply to host a Chinese or Egyptian Exchange Teacher through [American Councils for International Education](#)

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



Patriotic Opportunities for Critical Language Speakers - Language for the Good of All

★ Culture Club

A new [Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest](#) has been launched in the [Photo Gallery](#), and the photos of the November contest have been successfully identified. (Teachers of Spanish, please note!) In the [Music Room](#) Spanish Film Editor Andrea Varricchio recommends "[Lo mejor de Andrea Bocelli-Vivere](#)" for the Spanish classroom. An Italian recipe for a pasta dish, [Pasta al Forno alla Pio](#), is featured in the

The government continues to introduce initiatives that highlight the importance of foreign language programs among teachers, students and the U.S. population as a whole. In 2006, the National Security Education Program (NSEP) created the congressionally mandated pilot program-- the National Language Service Corps (NLSC) in an effort to gauge the interest of multi-lingual Americans willing to serve language communities and the government in times of national need. [Read more...](#)

★ Teacher's Diary

Anita is a first year Spanish teacher in a suburban school near Chicago. She is sharing her thoughts and experiences all this year with our readers.

Dear Diary,

It's February! One semester down, one to go! I am totally looking forward to this semester. I am more comfortable in my teacher skin, my bag-o-tricks is growing, I know how to use the gradebook and other programs, and I have good working relationships with everyone in the building. There's only one problem I wish I knew how to deal with...[Read more...](#)

★ Heritage Learners

Root Words: Ninging the praises of *My Friends - Spanish for Native Speakers - An interview with Sara Urquhart* by Belinda A. Sauret

So, why are you reading about Spanish for Native Speakers on the Internet? Wouldn't it be faster to go to the teacher next door and ask her what to do with the students who struggle to tell "hogar" from "ahogar" when they read? Why not just turn to the new and fun SNS activities section of your regular Spanish textbook? In your dreams, right? In my dreams, come to think about it. And, as it turns out, in Sara Urquhart's dreams too. [Read more...](#)

★ Readers' Corner

Monthly Question

What have you learned from the experience of being observed? Who observed you? In what context? [Click here to answer the Question.](#)

Poll

How do you feel about being observed as a teacher? [Click here to answer the Poll.](#)

We would love to hear your thoughts and feelings regarding this month's questions! All insights are welcome!

★ For Your Classroom

Proficiency-Oriented Language Instruction and Assessment: A Curriculum Handbook for Teachers

Diane J. Tedick, Editor, The Minnesota Articulation Project

This marvelous resource has both classroom tasks and thematic units. Each task and unit appears in a standard format or template that stipulates the corresponding theme, standards, level, purpose, functions, language structures, cultural aspects, and modalities. We sample two lessons this month. [Read more...](#)

★ Critical Languages

[Banquet Hall](#). Check out the [Culture Shocks blog](#) for new stories about coping with cultural differences (focus: *When in Rome*). [The Library](#) features reviews of three books (German, Italian, and Norwegian).

★ Tech for Teachers

The newest edition of the Northeast Association of Language Learning Technology (NEALLT) newsletter is out. [Click here](#) to access the document.

★ 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 2009.

★ Ask Dora

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

This month question:

- I know that the earlier one starts learning a language the better, but I need the research to show a committee. Do you know where I could find some? Is there any research that focuses on Non-western languages specifically, namely Arabic and Chinese?

[Read Dora's answer](#)

★ Summer Institutes Highlights



Guitars in the Spanish Language Classroom

Music helps students integrate what they have learned in a world language. Participants in this NCLRC Summer Institute who had never played the guitar learned how to play simple chords to accompany Spanish songs to enhance and enrich the classroom experience.

This [Guitars in the Spanish Language Classroom institute](#) will be offered again from June 25 - 26 and is generously sponsored by Godin Guitars, Dunlop Manufacturing, and The John and Joan D'Addario Foundation. Participants take home a free guitar. Watch an online version of the highlights or download in iTunes. [Read more...](#)

★ Testing Tips

Introducing the *Foreign Language Assessment Directory* and companion tutorial, *Understanding Assessment*

This month's Testing Tips focuses on a new, free (!) resource for language instructors. The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) is pleased to launch the *Foreign Language Assessment Directory (FLAD)* and its companion tutorial, *Understanding Assessment*. The goal of these two resources is to provide foreign language instructors and administrators with free, online access to information on hundreds of available language tests as well as the tools and concepts needed to select an appropriate assessment. [Read more...](#)

Bring a Chinese Guest Teacher to Your School!

The College Board, in partnership with National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSSFL) and The Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), announces the 2009 Chinese Guest Teacher Program. Opportunities for Summer Institutes, Foreign Teaching Assistants and Exchange teachers are announced, and we link to a wide range of resources for students and teachers of Arabic [Read more...](#)

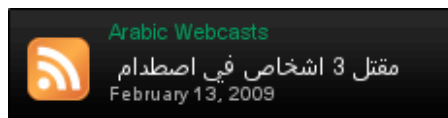
★NCLRC Staff

Best wishes to our intern, Mary Claire, who is leaving for a new job! Another intern, Erica, is on her way to Santiago, Chile and will be blogging from there. Stay tuned! - [The NCLRC Staff](#)

CAL, NCLRC, and the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association offer a SOPI workshop. [Details and application form.](#)

★Webcasts

NCLRC announces new podcasts in Russian and Arabic. These are drawn from twice-monthly webcasts with student activities. See [Russian](#) and [Arabic](#) home pages.



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](#)

[Back to Top](#)

[NCLRC Website](#)

[Unsubscribe from this newsletter](#)