

Regional Reports

MAALLT

MAALLT held its 2001 conference, "Language Instruction In the Digital Age", April 6-7 at Duke University, hosted by Samantha Earp. We had our best attendance in years, with thirty participants from six states, including language center directors, IT support staff, college language faculty, and high school teachers.

Our Friday session included pre-conference workshops on instructional technology project planning and incorporation of digital audio and video. On Saturday, we began the conference proper with a keynote presentation by Bobby Hobgood, a teacher education specialist with Learn North Carolina, a statewide network of educators using Internet to improve K-12 education in North Carolina. Samantha Earp, Rachel Saury and Chris Higgins led a roundtable discussion of current technology issues in language teaching and academic support. Our next two sessions focused on uses of the Web for teaching. Carolyn Lee of Duke University talked about the development of her Blackboard-based authentic video modules, while Fabienne Gérard and Claudia Hausburg of Cary Academy presented their on-line French history course for high school students. After lunch, Dan Swanwick of Duke's National Foreign Language Resource Center for Slavic and Eastern European Languages gave an overview of open source technologies and their use in language teaching materials. Karl Fisher of Sewanee gave two presentations, one about library software for language lab management, and then another (as a pinch hitter for a presenter who had to cancel at the last minute) about a Mellon-funded project on music for the Spanish language classroom. This presentation was especially fun, as we all got to sing along with Karl and take home a copy of his CD of popular Spanish and Latin American songs (fully licensed and copyright compliant!). We ended the official conference with Samantha's overview of Blackboard, followed by a business meeting and the election of new officers. It was a great experience overall, and we were all pleased that MAALLT's efforts at rebuilding have

been successful.

Submitted by Samantha Earp. Information about MAALLT's spring 2002 conference can be found in the End of the Reel section.

NEALL

The weather was windy and raw but the company was excellent at the NEALL 2001 Conference at SUNY Stony Brook March 23-25, 2001. Mike Ledgerwood was the consummate host, as he and his capable staff oversaw every detail, from pre-conference software installations and parking permits to a wonderful reception, meals, and coffee breaks. Our thanks to Mike and Kris Vandenberg, his office manager, as well as the myriad students, all of whom made our stay on Long Island pleasant and productive.

The conference kicked off Friday morning with a series of two pre-conference sessions focused on digitizing materials for technology-enhanced teaching. Claire Bradin Siskin and David Malicki taught the morning session, "Sound Advice for QuickTime," which led registrants through the pedagogical uses for digitized audio and the process for creating it. In the afternoon, Keeta Martin, Mike Jones, Kathy Lewis and Tom Forstik discussed streaming QuickTime movies - both video and audio- with an OSX Server, and showed participants how to compress captured video, optimize it for streaming, and embed those streaming files in Web pages.

Professor Charles Franco, Chair of the Department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Stony Brook greeted us warmly Saturday morning, and then it was on to the business of the day. Jack Burston discussed the challenges of software acquisitions for our Centers, while Michele Sims and Robin Clouser demonstrated the use of digitized clips for a German film course. Next we heard from Julie James and Valerie Van Note-Krieder on the plusses and pitfalls of web-based language teaching for both on-line and traditional courses with a Web component. Following lunch, we were met with balloons and chocolates, festive touches used by Mary Beth Barth and Chris Ingersoll in promoting the innovative nature of their Language Center web site at Hamilton College. The final sessions of the day were panel presentations and discussions, where lively debate was the norm. Dinner provided a welcome opportunity to further discuss issues raised during the course of the day.

Sunday morning dawned bright but still very windy. Mike Ledgerwood sparked a spirited debate over professionalizing - and possibly accrediting - Center Directors, while Mike Jones and Kathy Lewis discussed the perennial problems of student workers, including the time-drain training has on the Director, the institution's expectations that student workers offer a viable alternative to professional staff, and the issue of projects begun by students for faculty members turning into extra work for Directors when the students graduate or fail to complete work because of academic or social pressures. After everyone had had his say, we adjourned to a combination lunch / Business Meeting, after which we said our good-byes - many only until May and the IALL Conference - and headed home, having pronounced the weekend an unqualified success.

Adapted by Journal staff from an article written by Kathleen Lewis for the NEALL April 2001 newsletter, available on-line at <http://www.neall.org>. Information about NEALL's spring 2002 conference can be found in the End of the Reel section.

SEALL

In conjunction with the Low Country Instructional Technology Conference and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology of South Carolina, SEALL 2001 was held at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, March 6-8. Approximately 25 SEALL participants attended the joint conference, which had about 150 total participants. There were 10 SEALL presentations, and 50 presentations by other participants.

SEALL Presentations included Lydia Froio (Maisonneuve College), "Easy Quiz and Dictation Software 2. Language through Literature and Music Software," "Developing a Web Site the Easy Way," Read Gilgen (University of Wisconsin), "What's the Point? PowerPoint in the Foreign Language Extremadura) "Electronic Dictionary Applications for the Development of Teaching Materials in English for Specific Purposes," Rachida Primov (University of Miami), "Digitization of Audio Materials for Remote Access," and Katianna Fulcher and Heather Stokes (Georgetown High School), "Using Technology to Enhance Foreign Language Instruction."

Georgia Schlau planned and hosted the SEALL conference, which included a Ghost Walk Thursday evening, and a reception and dinner in the College of Charleston Faculty House

on Friday. Participants also enjoyed the traditional SEALL Breakfast/business meeting at the Francis Marion Hotel.

Adapted from the SEALL Newsletter, Fall 2001. ♦