Academic Year 2016 represents a number of important milestones for the Anderson Language and Technology Center. This year our center is up for its second, regular review since I became director. Agreed, the unexamined life is the one not worth living, and just as seriously, our last review has been instrumental in setting a clear direction for this entire decade. This fall we are also initiating a series of focus group discussions in preparation for a proposal to remodel of our multimedia library (Hellems 159), which, if accepted, may just be completed by this same time next year. As significant as those two activities may be, I am very pleased to say that two other events will be instantly categorized as truly historical. First is the joining of the Modified Foreign Language Program (MFLP), directed by Jean Bouchard, with ALTEC. Second is the inauguration of the ALTEC ELEVATE online graduate certificate program led by ALTEC’s 10-year veteran Edwige Simon.

The Modified Foreign Language Program was developed at CU-Boulder during the late 80’s and early 90’s. The MFLP is a curricular modification in the foreign languages for college students who demonstrate inordinate difficulty learning a foreign language. It uses a unique approach of explicit teaching in grammar and pronunciation in a multi-sensory and interactive learning environment. The highly unique MFLP serves nearly 200 students per year with 170 seats in modified classes available for qualifying students. We at ALTEC extend a warm welcome to Bouchard, who has worked for the
Routine and History to be set at ALTEC in AYA 2016

Continued from page 1...

MFLP for ten years and eight years as its director, and who was part of the original team that developed the testing methods for identification of students at-risk for failure in mainstream foreign language classes.

The ELEVATE certificate program is led by the inimitable Edwige Simon (for more on the details of ELEVATE, see article on page 3, this issue), and is designed to provide language teaching professionals with the theoretical and practical underpinning behind the use of technology-based language learning. Just as the MFLP is unique, many parts of ELEVATE will make it stand out, as well. That includes a proficiency-building component that will model a Virtual Immersion, video-conferencing-mediated interactivity that is one of the greatest affordances brought about by the Internet. We feel that ELEVATE will become a standard for in-service teacher training in technology and will attract K-12 teachers, graduate students, and higher education faculty.

Along with the important milestones, ALTEC will be keeping busy with its usual panoply of activities including the hosting the Foreign Language Technology Program, supporting faculty in the integration of technology and innovation into the curriculum, offering non-credit classes, acquiring and lending out resources, maintaining our two smart classrooms, and leading the Second Language Acquisition reading group. History and routine — that should make for an interesting blend!

Fall FLTP Schedule

Check out the fall FLTP schedule, we have a fantastic line-up of brand new workshops this fall! We made small changes to our policy on non-ALTEC workshops. You may now count up to three non-ALTEC professional development events towards the FLTP. Visit altec.colorado.edu/FLTP for more information on this policy or to sign up for a workshop. Feel free to contact Edwige Simon if you have any questions.

Highlighted Speakers

- Alaina Beaver
- Giorgio Corda
- Mark Knowles
- Alireza Mohammadrezabeig
- Terri Nelson
- Edwige Simon
- Laura Walter
Graduate Student Scholarships

The first course of ALTEC’s graduate certificate in technology integration in the language classroom starts October 5. ALTEC will offer up to four scholarships to graduate students from the language departments at the University of Colorado Boulder. The scholarships will pay for 50% of the tuition for the first course. Scholarships will be allocated on a first come first serve basis to all qualified candidates. If you would like to take the course that starts October 5th, please email Edwige.Simon@Colorado.EDU.

Fall Language Classes

Learn a new language in a fun and low stress environment! Registration for our fall classes is now open. This fall we are offering various levels of Chinese, French, Hindi, Spanish, and Swahili! These classes are non-credit and are open to CU Staff, Faculty, Graduate Students, Retirees and their spouses, as well as the Boulder community. Classes begin September 21st and meet two hours per week for eight weeks. Tuition is $75 for CU affiliates, and $150 for community members. To register and for more information visit: altec.colorado.edu/language-classes.
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#embracewanderlust

HLMS 159

$25 CASH ONLY

Grab one today & #embracewanderlust
Dr. Terri Nelson of CA State University presents Paris Occupé

An instructor-created role-playing game (RPG) where students take on fictional identities was used to learn about Nazi-occupied Paris. The combination of historical information learned through more traditional course materials (fiction and nonfiction in a variety of media) plus the personal, emotional engagement with their RPG character, is helping students engage in higher level critical thinking skills and express more nuanced emotional, moral and philosophical stances in French while developing a more comprehensive and realistic understanding of this complex time period. This presentation will also discuss the game design features underlying the content delivery and linguistic scaffolding.

Why #embracewanderlust?

By definition, wanderlust is a German word for the irresistibly strong desire to travel or wander. Here at ALTEC we want to encourage language learners to embrace this desire to travel and expand their horizons. Traveling can connect us with other cultures, promote self-discovery, and provide opportunities to learn and improve upon foreign language skills. In the words of author Bill VanPatten, "...the only learners who become advanced are those who have lots of exposure to input and interaction with speakers of the language. These learners study abroad, work and live abroad...or otherwise have a good deal of contact with the language in communicative situations. No learner who is restricted to learning [in a classroom] sense becomes advanced in the same way.”

Guest Speaker Spotlight

Dr. Terri Nelson of CA State University presents Paris Occupé
Focus Groups on Remodeling ALTEC Media Library

ALTEC invites an exchange of ideas on repurposing the Multimedia Library (Hellems 159) to move its focus from a computer lab to a mixed-use philosophy better supporting the varied needs of language students and language facility. For this purpose, we welcome you to any of the eight different focus group times (see right). We want to hear from as many voices as possible, and will offer refreshments as a token of gratitude for your participation.

All focus groups will meet in the Media Library (Hellems 159) itself.

Dates and Times:

Thursday, September 17th
Group 1: 11:30am - 12:30pm
Group 2: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Friday, September 18th
Group 1: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Group 2: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Thursday, September 24th
Group 1: 11:30am - 12:30pm
Group 2: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Friday, September 25th
Group 1: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Group 2: 4:00pm - 5:00pm