I’ll always remember 2008 for the great decision I made to move across country in order to become Director of ALTEC. Upon my arrival, it was quite clear that I walked into an ideal position, with things moving forward on many fronts for the Anderson Language Technology Center.

A huge thank you goes to Heather Beasley for the amazing work she did to keep ALTEC not only on track but moving forward. Under her direction, many things happened to make ALTEC a force for the future. Through the generous help of a President’s Diversity and Excellence Grant, ALTEC collaborated with the International English Center to offer an ESL pilot program for UCB staff. This program complemented our regular slate of classes offered to our staff and faculty. Heather also was instrumental in the redesign of the Mac Lab in Hellems Hall, and ALTEC continued its now growing tradition of offering first-rate technology workshops (with Edwige being the point person on that).

2008 was also the year that we got a start on our self-study process, and that kept me fairly busy right up until the December 19 deadline of the first draft. Self-study offers everyone an all-important time to step back, reflect on accomplishments, and think towards the future. It gave me an opportunity to meet many important stakeholders for ALTEC and to discuss the broad landscape of possibilities that represents the role the language teaching community would like ALTEC to play. Given our past and the professionalism of our staff (Santé Jonker, David Nicoll, Edwige Simon, and Jonathan Nickerson, along with a great group of UCB student employees), I’m quite convinced that ALTEC will step up to the challenge and become a mainstay in the language learning scene here.

ALTEC will always be directly associated with technology, and that is a charge we will never try to abandon. But another important area that ALTEC would like to help language professionals explore through ALTEC events – and one that is highly related to the successful adoption of technology – is that of teacher voice and the fundamental role teachers’ beliefs, assumptions, and knowledge play in renewing the language learning environment at CU-Boulder.

One new addition to the ALTEC palate is a our CUBALTEC Ning web instance. The URL for this is http://cubaltec.ning.com/. To find out more about Ning, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ning (yes, sometimes Wikipedia does provide a high fact-to-error ratio). Or simply point at http://www.ning.com. As a parenthetical comment, may I just say that sometimes the nomenclature of new web offerings can be both perplexing and yet, somehow, inspired? To know that Ning is “peace” in Chinese certainly doesn’t define or explain much about this useful social networking tool, but “Ning” can be the result of useful social networking, right?

CUBALTEC is intended to “virtualize” discussions that begin within the physical space of ALTEC, and to provide food for thought for what I hope to be regular brownbag discussions on topics near and dear to the hearts of language teaching professionals. What’s on slate for The First Topic? Keep posted on http://cubaltec.ning.com. As Director of ALTEC, I look forward to meeting with all our language faculty and collaborating with them on projects that will promote new ways for our students to interact with us, to learn language, and to see the world.

- Mark
Control System Updated in Hellems 152

Jonathan and Santé successfully updated the control system in Hellems 152. The new system eliminates the need for multiple remote controls and facilitates the transition between the VCR, DVD player and computer. This upgrade also allows the system to support a wide range of laptop brands and models, and increases the quality of the picture projected on the main screen. See for yourself next time you are in the room!

Spring Language Classes

The ALTEC spring language classes are underway. This semester faculty, staff, and graduate students from many departments are taking classes in Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish. A few classes were cancelled due to low enrollment but we are determined to get Portuguese going again, and also introduce some of the less commonly taught languages to the campus. The ALTEC language program offers summer classes, too (check our website for updates). Many thanks to the dedicated students and instructors who make this program possible year after year!

Classes Start January 26th

Cost: $65

Full Course List: altec.colorado.edu/languageclasses

Brave the World

ALTEC is offering 8 week non-credit language courses available ONLY to CU retirees, faculty, staff, graduate students and their spouses.

Contact:
david.nicoll@colorado.edu
303-492-8224
By Edwige Simon  
FLTP Coordinator

A total of 81 students participated in FLTP workshops this fall. The most popular workshop was Voicethread and we are offering it again in the spring. For those who never attended an FLTP workshop, remember that you can start at any time and take as many or as few workshops as you want! Snacks and refreshments are always provided.

I hope to see many new faces in the spring!

Spring 2009

WORKSHOPS

January

Instructional Design and Technology  
1/26 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

February

Voicethread  
2/9 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

Technology Sampler  
(4Evernote, Jing, Evernote)  
2/23 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

March

Ning  
3/2 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

Technology Share-Fair  
with Erin Kearney and Ph.D Nelleke Van Deusen-Scholl from Yale Center for Language Study  
3/20 Fri. 9am-4pm

April

Second Life  
4/6 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

Online Language Learning  
4/20 Mon. 9am-11am 1pm-3pm

Note: All events take place in Hellems 152

FLTP K-12 Outreach  
April 18th, 2009

Following the success of last year’s K-12 language technology institute, we have been receiving numerous requests to offer additional workshops. This year, ALTEC will pursue its outreach efforts by:

- Organizing a one-day workshop on Voicethread on April 18th, 2009.
- Offering a two day language technology summer institute (June 2009)
- Opening the online workshops to the K-12 community

We are also inviting the modern language departments to suggest possible ways that ALTEC can support foreign language teaching and learning at the K-12 level.

New Website

The FLTP now has its own website. Check it out at http://altec.colorado.edu/FLTP. New features include a new login system and a personalized record system so that you can keep track of your progress.

Lead Program

Job Opportunity

ALTEC is starting a lead program this semester. Leads’ responsibilities include advertising upcoming FLTP workshops, helping plan special events, and meeting monthly with Mark Knowles and Edwige Simon. Courtney Fell (Spanish and Portuguese) and Juliette Bourdier (French and Italian) have agreed to be the leads for their respective departments. We are looking for leads for GSL and ALC. If you’re interested contact Edwige Simon.
Course (Re)Design Projects

ALTEC is investigating faculties’ interest in participating in two course (re) design projects (one language course and one literature/culture course will be chosen). This team-based project would combine ALTEC’s expertise in pedagogy and instructional technology and two faculty members’ scholarly and/or pedagogical specialization. The proposed courses would take full advantage of the latest instructional technologies and provide a state-of-the-art example of technology integration in the foreign language curriculum. This project offers a unique opportunity to increase ALTEC’s collaboration with our foreign language departments while supporting excellence in teaching through technology integration. At this stage, we would like to gather some information on your level of interest for this idea, suggestions of course topics that would be a good fit for this project and possible incentives. Please fill out our survey: http://tinyurl.com/dfveut

The survey is open to faculty only: tenured, non-tenured and instructors.

New Arrivals

Multimedia Library

Italian

Kaos
I verbi italiani per tutti [print]
L’Italia e cultura [print]
Il ladro di bambini [print]
Guardie e ladri [DVD]
Io sono un autarchico
Bianca
Aprile
Jona che visse nella balena
Amore in citta

Sogni d’oro
I sognatori
La pelle
La Dolce Vita
Ladri di biciclette
Il grande cocomero
Vogliamo anche le rose
Il gioco di Ripley
Marianna Ucria
La ciociara

German

Dva Kapitana
Zelenyi Dom
Nichego Lichnogo
Artisty
Prikhodite Zavtra
Niotkuda s Liubov’iu
Roi
Beshkempir, The Adopted Son [DVD]
Solntse

Spanish

Day Watch
Vstrecha Na El’be
Strastnoi bul’var
Maksinka
Elegg of the Land
Zhena Stalina (Dir. Massarygin)

Download the course materials request form at http://altec.colorado.edu