

# Newsletter

## Director's Note



### Spring 2011 Issue

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If I were to draw up a list of the most intriguing and/or useful quadrennial events around, by their sheer size, the Olympics, the World Cup, and the Presidential Elections would certainly find their way onto it. But my very subjective vote for the number one place would be for something that goes by the slightly cumbersome name of "Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education."

Of all the wonderful things that the Modern Language Association does to cement its authority in the language field, this comprehensive survey is the most amazing. The effort to put it all together is not unlike a US Census except that it is 2.5 times as frequent, it limits its queries to approximately 2,800 higher ed institutions, and it asks different questions. The just-released 2010 report is no exception in its prodigiousness as it points to some telling and sometimes surprising trends. My eyes were almost immediately drawn to the 19.2% increase in enrollments in less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) since 2006. Most of us would not be surprised to see Hindi, Swahili, and Modern Greek in the top five list (out of 244 LCTLs), but who would have guessed that Vietnamese, with 2,715 enrollments, would be at the very top of the heap? More astonishing for me was the fifth-place finish for a language whose speech community is not located on anything that can be defined geographically as a continent. Which language is that you say? Hawai'ian!

Probably more pertinent for us at CU is the fact that language enrollments continue to grow, inching their way upward at a 6.6% growth rate towards the 2,000,000 mark. One non-news item is that Spanish dominates all other languages with 864,986 enrollments (it almost single-handedly outpaces all other languages combined), but there is evidence that its years of skyrocketing growth may be diminishing. On the other hand, if the housing market could track the enrollment increases in Arabic (46.3%), Korean (19.1%), Chinese (18.2%) or ASL (16.4%), we would be out of the recession and heading for the next great real estate bubble by now. The MLA report also dispels some stubborn myths. It would, for example, be very unwise to believe that gains in Chinese should lead to cuts in Japanese programs. There is no zero-sum game between those two languages to which a 10.3% jump in Japanese enrollments will attest.

The new year is as good a time as any to offer predictions for the next four years, so here it goes: Portuguese, which had a 22.4% increase in enrollments from 2002-06 and a 10.8% increase from 2006-2009, will have a repeat of its 2002-06 spike. LCTLs will continue their surge upward, and one LCTL in particular, Catalan, will double its current national enrollment of 110, aided primarily by one institution of higher education, CU-Boulder. Finally, the Rocky Mountain region lagged in its enrollments, posting an anemic gain of 1.56% between 2006 and 2009, compared to the South Atlantic which had nearly an 11% rise. Maybe for that statistic, as well, we can make a difference the next time around.

# What We've Been Up To...

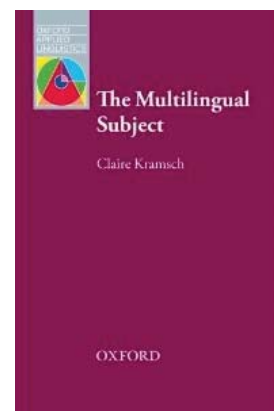
## PC Classroom/Art Donation



The newly renovated PC classroom is now up and running. We are in the process of decorating it with cultural artifacts, paintings and prints donated by various members of the CU Boulder language departments. Our generous donors are recognized through plates on the corner of each piece. We have some room left and are still accepting donations!

## Reading Group

Thank you very much to all those who participated in our reading group this past semester. Mark will continue to lead monthly discussions on current second language acquisition topics this semester. We will finish the Kramersch book before moving on to other authors. Your suggestions are welcome.



If you would like to make a specific request, you can download the course materials request form at:

<http://altec.colorado.edu/forms.shtml>

Submit requests to your department course fee representative.

## New Arrivals in the Multi-Media Library

### French

Quand J'etais Chanteur  
Don't Worry I'm Fine  
Seraphine  
Tell No One

### Italian

Io, Loro e Lara  
Una Giornata Parti Colare  
La Vita E Bella

### Japanese

Ringu  
Pulse

### Portuguese

Conversa Acabada  
O Crime do Padre Amaro  
O Crime da Aldeia Velha  
Uma Abelha na Chuva  
O Auto da Compadecida  
Budapeste  
Cidade dos Homens  
Feliz Natal  
Fronteira  
O Guarani  
O Homem que virou suco  
Linha de Passe  
Quarta B  
Rocha que voca  
Black God, White Deveil  
Entranced Earth



## FLTP Record Attendance

Attendance at the FLTP workshops has been growing steadily for the third semester in a row. A record number 138 participants attended the workshops last fall, which represents a 68% increase compared to fall 2009. Special thanks to the FLTP leads (Courtney Fell, Alice Gate, Liang Shelly and Juliette Bourdier) for their hard work and to Courtney Malone for designing all those wonderful fliers we've been enjoying for over two years!



## Writing and speaking skills focus of SLA workshop

A new focus and a new time of the year are two important changes in ALTEC's Third Annual Second Language Acquisition workshop. The time for this year's event has been moved from late May to August 1 - 5, and the content for this year will be on specific skills, notably, the production skills, and writing skills in particular, rather than on general theories of SLA. The workshop's readings will be set by the end of the spring semester (so participants can prepare as they while away the time on their favorite beaches). Both theoretical questions (e.g., are there two psychologically distinct skills at play in writing?) and practical (what are some of the most engaging writing practices? What is the effect of having one's writing reviewed versus reviewing one's peers' writing? What are the best error correction techniques?) will be given equal weight. For more information, contact Mark Knowles ([mark.knowles@colorado.edu](mailto:mark.knowles@colorado.edu) or 303-492-2355).

# Coming this spring...

## Course (Re)Design and Virtual Immersion Grants

The deadline for the course (re)design contest is April 20th. This semester, only one \$2000 grant will be awarded for either a language or literature course. The bulk of the work will occur during the summer months.

In addition to the course re-design grant, ALTEC will award up to four, \$500 Virtual Immersion grants to faculty members interested in organizing at least two virtual immersion projects in fall 2011. Colleen Coffey will be invited to collaborate as a remote consultant on each of these projects.

To be eligible for each of these grants, applicants must set up at least one meeting with Mark and Edwige no later than April 1st to discuss both the goals of the work and the writing of the proposal. Proposal narratives, which will include a timeline and budgets overviews, should be no longer than 5 pages for the course (re)design grant and one page for the virtual immersion grants.

Last year's winners of the course redesign grants were Juliette Bourdier (FRIT), Elena Kostoglodova (GSSL) and Minori Murata (EALC).

# Spring Language Classes

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The ALTEC Spring language classes are underway. This semester faculty, staff, and graduate students from many departments are taking classes in, ASL, French, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Swedish. We look forward to also introducing some less commonly taught languages to the campus in the future. The ALTEC language program offers summer classes as well (check our website for updates). Many thanks to the dedicated students and instructors who make this program possible year after year!

Full Course List: [altec.colorado.edu/languageclasses](http://altec.colorado.edu/languageclasses)

ALTEC's language classes are now available to members of the Boulder community!

## Share Fair

April 22nd, 2011

Share ideas and tips on how you use technology to create fun and innovative teaching activities with other graduate students.



PhotoStory, Digital Video, Wikis, blogs, podcasting, Voicethread, etc.

Send a paragraph on what you'd like to present (in a 15 min time slot, including questions) to Edwige Simon by **April 1st, 2011**.

This year's keynote speaker is Dan Soneson, Director of the CLA Language Center at the University of Minnesota who will present on his use of Quicktime Virtual Reality to develop immersive language learning experiences.



University of Colorado  
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## Spring 2011 Workshops

This spring we will be introducing four new workshops (Comic Life, iClicker and Poll Daddy, Advanced Presentations with Prezi, Podcasting with Garageband).



Don't miss the first workshop scheduled for January 26th. It is a requirement to complete the FLTP.



See the FLTP website at [altec.colorado.edu/fltp](http://altec.colorado.edu/fltp) for workshop dates, times and listings.



## Blogging Podcast

Let's talk about you!

ALTEC is currently building a podcasting page devoted to interviews with faculty and guests speakers on classroom practices and the way they use technology in their classes. Our first episode will be a series of four interviews on educational uses of blogs in the foreign language classroom. The second episode is an interview with Colleen Coffey on Virtual Immersion. ALTEC is inviting you to share your ideas and classroom projects with the campus community and beyond!