One of my happiest days in recent memory came when the Curriculum Committee approved two beginning-level and one intermediate-level FOR-CREDIT courses in Swedish using the ALTEC Directed Independent Language Study model. I have been collaborating with the future instructor of the Swedish course, Ben Teitelbaum, whose official title is Director of Nordic Studies in the Department of German and Slavic Languages. Teitelbaum has created a new way to provide Swedish instruction for a language that has no official program at CU-Boulder. His efforts at providing a detailed syllabus and rigorous assessment procedures as well as a clear plan of action of how these unconventional Swedish independent learning instances would work were no doubt instrumental in convincing the Curriculum Committee to give DILS Swedish the green light. If this course achieves its goals, its proof of concept could lead to a few other important instances of for-credit DILS such as for Tibetan (which is ALTEC’s maiden DILS language and which has always been non-credit), Native American languages, and Swahili, all of which have been attracting the attention of a significant number of people and programs across campus. A recent trip to San Francisco had me running to the Modern Language Association’s Language Map. When I left Denver on Christmas Eve, I was fairly certain the Golden Gate city had the highest percentage of Chinese speakers of any US city (there is a reason that San Francisco is called “Dabu,” or “Big, or First City” in Cantonese). After a couple of days there, I had other questions about whether that population was dynamic or static, and where Chinese stood in relation to say, Spanish. It is for questions such as these that the MLA Language Map is my tool of choice to find the best answers and for retrieving information rapidly (sorry Google). For more about my trip and this tool, you can see ALTEC’s Monday, January 7 blog entry at http://altec.colorado.edu.
ALTEC is very pleased to collaborate with the French and Italian department to develop a hybrid version of its first semester French and Italian courses. The courses will be developed during the spring semester and piloted this summer. A hybrid course, also called a blended course, describes a course that combines face-to-face classroom instruction with online activities. Priority will be given to those who have never received an ALTEC grant before. Download and fill out the application form at http://goo.gl/dKDkW, and schedule a meeting with Mark Knowles by March 1st to get feedback before submitting your final proposal. The deadline for the final proposal is April 19th.

French & Italian 1010: Blended Courses Coming Soon

ALTEC is now accepting applications for its 2013 course re-design contest ($750). The course re-design contest offers funding and assistance to faculty (including instructors and lecturers) for the design or re-design of a course using technology. Priority will be given to those who have never received an ALTEC grant before. Download and fill out the application form at http://goo.gl/dKDkW, and schedule a meeting with Mark Knowles by March 1st to get feedback before submitting your final proposal. The deadline for the final proposal is April 19th.

Course Redesign Contest

We've added two new resource pages to the ALTEC website, both of which have been built specifically to serve as knowledge hubs for members of the CU language community. The first, Teacher Resources, describes services available through ALTEC to help instructors in the classroom, and provides information about furthering one’s own professional development. Employment Resources, in contrast, has been built as a tool to help guide students in their own academic and professional careers by acting as a hub of information about both short and long-term career options.

Employment: http://altec.colorado.edu/employment.shtml
Teacher Resources: http://altec.colorado.edu/teacher-resources.shtml

Reminder About Course Fees Materials Request

Need a movie, CD, or audio materials for a language class? Place a request to the ALTEC course fee committee! First, check our catalogue by visiting ALTEC’s website to make sure ALTEC does not already own the resource (http://altec.colorado.edu/catalog). If we do not own the material, fill out a course materials request form, available online or in the multimedia library (Hellmans 159). The request form must be approved and signed by the department chair, and then given to either your course fee representative or dropped off at ALTEC.

Questions? Contact a course fee representative:

Asian Languages and Civilizations: Jin Chen
French and Italian: Tina Pugliese
German and Slavic Lang & Lit: Patty Schindler
Spanish and Portuguese: Susan Hallstead
American Sign Language: Willard Moers
The Center for Western Civilization has granted Peter Veru $1000 for the study of Dutch through the ALTEC DILS program. Veru is a former senior trader from Bear Stearns who left Wall Street to pursue a musical career with his band, the Feathermerchants. In 2009, he graduated with an M.A. in history from George Washington University before entering the CU Ph.D. history program where he is advised by Fred Anderson, the renowned scholar of Colonial America. Veru needs to learn 18th century Dutch for his research on how “the Dutch established American credit, closed the book on the American Revolution, provided a bridge loan from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution, were major players in the 1790 refunding scheme of Hamilton and purchased American debt from France for the purchase of Louisiana.” Furthermore, Veru will research a Dutch newspaper war during the revolution that American and British propaganda campaigns played a part in and which may have been influential on the decision to recognize American independence. Veru plans to do his research in Dutch libraries and will also need to work on the oral component of the language for socializing and survival purposes. This will be the second DILS instance of Dutch in less than two years, the last being for a College of Music Ph.D. candidate who is currently researching an Alexander Technique expert in Utrecht, Netherlands.
K-12 FLTP Update

In fall 2012, ALTEC launched a K-12 version of its foreign language technology program. The 8-Saturday program is now well on its way. A total of 46 high school and middle school teachers attended the first 4 events and attendance is growing with each new workshop. The last 2 workshops in the series are the 2 portfolio intensive sessions. These last two sessions will be merged events open to the K12 FLTP attendees, the CU FLTP attendees as well as M.A. students in the TESOL program. For more information visit http://altec.colorado.edu/fltp/K12.shtml

We’ll be at CCFLT, will you?

Mark Knowles, Edwige Simon, Courtney Fell and Anna Cook are all attending and presenting at the spring 2013 CCFLT Conference. On Thursday evening, CCFLT invited Edwige and Courtney to lead a pre-conference workshop on the K-12 version of the Foreign Language Technology Program. On Saturday morning, Mark and Edwige will lead a brainstorming session on a K-12 oriented online graduate certificate in technology integration in the foreign classroom that ALTEC is proposing to offer through CU Boulder.

CCFLT website: http://www.ccflt.org/
Spring conference page: http://www.ccflt.org/conferencesSpringConf2013.html

Language Refresher Courses: Let your Students Know

The refresher courses are an excellent and affordable way for second and third year students to brush up on their language skills. These 3-week online courses review important aspects of the second-year curriculum and help prepare students for 3000 level courses. There are sessions in February, May, June and July. Registration is $75 for CU affiliates and $95 for non-CU affiliates. This spring ALTEC is adding a German course to its offerings. Help us spread the word about these courses and let us know if you’d like to teach one! http://altec.colorado.edu/refresher_courses.shtml

Share Fair

We are excited to host our annual Share Fair on Friday, April 19th. The Share Fair is a day of presentations by CU language faculty, instructors and TAs in which they discuss and demo technology projects they are using in their language classrooms. At noon, Dr. Ed Dixon from the University of Pennsylvania will present on the impact of online teaching on educational practices and professional development. Dr. Dixon is a professor of German as well as the Technology Director of the Penn Language Center and we look forward to his insight. We are seeking presenters from CU Boulder so please contact Edwige Simon if you are interested!