



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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### Could language learning produce better news coverage?

This past November at the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language in San Antonio, the keynote speaker was National Geographic photographer Annie Griffiths. Griffiths, giving a strong nod to two familiar ACTFL standards – Communication and Culture – noted how she gained access to important cultural events in the Arab world that previously had been forbidden to Westerners. Griffiths did that by spending quality time, cooking meals, and making friends with her hosts, particularly with the women, whom she had come to photograph. When it came time for the big event that Griffiths dreamed of photographing, the male decision-maker vetoed the idea. However, because she had gained the respect, trust, and esteem of at least half of those who would be attending the event, those allies found a way to have that decision overturned.

Last month's horrific events in Paris have shaken many people's belief that people from widely different cultures can find ways to co-exist. Almost simultaneous to the Paris attacks were even far greater atrocities in Nigeria and Cameroun, yet news reports throughout the world over, including in Africa, have been much more focused on the European events. The result is that terabytes of bandwidth are devoted to one story and megabytes to another. The result is that our news media have difficulty dismissing complaints of racial bias, and because of their longitudinal bias, or their notoriously bad ability to cover stories that unfold over many years, they fail us not only in explaining the situation but even in getting the news to us in the first place. The result, as Director of MIT's Center for Civic Media, Ethan Zuckerman, has pointed out, is that we find ourselves in situations where "there are versions of terror where it is easy to have conversations about, and others where it is hard to have conversations about." This produces a form of distortion or imbalance that causes us to be poorly informed about terrorism in all its manifestations. It causes entire societies with great power to get the story wrong, and the consequences for that can be a threat to democracy itself.

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# Could language learning produce better news coverage?

*Continued from page 1. . .*

Being generally of the optimistic sort, I would like to believe that there are two mindsets we might exploit to make improvement in the way our news media operate now – that of Annie Griffiths’, and that of the seasoned language student. As Claire Kramsch has pointed out, speakers who have control over more than one language have additional symbolic resources through which they give meaning to things, persons, and events. “Multilingual subjects have multiply embodied understandings of social reality and a broader range of options than others to act on these understandings,” (Kramsch, *The Multilingual Self*, 2009: 124). I do believe that cultural differences are far from non-trivial, but that people from widely different cultures, including journalists, can find ways to co-exist. In order to do that, they need to resolve to spend time together in much the same way as Annie Griffiths did in remote areas of the Middle East, to gain each other’s trust and respect, and to learn each other’s languages. Perhaps then and only then will we start getting the story right.

## Technology Integration Mini-Grants

*Formerly known as course redesign contest*



ALTEC is now accepting applications for 2 \$500 mini-grants to implement and assess a technology integration project in an existing course. Priority will be given to those who never received an ALTEC grant before. Download and fill out the application form (<http://tinyurl.com/altec-grant>) by April 20th. Feel free to schedule a meeting with Patricia.Mosele@Colorado.EDU or Edwige.Simon@Colorado.EDU if you would like some ideas for potential projects.

## Staff Update

### Welcome to Manny Wayo!

Manny Wayo has joined ALTEC as the new IT Technician after Isla Schanuel left us. Manny has been teaching Swahili as a non-credit course for ALTEC. He is a technologist and language teacher with more than ten years of language teaching experience. He is a polyglot with a full fluency in more than five languages and varying levels of familiarity of a few more. He is a strong advocate of cultural exchange as well as immersive use of technology in language acquisition.



**— WORKSHOPS —**  
SPRING 2015

**— JANUARY —**

**TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM**  
EDWIGE SIMON, ALTEC  
Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am - 11:30am

**— FEBRUARY —**

**VIRTUAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE**  
PATRICIA MOSELE, ALTEC  
Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
3:30pm - 6:00pm

**— MARCH —**

**VOICETHREAD THINK TANK**  
GIORGIO CORDA, COURTNEY FELL, SASKIA HINTZ,  
TINA PUGLIESE, ALINA VAN NELSON  
Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10:30am - 12:30pm

**TECHNOLOGIES THAT RESHAPE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LANGUAGE**  
MARK KNOWLES, ALTEC  
Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am - 11:00am

**— APRIL —**

**PORTFOLIO INTENSIVE I**  
EDWIGE SIMON, ALTEC  
Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am - 4:00pm

**USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENERGIZE TASK-BASED TEACHING**  
MARK KNOWLES, ALTEC  
Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
3:30pm - 6:00pm

**PORTFOLIO INTENSIVE II**  
EDWIGE SIMON, ALTEC  
Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am - 4:00pm

# Change is coming to the FLTP!

The FLTP is now 8 years old and ready for a major face lift! Over the course of the next few weeks, ALTEC will be brainstorming ways to turn the FLTP into an hybrid program that combines both face to face and hybrid events, and rely on formats other than the traditional workshop to deliver professional development on technology and language teaching. We will set up several brainstorming events and send out an input survey but feel free to email your ideas and suggestions to [Edwige.Simon@Colorado.Edu](mailto:Edwige.Simon@Colorado.Edu).

## Staff Film Picks

Want to watch a foreign film but don't know where to start? Check out the foreign film of the month, hand-picked by your own ALTEC staff! Past featured films include City of God (Portuguese), La Vita e Bella (Italian), and Spirited Away (Japanese). Visit our media library (Hellems 159) for more information and to check out the film!



## Spring Non-Credit Language Classes

**Time to Ring in The Spring**

**WITH A NON-CREDIT LANGUAGE CLASS AT THE ANDERSON LANGUAGE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER!**

Learn a new language in a fun and low stress environment! This spring we are offering various levels of French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Swedish! These classes are non-credit and are open to CU staff, faculty, graduate students, retirees and their spouses, as well as the Boulder community. Our classes typically meet for two hours per week for eight weeks, however this semester we are running a course for 10 weeks! Tuition is \$75 for CU affiliates, and \$150 for community members. Be sure to register for our classes this summer! Have a language you want to see offered? Contact Courtney. [Malone@Colorado.Edu](mailto:Malone@Colorado.Edu).

# DILS Update



Thanks to generous funding from Religious Studies, Geography, Anthropology, the Center for Western Civilization, and the Swedish Institute, our Directed Independent Study (DILS) Program has been as healthy as ever. This semester we have the honor of welcoming Yiddish and Nepali as first-time DILS language courses. They join our other non-credit language instances of Tibetan and Turkish. We also are in the fourth semester of our DILS Swedish instance, which is the first and only DILS language course that is offered with credit. (This year GSLL is running first

and second year Swedish simultaneously.) Finally, our evening adult course offerings have been able to include a language that started out as a DILS language, Swahili and it has been growing in enrollment numbers in its more recent transformation. For more information about DILS, please write [knowlem@colorado.edu](mailto:knowlem@colorado.edu).



## CALICO conference at CU

ALTEC is pleased and honored to host the 2015 CALICO conference. CALICO, the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium is an international organization dedicated to research and development in the use of computer technology in language learning.

The conference will take place May 26th through May 30th in the Wolf Law Building and will offer 6 workshops and a 145 sessions. The keynote speaker, Deborah Fields of Utah State University, will deliver her address on May 27th at 5:30pm. Early bird deadline to register is April 10th. Students willing to volunteer 10 hours working at the conference get a registration waiver but they need to be CALICO members to qualify (yearly student membership is \$20). **CU Boulder faculty, lecturers, instructors and graduate students can attend the conference sessions (05/28 and 05/ 29) for the special rate of \$25.** If you wish to benefit from this offer, please do not use the online registration form. Instead, email [Edwige.Simon@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Edwige.Simon@Colorado.EDU) and she'll send you a paper registration form to fill out. See the CALICO website for more the conference program: [calico.org](http://calico.org).

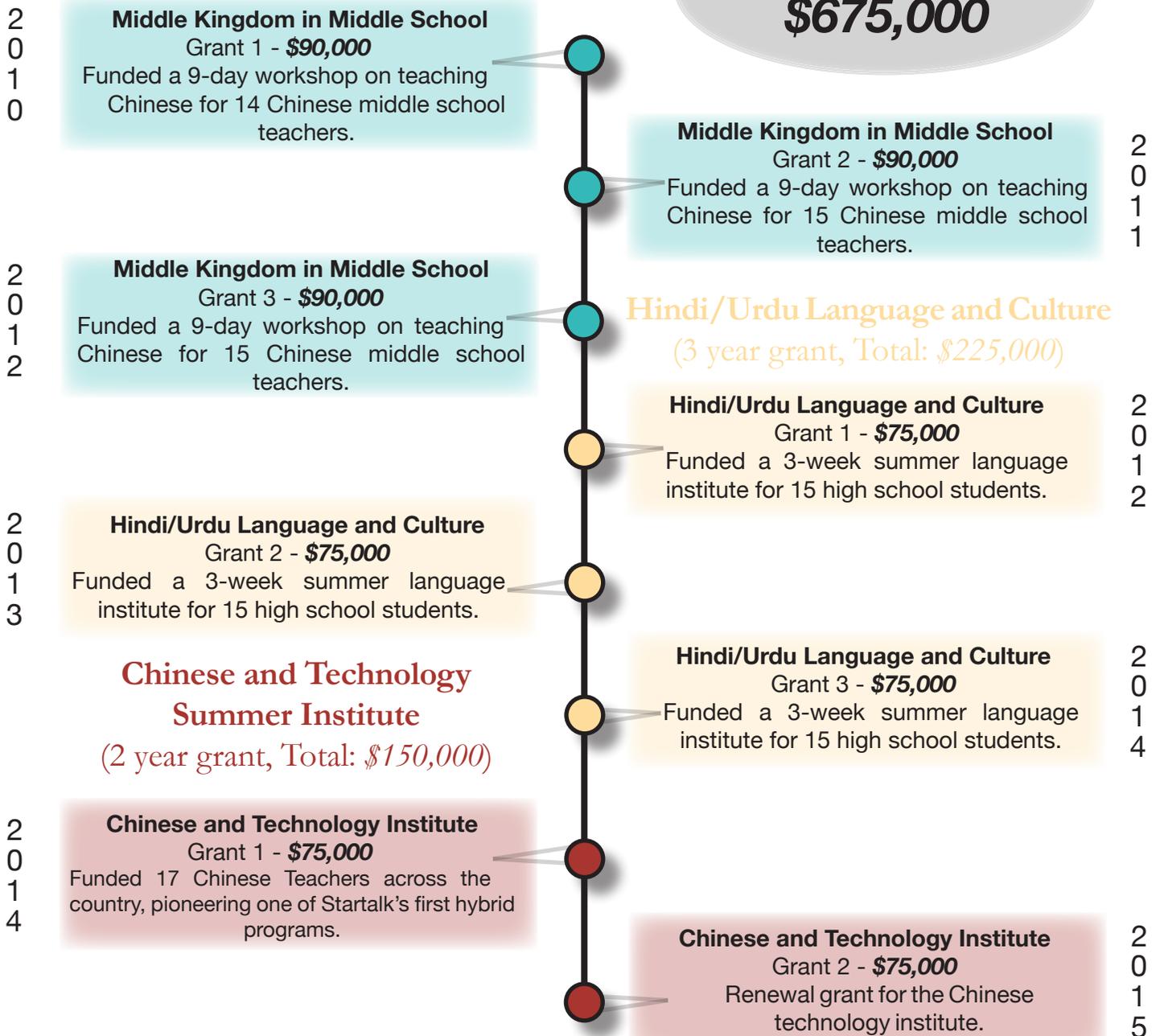
# ALTEC Partners with Center for Asian Studies for a Total of Eight Startalk Programs

Began in 2007 with 34 institutions in 22 states, Startalk is a multi-year, grant-based project designed to improve and expand less commonly taught critical languages in the U.S. Initial planning and ongoing management for Startalk is through the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland. Since 2010, ALTEC has been partnering with the Center for Asian Studies and has received a total of 8 Startalk grants for 3 separate programs.

## The Middle Kingdom in Middle School

(3 year grant, Total: \$270,000)

Total Funding:  
**\$675,000**



# Time to Ring in The Spring



WITH A NON-CREDIT LANGUAGE CLASS AT THE  
ANDERSON LANGUAGE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER!

Now OFFERING:

FRENCH\*\*, ITALIAN,  
RUSSIAN, SPANISH, SWAHILI,  
AND SWEDISH

\*\*We are offering an  
extended (10 week)  
French 4 class



**\$150** IF NOT A CU AFFILIATE

SEE COURSE LISTING AT  
[ALTEC.COLORADO.EDU](http://ALTEC.COLORADO.EDU)

JANUARY 26TH  
to  
MARCH 19TH

8 WKS

Questions?

[courtney.Malone@colorado.edu](mailto:courtney.Malone@colorado.edu)

