

From the Director

The Winds of Change

By Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan

Much has happened at the FLTC since we published our last newsletter. The gusty winds of change have rearranged quite a lot of the landscape for the FLTC . . . much has been blown away and much brought in. Sadly, Bruce Roffi, as you know, passed away in August 2005, at the beginning of the Fall semester, leaving a big void. Bruce had been an integral part of the FLTC for over two decades and it was a challenging period for all of us as we tried to get back on our feet.

During the Fall 2005 semester three new staff members arrived – Pamela Saenz, Amir Husak and Muhammad Faisal. Working with them these past few months has been an exciting and enriching experience for me, and I have enjoyed it. They have brought in fresh ideas, different perspectives and a whole lot of technical expertise putting the FLTC in one of the best situations it has ever been.

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Instructional Technology Showcase

Creating 'This American Life' with iPods

By Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan



Carolyn Fike

"Why did you come to the United States?" asks Yolande. She poses this question to one of several immigrants she is interviewing. She records the interviews on an iPod fitted with a Griffin iTalk, a recording device. She, along with other students in her group, is putting together an audio story for a class project. She is enrolled in an advanced level ESL (English as a Second Language) class that focuses on oral communication, i.e. improving listening and speaking skills in English. The majority of the students in this class are from Saudi Arabia, with the remaining students from Taiwan, Jordan, Ivory Coast, and Mexico all of whom are learning English.

Carolyn Fike, who teaches this course, says "I wanted students to conduct oral interviews, ask questions, listen and converse and put together an audio story, much like NPR's 'This American Life'. I approached Sangeetha, to see what technology was available to use

for our project. Her excitement and enthusiasm for this project and our collaboration was contagious!"

From talking to Carolyn about the project it became evident to us that the technology had to be portable, since students were walking around interviewing people. The technology also had to result in good quality audio clips that could be edited into a story. So Amir Husak, our Electronics Technician, came up with the idea of fitting Griffin iTalks to iPods and having students check them out from the FLTC.

Students worked independent of their instructor in groups on the content of their audio stories. They listened to the recorded interviews, edited them, created a story line, and finally added music and verbal commentary to their stories. For the technology aspect of their project, students received an initial orientation of the editing software from Amir and continued technical help as they worked on their projects.

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The Winds of Change

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The mission of the FLTC is broad and expanding. Historically, its core responsibility has been to provide the technology resources to support faculty and students. However, my vision for the Center is that it does more than merely provide technological support. I see the Center as providing leadership in the use of digital technologies in research and instruction through active programming.

One way we do that is by showcasing uses of in-

structional technology that enhance student learning. For example, Carolyn Fike's use of iPods in her class is not only interesting but also meaningful (see page 1). To promote the innovative use of technology in foreign language teaching, the FLTC started a Mini-Grants program for instructional technology projects. It was on a hiatus for the last couple of years. I am pleased to announce that we will once again offer these Mini-Grants this year (see below). We

also started a new program this Winter semester, FLTC *Film Nites*, a weekly foreign film evening for students and faculty which has been both well received and attended (see page 4).

Using omnibus and other monies we have continued to keep abreast of the latest advancements in technology, and the FLTC continues to have some of the best computer labs on campus and a robust technology infrastructure.

With the present staff and technology resources, I think we at the FLTC are in a good position to work towards our mission of providing leadership in the innovative use of instructional technology. My interest is in sitting down with faculty and seeing what will work in their situation, given time constraints and other limitations. I look forward to collaborating with faculty on innovative instructional technology projects!

FLTC Mini-Grants – Call for Proposals, May 2006

The FLTC is pleased to announce the call for proposals for FLTC Mini-Grants. The purpose of these grants is to encourage faculty to explore the meaningful use of technology in foreign language instruction. The FLTC Mini-Grants are awarded to projects that involve the development of instruction of foreign languages with technology.

The FLTC will fund projects that incorporate the use of latest technologies into existing foreign language courses to achieve specific learning objectives. Recipients of the awards are expected to begin and complete working on their project during the Spring/Summer 2006 semester and implement it in the Fall 2006 semester.

The FLTC will select proposals that involve innovative use of technology in teaching and award each proposal up to a

maximum of \$2000. All full-time and part-time faculty and graduate teaching assistants teaching foreign languages are eligible to submit a proposal. These Mini-Grants are annual, and will be awarded again in Winter 2007.

Projects could involve any of the following: development of video vignettes, audio recordings for language instruction, Podcasts, online content components, online testing components or an online course. Proposals could involve the use of existing technologies such as iPods, Blackboard, International Satellite TV, CAN8 or Videoconferencing.

Grant applicants may use any of the above-mentioned technologies or others to enhance instruction for an entire course or incorporate one technology-based component into a course.

Funds awarded may be used to hire student workers to help with the development of the project. Funds may not be used for personal or departmental equipment purchase. Each applicant may submit only one proposal. Proposals should be for new projects and not for projects already funded by the FLTC.

Grant recipients are expected to:

- participate in an initial planning meeting with FLTC staff
- start and complete work on their project during the Spring/Summer semesters
- implement their project in the Fall semester
- share information about their project through a presentation

- provide a final report of the progress of the project and the use of funds by the end of the Fall semester. This report should contain an executive summary and a narrative of about 2 pages.

To apply for a Mini-Grant please submit a proposal by completing a Mini-Grant application. You can pick up an application form at the FLTC or you can download the form from our website:

<http://www.langlab.wayne.edu>

Proposals are due by: 5.00 p.m., May 30th, 2006 to:

Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan
Director

iPod Invasion

By Amir Husak



iPods

“Instead of bringing bags full of CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and 35mm slides, instructors can store hours of material on their iPod and bring it to class.”

Apple Computers introduced the first generation of iPods in 2001 as compact music/audio players for everyday use – very much like modern versions of walkman. Even though this remains their primary purpose, numerous other applications are developing fast. Apple iPod quickly took over the classroom as a portable learning tool, allowing anywhere, anytime access to speeches, audiobooks, and lectures. Recent generations of this little tool include features that allow users to store podcasts, photos, and videos in full color! These updates have greatly expanded teaching possibilities, creating a completely new realm of instructional technology. Educational institutions around the country are increasingly making use of iPod technology and podcasting to enhance their curriculums. Some universities, such as Duke University and Drexel University, already provide their first year students with free iPods. To secure iPod's place in education, Apple has now introduced iTunes U, a free hosting service for colleges and uni-

versities. iTunes U makes distribution of educational content easy, allowing faculty to post audio and video material for download in just a few easy steps. Students can download files and transfer them to their iPods with just one click. Current iTunes U participating campuses include University of Michigan, Duke, Stanford, University of Wisconsin, and others. The good news is that we are not so far behind! With a few equipment updates, planned for the Spring/Summer semester, the FLTC will be offering podcasting services to faculty members who would like to utilize this technology. Instructors will be able to create podcasts of their lectures as audio, video and/or photo files available for download.

Foreign Language Instruction and iPod

Instead of bringing bags full of CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and 35mm slides, instructors can store hours of material on their iPod and bring it to class. iPods can be connected to

speakers and a video projector for presentation purposes.

For students of foreign languages, there are many benefits of mobile learning with iPod. They can transfer their entire course audio material to iPod and listen to it whenever and wherever they want. Furthermore, with new generation iPods, they can store video clips, photos/slides and text files, and view them either on their iPod's color display or on a standard TV with optional cables.

Foreign Language Technology Center now has a newer version of Apple iPod available for checkout. If you would like to explore this tool and find out how it can be used to enhance your teaching, please reserve it at the front desk or contact us for more information.

NOTE: All course audio material posted on the FLTC's Course Media website is iPod ready, i.e. students can download and transfer the files to their iPods. This summer, we also plan to convert all course video material into iPod-ready video format.

iPod Terminology

By Amir Husak

Podcasting

Podcasting is the distribution of audio or video files, such as radio programs or music videos, over the internet for listening and viewing on personal computers and mobile devices, such as iPods. Podcasting's essence is about creating content (audio or video) for an audience that wants to listen when they want, where they want, and how they want.

iTunes

iTunes is a free media player application for Macs and PCs, developed by Apple Computer, for playing and organizing digital audio and video files. The program is also the interface to manage the files on Apple's popular iPod digital audio player. Additionally, iTunes allows users to subscribe to podcasts and purchase digital audio and movie

files that can be played by iPods and iTunes.

Free download available here:
www.apple.com/itunes

Related links:
www.apple.com/education/ipod



iPod Video

Foreign Film Nites

In collaboration with foreign language departments, FLTC introduced this program in January 2006 to give WSU students, faculty and staff an opportunity to see significant historical and contemporary works of foreign cinema. Some of the films we present are very hard to find and not distributed in the United States. Furthermore, all screenings include an introduction by faculty, and the audience is encouraged to stay and participate in discussion after the screening. The introductions are especially valuable, as they provide contextual information

about the presented film. During the Winter 2006 Semester, we have shown works by Fellini, Bunuel, Chahine, Fassbinder, Almodovar, Tanovic and others. Due to students' interest, well-attended screenings and engaging discussions, we have decided to continue with this program. More exciting films and screening surprises are planned for the Spring/Summer Semester.

Here are the basics:

Each week, we screen foreign language films with

English subtitles in our multimedia-equipped facilities. All films are FREE and open to Wayne State students, faculty and staff. The setting is rather informal, and we often provide free snacks. Detailed schedule and information about the films can be found on our website (www.langlab.wayne.edu) or by calling our office at (313) 577-3022. Printed copies of the schedule can also be picked up at the FLTC's front desk, 385 Manogian Hall.



SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES!

Video Conferencing Technology

by Muhammad Faisal

Distance education merges diverse perspectives, bridges geographical divides, and provides learning opportunities for students. It connects students and instructors via real-time communication. For successful interaction, distance education environments must take the "distance" out of education.

Reliable technology plays an extremely important role in distance education. Interruptions cause distractions for both students and instructors. The goal of the Foreign Language Technology Center is to provide the most advanced video conferencing technology possible including ISDN and Internet-based video con-

ferencing.

Challenges to the distance learning environment are low quality audio/video and presentation, poor classroom environment, and low technical support.

To ensure high quality audio/video for lectures and presentations we added a new piece of hardware, a "Visual Concert," to our video conferencing system. This technology will give the users at the remote site a higher quality image of computer presentations. In addition, our video conferencing system can incorporate the following:

Document Camera

The document camera allows the instructor to pro-

ject printed pages or spontaneous notes to all students.

Laptop

While Mac workstations are available in our classroom, we can connect a PC or Mac Laptop to the instructors' station and project it for on-site and distant students.

VHS Tapes / DVD Disc

We can show any standard VHS tape or DVD disc in the classroom and have it seen by the students at a remote site.

Video Conference Recording

Video conferences can also be recorded on VHS tapes.



High Res Signal
Converter

"... distance education environments must take the 'distance' out of education."

What's New?

New Printer/Copier for Students



“The IKON printer prevents unauthorized users from viewing confidential documents.”

To keep pace with the growing needs for printing and copying in our labs, we were looking for ways to provide the optimal printing and copying environment to students at one central location.

Factors considered were performance optimization, reduction in waste, and confidentiality of the student documents sent to the printer. It was necessary to come up with a way to pro-

vide students with the right technology to accomplish their work quickly and efficiently.

Keeping these factors in mind, an IKON printer was installed in our Student Self Access Lab. The IKON printer prevents unauthorized users from viewing confidential documents. It also reduces waste by allowing students to delete documents they don't wish to print.

Most of the students are familiar with the IKON printer as it is used at other university locations and it is user friendly. Now students enjoy the latest printer and copier technology at one central location.

This new printing solution is not only fast, reliable and efficient, but it will also accommodate growing student needs.

Equipment Updates



Digital Editing Studio

Digital Editing Studio

Equipment updates to the studio include a mini DV deck, DVD stand-alone recorder and newer versions of audio/video editing and conversion software. These updates ensure higher quality of PAL/NTSC video conversions and allow us to extract segments from DVD discs and edit them.

Front Desk

Our A/V equipment inventory now includes two additional LCD projector/video carts, two miniDV digital camcorders, one VHS-C camcorder and an iPod, all available for checkout! Due to high demand, there are also three additional CD/Cassette boomboxes available, including one boombox with MP3 playback features.

New Projectors



New Projector

All our labs now feature newer Panasonic projectors. The new system can display data and video approximately 6 times brighter and sharper than our old Sony projectors!

Interesting Use of Facilities and Technology

Advanced Online Searching

During the first week of January 2006, the Library and Information Science program taught a course on Advanced Online Searching at the Foreign Language Technology Center. The course was conducted by Dr. Hermina Anghelescu,

The course was scheduled for a week, and during that time nearly 40 students used the FLTC labs. The course was intended for librarians, information specialists, and library and information science.

Faculty Interviews via Video Conferencing

This semester, interviews for a faculty position at WSU were conducted via Video Conferencing.

The search committee gathered in our Video Conferencing room to talk to candidates who were located

at various universities across the United States. This was one of the first times that this technology was used for this purpose at the FLTC.

Creating 'This American Life' with iPods

(Continued from page 1)

Carolyn Fike is pleased with the student projects; she says, "The stories students have created are so insightful and compelling . . . the people they have chosen to interview shared such wonderful thoughts . . . the content was absolutely amazing. . . ." Students found it challenging to lead an interview in a foreign language, and felt that the experience contributed enor-

mously to strengthening their oral communication skills and ability to work collaboratively. When asked about how this project and the technology helped in their learning, students remarked:

"When you hear the recordings later you identify all your mistakes yourself!"

"Listening to our ques-

tions and responses during the interviews provided us great feedback about our oral skills"

"It was great for self-evaluation"

"The software is very powerful"

"It provided us with great flexibility"

The use of iPods supports language learning and allows learning to take place outside of the classroom in a student-centered environment without learning being instructor driven. The technology enabled students to self-evaluate, self-correct and hone their language skills. The use of iPods for this student project is an innovative use of technology.

Meet the New Staff



Muhammad Faisal
Systems Administrator
(313) 577-0931
mfaisal@wayne.edu

Muhammad received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from N.E.D University-Pakistan, MBA from Karachi University and M.S. in Computer Engineering from Wayne State University. He has been working at Wayne State University as a Systems Administrator since 2002. His primary responsibilities include server maintenance, website development, problem analysis, system administration and provide technical support.



Pamela Saenz
Secretary IV
(313) 577-3022
p.saenz@wayne.edu

Pam is one of the first people you will meet in the Foreign Language Technology Center serving as administrative support to the office. She brings years of experience from other university units such as the College of Education, School of Medicine and the Law School. She has served a term on the President's Commission on the Status of Women and is working toward a bachelor's degree in the College of Lifelong Learning. She is interested in issues affecting women and the Mexican community and has often volunteered to serve in local school and community support groups.



Amir Husak
Electronics Technician
(313) 577-2880
ahusak@wayne.edu

Amir joined the Foreign Language Technology Center in November 2005. He is responsible for front desk operations and audiovisual services, including maintenance of video editing and sound recording facilities. Detroit is his third home, after living in Bosnia and Germany. He enjoyed having an opportunity to study at the diverse urban campus of Wayne State University where he graduated in Media Arts and International Studies. Amir also produces short films and documentaries, and you can run into him often at the Detroit Film Theatre and local video stores.

Contact Information



Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan
Director
(313) 577-6391
sangeetha@wayne.edu

Location and Hours

The **Foreign Language Technology Center** is located at:

385 Manoogian Hall, 906 W. Warren Ave.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (313) 577-3022

Fax: (313) 577-3041

Student Self-Access Lab

Location: 328 Manoogian Hall

Help Desk: (313) 577 0451

Fall & Winter Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Spring/Summer Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Student Self-Access Lab is closed over the weekend.