

The Communicator

*A Publication of the World Languages Lab
El Centro College*

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Mission Statement

The goal of the World Languages Lab at El Centro College is to provide the opportunity for our students to accelerate language acquisition through the use of computer resources. By using modern computer programs students are enabled to see, hear, speak, and write in the new language. They are exposed to the sounds, grammar, and sentence structure of the language, as well as knowledge of the culture that uses the language. During the time they are in the language lab they "swim in the waters" of the new language and thus grow in their communication skills.

World Languages Lab Staff:

Coordinator: Jeff Gregory

Lab Assistants:

Candi Pflughoft

Sharadha Karki

Rahul Ghose

Language Learning Via Technology

by Jeff Gregory, Coordinator

Learning a new language is more efficient and more interesting today than it was a generation ago. Thanks to computer technology students can

immerse themselves into the sounds and sites of a new language. When they put on their head phones and click on the icon that takes them to language learning software, they enter the world of their target language.



The time spent in such a language environment is nearly as good as going to another country and living in the home of native speakers. With their computer students can practice listening, speaking, writing, learning grammar, and reading in the target language. The biggest factor that determines how well one learns a new language is *commitment*. But commitment must exercise itself in *practice*, and extremely valuable practice can be obtained through the *interactive* language software available today. If a student has the commitment and the time, we guarantee he/she will make good progress in improving their language skills:

**Software + Commitment + Time =
Success**

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WLL Staff
Let us introduce our personnel...



Shradha Karki

“I am from Katmandu, the capital city of Nepal. I have a Master’s degree in Environmental Science from my country. All my family is well educated and thus it is natural that I follow their example. My father, for example, is a civil engineer who is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, England. In Nepal I was Assistant Lecturer in Environmental Science at Tribhuvan University in Katmandu for three and a half years.

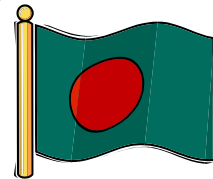


I came to the U.S. on Jan. 4, 2007, and it has been very difficult adjusting to a new land. For nearly three months I faced cultural shock and homesickness. As the days are passing I am getting more used to the system, people, and language. I like working in the WLL because it is a peaceful environment and working here will further my knowledge and skills. “

Rahul Ghose

“I am from Bangladesh and have lived in the U.S.A for six months. I live with my parents and brother here

in Dallas. My father is a photographer and he had a studio in my country.



All my friends live in my country and I chat with them all the time on the internet. I am the only one working in my family and I am studying also here at El Centro College. “

Candi Pflughoft

“I was born and raised right here in Dallas, Texas.



Unfortunately, I have not learned a second language. But I have been practicing on Spanish everyday in the course I am taking at El Centro and hope one day to be fluent enough to communicate to Spanish speakers.

I am a junior in college and my major is psychology. I hope, one day, to be able to help millions people around the world. “

Jeff Gregory, Coordinator

“I am a native Texan. One of my ancestors on my mother’s side was a citizen of Mexico before Texas separated from Mexico in 1836.

Before becoming Coordinator of the language lab I was an ESOL adjunct

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instructor at El Centro for eight years. Before that, I was a bilingual teacher (English/Spanish) at Hogg Elementary School in Oak Cliff. Learning Spanish is one of my hobbies. When I travel in my car around the city I often listen to CD's of spoken Spanish. I make it a point to read an article nearly every day out of a Spanish newspaper.



I like to visit other countries and cultures. In fact, I have been to India six times.

I enjoy my work with computer software and students.”

Software World at the WLL



English grammar software.

Introduced this spring, it is called FEG (*Fundamentals of English Grammar*) and UUEG (*Understanding and Using English Grammar*). This program was developed to accompany the Azar grammar texts, which are among the finest books in existence for ESOL instruction.

Students love this interactive program because of the graphics

and varied exercises. After the lab orientation ended, one class did not want to leave!

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Tell Me More software

We call this our “Talk- back” computer program. It has a component that will carry on an interactive conversation with you in English, Spanish, or French. Pretty smart machine, heh?



Rosetta Stone software

The language acquisition theory that this program is based on is “natural learning” – the way you learned your native language when you were a child. It introduces the learner to the language by seeing objects and activities, listening to a description of those things, and associating written words and phrases with what you see and hear.

Mr. Gregory, Coordinator, has been using this software to study French in preparation for a visit to France. This program is also available in English and Spanish.

The Winner is...

Mr. Shannard Reese

...for most time in the Language Lab for Summer I session:
– 35.5 hours studying Spanish!



Interesting Fact...

El Centro has 150 students from around the world studying here on

student visas. The largest group is from Nepal.

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Plan for Coming Issues

We plan to incorporate a short story written simultaneously in three languages [English, Spanish, and French] so you, the reader, can compare and contrast the languages.

Are you reading out loud?

This is a proven technique for significantly strengthening language acquisition. To learn more about this method pick up one of the papers on the table at the WLL – written by our coordinator and veteran teacher, Mr. Gregory.

Future Launch



Currently we are pilot testing an innovative new ESOL writing software called “*Criterion*.”

The two upper levels of ESOL writing classes will begin using the Criterion Online Writing Evaluation software in the fall semester. One of the features of this program is that it gives the students immediate feedback and evaluation of their essay by a click of the mouse.

Meet one of our Spanish instructors:

Iris Rivera-Gonzalez
(English translation follows)

-¡Hola a todos!

-Mi nombre es Iris y soy de Puerto Rico, “La isla del encanto”. He vivido en varios lugares de Estados Unidos, incluyendo Hawaii, Kentucky y Tennessee. Estoy a punto de terminar mi doctorado en letras (Ph.D.) en literatura afro-puertorriqueña de la Universidad de Texas Tech en Lubbock donde viví por 6 años. En estos momentos disfruto de mi tiempo como instructora de El Centro, pues cuento con más tiempo para estar con mi familia en Lancaster.

“Hello, everybody!”

“My name is Iris and I am from Puerto Rico, “The Enchanted Island.” I have lived in various places in the United States, including Hawaii, Kentucky, and Tennessee. I am at the point of finishing my doctorate in Afro-Puerto Rican literature from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where I lived for 6 years. At this time I am enjoying my time as an instructor at El Centro; and I have more time to be with my family in Lancaster.”

Other Spanish instructors this summer include Juan Manuel Soto, Dr. Jose Francisco Moreno, Daniel Koons, Jody Quillian, Lourdes Molina (credit dept.) and David Jimenez, Conchita Arroyo-Sanchez,

*Rosalinda Astorga, and Maria Zamudio (CE dept.). You can learn more about them in **future issues**.*