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## English Newsletter

April 2007

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## The NCLRC Language Resource



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Visit our website at: <http://www.nclrc.org>

This month's theme is **Reaching Out to Content Classes**. Our **feature story** describes how teachers bring their students to greater understanding of the world around them through travel abroad. **Content-based instruction** resources are the focus of our **Website for Teachers**, which describes a rich online resource from CARLA, and **For Your Classroom**, where we begin a series of four articles on content lessons. Sofia begins to ponder her approach to homework in the **Teacher Diary** and our roving reporter finds an Early Childhood Educator who uses **Language at Work**. Advice columnist **YANA** advises a new, earnest teacher who wants to find out what the good teachers do. As always, we have renovated rooms in the **Culture Club** and many new opportunities for teachers and students of **Critical Languages**.



### ★ Announcements:

- A new Issue of the Arabic-K12 Newsletter has been released. [You can download a copy here.](#)
- Teachers who are attending our summer institutes may be interested in the nearby **Montgomery County, Maryland Summer Institutes for teachers of Less Commonly Taught Languages**: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian, levels 1- 4. Dates: 7/30 to 8/10 in Bethesda, Maryland.
- **NCLRC's Summer Institutes** are open for registration. Register now and reserve your space.
- **Language Resource Centers around the US** offer a wide range of summer institutes for foreign language teachers of various languages and levels
- **STARTALK** US Government-funded summer institutes <http://www.clscholarship.org/home.php> have been announced. See list of all the **Arabic** and **Chinese** institutes around the country. Our Summer Institutes are included in this list, or you can see them [HERE](#).
- US Department of State Critical Languages scholarship applications are now available for intensive overseas study in the critical need foreign languages of Arabic, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu for Summer 2007. <http://www.caorc.org/language/>
- Have you voiced your opinion yet through our **POLL** or our monthly **QUESTION?** Be sure to add your voice to those of our other readers on the topics of upcoming issues.
- Click on the **CALENDAR** to review conferences, calls for papers, and grant, proposal and scholarship deadlines.

### Troubleshooting:

If your email client does not recognize the links in this webzine, or the links do not work, you can go straight to the NCLRC newsletter online page by clicking this link [www.nclrc.org/newsletter/english\\_newsletter.html](http://www.nclrc.org/newsletter/english_newsletter.html) or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

### ★ Feature article

Worthwhile ... Positive ... Rewarding ... Effective ...

Giving ... Helpful ... Valuable.

By Sheila Cockey

Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear a series of adjectives like these used to describe a travel experience you devised for your students? It can be if you go beyond the normal routes of student travel and look for opportunities to place your



### ★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni

**Visit the Culture Club!** Two rooms have been completely renovated, and two rooms have been updated. **The Teachers' Lounge** features a creative lesson (submitted by a reader) on street signs in Italian culture, and the **Hangout** gives you an overview of all the wonderful interview materials in this popular room that are available for immediate classroom use. **The Internet Media Room** has added several more links to online publications, particularly in French, Italian, and Spanish. **The Photo Gallery** presents a new Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest and presents again the Mystery Photo Contest for March which has not yet had a winner. Plan a visit soon! While

students directly in a community doing hands-on activities. These kinds of activities do not focus on the tourist spring break trip, or on the home stay and language class version. Rather, they send students into a community to live and interact with the residents, working together to accomplish a goal. [Read more...](#)

### ★ Teacher's Diary

*Sofia is a second-year Spanish teacher at a charter school in the Baltimore area. Each month she shares her journal of reflections on teaching.*

#### Dear Diary,

It's spring break, and instead of relaxing, I find myself in the throes of job interview hell (or heaven perhaps, depending on how you look at it). I am writing from a job fair for independent and charter schools. My first two interviews seemed to go quite well, though I must admit, I feel more like I'm speed dating than interviewing...

My Spanish IV students continue to frustrate me. I've recently been having a homework issue with them. They complete it most of the time, but don't seem to be putting much time or effort into it. [Read more...](#)

### ★ Readers' Corner

*Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about meeting standards.*

**Which of the standards is hardest for you to address in daily lessons?** Answer our [Poll](#)

**How much do you think about standards when planning your lessons?** Click here to answer the [Question](#)

Last month we asked **What other content subjects do you include in your teaching?**  
Our poll asked: **How often do you incorporate specifically content area lessons in your teaching?** [See the results here...](#)

### ★ For your Classroom

**"Thinking outside the boxes:" Making Connections with other Content Classes**

**Part one in a four-part series: This marks the beginning of our special series on content-based lessons.**

*By Sheila Cockey* I remember going to a conference several years ago that was focused exclusively on how to break down the barriers between subject areas and open up the connections among the things our students were learning. The visual metaphor the presenters used to explain the existing approach to education was that of a wall of cubbyholes for storing things and keeping items organized and separate one from the other. Each presenter encouraged the participants to "think outside the boxes" and to connect the various disciplines into a larger, more meaningful web of interconnected learning experiences. We have made a lot of progress since then, but we still have a long way to go. Recognition of this distance is reflected in the fact that we have a national standard explicitly dedicated to connections. [Read more...](#)

### ★ Critical Languages

**Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and more**

This summer is looking very exciting! We have scholarship and training opportunities around the world for teachers and students of the LCTLs, which are increasingly becoming more commonly taught. [Read it all here...](#)

### ★ Language at Work

*Give your students real-life examples of "what you can do with foreign language."* This month we talk to an Early Childhood Educator, Orielen Lopez-Ayon. An immigrant to the US who uses English and Spanish, she helps families communicate with the daycare director. [Read more...](#)

you are in the [Hangout](#), take the survey posted there which will take you about 10 seconds.

### ★ Dear YANA

*Edited by Sheila Cockey. YANA stands for "You are Not Alone." Your questions on challenges in your classrooms are answered by an expert on languages and culture teaching. This month's question:*

- I am the only language teacher in my school. What help can you offer to me in terms of what to teach when, activities to motivate my students, and just what it is that successful teachers do that leads to competent students of a foreign language?

[Read YANA's answer...](#)

### ★ Websites for Teachers

**CARLA's Content Based Instruction Materials**

*by Laura Blythe Liu*

As we focus this month on Reaching out to Other Content Classes, we are very pleased to provide you with a fantastic resource for teaching language through content-based instruction. The Center for Advanced Research and Language Acquisition (CARLA) specializes in research and application of using content-based instruction (CBI) to develop students' foreign language acquisition. CARLA's website, Content-Based Language Teaching with Technology (CoBaLTT), presents 1) a description of what CBI is and why it is effective, 2) instructional modules using CoBaLTT, 3) CBI-based lesson plans and units, 4) a CoBaLTT unit template, 5) CoBaLTT Bibliographies, and 6) general CoBaLTT Project Information. [Read more...](#)

### ★ Professional Development, Conferences and Funding Opportunities

*We've compiled the conference announcements in one easy-to-access place, the Teachers' Calendar. Find out what conferences are coming your way this year [here...](#)*

Many teacher exchanges, grants and fellowships are being announced - [see them all here](#)

### ★ Ask Dora

*Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages. This month's questions:*

- I am a teacher in central Pennsylvania. Our school is trying to locate funding in the form of grants to support an instructor of Arabic in an attempt to institute a critical language program in our district.
- I'm working on a story about the breadth and depth of opportunities for college students to learn Arabic (Modern Standard and colloquial).

[Read Dora's answers...](#)

### ★ Language Policy

*Here in the heart of DC, we get the latest on changes to government language policy. You can, too, by reading this section. This month we offer a legislative report and the Senate's "Lost in Translation" Hearing. [Read all about it...](#)*

### ★NCLRC Staff



April is a big month for us here at NCLRC. We go to the Northeast Conference of Foreign Language Teachers in New York City. Here's a photo of our booth from last year's NECTFL conference. We are also getting into high gear for Summer Institutes, which will take up most of our time in May



and June. If you have some time for professional development this summer, check our [list of institutes](#) and plan your trip to Washington. - Jill Robbins, editor

The Language Resource is a monthly publication of the National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.nclrc.org> to provide practical teaching strategies, share insights from research, and announce professional development opportunities for all foreign language educators.

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#### Also available on our website

[Culture Club](#)

[Arabic K-12 Teachers' newsletter](#)

[Sailing the 5 Cs with Learning Strategies:](#)  
A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators

[Portfolio Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom](#)

[Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide](#)

[The Essentials of Language Teaching](#)

[Developing Autonomy in Language Learners:](#) Learning Strategies Instruction in Higher Education

[Russian for Russians](#)

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