Report from SEALLT 2003 in Miami - Sharing Successful Teaching Materials and Technologies

SEALLT 2003, Sharing Successful Teaching Materials and Technologies, was held on February 28 and March 1, 2003 at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami and the Miami-Dade Public Schools Outreach Program, the conference was attended by SEALLT members, IALLT members from as far away as Maine, and, on Friday, a number of Miami-Dade school teachers and administrators. We gathered in the aptly-named Learning Center, Room 190.

Rachida Primov and her staff did a marvelous job of making us all feel welcome and comfortable. It was the perfect time of year to be in Coral Gables, and we all thought fondly of our colleagues up North as we enjoyed meals and coffee breaks outside in the warm Miami weather.

A welcome address was given by Michael Gaines, Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research and Community Outreach, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Miami. Next up was

Table of Contents

SEALLT 2003 in Miami........1
MAALLT and SEALLT Joint Conference 2004........3
Reflections on SEALLT 2003, by Georgia Schlau............3
Note from the Newsletter Editor........4

For more information, visit our website at http://www.clas.ufl.edu/llc/SEALL/
SEALLT 2003 Program Highlights

• Adventures in a Virtual Museum

• Prioritization and the Big Picture

• Incorporating the 5 C’s

• Computer Networking, Face-to-Face: A Faculty Symposium on Technology in Language Teaching

• Designing Language Learning Environments

• Using the Internet to help improve student’s reading and communication skills in Japanese

Guillermo Basso, Director, Centro Cultural Español, who introduced us to his Center and its services. Maude Clark, a Teacher at Sunset Elementary School in the Miami-Dade public school district spoke next, followed by a representative for Martine Johnston, Responsable de l’éducation au Consulat Général de France à Miami, who showed a video and talked about French resources available to teachers.

The Public Schools Outreach Program rounded out their portion of the conference with a round table called “Identifying and Prioritizing Needs for Miami-Dade Public School International Magnet School Teachers.” During this time, SEALLT participants were treated to a guided campus tour until the reception at the Faculty Club located in the University Center.

Saturday the SEALLT presentations began right on schedule at 9:00 am with “Adventures in a Virtual Museum” by Georgia Schlau, Director of the Michael Pincus Language Resource Center at the College of Charleston. Next up was a presentation entitled: “Cultivating the Forest while Minding the Trees: Prioritization and the Big Picture” by Gamin Bartle of the Language Resource Center at the University of Alabama. The coffee break was followed by an interesting tour of the Allen Hall Computer Lab, which is a Tandberg analog/digital lab used for English as a Second Language.

Barbara Kuczun Nelson of Colby College gave her talk, “Incorporating the 5 C’s,” during which we were all very impressed to see the amount of work she clearly puts into her project(s), as well as the excellent quality of this particular web-based endeavor. She took us step by step from first inspiration through the programming and clearance of permissions for her presentation of Maná’s song “¿dónde jugarán los niños?” with Victor Rojas’s paintings.

The focus then turned to faculty development as Judy Shoaf, Director of the Language Learning Center at the University of Florida told us about her recent experiences in that area: “Computer Networking, Face-to-Face: A Faculty Symposium on Technology in Language Teaching.”

Again we thought of far-off colleagues in the north as we enjoyed boxed lunches during our business meeting outside on the lovely University of Miami campus. Then it was back inside for an inspiring discussion of “Designing Language Learning Environments: Traditional and Online Learning Communities,” by Jacqueline Kaminski of Ivy Tech State College. Jacque, an active IALLT member for years, has moved from directing the UC Davis language lab to supervising the distance-education program at Ivy Tech State College in Indiana.

Nobuko Taguchi of Southern Methodist University familiarized us with “Using the Internet to help improve students’ reading and communication skills in Japanese,” after which we had another coffee break and tour of the Foreign Languages Lab and Tutorial Writing Center.

The final presentation of the day was a demonstration of “The Rosetta Stone Language Library”, by Manuel Rionda, Director of Latin Markets at Fairfield Language Technologies.

The highlight of the conference was a wonderful dinner at the Restaurante Habana Vieja. Rachida and her husband helped us each to select the perfect entrée, and we closed out SEALLT 2003 over delicious food with delightful conversation.
MAALLT and SEALLT Plan Joint Conference, March 19-20, 2004

MAALLT and SEALLT officers took the opportunity to meet in Ann Arbor at IALLT 2003, and decided to hold a joint conference in 2004 at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. In keeping with both groups’ traditions of holding conferences in beautiful places, the theme of the conference is: A Mountain Retreat for Foreign Language Technology Professionals.

Paper proposals should be submitted to the President of each group. Please submit to Georgia Schlau for SEALLT at this email address: SchlauG@cofc.edu, and to Karl Fisher for MAALLT at this address: kfisher@sewanee.edu.

The host of the Joint conference is Karl Fisher, who is planning some outdoor activities as well as the presentations, meals, and business meeting.

The SEALLT Web site has basic conference information at this time (http://www.clas.ufl.edu/llc/SEALL/conf04.html). Check that site periodically for updates, registration, etc.

MAALLT and SEALLT both look forward to a lively exchange of ideas in a beautiful setting with colleagues from all over the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast areas.

Reflections on SEALLT 2003
Georgia Schlau, SEALLT President

The University of Miami was a wonderful place to have the 2003 SEALLT Conference and Rachida Primov did an outstanding job. Her lab assistants were there to solve all technical problems and take us on tours of the impressive campus. The food could not have been better from the reception at the University Faculty Dining room with its made to order pasta, selection of wines, and fountain of cheeses to the Vieja Habana Restaurant with its Cuban black beans, rice, fried plantains, yucca and grilled red snapper. The presentations were timely, useful, and fascinating. One was Barbara Nelson’s presentation on how she incorporates the 5 C’s into her multimedia units on the Web. People around the world have access not only to her new culture units but also her award winning Spanish Grammar Exercises. Another was a presentation by Nobuko Taguchi on using the internet to help students learn Japanese that left a lasting impression. It was agreed by all who participated that the conference was a success. Every year we have competition from other conferences the same Spring Break weekend such as SCOLT in Atlanta, Georgia and SCFLTA in Columbia, S.C.

We look forward to hosting a joint conference in March 2004 with the Mid Atlantic Association in Sewanee, Tennessee at the University of the South… See you there!
It was six months ago that SEALLT met in Miami, and I wish I could have gotten this newsletter out sooner. But my adage has become "better late than never," and here it is now. We all know the time pressures of our work. I have spent quite a bit of time researching time management solutions, and I have presented on this both at SEALLT and IALLT. I'd like to thank those of you who attended these talks and gave me even more ideas.

I have not yet found the secret to effective time management in my particular situation, but I'll certainly keep experimenting and working on it!

In another matter, we were very pleased to see some new faces at the SEALLT table at the IALLT regional lunch, and we hope to encourage those people to attend the regional conference as well as future IALLT conferences. Hope to see you all soon! •

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