

NWACC Proof of Concept Grant, Initial Progress Report

Project Title: Exploring International Collaboration in the Undergraduate Curriculum through the Use of Information Technologies

Related Website: <http://www.pacificu.edu/as/nwacc/index.cfm>

Principle Investigator: Sarah Phillips, Pacific University

We are pleased to report that our project is following the timeline submitted in our proposal to NWACC. We have made some adjustments and had some early successes.

Our project proposed purchasing 3 inPerson portable video conferencing machines and using these machines to “co-teach” courses at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon with classrooms in Austria and Trinidad. This is a “proof of concept” both of using technology to create bi-national courses at Pacific and of the international use of the inPerson technology.

During the summer, we purchased the inPerson machines. With the help of Lee Colaw, Pacific’s VP for Information Technology, we were in fact able to secure a fourth machine for a much reduced price. We are, as far as the company spokesman is aware, the first university to employ this technology in this way and the company is eager to track our progress. One machine has been delivered to Professor Lorely French, who will send a second machine to Marburg, Germany in the next week.

Professor French submits the following update:

In August, I met with Lee Colaw, Vice President for Information Services, Sarah Phillips, Associate Dean, and Aaron Greer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, to receive training on the inPerson machine. The machines that had been ordered specifically for the project arrived in mid-August. I tried out the machine by calling Lee Colaw and then Aaron Greer on campus. All went well with this test. On August 26, I picked up the machine that will be sent overseas to Germany and Austria from Sarah Phillips’s office and tried that out as well. I have shown the machine to the students in my German 301 class, and on September 17 we will be trying the machines out with groups of students in the class and the native-speaking German assistant who is on campus for the year. One group of students will meet in a classroom on campus with the assistant and will call the other group of students meeting in the regular classroom with me. We will project the pictures onto the large screen in the classrooms through the use of the smart-classroom platforms. We will talk about the materials we have read for the class, which have been café culture in the German-speaking countries. The students will have also looked at the website of the “Sprachcafé/LanguageCafé” (www.languagecafe.eu/de.html), the Austrian university group that will be collaborating with us later in the semester. Students will have questions to

answer for each other and then will hold an impromptu dialogue with each other. This will acquaint them with the Language Café while also helping them and me get used to the machine and the technology.

After this trial on September 15, I will send the machine to Inga Ranft in Marburg, Germany. This is a change in the original proposal, but an exciting, good change. Inga is a student at the University of Marburg, and she spent last year at Pacific University as the Fulbright German language assistant. She asked if she would be able to help test the machine overseas before we sent it to Klagenfurt, Austria, as planned in November. I thought this was a great idea, seeing that Inga knows many of the students already, and they would feel more at ease talking first with someone they knew. Also, considering that classes at the University of Klagenfurt do not begin until October, and we are ready to use the machine now, a conversation between Inga and the students now, while all are excited about using the new technology, seemed perfect. If all goes well, we will talk with Inga on September 29 or October 1.

Inga will then send the inPerson machine to Suse Brehme in Berlin. This, too, is another addition to the original proposal, but, again, a welcome addition. One of the most popular materials that I use in German 301 is an award-winning TV series called “Berlin, Berlin.” The series is oriented around young people living in Berlin and gives fascinating insights into German culture.

Talking with Suse with the inPerson machine seems like the perfect opportunity to learn more about Berlin from an insider’s perspective. Like Inga Ranft, Suse Brehme is a former Fulbright German language assistant at Pacific in the academic year 2005-06, and thus she understands the language level of the students. She now studies at the Free University in Berlin and can offer terrific insights into Berlin. Unlike the situation with Inga Ranft, however, not all of the students in German 301 know Suse, for she was at Pacific before they were. Thus, in talking with her, students will gain experience conversing with a native speaker they do not know, which will prepare them for the conversations with the students in Klagenfurt. The conversation with Suse is planned for October 13 or 15.

Suse will then send the machine to Monika Neumayer, Project Coordinator of the “Sprachcafé/LanguageCafé” at the University of Klagenfurt. From my original contact person, Professor Hubert Lengauer, Vice-Rector of International Relations at the University of Klagenfurt, I learned that the Sprachcafé would be a fitting venue in which to use the inPerson machine. In July I heard from Ms. Neumayer that she was very interested in integrating use of the inPerson machine into the LanguageCafé setting. The “LanguageCafé” is comprised of groups of students living in 8 European countries who meet at various cafés, virtual and real, in their home countries and converse amongst each other about topics of interest to the particular group, all the while practicing and learning other European languages. (See the website: www.languagecafe.eu/de.html). When I contacted Ms. Neumayer about the

possibility of using the inPerson machine for LanguageCafés, she was very enthusiastic about the idea. The University of Klagenfurt was, however, at that time just beginning on its summer break, which lasts from the beginning of July until the beginning of October. Thus, I have not heard back from her since mid-July, although I expect to soon. I will then inform her that the inPerson machine should be arriving at the end of October in Klagenfurt. The plan is to converse with students in Klagenfurt from mid-November to the beginning of December, during the last three weeks of classes for the semester for us.

I have outlined the entire plan on the attached class syllabus in both German and English.

The 3rd machine has been delivered to Professor Aaron Greer, who will send the fourth machine to Trinidad in the early spring. Although his course is not scheduled for many months yet, Professor Greer submits the following update:

The integration of the *inPerson* teleconferencing system with my Spring course, *Religions and Cultures of the Caribbean*, is proceeding as planned. I have tested the device several times and find it easy to use and trouble free. I have been in contact with my colleague on the Caribbean island of Trinidad who is excited about experimenting with this technology in her class. Our classes using the *inPerson* system are currently in the development stage. We are designing sections of our syllabi in collaboration in order to organically incorporate the systems into class discussion. We have designed the classes around short 5 to 10 minute lectures on specific topics related to that day's readings. The students will then have an opportunity to use the technology to ask questions or make comments to the lecturer or other students in the course. My hope is that students here will quickly adjust to the format and freely engage with their Caribbean classmates. The incorporation of this technology into my class represents an opportunity for students to experience a small slice of Caribbean culture first hand.

Professors French and Greer have been paid a \$1000 stipend each, in order to support their course development. The second \$1000 of each faculty stipend will be issued in November, upon receipt of the final payment of the NWACC Proof of Concept Grant.

We have not yet purchased the HD flat panel TV screen or microphone. Construction on the Center for Languages and International Collaboration was delayed over the summer and the area in which the screen is to be mounted was not secure. However, the final wall is expected to be in place within two weeks and at this point it will be possible to purchase the screen and secure it. We have made arrangements to use an alternative setting on campus, where a large screen is already available, should there be further, unforeseen delays in construction. It is our expectation, however, that the

screen will be purchased and ready for use by the time Professor French's class begins the international collaborative portion of her class.

Summary timeline with status in CAPITALS:

Summer 2008

COMPLETED - develop course materials in collaboration with faculty overseas

COMPLETED - build project website and sub-sites for each class

PARTIAL COMPLETION- order equipment, set-up and training

ON SCHEDULE- carry or ship necessary equipment to first overseas site

Fall 2008

COMPLETED- launch German 301 class

BEGUN- continuous updates to class websites and periodic updates to project site

ON SCHEDULE- assess successes and challenges in German 301 class

COMPLETED- initial progress report to NWACC

ON SCHEDULE- carry or ship equipment back to Forest Grove

ON SCHEDULE- carry of ship equipment to second overseas site

Spring 2009

ON SCHEDULE- launch Anthropology 240 class

ON SCHEDULE- continuous updates to class website, periodic updates to project site

ON SCHEDULE- assess successes and challenges in Anthropology 240 class

ON SCHEDULE- develop guidelines for future international collaborative learning,
post online

ON SCHEDULE- final progress report to NWACC

Proposal Budget:

\$3600 for 3 *inPerson* video conferencing systems @ \$1,200 a system

\$2000 for an HD flat panel TV screen and mounting

\$4000 for faculty stipends @ \$2,000 a stipend

\$400 for external microphone

Expenditures to date:

\$2544.46 for inPerson video conferencing systems

\$2000 for faculty stipends

We are grateful to NWACC for the opportunity to pilot this technology in these courses and look forward to reporting our further accomplishments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah Phillips

phillips@pacificu.edu

Deutsch 301: Topics in German Studies
Fall 2008, MoWedFr 3:10-4:00, Marsh 201
Professor Lorely French

Office: World Languages Building 201; Tel: 2196; E-Mail: frenchl@pacificu.edu

Office hours: TuFr 1-2 p.m., Fr 11-12 a.m., and by appointment

Assistentin: Sanja Petricevic, Vandervelden 111, E-Mail:

**sanja.petricevic@pacificu.edu; Sprechstunde: Di: 14:15-15:15; Tel. (503)
352.6309**

Goals: This upper-division course offers advanced exposure to the culture and language of the German-speaking countries through engagement with a variety of “texts” (short stories, poems, songs, websites, TV series, newspaper reports, travel narratives, etc.) and live contact with native German speakers through the use of new technology in the form of an “inPerson” machine. Tri-weekly classroom hours will focus on analyzing the texts, viewing and conversing about the TV Series *Berlin, Berlin*, studying advanced grammatical concepts (cases, verbs, word order, passive, subjunctive, and prepositions), and engaging in actual conversations with German-speaking students living in Germany (particularly in Berlin and Marburg) and Austria (particularly in Klagenfurt, at the University of Klagenfurt, through the program Sprachcafé/Language Café). In conversing live with native speakers in the countries and practicing in a real-life situation, students in the course will improve their linguistic and cultural competencies. Class sessions and materials are all in German. 3 credits count towards the German Studies major and minor.

Texts:

*Morewedge, Rosmarie Thee: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen: Literarische Texte zum*

Lesen, Sprechen, Schreiben und Hören. 4. Ausgabe. Boston: Thomson Heinle, 2008.

**Berlin, Berlin* (TV show: on reserve in library under German 301, Reserve #24)

*Hand-outs and worksheets with grammatical concepts and exercises

*Readings about Klagenfurt, Carinthia, and Austria from the internet Internet

(www.klagenfurt.at; www.uni-klu.ac.at) and the following books: 1) *Das weite Suchen: Zu Fuß von Kärnten nach Triest. Ein Wander-Reise-Lesebuch*, hrsg. G. Pilgram, W. Berger und G. Maurer. Klagenfurt, 2006. 2) *Marco Polo Kärnten*. 4ed. Ostfildern: Mairs Geographischer Verlag, 2000. 3) *Sprechen Sie Österreichisch?* Ed. Alfred Schierer and Thomas Zauner. Vienna: Carl Ueberreuter, 2002. Etc. etc.

Schedule:

25 und 27 August: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 1: Das Café/Das Sprachcafé (Life in the Café); Grammar: Cases, articles, personal and possessive pronouns

29 August: *Berlin, Berlin*, 1st Episode

1 September: Labor Day! No German! ☹

3 September: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 1: Das Café/Das Sprachcafé; Webseite:

<http://www.languagecafe.eu/de.html>

5 September: *Berlin, Berlin*, 2nd Episode

8 und 10 September: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 4: Das Märchen (Fairytale: old and new)
; Grammar: Verbs: reflexive Verbs; transitive und intransitive Verbs; with prefixes

12. September: *Berlin, Berlin*, 3rd Episode

15 und 17 September: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 4: Das Märchen; Grammar: Verbs with prepositional objects; Verbs with conjunctions and phrases.

Trail conversation in-house with “inPerson” machine. (Groups will talk with each other on campus)

“inPerson” machine sent to Inga Ranft, student at the University of Marburg, Germany

19 September: *Berlin, Berlin*, 4th Episode

22 und 24 September: 1. Project:

26 September: *Berlin, Berlin*, 5th Episode

29 September und 1 Oktober: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 6: die globale Welt: Ausländer überall (“The global world: we are all foreigners everywhere”); Grammar: Passive

Conversation with Inga Ranft in Marburg, Germany, on the “inPerson” machine; Inga Ranft sends the machine on to Suse Brehme in Berlin, Germany

3. Oktober: Mid-term break: No German!! ☹

6 und 8 Oktober: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 13: Sprichwörter (Sayings); Grammar: Conjunctions, sentence connectors

10 Oktober: *Berlin, Berlin*, 6th Episode

13 und 15 Oktober: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 13: Sprichwörter; Grammar: Relative clauses;

Conversation with Suse Brehme in Berlin, Germany, on the “inPerson” machine; Suse Brehme send the machine on to the University of Klagenfurt

17 Oktober: *Berlin, Berlin*, 7th Episode

20 und 22 Oktober: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 22: Von der Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter; Grammatik: Präpositionen mit den Fällen

24 Oktober: *Berlin, Berlin*, 8th Episode

27 und 30 Oktober: 2. Projekt

31 Oktober: *Berlin, Berlin*, 9th Episode

3. und 5 November: *Mitlesen-Mitteilen*, Kapitel 22; Von der Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter; Grammatik: Subjunctive

7 November: *Berlin, Berlin*, 10. Episode

10. November: Conversation with students in Klagenfurt: Themes: Life in Klagenfurt and at the University of Klagenfurt/Life in Forest Grove and at Pacific University;

Texts: Webseits about Klagenfurt (www.klagenfurt.at) und the University of Klagenfurt (www.uni-klu.ac.at) : Themes: Life in Klagenfurt, the city, culture and freetime, studies,

everyday culture; readings from the Buch *Marco Polo Kärnten*.

12. November: Conversations with students in Klagenfurt; Themes: politics, political parties in Austria and Carinthia/elections in the USA and Oregon

14. November: Conversations with students in Klagenfurt; Themes: Café life, food, drink, recipes from Austria/food, drink, recipes from the United States; readings from the book *Das weite Suchen*

17. November: written and oral test

19. November: Conversation with students in Klagenfurt; Themes: Film, Austrian film; *Hinterholz*; work on projects

21. November: Conversation with students in Klagenfurt; Themes: Literature from and about Klagenfurt, readings from the book *Das weite Suchen*; work on projects

24. November: Conversation with students in Klagenfurt; Themes: Language, sayings, idioms, concepts about the “mother tongue”; readings from the book *Sprechen Sie Österreichisch?*; work on projects

(Thanksgiving is on 27 November! No class on 26 und 28 November! ☺)

1 December: Work on projects

5 December, 12:00-14:30: Abschlußpräsentationen; Abschlußarbeiten fällig

Noten:

Attendance and Participation.....	20%*
2 Projects.....	20%**
Homework, grammar exercises, short essays.....	20%***
Oral test.....	10%
Cultural points.....	10%****
Final project/exam.....	20%*****

*Considering the importance of oral performance in learning a language, you are expected to come to every class. For every unexcused absence after three missed classes, your overall total grade will drop three percentage points; that could be the difference between an “A” and “A-“ or a “B” or “B-“, etc. This policy applies to all four hours of instructions per week. If you miss more than seven classes, I will talk to you about dropping the class. ” The catalogue contains the following information on attendance policies at the University: "instructors may lower a student's grade or may officially withdraw the student from the course through the tenth week of the semester for poor attendance or participation...instructors may not drop pre-registered students from a course until after two class periods or the first academic week, whichever is less. Students should inform their instructors of unavoidable absence in advance. Assignment of makeup work is at the discretion of the instructor."

We will speak only German in class. Do not worry about mistakes!! I am always available outside of class to explain concepts in English.

**You will have two larger projects that will relate to the themes and activities we have been doing in class. I will provide more details about the exact nature of the project one week before the projects are due.

***I will pass out grammar exercises and assign smaller essays for you to write.

****You must come to at least seven (7) cultural events that the German Club sponsors (including excursions, evenings with Sanja, Stammtisch, etc.) When you attend, you should have Sanja or me sign your “Kulturpunkte” list. You may receive BONUSPUNKTE for each event over the required five that you attend. You will receive one point for each event, up to five additional points on your overall grade. You must hand in the Kulturpunkte list to me by December 5.

*****We will discuss the final project later in the semester. There will be written and oral components. To give the oral presentation and hand in the written work, we will gather during the final exam time on December 5 from 12-2:30 p.m.

The following is Pacific's Academic Conduct Policies:

"Pacific University has no tolerance for academic dishonesty. It is university policy that all acts of academic dishonesty be reported to the Assistant/Associate Dean. Sanctions that may be imposed for academic dishonesty range from an "F" for the assignment, an "F" for the course, and suspension or dismissal from the university. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, tampering with grades, forging signatures, and using electronic information resources in violation of acceptable use policies. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, or data without proper documentation or acknowledgment; it may entail self-plagiarism, i.e. reusing/resubmitting your own work without approval. Quotations must be clearly marked, and sources of information must be clearly indicated in all student work. Please consult the Academic Conduct Policies in the A&S Catalog."

THIS ALSO PERTAINS TO COMPUTERIZED/DIGITIZED TRANSLATION PROGRAMS. YOU MAY USE ELECTRONIC, ON-LINE DICTIONARIES FOR INDIVIDUAL WORDS, BUT NOT TO TRANSLATE ENTIRE SENTENCES OR ESSAYS.

For learning difficulties, please see LSS (Learning Support Services).

"Services and accommodations are available to students covered under the ADA. If students require accommodation, they must contact Edna K. Gehring, Director of LSS, at X2107 or gehring@pacificu.edu. She will meet with students, review the documentation of their disabilities, and discuss the services Pacific offers. Contact should be at the earliest possible point in time."

I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THIS SEMESTER WITH YOU. WE ARE USING SOME EXCITING NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES WITH THE IN-PERSON MACHINE.

I AM ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OR TO TALK ABOUT DIFFICULTIES!

VIEL SPAß!