ADVANCING LANGUAGE EDUCATION beyond the CLASSROOM

Saturday, December 8, 2012
Claudia Cohen Hall, Room G17
249 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

PRESENTER BIOS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

CARL BLYTHE is an applied linguist with a background in interactional sociolinguistics, pragmatics and technology. His research interests lie at the intersection of language, culture and interaction. In particular, he is interested in cross-cultural and intercultural online interaction. Currently, he is examining online discussions between French and American college students taken from Cultura, an ongoing telecollaboration between MIT and various French universities. In addition to cross-cultural communication, Dr Blyth is also interested in the use of digital tools and social media to facilitate collaborative social action (e.g., Wikipedia, open textbooks, etc.). In particular, he is exploring the use of eComma, a textual annotation software developed in the English Department at the University of Texas, which enables the synchronous reading of the same text by a large group of people who share their comments with each other as part of an online collaborative meaning-making process. Dr Blyth worked with his departmental colleagues and graduate students to build a suite of online pedagogical materials for French (e.g., Tex's French Grammar, a pedagogical reference grammar; and Français interactif, a ‘blended learning’ environment for beginning French). He also directs the Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (COERLL), one of 15 federally-funded foreign language resource centers around the country. COERLL’s mission is to produce and disseminate Open Educational Resources (OERs) for the Internet public (e.g., online language courses, reference grammars, assessment tools, corpora, etc.).

DAPHNE KOLLER is a Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University and the co-founder of Coursera, a social entrepreneurship company that works with top universities to make the best education freely accessible to everyone. In her research life, Koller works in the area of machine learning. She has received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the ACM/Infosys award, and membership in the National Academy of Engineering. She is an award winning teacher, who pioneered many of the ideas that underlie the Coursera user experience. She received her BSc and MSc from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and her PhD from Stanford in 1994.

From a background in linguistics, lexicology and discourse analysis, MARIE-NOELLE LAMY went on to teach French as a foreign language when she came to The Open University to lead a team in charge of developing the University’s first ever programme of distance-taught languages. This programme used technology to assist the development of skills concerned with speaking in interaction with others who were sometimes in distant countries or even continents. Media for achieving remote interaction increasingly include Internet-based communication systems allowing virtual tutorials to be conducted, and voice-supported collaborative work to take place, across distances. From 2000 to 2005, she oversaw the roll-out of one such system to 7000 language students at The Open University. Her research, within the Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology is directed at the pedagogical and epistemological implications of changes in the way that we learn, teach and communicate in new online learning systems. Her research interests include mediation of learning and teaching in Internet-based settings, learning conversations and peer learning in computer-mediated communication, the semiotics of multimodal environments and cultural practices related to their use, as well as corpus-building to
facilitate research on learner interactions collected from such environments.

PANELISTS

ABEER ALOUSH received an M.A. in Translation and Comparative Linguistics from Cairo University and an M.A. in French and French Studies from SUNY, Albany, where she is about to defend her doctoral on multiculturalism and identity of Muslim Arab Immigrants. In addition, she is pursuing an M.S. in curriculum design and second language acquisition at SUNY, Albany. Since 2010, Ms. Aloush has been a full-time lecturer in Arabic at the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, where she teaches all levels of Arabic and Arabic Readings in Social Science and Media. She has also designed curricula and taught at Columbia University, NYU, CUNY, the University of Montclair, William Paterson University, Bergen Community College and NJCU. She also served as the Director of the Lingua Institute for Languages in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, a foreign language instruction and translation services institution. She is a member of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic and has received several grants for Arabic curriculum development. In 2012, she designed and taught Penn’s first online course for credit in Elementary Arabic.

JACQUELINE CANDIDO has created educational curriculum for industry, government and academic settings, using a variety of technologies for online learning. She spent more than sixteen years working for Hewlett Packard Company (1983-1999) in various positions from systems engineer and trainer to learning technology specialist and worldwide program manager of global projects involving the instructional design and delivery of new HP products in the US, Europe and Asia. Today, Dr. Candido is Director of Online Learning & Digital Engagement for The University of Pennsylvania School of Arts & Sciences. In this role, Dr. Candido is working to enhance the quality of online programs, increase access to Ivy League education and grow online courses and communities for the School of Arts and Sciences. In addition to leading this effort, She provides instructional design support to faculty as they transform their rigorous course curriculum into the online environment. She is also an MIT Research Affiliate who assists with educational programs for the Lean Aerospace Initiative, including EdNet and the Lean Educator Conference. She received her Ph.D. from Drexel University in the area of Educational Leadership and Learning Technology and holds a BS degree in Information Systems and an MS degree in Education from St. Joseph’s University.

AMARIS CUCHANSKI graduated from Penn in 2012 with a double major in English and French Literature. She worked this past semester as a teacher assistant for Al Filreis’s online course on Modern and Contemporary Poetry, and currently works in a variety of functions affiliated with the Kelly Writers House, including contributing to the PennSound podcast series, assistant teaching for the upcoming TIP seminar taught by Al Filreis, and conducting research for Al Filreis’s book on the 1960s.

ED DIXON began his career at Penn as the Coordinator for Technology in Foreign Languages and has been a Lecturer in German since 2002. In March 2009, he became Penn Language Center’s Technology Director and is active in a variety of areas related to classroom instruction and faculty training with technology. Ed is past-president of the Northeast Association for Language Learning and Technology and taught in summer 2010 the first distance learning course in a foreign language for credit from the University of Pennsylvania. In 2011, Ed received Penn’s affiliated faculty teaching award for distinguished teaching in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. His article “Building a model for online distance courses through social media and networks” appeared in Oct. 2012 in a volume of papers he edited for the International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments. In 2012/13, Ed is scheduled to present at ACTFL, MLA, AAAL and NECTFL on innovative uses of participatory networks in live online courses. Ed received his Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania.

CHRISTINA FREI is the Academic Director of Penn Language Center and Director of Language Instruction in the Department of Germanic
Languages and Literatures. Dr. Frei specializes in new approaches to the teaching of German with diverse applications of technology in the foreign-language classroom. She authored with her colleagues “Co-Constructing Learning: The Dynamic Nature of Foreign Language Pedagogy in a CMC Environment” that examines the relationship of the classroom to online learning environments. Her research projects also include a longitudinal study that employs a computer learner corpus for analyzing and assessing L2 language usage in online communication. Currently, she is writing a first-year German textbook. Dr. Frei received Penn’s 2010 SAS Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty. In addition to her academic appointments, she offers courses in the Graduate School of Education on Second Language Acquisition and Teaching and Learning with Technology. Dr. Frei designed and implemented the curriculum of the language program at the Freie Universität Berlin international Summer and Winter University (FUBIS), the department’s summer study-abroad venue. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis.

**LAURA FRANKLIN** is a Professor of French at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College and its virtual campus, the Extended Learning Institute. She teaches all levels of French online. Dr. Franklin is currently in her twelfth year as the Editor of the World Languages collection of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching. (MERLOT) As described on the website at www.merlot.org, "MERLOT is a free and open resource designed primarily for faculty and students of higher education." MERLOT provides users with a one-stop resource with peer-reviewed learning objects that are frequently accompanied with learning assignments and member comments. As co-editor, Dr. Franklin works with a national editorial board to identify quality learning materials in the field of World Languages and to conduct peer reviews of the same.

**CAROL MULLER** is Professor of Music and Faculty Fellow for Digital and Civic Engagement in SAS at Penn. She has published several books and many articles on South African music: the most recent she co-authored with South African jazz singer Sathima Bea Benjamin: Musical Echoes: South African Women Thinking in Jazz (Duke 2011). She has also taught Penn students online in the summer since 2003, taught a Coursera Listening to World Music class this summer 2012, and teaches a mixed platform/blended class that takes students to the National Arts Festival in South Africa each summer. She is chairing and participating in several Penn committees on online learning. Muller is a leader in the field of civic engagement pedagogy as well.

**KATHRYN MURPHY-JUDY**’s interest in improving foreign language education has led her to focus on methods of teaching with sound pedagogical uses of computer assisted language learning. She conceived and edited, Nexus: The Convergence of Language Teaching and Research Using Technology for CALICO Monograph 4 and has numerous articles, reviews and book chapters on second language acquisition (SLA) with computer-assisted instruction (CAI) and technology-enhanced language learning (TELL). Dr. Murphy-Judy has also produced a large number of multimedia packages and websites for textbook supplements, co-authored a videodisk of comparative French and American advertisements and teaches online courses for Elementary French. She served on the Executive Board of CALICO and is a member of several professional organizations including AATF, ACTFL, MLA, and WIF. Currently, she is the president of FLAVA (The Foreign Language Association of Virginia) and the founder of BOLDD (Basic Online Language Design and Delivery). Dr. Murphy-Judy is Associate Professor of French in the School of World Studies at The Virginia Commonwealth University and has been a professor at the University of Arizona, the University of Saint Thomas (MN), and Carnegie Mellon University.

**MÉLANIE PÉRON** is a Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently the Coordinator of Advanced French I and the main instructor of French Civilization I and II. She also participates in the Penn-in-Tours summer program. As the various curricula she has developed in her 10 years at Penn illustrate, her main focus is the understanding of others, and consequently of oneself, that occurs in a language classroom. She authored Writing History
in the Voice of an Other: Debyser's Immeuble at the Advanced Level published in The Foreign Language Annals. Her advanced French curriculum served as the case study for Prof. Erin Kearney’s doctoral thesis entitled Developing worldview(s): An ethnography of culture learning in a foreign language classroom. From piloting Facebook to innovating the use of Google + in the department of Romance Languages, Mélanie Péron never ceases her search for ways to bridge communities. She received Penn’s 2012 SAS Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty.

DAVID POPLAR is currently a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, and served as a member of the teaching staff for Penn’s Modern and American Poetry course on Coursera. Prior to returning to academia, he practiced law for thirteen years in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

KRISTINE RABBERMAN is Director of Academic Affairs in the Division of Professional and Liberal Education of the School of Arts & Sciences. Kris has been at Penn for 22 years, first as a doctoral student, and then as an academic advisor and later as a program director for the Master of Liberal Arts Program, finally working as Director of Programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences in LPS until May 2012. Kris has a Ph.D. in Medieval History and teaches graduate courses, including History of Sexuality and Academic Writing & Research Design Program. She is the recipient of LPS’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Affiliated Faculty, and she has been teaching in the online program for seven years. Kris currently serves as the Director for Academic Affairs in the Division of Professional & Liberal Education. Kris identifies and develops initiatives in liberal and professional studies that best advance the mission and strategic plan of the School of Arts and Sciences. Kris’s responsibilities include ensuring consistency and academic excellence in courses, faculty, programs and students. Her position is dedicated to building opportunities for sharing academic resources among PLE programs and marshaling SAS and Penn resources to meet those needs.

SOPHIE QUEUNIET is a Lecturer in French at Columbia University and a co-author of French Online, an elementary online course that received the CALICO “Access to Language Education Award” for best publicly available web-delivered language instruction. It was also mentioned in the Education Life section of The New York Times as one of the “12 Open Courses Worth a Click” (April 2010). Sophie Queuniet is also a member of BOLDD (Basic Online Language Design and Delivery), a collective of scholars and practitioners of basic online language courses where she helps collect and review best practices and resources in the emerging field of online language teaching.

DEIRDRE WOODS has been an IT executive, manager, technology evangelist and project leader. Her specialties include IT strategy, social media, and business development in higher education. Her current interests involve the impact of technology on teaching and learning. She is currently Interim Executive Director for the University of Pennsylvania’s Open Learning Initiative, where she is working to demonstrate Penn’s leadership and ensure success of this project. Throughout her career, she has successfully worked with sophisticated constituents in academia, business and medicine. As former CIO and Associate Dean of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Woods has extensive experience motivating teams, developing organizations and managing disruption.

GRACE WU has been a Lecturer in Foreign Language at the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization since 1994. She serves as the coordinator of Chinese literacy courses in Penn’s Chinese Language Program. Her “Online Chinese Project” won first prize in the Grants' Showcase competition from the Penn Language Center in 2012. Also in 2012, she designed and taught the first online credit course for Beginning Business Chinese. Grace is currently on the Board of the Trustees and was the Academic Director of the Chinese School of South Jersey from 2007-2011. She is a frequent conference presenter at ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), CLTA (Chinese Language Teacher Association) and ACS (Association Chinese Schools).