

# Language Media Center

120 Phillips Hall, Tel. 335-2331

Spring 2006

## Assistive Technology in the LMC



Instructors and students are welcome to try out the machine. Call about reserving the Assistive Technology computer.

The Assistive Technology computer in the Instructional Technology Center is in the spotlight this spring. This computer can help those with disabilities, but may be used by anyone who comes into the LMC. We can reserve the computer for special projects or testing.

The software on this machine includes the current suite of programs offered in all the ITCs plus a number of programs specifically designed to help certain needs. *Dragon Naturally Speaking* and *IBM ViaVoice* are for voice recognition and can be trained by a user for his/her voice. *JAWS* (Job Access with Speech) is screen-reading software, and *ZoomText* can enlarge the print on the screen for vision-impaired users. *Kurzweil 3000*, *WYNN 3.1* and *OpenBook* will all scan in pages of text, show it on the screen and read it out loud for the user. The user can then make audio files in MP3 to record on a CD; *Text-to-Audio* will do this task from an existing file. *OmniPage Pro* scans in text and converts it to editable files for word processors. Contact Becky Bohde for more information.



## Better Audio Capability for LMC Camcorders

The small digital camcorders in our equipment collection (a Sony MiniDV, a Panasonic MiniDV, a Hitachi DVD and a Panasonic DVD) all do a good job recording video, but we've noticed that the audio quality is unfortunately lacking. After research and experimentation we've found the right microphones to enhance the audio recordings. If you plan to record video, especially for data collection, please consult with us on the best set-up for your needs.

## Class Computer Reservations

If you would like to have your students work on a Web-related project, you can make a reservation in the LMC for your entire class. Please contact Becky Bohde with the information on date, time, and number of students, and she will add it to the calendar. We have both Macs and Dells, so we can accommodate student preference. The small group rooms may also be reserved for special projects; contact Carolyn Goddard about that.

## Multimedia Development Studio News

New software has been installed in the Studio in 651 Phillips Hall. We have the newest iLife 06 Suite for the Macs, including iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iWeb and Garage Band, for combining video and audio into DVD projects. Final Cut Pro is also on the machines in the Studio for editing video projects.



One of the newest machines is the Liteon HDD + DVD Recorder. Some of its features are:

- copying DVD to DVD
- converting Mini DVD to regular DVD
- recording lengthy broadcasts to hard drive
- creating 4 to 6 hour DVDs using standard 4.7 GB single layer media
- backing up VHS tapes quickly and easily (if a menu or chapters are not required).

Contact Jianling Liao or Yousun Shin in the Studio, or talk to Greg Johnson for more information.



The DVD Recorder is in the middle of the tower (see arrows). It can be used to record TV programming.



## A Dozen Tips for Better Writing in Most Any Language

1. One should never generalize.
2. Eliminate quotations wherever possible. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
3. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
4. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
5. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
6. Be more or less specific.
7. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
8. Who needs rhetorical questions?
9. Understatement is always best.
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
11. If you reread your work, you can find on rereading a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.
12. Don't overuse exclamation marks!!

(Adapted from <http://www.ahajokes.com/eng012.html>.)

### LMC Staff

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Newsletter Editor: Becky Bohde

## New Items in the LMC Collection



*O Presidente Engraxate* (*The Shoeshine President*), VHS, p0102. It's a beautiful story. Lula, a former shoeshine boy with little formal education, wins a landslide victory to become President of Brazil. Shooting from street level at the heart of the celebrations, *The Shoeshine President* captures the heady atmosphere of history in the making, but the reality is harsh

and mundane. Will President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva be able to fulfill his promises? English subtitles.

*Il Commissario Montalbano: Gatto e cardellino*, (*The Cat and the Goldfinch*), DVD, i0160. A series of mysterious muggings takes place in Vigata, ending in tragedy when one of the victims is shot dead. Meanwhile, on discovering that his young daughter is pregnant, a local man wrecks the emergency ward of Vigata Hospital. When Inspector Montalbano finds out that a missing doctor was responsible for the unwanted pregnancy, he starts to search for links between these incidents.



*Good Bye, Lenin!*, DVD, g0403. In 1989, Christiane Kerner has lost her husband and is completely devoted to the Socialist East German state. A heart



attack leaves her in a coma, and when she awakens eight months later, the Berlin Wall has fallen, and it's a whole new world. To protect her from the shock, her son Alex hatches a plan to keep her in the dark. It's easy... all he has to do is turn back the hands of time. In German, English subtitles.

*Je de Mémoire* (*I of Memory*), DVD, f0552. A collection of seven short documentary films interviewing a variety of immigrants to France and observing their lives within the society around them. Produced in 2003.



*El Maestro de Esgrima*

(*The Fencing Master*), DVD, s0740. The year is 1866, and revolution is brewing in Spain. Against this background of political upheaval,

Don Jaime goes about his business, teaching a dying art to a dwindling number of students. He is a man who resists changing times, but then Adela de Otero—a woman with a mysterious past and an amazing talent for swordplay—comes into his life, and Don Jaime's world is turned upside down. Based on the novel by Arturo Pérez-Reverte.



**Visit our Web site and use the Search function to look at all of our materials!**

### Fall and Spring Semester Hours:

Monday - Thursday	8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

"The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless."

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