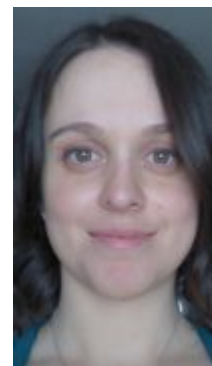Welcome to the Spring issue of the AMLF Newsletter which highlights our language lab's new developments, informs the McGill community on recent events, and provides you with information on new publications in the field of computer-assisted language learning, future conferences, and professional development opportunities.

LATEST NEWS

Welcome to our new research assistant!

The AMLF is happy to welcome Jennica Grimshaw to our ranks. Jennica is a PhD student at Concordia University. She has an MA in Applied Linguistics and is currently investigating the use of speech technologies and mobile devices in language teaching. She will be working with the AMLF to research, evaluate and test web-based and mobile ICT tools for language teaching and learning, develop training materials, and prepare workshops on language learning and teaching resources. We would like to thank the Faculty of Arts and its Info Tech Fund for making this position possible.

Needs Analysis

Needs analyses are particularly important when technology is involved, as needs, programs, and resources are constantly changing. To this end, the AMLF will be conducting a needs analysis (NA) to determine the needs of McGill language instructors in terms of the use of technology in their teaching. Since the AMLF's move to Wilson Hall has been delayed and the redesign of our facilities will not be possible in the immediate future, the focus of this needs analysis will be on the resources and services that the AMLF provides to the McGill L2 community.

The NA will consist of an online survey which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will also be invited to volunteer to participate in a focus group to expand on survey answers and discuss possible solutions to common issues.

Please complete the survey by **clicking here**. We will also send out the survey via email.

Student workshop

On February 13rd, as part of the new activities organized this semester by the French Language Center of McGill University, the AMLF hosted a workshop for McGill students on Quebec's history. The workshop, named 'Atelier : Reconstituez l'histoire du Québec' was offered as part of a new series of activities about Quebec's culture and language.

Our two facilitators, Ophélie Savard-Gratton et Pierre Gabriel Dumoulin, presented an overview of the history of Quebec, such as the role of Native Americans and how the colonization shaped the Province. Among others, students learned Quebec'S history through the uses of online resources, such as the Canadian Encyclopedia, to gather information on different key events of Quebec history. Students were then invited to share their discoveries with the rest of the class.
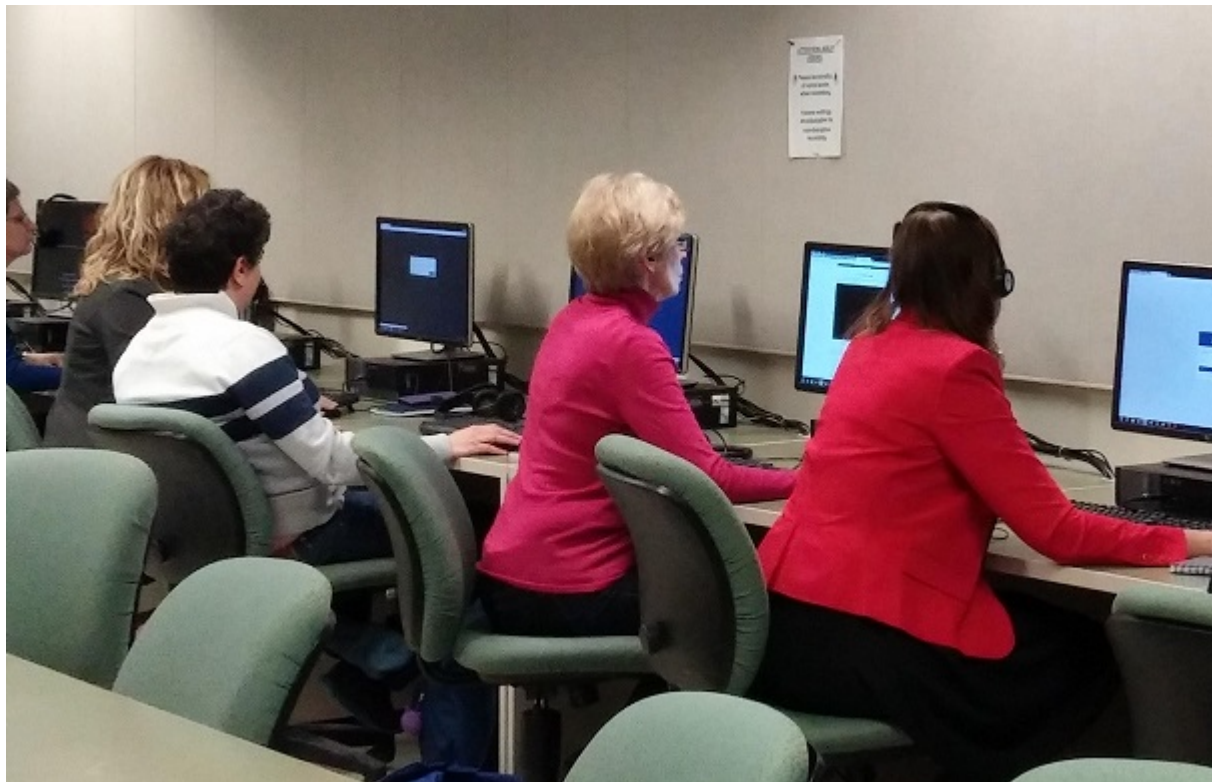
The AMLF 2017 in numbers

2831 Faculty members and students used our labs in 2017

	WINTER	SUMMER	FALL
Number of students	911	463	1414
Number of professors	14	6	23
Number of languages	2	2	3
Number of courses	12	4	18
Number of sections	23	6	38

1023 hours of reservation
33,358 hours of computer usage
13 Lab Attendants

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AMLF Professional Development Series

The Language Learning and Technology Professional Development Series was a great success once again this year. Researchers and instructors from four Montreal universities exchanged ideas on implementing task-based language teaching, using media in advanced language courses and exploring the potential of virtual reality for language teaching and learning. For more information, please visit our website.

If you are interested in presenting your research, making a presentation on educational technology you use in your classes or wish to suggest a guest speaker, please contact the AMLF Director, Natallia Liakina.
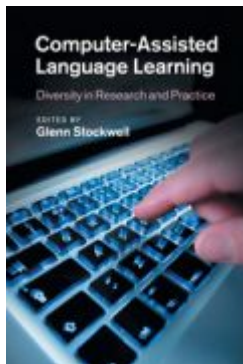
The potential of Thinglink virtual reality tool for second language learning

On April 5th, Kevin Papin, Faculty Lecturer at the French Language Centre presented a workshop entitled "The potential of Thinglink virtual reality tool for second language learning", hosted by the AMLF. More

than 30 language instructors from different Montreal universities explored the ways Thinglink (more specifically Thinglink 360º) can be used for the creation of engaging tasks for Montreal-based classrooms. Workshop participants had the chance to take part in hands-on activities and engage in a discussion on the benefits of virtual reality technologies for second language teaching and learning.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Computer-Assisted Language Learning: Diversity in Research and Practice
Glenn Stockwell (Editor)

As described on the Cambridge University Press [website](#):
This book provides a much-needed overview of the diverse approaches to research and practice in CALL. It differs from previous works in that it not only surveys the field, but also makes connections to actual practice and demonstrates the potential advantages and limitations of the diverse options available. These options are based squarely on existing research in the field, enabling readers to make informed decisions regarding their own research in CALL.
Visit the publisher's [website](#).

Teacher Education in Computer-Assisted Language Learning: A Sociocultural and Linguistic Perspective (Advances in Digital Language Learning and Teaching)
Euline Cutrim Schmid (Author)

As described on the Bloomsbury website:
Even though many pre-service and in-service teacher programs now address information and computer technology, computer- assisted language learning (CALL) teacher education is still reported as inadequate. Why is this? This book elaborates on some of the existing concerns and through deft analysis of longitudinal data begins to piece together a future road map for CALL teacher education.
The book adopts a sociocultural approach, based on the principle that teaching (and learning how to teach) is a long term, complex developmental process that operates through participation in social practices that come with the territory. ¨[The author] highlights the need for situated and localized learning, pre-service and in-service collaboration and collaborative peer-assisted learning.

Nouvelle Revue Synergies Canada No. 11 (2018): Second Language Pedagogies: from Theory to Practice

As described in the [Preface](#):

Focusing on the theme of "Meaningful and Authentic Interactions in and Beyond the Classroom," [this collection of articles examines and deliberates] upon a variety of topics related to second language teaching and learning contexts, including teaching methodologies and approaches, development of didactic materials, program development, curriculum (re)design, teacher development, in-class and online teaching and learning, and development of technology tools to support language learning.
Open access.

Language Learning and Technology

February's issue contains articles on placement test evaluation, teaching argumentative writing, interactive digital textbooks, and using the flipped classroom method to teach Chinese as a second language, among others.
Open access.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2018 CCERBAL CONFERENCE
Translanguaging: Opportunities and challenges in a global world
May 3-4, 2018
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
For more information, click here.

7th MEETING ON LANGUAGE TEACHING (MeLT 2018)
May 24-25, 2018
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal
For more information, click here.

CALICO CONFERENCE
Connecting CALL's Past to its Future
May 29-June 2, 2018
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA
For more information, click here.

2018 SALTISE CONFERENCE
Disruptive Innovations: Changing Educational Landscapes
May 31, 2018
McGill University, Montréal
For more information, click here.

SLRF 2018
On the Contribution of Cognitive Science to Second Language Research
October 26-28, 2018
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal

For more information, click here.

WORKSHOP ON SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

September 27-28, 2018

Abstract submission deadline: May 30, 2018

For more information, click here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our research assistant Jennica Grimshaw and our lab assistant and graphic designer Emma Gibson for their help in creating the AMLF newsletter.