

Participation in a global language instruction program at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia USA required the Tucker Multimedia Center to have the right technology to support cross-continental teaching and learning. SANAKO Lab 300 and SANAKO Media Assistant proved to be invaluable resources in bringing the program alive.

Washington and Lee University

- Founded 1749 as Augusta Academy
- Located in historic city of Lexington
- 9th oldest institution of higher education in US
- Among top 20 liberal arts colleges in USA
- Students come from 50 states and 39 countries

The Tucker Multimedia Center (the TMC) for foreign languages at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia USA is making maximum use of its newly upgraded SANAKO Lab 300 solution. The TMC has begun participating in a program of global language instruction using the SANAKO Media Assistant Duo, Windows Live Messenger® where possible, and Labtec WebCam Pro®. Members of the Washington and Lee community are able to communicate directly with Latin American instructors in order to discuss grammar points, pronunciation, and cultural elements.

The best part is the “face to face” interaction with the teacher who is a continent away. With Sanako Media Assistant Duo, the user is able to record both the teacher’s voice and the student’s voice for later review of the session. When playback of the audio .mp3 tracks is complete, students are able to compare visually and orally the student track with the teacher track with the help of the sound graph display feature in Media Assistant Duo. To make things even better, the playback speed of the recorded digital tracks can now be regulated using the Media Assistant so students can more closely ponder areas in which they need additional aural/oral practice.

Live Online Language Instruction

A principal user and advocate of the Sanako system is Dr. Greg Dresden, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Washington and Lee, who has been receiving Spanish language tutoring via the Internet using the service of Speakshop.com. Speakshop.com uses two-way video conferencing to put American students in contact with native-language Spanish instructors at Probigua, a Spanish language immersion school in Guatemala.

SANAKO Lab 300

- PC-based multimedia learning system
- AP® exams for specialized testing in USA
- Variable speed playback for student convenience
- SANAKO Media Assistant – specialized media player/recorder
- Classroom management features for efficient teaching

Dresden says, “I find it to be a fantastic service, and having the visual feedback is simply wonderful. Using the webcam-equipped computers in the Tucker Multimedia Center for foreign languages and the handy Tandberg headset with microphone, I am able to carry on lengthy conversations with my instructor, and after just a few weeks I have found that my language skills have noticeably improved. There’s something quite nice about being able to see as well as hear your instructor; it’s more immediate, and it’s surprising how much we use our hands when talking. I’m quite happy to have this service available for use by non-language faculty like me!”

Dr. P. Richard Kuettner, Director of the Tucker Multimedia Center for foreign languages adds that the immediate and almost simultaneous correction of grammatical and pronunciation errors greatly enhances the learning process for any student of a foreign language. Without the dialogue between instructor and student, recognizable and unrecognizable errors (by the student) go undetected and mistakes are only reinforced through repetition.



Math Professor Greg Dresden receiving online tutoring in Spanish in SANAKO Lab 300.



Tucker Multimedia Center

- Leader in technology integration for language teaching
- Heart of global language instruction program
- Technology education training in addition to language instruction
- Specialized workshops for foreign language teachers

Global Learning Consortium

Dr. Kuettner is introducing his students to video global electronic pen pals using the same features as above. Coordination is presently being made with groups of French speaking students and instructors around the globe to form a consortium using technology to communicate directly and effortlessly for the purpose of language practice. Select students and professors in Spanish, German, Russian, and Japanese will also be participating in this project.

Other admirable points about the TMC include its functionality and user friendliness. Before the year begins students are required to go through an on-line orientation process which directs them to the many important services provided by the TMC. <http://tmc.wlu.edu/Orientation/home.htm>. Subsequent to successful completion of the orientation, students come to the TMC on an individual basis for many purposes; these might include web searches, web-based language supplementary grammar exercises, audio or video listening and comprehension exercises, testing, or voice recording with review by professors. Classes frequent the TMC as well. Students review pre-recorded digitized news broadcasts, do peer editing of writing assignments in conjunction with a composition or grammar class, view feature films, and discuss television programming from one of the many foreign satellite channels received in the TMC.

Leading Technology Integration

The Tucker Multimedia Center for foreign languages has over the past decades been a leader in integrating technologies into the foreign language curriculum. In order to avail itself of technology's worthiness, the TMC has sought and received several substantial funding grants for equipment; faculty development of creative ideas for teaching and learning; and conferences.



German student Richard Kyle using SANAKO Lab 300 with Windows (R) Messenger.

Significant contributions to the language teaching community include the foreign language teaching with technology conference, "Ingenious Methodologies through Technology;" the satellite and web teleconference, "Technology: Tool or Method?;" and most recently the satellite teleconference, "Technology: Tech It or Leave It!"

The TMC for foreign languages has also developed a Foreign Language Teachers Workshop Series open to schools, colleges, and universities in the Mid-Atlantic area surrounding historic Lexington, Virginia. Workshop topics are varied and include, "New Techniques and New Developments in Language Teaching," "Intermingling Film, Literature, Language, and Translation: Teaching Language and Literature Using Film and Other Resources," and "Video Production for Language Teaching and Learning."

More information about the Tucker Multimedia Center for foreign languages can be found at <http://tmc.wlu.edu>. Kuettner, who obtained both the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Modern Languages (French/Spanish) in language teaching and technology from Middlebury College in Vermont, can be reached at kuettnerd@wlu.edu or 540-458-8995 should you prefer to use telephone. He does extensive consulting in language teaching, facility creation management, and technology use.

SANAKO sales partner for this system:

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