Our Fall 2013 newsletter looks back at our annual summer programs and also forward to an important 2014 event. This summer, as usual, we held language classes for high school students, a workshop for teachers of heritage students, and a research institute. The event we look forward to in 2014 is the Second International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HERITAGE/COMMUNITY LANGUAGES
MARCH 7-8, 2014
As with the First International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages, which was held in 2010, the Second International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages aims to forge international collaborations, expand the scope of research into heritage/community languages, and broaden our understanding of issues facing researchers and educators. Registration will open on November 1.

We will be presenting a new award at the conference, the Russ Campbell Young Scholar Award in Heritage Language Education. Our aim in creating this award is to recognize outstanding scholarship by two individuals who are currently working on a dissertation, or who have filed one within the last 5 years, that focuses on topics related to heritage language. Five hundred dollars will be presented to each winner.

NEW NHLRC WEBSITE
We’re pleased to launch our new NHLRC website. The new website, in development for several months, features a new layout that improves the organization of our events, materials, and other online resources. Among the improvements are more readable charts on the Heritage Language Survey report, a better-organized collection of language materials from our high school classes, and podcasts from this past year’s Heritage Language Teacher Workshop. We hope you find the new website easy to browse and discover, and we welcome your feedback to further improve it.
NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE LANGUAGE JOURNAL

We would like to extend a big thank you to Kim Potowski (University of Illinois at Chicago) for serving as co-editor of the HLJ for almost four years, and we would also like to welcome Andrew Lynch (University of Miami) as the new HLJ co-editor. In addition, please note that the Summer 2013 (Volume 10, Number 1) issue of the HLJ is now out.

STARTALK/NHLRC TEACHER WORKSHOP
JULY 22-26, 2013 UCLA

Alejandro Lee (Central Washington University) writes:
This summer we welcomed more than 40 language teachers from all over the country for our five-day intensive workshop. About one fourth of our participants represented community schools for speakers of Arabic, Armenian, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, and Urdu. The workshop is sponsored by Startalk.

In addition to presentations by Olga Kagan and María Carreira on differentiated teaching, assessment, and curriculum development for heritage learners, three UCLA guest speakers and one from UC Irvine shared their experiences in the heritage classroom. Cynthia Martin, from the University of Maryland, College Park, led a session that focused on diagnosing and addressing the linguistic needs of heritage speakers. Susan Bauckus guided us through the US Census’s demographic tools. More information can be found on the workshop website.

All participants worked in small groups to develop teaching units, which were presented on the last day of the workshop.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE
JUNE 17-21, 2013 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

This year the theme for our institute was Heritage Speakers and the Advantages of Bilingualism. A big thank you to Kim Potowski for hosting such an inspiring event! As with past institutes, the emphasis was on current linguistic research and its implications for the pedagogical needs of HL students at all levels of HL instruction. This year we added two workshops, one for instructors of HL students and one on research methods, Corpus Linguistics and Heritage Language Corpora. Presentations, including abstracts and PowerPoint files, posters, and recommended readings can all be found on our website.

HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGES
JUNE 25 - JULY 25, 2013 UCLA

Arturo Diaz (UCLA) writes:
This summer we hosted our seventh annual language program for high school students. We offered heritage classes for Armenian and Russian, designed to address the strengths and needs of learners who speak these languages at home. A beginning Russian course was also open to those with no prior exposure to the language. The Russian classes were supported by a grant from STARTALK, while Armenian received funding from NHLRC. The positive response to the program from both students and parents makes clear that it was successful. The classes provided a fun and engaging learning atmosphere that helped students advance their language skills and appreciation of their cultural roots. We look forward to offering the program again next year and broadening it to include more cultural and recreational activities to complement classroom-based learning.

Information on our 2014 summer high school program will be available on our website in January, along with registration and a list of languages that will be offered.