

Digital Video Conference

“Electronic Literacy: Language and Culture in On-line Education”

*Organized by the US Embassy Alumni Resource Center administered by IREX
Hosted by the Information Resource Center /IRC/*

March 21, 2002, Chisinau, Moldova



A digital video conference with Damon Anderson, Regional Language Officer and Gergő Sántha Cultural Assistant, Budapest, Hungary organized for US Government sponsored program alumni was the first event of the kind and offered Moldovan teachers of English a presentation and discussion on the subject of Electronic Literacy. The Digital Video Conferencing equipment of the American Embassy helped to

connect a group of educators at the IRC with the English Language Center in Budapest. Damon Anderson and Gergő Sántha made presentation of electronic resources available on the web for educators and guided them towards the best ways of utilizing and finding these resources. A Power Point presentation and demonstration of web pages through the DVC equipment was impressive and made the conference interactive and communicative. More specifically the Power Point presentation included:

- Common Pieces of Vocabulary (Web, Webpage, Website, Server, URL, Browser, Search Engine, Query, Hit, Entry, HTML, Online, Source File, Listserv, Chat)
- Webopedia - the only online dictionary and search engine for computer and Internet technology – <http://www.webopedia.com>
- Useful Guide to the Internet for Teachers - <http://intranet.cps.k12.il.us/Technology/>
- Some Search Engines (www.yahoo.com, www.altavista.com, www.google.com, www.hotbot.com, www.lycos.com, www.allweb.com, www.askjeeves.com, www.search.msn.com, www.webcrawler.com)
- How to do Effective Search
- Some Tools for On-line Education – www.blackboard.com, <http://school.discovery.com>
- A Web-Based In-Service English Teacher Training CD-ROM - <http://ugyfel.proweb.hu/angolcd/>
- Evaluation – Use of Assessment Rubrics - Ideas and Rubrics Bank (Chicago) at http://intranet.cps.k12.il.us/Assessments/Ideas_and_Rubrics/ideas_and_rubrics.html, Web Page Evaluation Criteria at http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfmgb/web.Assessment_Rubrics at <http://kathyschrock.net/slideshows/webquests/frame0011.htm>), Web-Based Learning Rubric at http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/pdf/web_based_learning_rubric.pdf

Thus the DVC program presented very good material for learning and at the same time offered the audience to discuss these issues together with presenters. Several articles were give by Regional Language Officer Damon Anderson in advance for educators to be able to discuss issues related to the conference topic. Both presenters on the Hungarian part and organizers on both parts worked hard to create an unforgettable experience for Moldovan educators in their first teleconference.

Several impressions of educators below brightly demonstrate that:

Ana Gorea, Fulbright Program alumna, University Teacher of English at Moldova Free University (ULIM) Ph.D., Associate Professor of English - “I was speechless after the DVC “ Electronic Literacy: Language and Culture in On-Line Education” in the meaning that, trying hard as I do to keep abreast with novelties and possibilities offered. It’s amazing only just to think that less than 5 years ago I barely



knew what a computer is and here we are attending a DVC. The conference was rather informative and useful. I will definitely use the proposed websites to get informed on what the presenters offered to me and my students in teaching/learning. I would also like to hope that these kinds of conferences have a future and that we discuss concrete topics on teaching EFL, share what we know and enrich our knowledge”

Valentina Shinghirei, Fulbright Program alumna, University Teacher of English at Moldova State University Ph.D., Associate Professor of English – “This video conference, from my point of view, was a successful attempt to make a live link with the enthusiasts in bringing IT in EFL classes across the borders. It was both the trial of probing the video/audio connection and content-based conference where we had the presenters from Hungary and active listeners in Moldova. The interactive style of the videoconference created the atmosphere of virtual reality and gave me a new strong impetus for thinking about further perspectives in the development of education at a distance in Moldova. I have been greatly motivated by this video conference for future integrated and systematic practice of all four language skills in my EFL computer-based classes”

Lucia Barbat FSA UND Alumna, University Teacher of English at State Pedagogical University “Ion Creanga”, Lecturer – “It was a wonderful conference! At State Pedagogical University I teach vocabulary related to computers and Internet. Such technical terms as: web, download, search engine, chat, on-line courses are used to familiarized the students with computers and Internet before they use it. I strongly encourage them to do that in spite of the fact that we don’t have a computer lab yet. The students are always willing to study more about search engines or web, even

though only in theory. I support the idea of organizing such conferences hoping that it will spread in all the world”



Marina Kaim, RSEP alumna, University Teacher of English at Moldova State University, Postgraduate Student – “ Being still under the impression of the event we were able to participate in on March 21, I would like to first of all, say my thanks to the organizers of the event on both sides. It was really of great interest and use to all the participants and what is most important, will be spread among our colleagues and will attract

their interest to the event we had had and to the topics discussed. I would like to mention also that the articles chosen were really interesting. Thank you for the sites suggested during the discussion, they can be used by us and our colleagues in our work. I sincerely hope that this will have its logical continuation and we'll have this unique opportunity to take part in the events like this more”

Anton Zaicenco RSEP alumnus, Academy of Sciences Institute of Geophysics, Computer Science Course in English, PH.D. – “ Thank you very much for a wonderful opportunity to take part in the video conference on March 21. Damon and Gergő made professional presentations to the audience and described briefly vocabulary and resources related to Internet. The event seems to be a great success. Similar video conferences are very useful to promote up-to-date methods in teaching and offer opportunity for professors and interested persons to upgrade their knowledge and become more flexible in their traditional approaches.

A diverse group of alumni beginning with Fulbright program, RSEP, JFDP and ending with FSA UND representative participated in the conference (the list attached below).

Participants:

Damon Anderson,		Presenter Regional Language Officer, Budapest	
Gergő Sántha		Cultural Assistant, Budapest	
1. Natalia Alhazov	Fulbright	6. Natalia Sirghi	JFDP
2. Cornelia Cincilei	Muskie	7. Veronica Neagu	Fulbright
3. Ana Gorea	Fulbright	8. Valentina Shinghirei	Fulbright
4. Mariana Kaim	RSEP	9. Elena Shapa	RSEP
5. Anton Zaichenco	RSEP	10. Lucia Barbalat	FSA UND