

UW-Madison LCTL Symposium 2004, Madison WI

The University of Wisconsin - Madison LCTL symposium took place in Madison, Wisconsin on April 29th 2004 at the Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel. This symposium was sponsored by the Dean of International Studies and Programs, College of Letters and Science, National African Language Resource Center, UW-Madison Language Institute and National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages.

The first session of the symposium was chaired by Professor Antonia Schleicher. Two talks were conducted on Summer Language Institutes in this session. Professor Richard Chi spoke on the "Methods and Organization of a successful SLI". Professor Benjamin Rifkin spoke on the "Learning Outcomes of a successful SLI". Following the presentations was a discussion with the panel comprising of Mary Jo Studenberg, Michael Cullinane, Vinay Dharwadker and Magdalena Hauner.

The second session chaired by Vinay Dharwadker focused on the theme "Current Practices in Teaching the LCTLs". Speakers included Robert Bickner, Dustin Cowell, Velcheru Rao, Jolanda Taylor and Sheldon Pollock.

The reception held on the same day featured six dances from various cultures across the world such as African, Chinese, Indian, Korean and Middle-Eastern regions. There was also a Yoruba poetry reading session. The highlight of this reception was the inauguration of the UW-Madison Language Institute. Chaired by Magdalena Hauner, speakers included Gilles Bousquet, Sally Magnan and Gilead Morahg. The goals of this newly founded Language Institute were discussed in great detail.

The UW-Madison LCTL Symposium was a wonderful forum for the participants to share and communicate ideas on the common cause of promoting the Less Commonly Taught Languages.