Let’s Talk Turkey:

Bosphorus River, Istanbul
An International Collaboration between Hudson Valley Community College and Istanbul, Turkey.
An International Collaboration between Hudson Valley Community College and Istanbul, Turkey.
• Public (SUNY)
• 2 year (associate’s)
• ~13,500 students per term

• Private
• 4 year (bachelor’s, master’s, PhD)
• ~20,000 students per term
Why?
• Opportunity to be an Exchange Teacher through SUNY Albany’s TESOL program

• Applied to HVCC for a Sabbatical Fall 2012
  • Formal study towards TESOL degree
  • Included “distance learning project” in proposal
  • Referenced COIL as an example of SUNY’s support
  • As a result of COIL visit to campus, Academic VP formed a task force to investigate how to “internationalize” our curriculum
Sue’s Goals:
Sue’s Goals:

• Students speak English in authentic context
• Students learn and use vocabulary in their chosen field of study (education)
• Faculty member in the School of Education: assigned 4 sections of Oral Communications
• IMMEDIATELY sought permission from the Yeditepe University Dean and Department Chair to include collaborative online learning in my syllabus
• Had to take into consideration 7 hour time difference
• Investigated the available technology
• Sent email to HVCC Chair of the Teacher Preparation Department to find volunteers willing to collaborate
Appropriate Curriculum Practices for Young Children
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Child Development

Oral Communications 2

Academic Listening & Speaking
Eileen’s Reasons for Collaboration:

• Teach 2 courses (focus on development, and focus on educational practices)
• Ideas about children – growing up in a world that is becoming more complex, yet more connected
• Important for students to learn about topics from another perspective
• Culture/language/religion
• Opportunity to work with a colleague for authentic purposes – achieve both of our goals for our classes
Appropriate Curriculum Practices for Young Children

Oral Communications 2

Collaboration consisted of 3 email exchanges culminating in a live desktop video conference using Skype or similar tool (student’s choice)
Topics:
Culture and language
Trends in education
Educational issues
Collaboration consisted of 3 live videoconferences (Oct, Nov, Dec)
7 hour time difference: US 10-11am and Turkey 5-6pm
Students shared findings from educational journal articles
Topics:
Technology
Connections between home and school
Differences between Turkish and U.S Education Systems
Day care
Disabilities, autism, obesity
Technology in Turkey

• 1st video conference:
  – Location: regular classroom
  – Device: iPad
  – Software: Cisco Jabber: allows for integration with the HVCC DL classroom
  – Internet: my Turkish telephone for a “hot spot”
  – Hardware:
    • Audio: computer microphone
    • Video: computer camera
Technology in Turkey

- 2nd and 3rd video conferences:
  - Location: conference room with large screen projection capability
  - Device: Lap top
  - Software: Cisco Jabber
  - Internet: Hard-wired from conference room
  - Hardware:
    - Audio: computer microphone
    - Video: computer camera
Technology at HVCC

• 1st, 2nd and 3rd video conferences:
  – Location: Distance Learning Classroom
  – Software: Cisco Jabber
  – Internet: Hard-wired from conference room
  – Hardware:
    • Audio: state of the art microphones (ceiling, echo cancellers)
    • Video: multiple switchable cameras and monitors
Positives:

The Black Sea, Turkey
Positives:

• Strong technical support
• Connect before each shared session
• Clear tasks for both classes – expectation
• Shared experiences – about education in both countries
Challenges:
Challenges:

- Needed more time...due to schedule, the class was only 50 minutes
- Technology not always working
- Logistics-scheduling, communication
- Attendance
Things we would do differently next time:

Alicati, Aegean Coast, Turkey
Things we would do differently next time:

• Use a shared web space: LMS, Google+, etc.
  – Post PowerPoint presentations
  – Discussion
  – All class email

• More class sessions

• More sharing of personal information, meet and greet activities

Alicati, Aegean Coast, Turkey
Biggest Surprises for American students about Turkish Students

Hudson Valley Community College, Troy NY
Biggest Surprises for American students about Turkish Students

• Content specific:
  – Turkish elementary school class size (35+)
  – Teachers have no ADA compliance requirements

• General:
  – Turkish students had good command of English
  – More alike than different
Perceived that Turkish Students were more comfortable with technology.
Biggest surprises for Turkish students about American students:
Biggest surprises for Turkish students about American students:

- Number of young mothers attending college
- Diversity of the classroom (age, race, sex)
- More alike than different
American student:

I found the collaboration with Turkey to be a very inspiring and educational experience. Global communication helps us understand that there are many different ways things are done around the world. It was amazing to see students in Turkey speak such good English. I especially enjoyed the laughter that we shared throughout the experience. In the last session with the class from Turkey we learned some Turkish words and it was rewarding to show them some interest in their language and culture. This was an excellent experience overall and I would do it again, gladly.

Turkish student:

It was completely interesting experience because I had never been in a USA's college environment. The teacher and the students were interested in our short presentations, it was important for me because they did not know anything about us but they tried to understand and shared their thoughts. It was a great example for using technology while teaching.
Final Thoughts

• Importance of finding a partner who is highly motivated: COIL might be helpful
• Start with partner as early as possible
• Be flexible! Have plan B ready
• Have fun! Enjoy the student interactions
• Consider a sabbatical!
  – COIL
  – Power of SUNY six big ideas: SUNY and the World
  – Open SUNY: “New and expanded online programs that meet state workforce needs, support workforce development, provide international experiences, and include options for time-shortened degree completion will be identified and implemented.”

The Black Sea
Thank you!

Susan Gallagher: s.gallagher@hvcc.edu
Director, Distance and Online Learning

Eileen Mahoney e.mahoney@hvcc.edu
Faculty, Teacher Preparation Department