



MARRIOTT AND CONVENTION CENTER

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Margarita Calderon
RIGOR intervention resources
Author: Teaching Reading to
English Language Learners

Dr. David Silva
Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
Professor of Linguistics
University of Texas, Arlington

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Message from the President – Winter 2010

TNTESOL Members:

As we start 2010, I hope you will take the time to reflect on all of the great celebrations that have happened within our organization during the past year.



I would like to extend special thanks to the following TNTESOL members for their continuing support of TNTESOL during 2009:

- Tracy Bullard and her Williamson County team for a fantastic TNTESOL 2009 Conference
- Lee Martin for his outstanding work on the TNTESOL newsletters
- Dr. Teresa Dalle and her *TNTESOL Journal* team for the wonderfully produced *TNTESOL Journal*
- Johnna Paraiso and her outstanding work on the TNTESOL website

- Debra Sams for her leadership in continuing to coordinate our mini-conferences
- Edie Barry for her leadership as she coordinates TNTESOL 2010 in Chattanooga
- Jan Lanier for the outstanding leadership and support she provides to all ESL organizations and LEAs across the state
- The entire TNTESOL Board for their continued leadership and guidance of our State ESL organization

As we enter 2010, I would like to challenge all TNTESOL members to become more involved in our state organization by applying for TNTESOL awards, hosting mini-conferences in your area, submitting newsletter articles, submitting journal articles, and simply promoting TNTESOL to all local ESL stakeholders in your area.

Let's make the TNTESOL 2010 Conference in Chattanooga the best ever. Make sure you have submitted your registration forms and booked your hotel reservations. Mark your calendars now for March 4-6, 2010.

It has been a true honor to serve you this past year as your TNTESOL President. **To Chattanooga 2010!**

Todd Goforth
TNTESOL President
Shelby County Schools

TN TESOL Board of Directors 2009-10

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Phillip Ryan, 2012, Union University
pryan@uu.edu

Debbie Vaughn, 2012, Lebanon Special School District
vaughnd@k12tn.net



See www.tntesol.org for a more detailed conference agenda.

TNTESOL Conference 2010 **Chattanooga**

Thursday Night

*Reception at the Marriott

Friday Night

*Ticketed Riverboat Dinner Cruise on the *Southern Belle* with entertainment by the Riverboat Ramblers

Saturday

*Ticketed Southern Buffet Lunch
Awards
Door Prizes!

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WHY BE A PRESENTER? HOW DO I DO IT?

Dianna Mohammad-Zadeh
ESOL, Testing & Equity Director
Warren County Schools

TNTESOL, as an organization, and the TNTESOL Conference are only as good as the members make them. The heart and soul of this organization is its members. And the mainstay of our annual conference is the presenters – those who bring their ideas and research to share with others. Give and take. Sharing – this is what makes our organization so great. So you have thought, "... that idea really worked great...I would like to share it with others..." Well, TNTESOL is a great place to do that. But maybe you have never presented before... here are some tips for you that can help make your experience enjoyable and successful!

Call for Proposals:

- Make sure you read the Call for Proposals in this issue thoroughly and follow the directions.
- In writing your abstract, have 1-2 sentences on the importance, and provide evidence of current practice and/or research of your topic, followed by 1-2 sentences on what you are going to do, and end with what you hope the participants will take home. (Long is not always better) Hint: Spell out acronyms, avoid citations, and do a word count.
- Good titles attract people when they are scanning the program – make sure it reflects the content of your presentation.
- Double check any equipment you may need (if you are bringing your own, let them know so you will have the appropriate outlets)

Preparing your Presentation:

- Do an overall outline containing your proposed title (make sure it fits the content), objectives (what do you want participants to gain), the importance and appropriateness of your presentation, the content (roughly organized), and the contribution to the field of TESOL. (Note: it could be as simple as a teaching idea or as complex as a research study).
- Make sure your content matches your abstract.
- Familiarize yourself with current literature if appropriate.
- Time yourself and practice (get a friend to videotape you, or do a walkthrough with your co-workers)
- Prepare enough handouts (hard copy or CD) and have a way to be contacted if you want to send materials electronically. (Hint- you can do a one-page handout/overview with your e-mail and ask those who want your presentation or more complete

handouts to request it from you. If you do this, please be efficient in your follow-through.

Presenting:

- Be prepared and have a back-up plan. (Hint: Check out your space before your presentation.)
- First impressions do count, especially the first few seconds. Greet entrants as they come in with a smile and maybe some conversation if time allows.
- Project a positive and professional image: dress appropriately, have a positive attitude, etc.
- Make eye contact.
- Watch out for distracting mannerisms and use of colloquialisms.
- Stay on topic and watch the time. (Hint: Have a friend signal you when you need to stop for Q & A, or ask someone in your audience to signal you.)
- Have an outline to refer to if you get off topic and need to get back to your planned presentation.
- Don't put "all of your eggs" in the technology basket – sometimes what can go wrong will. Be prepared. Have strong visuals – if using a Power Point, DON'T read it or stand in front of the screen!
- Leave 5-10 minutes for Q & A time. (If there are several questions, limit your answers to one minute or so.)
- Provide contact information for follow-up (maybe users have questions as they go to use your idea, or maybe they want to share their success /failure of their use of the idea.)
- Make sure everyone has taken at least one thing from your presentation.

Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Worst:

- Always have a back-up plan.
- Late arrivals (especially if yours is an 'early' presentation) - think about how you will handle it if you get an 8:00 or 8:30 time slot .
- Not enough handouts – how will you handle this situation?
- If you get a question you can't answer... it is okay to say "I don't know" or "I'm not sure." If time allows, you can toss it to the audience or ask the person to give you his/her contact information and you will try to find the answer for her/him.
- "Problem" participants - these are the ones who may "know everything" (KEs) or want to give you their opinion, or the negative ones (NOs) who say, "This will never work in my school," or who want to bring the conversation down to a personal level (PLs).

Update from the State



Jan Lanier
ESL Coordinator, State of Tennessee

The State Department of Education has completed the official count of ELLs for this school year. We have grown from a total of 33,680 in 2008-2009 to 34,412 in 2009-2010. This is only about two percent growth which means that this is a low count year for TN. The interesting aspect is that as a State, we have declined approximately 2038 active ELLs and grown with the Transition ELLs. Many factors could account for the slowing down of the ELL population:

- Immigration raids for undocumented workers,
- Deportations based on being stopped for routine traffic violations,
- Slow economy and lack of jobs,
- Construction market slowing, and
- Possible saturation of the job market in TN cities.

TN has some exciting new events. The most exciting is that the new English Linguistically Simplified Assessment (ELSA) is still planned for 3-8 TCAP Achievement testing. The English is simplified so that it is less likely to interfere with the measurement of the content. The Department of Education is hoping that all 3-8th grade active ELLs and ELLs who have waived services will be administered this assessment. This assessment may not be used with Transition students.

The assessment window for the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) has been extended from one month to six weeks. The window is from February 1 to March 12. This allows a little more flexibility for you to attend TNTESOL March 4 to 6 and to enjoy Spring Break. We could even afford a few snow days now.

Tennessee as a state made all the Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for Title III. The AMAOs are the compliance piece of Title III. In fact all districts made AMAO 1 and AMAO 2. Only two districts missed AMAO 3, which is the adequate yearly progress (AYP) on the TCAP achievement tests for the ESL subgroup. Your hard work is paying off for this special population of learners.

New textbooks have been adopted and the caravans will soon be rolled across the state for you to see the new possibilities. Special thanks to those school districts that had members on the teams to select these books. All materials presented by publisher were exciting and high quality.

I hope to see you all in Chattanooga March 4-6. Thank you for all that you do for the English Language Learners in Tennessee.

Happy New Year!



Proposed Constitutional Amendments Tennessee TESOL Constitution

Submitted by Byron Booker
TNTESOL Parliamentarian

The Tennessee TESOL Board of Directors has approved the following constitutional amendments and submits these constitutional amendments to the general membership for consideration and subsequent vote at the annual business meeting to be held at this year's state conference in Chattanooga, March 4-6, 2010. The Board of Directors proposes the addition of Journal Editor as an appointed officer in the association and all relative amendments are indicated in red. The Board of Directors also proposes the additional language indicated in red to the stated purpose of the Tennessee TESOL association. Pursuant to the Constitution and By-laws of the TNTESOL association, these proposed amendments are submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Business meeting. These said amendments require a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at the meeting (in March 2010).

Constitutional Amendment #1 Addition of Journal Editor as an Appointed Position

Article IV- Elected and Appointed Positions

B. Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Newsletter Editor, **a Journal Editor**, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a Parliamentarian.

Continued on p. 6

Why Present, from p. 4

KE's – Make a light-hearted comment like, “You have some great ideas, I’ll be looking forward to your presentation next year.” NO’s - Say something like, “Yes, every school/situation is different, but I think you might be able to tweak (the topic) to it to work. Think about how you can do that.” PLS- Maybe you could ask them to get with you later to discuss personal situations since time is limited in this session. You may never have any of these, but know that you can, and don’t let it stop you from presenting or like feeling that one of these ruined your presentation. It helps to have a friend in the audience that you can call on to deflect the “problem” questions and get you back on track and topic.

Please consider doing a presentation at a TNTESOL or other conference. Education is about sharing – knowledge and ideas. Conference sessions DEPEND upon YOU! Bring your ideas and knowledge and share with your fellow teachers. The suggestions above will help you make a successful proposal and presentation. This article was based on “Conference Proposal Writing and Presentation Skills”

www.tesol.org/s_tesol/convention2010/docs/tesol2009_prez.ppt

Dianna Mohammad-Zadeh is a long-standing TNTESOL member and member of TESOL. She is currently ESOL, Testing & Equity for Warren County Schools and a former K-12 ESL teacher and past TNTESOL President, Vice-President, and Executive Board Member. She has presented at numerous TNTESOL and SETESOL Conferences.



TNTESOL is an active and vital organization, and we encourage and promote all TESOL professionals. If you know someone who would be interested, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.

The *TNTESOL Newsletter* is published three times a year. Submissions are accepted on a variety of topics. We welcome book reviews, issues in the fields of K-12, Refugee ESL, Adult Ed, Higher Ed, and more, as well as articles on teaching strategies, news related to TNTESOL or the field, jokes, classroom anecdotes, even recipes! The style for submissions can be informal, and articles are typically 500-1000 words. Of course, exceptions can be made! A bibliography is not necessary unless the article is research-based.

Send your ideas via e-mail, an attachment, and your personal information by the issue deadline to Lee Martin:
lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu.




2010-11 Deadlines:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| April 1 | Spring |
| July 1 | Summer-Fall |
| December 1 | Winter |

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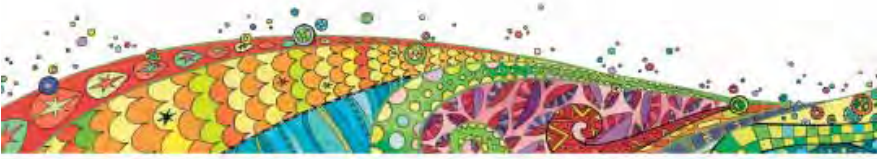
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Amendments, from p. 5

- C. Board of Directors
 There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the three elected officers, the Secretary-Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Editor, **and the Journal Editor** plus nine other elected Members-at-Large broadly representative of the various interests of the members.
- D. Duties of Officers
9. The Journal Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the journal annually as determined by the board of directors, and in collaboration with the Editorial Board for the Tennessee TESOL Journal.

Constitutional Amendment #2 Additional Language for the Purpose of the TNTESOL Association

Article II – Purpose
 Tennessee TESOL is a professional, non-profit association whose purposes are to promote scholarship, to disseminate information, to strengthen at all levels instruction and research in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages or dialects, **to advocate for and support local, state, and national initiatives that will assure access to educational programs for students learning English as an additional language,** and to cooperate in appropriate ways with other groups having similar concerns.



TNTESOL Awards



For award nomination and application forms, as well as more details, please visit our website: www.tntesol.org, and click on “Development” in the left-side menu.

Charles Gillon Professional Service Award

Each year TNTESOL presents a Charles Gillon Professional Service Award to a nonmember who has contributed significantly to or supported strongly the field of ESL/EFL and international education. Nominations are solicited from the membership by the Board and ultimately selected by the Board of Directors.

The annual recipient is recognized and presented a commemorative desk item or plaque at the TNTESOL spring conference.

Gundi Ressin Award

The Gundi Ressin Memorial TNTESOL Scholarship was established by the TNTESOL Board of Directors to provide funds to affiliate members for activities such as special instructional projects, educational opportunities, and travel to educational meetings or conferences. The Gundi funds are provided by a yearly amount in the TNTESOL budget and by contributions from members and friends in Gundi's memory.

TNTESOL members may apply for a Gundi Fund award by sending an application letter to the First Vice-President at least one month before the award is to be granted. The application should state the amount requested (not to exceed \$400), the purpose for which the funds will be used, and an agreement to submit an article for publication in the TNTESOL newsletter upon receipt of an award. Donations may be made to the Gundi Fund when registering for the annual TNTESOL conference or by mailing directly to the TNTESOL Secretary-Treasurer.

President's Award

The TNTESOL Board of Directors established the President's Award in January of 1999 to recognize individuals within TNTESOL who have contributed to the field of ESL and the TNTESOL organization. The award may be presented annually to a person selected at the discretion of the President with the approval of the Board. The President's Award is presented during the annual TNTESOL conference.

TNTESOL Educator of the Year

TNTESOL will recognize an outstanding TNTESOL member at the annual conference. Nominees should be K-12 ESL teachers with distinguished careers in English-language teaching and a history of service to students, schools, and communities. A winner from each state region will be announced, along with the state award winner.

TNTESOL Travel Grants

Guidelines

Every year, TNTESOL awards travel grants to send the best three sessions at TNTESOL to Southeast TESOL to represent our state conference. Awarded sessions will receive four-hundred dollars (\$400). The goal behind the TNTESOL Travel Grants is to provide a means of financial support for dynamic presenters who may have no other means to go to the Southeast TESOL conference and to boost morale, build professional interest, and encourage excellent conference presentations every year.



[TNTESOL Educator of the Year Award 2010](#)

On March 6, TNTESOL will recognize an outstanding TNTESOL member at the 2010 conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Nominees should be K-12 ESL teachers with distinguished careers in English language teaching and a history of service to students, schools, and communities. We wish to honor an English language educator who exemplifies the profession.

Please send the following items to the contact person in your area.

1. The nomination form below.
2. A letter of recommendation with supporting information.

Please include examples from the criteria below to describe the exceptional work of the nominee, but limit supporting information to no more than **one page**.

Please mail/email the information to the contact person in your area:

East Tennessee: Dr. Patricia Davis-Wiley, The University of Tennessee, Bailey Education Complex 106, Knoxville, TN 37996-3442; pdwiley@utk.edu

Middle Tennessee: Sunita Watson, ESL Teacher, Barfield Elementary School, 350 Barfield Crescent Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37128; watsonsu@rcs.k12.tn.us

West Tennessee: Andy Duck, ESL Program, Florida-Kansas Annex, 90 W. Olive, Memphis, TN 38106; ducka@mcsk12.net

All nominations must be received by **Friday, February 5, 2010**.

Nominee for the TNTESOL ESL Educator of the Year Award

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

School district or institution: _____

Grade level currently teaching (or retired): _____

Years teaching or working in ESL: _____

Person making the nomination

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Capacity in which you know the nominee: _____

Signature: _____

Criteria for ESL Educator of the Year

Teaching

List examples of commitment and dedication, creativity and innovation in instructional strategies, and how the nominee demonstrates excellence in teaching in the ESL field.

Community Service

List examples of advocacy, service activities, volunteer and civic work that have served students, colleagues, schools, and communities with regard to the ESL field.

Leadership

List leadership activities, professional development, training, and other contributions by the nominee to the field of English as a second language.

Awards

List awards, special recognition, and remarkable accomplishments of the nominee in the ESL field.



SETESOL – Atlanta, September 2009



▲ *Libraries for the ESL Classroom*, co-presenters
Byron Booker and Selena Lawrence

◀ Andy Duck, LaWanna Shelton, Todd Goforth, Edie Barry

Charles Gillon Award, 2010

to be presented at TNTESOL, Chattanooga, March 6

The 2010 recipient of the Charles Gillon Award will be Rev. Michael Feely.

Rev. Feely is the Executive Director of the St. Andrews Center in Chattanooga, a faith-based organization he founded in 2004. The Center hosts after-school programs, and, in partnership Chattanooga State, offers GED and ESL classes. Rev. Feely served as a minister in missions at Brainerd UMC with a focus on outreach to East Side Elementary, the largest second-language speaking public elementary school in the area. He served on the planning committee that developed the Girls Leadership Academy, a charter school that opened in 2009, focusing on math, science, computer mastery and the arts. As a member of the Community Foundation Board of Directors he is looking into Chattanooga's need for reaching the urban community and new models of education. Rev Feely is responsible for developing an educational partnership between the YMCA, St. Andrews Center, East Ridge High School and East Lake Academy to provide Hispanic teens and other new immigrant teens with civic engagement activities through our Opportunity Club and the new Hispanic Achievers programs.

Seeking to meet basic human needs as well as educational needs, Rev. Feely networks as a liaison between the Hispanic and homeless residents and their local government. He hosted the national 1,000 Voices bi-lingual forum locally that put a human face on the need for immigration reform. He developed a long-term plan to include youth and adult soccer fields for positive outreach to Hispanic families, a playground an expanded community garden, a pavilion, and an attractive green space. ❄



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Spanish Steps

www.SpanishStepsOnline.com



ELSA, from p. 11

As always, check with Jan Lanier, State ESL Consultant (Jan.Lanier@tn.gov) or Steven Nixon, Office of Assessment (Steven.Nixon@tn.gov) with questions or concerns about your ELL students.

Dianna M. Zadeh, ESOL, Testing & Equity Director, Warren County Schools, zadehd@k12tn.net Dianna is a former TNTESOL President, Vice-president and Executive Board Member who has been in ESL Programming (both as a teacher and administrator) for over 20 years and in education almost 40 years. Besides being the ESOL Director, she is the system Testing Director. ❄

ELSA – the New Simplified Achievement Test Arriving this Spring!

Dianna M. Zadeh
ESOL, Testing & Equity Director
Warren County Schools

We are familiar with the ELDA (English Language Development Assessment) - the English Language Proficiency Test given to all ELL students across Tennessee in February-March to assess our students' progress in obtaining English proficiency. However, new this upcoming TCAP Achievement Testing season is the ELSA or English Linguistically Simplified Assessment. Spring of 2010 will see the first administration of this test for ELL students statewide (note: your district should have ordered this form of the test when regular TCAP was ordered).

ELSA is an accommodated (specifically for ELLs) version of the achievement test that measures the same curriculum standards as the "regular" TCAP achievement tests. It is intended for those students in grades 3-8 who are currently ELL (NOT for the T1 and T2s). It is a multiple choice test in which test questions have simplified language not content. The same accommodations are allowed for the ELSA as for the regular TCAP. The length of time varies according to grade level, and extended time is available if a student qualifies for that ELL accommodation. Accommodations should be a part of the student's daily educational program and meet either the allowable or ELL accommodation guidelines.

According to Steve Nixon in his presentation at the October 2009 LEAD Conference, following are characteristics of the ELSA: reduced wordiness, use of high-frequency or common words, avoidance of multiple-meaning words, use of concrete not abstract words, use of more simple (as opposed to complex-structure) sentences, use of the simplest forms of verbs, and a simplified context as much as possible. The intent is to measure the same exacting grade-level-content standards as the 'regular' achievement test but reduce the linguistic barriers that hinder measurement of an ELL student's knowledge. Therefore, in some areas, depending upon what is being 'tested,' vocabulary may not be changed if pertinent to the knowledge being assessed; this may hold true especially in some of the reading passages and content-vocabulary items.

The ELSA is criterion-based and has the same content questions, on grade level, as the 'regular' achievement test. Students will receive scores (same proficiency levels: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced) the same as 'regular' achievement-test takers. Students taking the ELSA count toward participation rate and toward AYP. State ESL and testing staff have worked together to make the TCAP achievement test more accessible to English Language Learners by reducing some of the linguistic and

cultural barriers.

Be aware:

- ▶ ELSA covers the same content areas/standards (in the reading section, passages basically intact but test questions may have been modified) as the 'regular' achievement test.
- ▶ ELL accommodations for the ELSA are the same as for the Achievement
- ▶ The ELSA is for ELL students only, NOT transition students (T-1 and T -2s)
- ▶ The test must be given during the same test window as other students taking the Achievement.

Check out the following for more information:

Steve Nixon, (Office of Assessment, ELSA, ELDA ,and TELPA contact), LEAD 2009 PowerPoint presentation entitled Assessments for English Language Learners: ELSA & ELDA (Steven Nixon) available at http://tennessee.gov/education/assessment/tools_resources.shtml. (This site gives a concise overview of the ELDA and ELSA.)

Also for ELSA Item Samplers that you can print off (by grade level for all content areas and all SPIs) and use to practice or review with your students, check out the following site:

<http://tennessee.gov/education/assessment/ELLAssessments.shtml>. These samplers are around 150-160 pages. Practice books will soon be available online, but systems will receive practice booklets based on the number of ELSA tests ordered. Please check with your school to see if they order ELSA tests for your ELL students; these tests must be ordered specifically for the ELL students at your school.

All of our system's ELL students are taking the ELSA. I made notebooks for all of my ESL teachers of the Item Samplers but printed each grade level off two pages per sheet since each grade level is so long. Doing so works well if an ELMO or other document scanner is used, or you can go online and just print off what is needed when it is needed. It is good to share this information with regular content teachers as well... to encourage the total inclusion of their ELL students in their content instruction. Maybe seeing the State make modifications for "our" students for Achievement will encourage or reinforce the use of modifications in the regular content-area classrooms.

Secondary teachers, be encouraged; there are plans to create modified EOC (End of Course) assessments at your level maybe by 2010-11.

Continued on p. 10

TNTESOL Board Slate of Nominees for 2010 - 2011

(Voting will take place at TNTESOL 2010 in Chattanooga, TN)

President

Tracy Bullard, an assistant principal in Williamson County Schools in Franklin, received her Ed. D. in Administration and Supervision in 2008. She has a BA in Psychology from the University of Philippines; M. Ed. in Special Education, endorsement in ESL, and Ed. S. from Tennessee State University. Tracy began her teaching career in the Republic of the Philippines at Clark Air Base in 1989. Shortly after returning from the Philippines, she began teaching special education and then ESL in Dickson, TN. In August 2001, she transferred to Williamson County Schools as an ESL Specialist and then served as ESL Supervisor until June 2009. Currently, she serves on the State ESL Task Force and has made numerous presentations at TN TESOL, SE TESOL and TESOL.

1st Vice President

Eddie Barry has been a full-time ESL teacher for the past 13 years, serving the past few in a dual role as the elementary ESOL teacher/ESOL lead teacher under the district Title III coordinator. Eddie received her Master's Degree in Foreign Language and ESL from the University of Tennessee. Eddie has taught adult conversational English as a volunteer for the past 18 years, taught Adult ESL through Adult Basic Education, and currently co-teaches semiannual workshops for volunteer teachers of adult conversational English. Eddie worked on the item review of the CELLA and served on the committee to develop the ESL standards. She presented at TNTESOL in Clarksville, and currently serves on the TNTESOL Board. She also is serving as the coordinator for the TNTESOL 2010 conference this year in Chattanooga.

2nd Vice President

Sunita Watson is in her 17th year in education. She has taught all of the grades from K-5 at some point for at least two years each. This year is her fifth year in ESL, and her tenth year in Rutherford County. She has been married to her high school sweetheart for 21 years. They have three children: an eighth-grade son, a six-grade daughter, and a five-year-old.

Board Nominees for Members at Large



Paula Giron-Escobar is currently an ESL teacher in the Cleveland City Schools system. She teaches 6-8th-grade ESL at Cleveland Middle School. Paula has an MA in TESOL from New York University and a BA in Elementary Education from Lee University, where she taught Linguistics for TESOL and the Practicum course for TESOL certification. For the Practicum, she developed a summer program in which her college students served as ESL teachers for the high school and middle school ELLs in the Cleveland system. Paula is a member of the TNTESOL Task Force and has presented at a TNTESOL conference. She is also a former ESL student herself, living in Panama, Ecuador, and Portugal.

Jason Groppe has taught ESL for the Clarksville-Montgomery School System (CMCSS) for three years, in addition to teaching Spanish with Austin Peay and the Regents' Online Degree Program for the last six years. In 1990, he began teaching EFL in China at Kunming University, Yunnan Province, and recorded the audio portion of the Chinese National English Proficiency Exam. Jason has an ESL endorsement from Tennessee Tech, and Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Murray State. He is creator and moderator of the CMCSS ELL Teacher website. In 2009, he worked with TDE and ETS to edit items for the newly created ELSA. He is currently a District-wide Mentor for CMCSS ELL teachers, District Technology mentor, and state-certified Teacher-training Mentor in Kentucky and Tennessee. Jason has presented and facilitated with the Program for Retention and Induction of District Educators for ELL Teachers in Clarksville. For nearly a decade, he has been a presenter at state and national levels.



Catherine Holsen graduated from Northwestern and earned a Master's in Business Administration at Vanderbilt. A career in the Information Technology field in software development preceded her career change to ESL teaching. After becoming TESOL-certified by Winfield College in Vancouver, Catherine completed her Master's in education at Tennessee State, specializing in ESL. She has been teaching at Vanderbilt's English Language Center since 2002 and has also taught at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute and Nashville State Community College. In her spare time, Catherine studies voice and sings with the Cathedral choir at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, the Vanderbilt University Community Choir, at the Berkshire Choral Festival in Canterbury, England, and with the St. Cecilia Academy Choir on tour in Italy. Catherine has traveled extensively in England and Scotland, and has visited France. She has some background in French and Spanish.

Jennifer Pond had the opportunity to travel to the Ukraine as an ambassador for Marion County High School in 2001. This eye-opening experience brought her awareness of different cultures and how Language can affect one's life. In college, she volunteered with the ESL population in the Marion County Schools. She enjoyed working with the students and gained insight into how language can affect the livelihood of a child. She is now the ESL teacher in the Marion County schools and appreciates being able to give back to a community that gave her so much, working with students from many countries. Jennifer's goals in working with students are to instill in each a sense of unique worth, and to help the classroom teacher gain awareness of students' cultural differences in order to help facilitate smooth transitions into their communities.



Dan Schlafer, Federal Programs Director and ESL Coordinator for Monroe County Schools, has spent the past 35 years as an education professional. A graduate of Carson-Newman, he received an MS from UT-Knoxville and an Education Specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University. Dan has taught every level K-12, been a high-school principal, athletics director, and coach, winning numerous awards and honors. He has also been a strong advocate for children as a member of the Cumberland County School Board. Currently, he is 2009 President-elect of the Tennessee school Boards Association's Board of Directors. He is also a Level Five Master School Board member, a member of the Tennessee Legislative Network Board of Directors, the TSBA Editorial Advisory Board, and a passionate national advocate for NCLB reform. He was named to the 2005 All Tennessee School Board and has received the National School Board Association's Distinguished Service Award, 2005 and 2009.

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Nominees, from p. 12

Dana Siegel is an elementary ESL teacher with Shelby County Schools. She received her MA in Curriculum and Instruction from National University and continued her studies in early-literacy acquisition for struggling readers. Dana has taught inner-city elementary children in Los Angeles and also undergraduates and graduates at Cal State Northridge in Literacy and ESL. Dana has presented at TNTESOL, KYTESOL, and SETESOL and written articles for the *TNTESOL Newsletter*, one of which was reprinted in an ESL newsletter in Turkey. She has received several awards from the TN School Board Association for the SCS ESL Summer School Program. One of Dana's greatest sources of pride is in teaching her students that they too have a green thumb and can even read and write about it!



Terese Wolford began her ELL adventure in 1995. Since then, she has taught beginning, adult ESL night courses, instructed in the IEP at Austin Peay, and taught K-5 ELL in the Clarksville-Montgomery School System, where she currently teaches at Ringgold Elementary. For the past 17 years, Terese has presented in-services and workshops, organized cultural-awareness events, and served on various committees in her assigned schools, as well as at the district and states levels. At present, she serves as a district PRIDE mentor for new teachers in the CMCSS district. Terese received a BS in Elementary Education at Austin Peay and an MA Ed at Tennessee State University in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Teaching Non-English Background Students.

To vote, you must be a current TNTESOL member. If you are interested in mail-in voting procedures, please see the TNTESOL Constitution at www.tntesol.org.

2009 TNTESOL Fall Mini-Conference

Deborah Sams
Sevier County Schools

On Saturday, November 14th, ESL teachers gathered for professional development at the 2009 TNTESOL Fall Mini-Conference. The event took place from 10:30-2:00 at the Hodges Library on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Participants came from 12 counties/institutions: Sweetwater City, Hamblen County, Warren County, Oak Ridge City, Knox County, Sevier County, Lenoir City, Loudon County, Newport City, Rhea County, Monroe County, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Because mini-conference sessions were applicable to English language learners in any age group, attendees represented K-12, graduate students, doctoral students, adult education, and refugee services.

The first mini-conference session shared an instrument to modify a variety of text for ELLs at any level. This instrument was obtained from Judie Haynes during the TESOL Academy last June in Charleston. Haynes gave her permission to share the pages with this group. During the overview, each teacher received a blank copy of Haynes' text-modification instrument and a copy of National Geographic's Windows on Literacy leveled reader. After attending the session, one participant said, "I am using the modification model presented as a tool in my school. I have given it to all of our regular classroom teachers and am hopeful that they will feel better about modifications to their tests and class work." The instrument is most helpful for grades 2 to adults.

The featured session by Kathryn Atkins-Roberson was a workshop to teach proficiency through reading and storytelling. An approach based on rich, comprehensible input, TPR Storytelling is an interesting method to boost oral proficiency, listening, and reading in English. Participants learned the steps of TPR Storytelling and how to



Kathryn Atkins-Roberson demonstrating how to teach proficiency through reading and story-telling.

implement reading techniques. In addition, mini-conference participants received a lesson-plan template in which to plan lessons and to adapt any material. Lastly, teachers received TPRS resources and information on further training opportunities. Participant comments describe a successful mini-conference. An ESL teacher from Loudon County, Susan Good said, "I personally loved attending the mini-conference in Knoxville. It was an easy drive and the materials presented were great. I also enjoyed the TPRS and am excited to add it to my tools for teaching ELLs. I do not speak French, and when we did the skits and activities, I rapidly began to learn the language. I easily learned 30 words and phrases in one hour. The best part: it was fun; it did not feel like work." At the 2009 mini-conference, ESL teachers learned how TPRS presents an enjoyable way to teach and learn English. Gratitude is extended to Dr. Brown for organizing this event, arranging for the site, and providing technical support. Also, many thanks for the support of President Todd Goforth and TNTESOL for making this mini-conference possible.

Organized by Deborah Sams and Clara Lee Brown, EdD, UT-Knoxville. ❄️

2010 TNTE SOL Statewide Conference
ALL ABOARD FOR ESOL
 Chattanooga, Downtown Marriott Hotel/Convention Center
 March 4-6, 2010

Registration Form

Name (for nametag): _____

Institution or Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____
*(Where you wish to receive your **TNTE SOL Newsletter** and other **TNTE SOL Mailings**)*

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Primary Email Address: _____

Circle Interest Area: K-8 9-12 Higher Ed Adult Ed Program Administrator Other: _____

May we publish the above information in the TNTE SOL Directory? Yes or No
 (TNTE SOL does not share member information)

Please list any dietary restrictions, accessibility, or other need _____

Conference Registration Information: All Presenters and Vendors must register for the conference. Payment must accompany the registration form, and there are no refunds. Payment options are listed below. There is an additional \$40 fee for registrations received after **February 12, 2009**.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Pre-Conference Workshop –Open to All (State of Tennessee Title III Department) | Thursday, March 4 Will you attend? | Free Yes or No |
| Conference Registration – Friday, March 5, and Saturday, March 6 (Includes TNTE SOL Membership Dues) | | \$125.00 _____ |
| Student Registration Fee – Friday, March 5, and Saturday, March 6 (Excludes TNTE SOL Membership Dues) | | \$25.00 _____ |
| One Day Registration: (Excludes TNTE SOL Membership Dues) | Friday, March 5 Saturday, March 6 | \$75.00 _____ \$45.00 _____ |
| Ticketed Southern Belle Riverboat Dinner Cruise – Friday, March 5 (Entertainment by the Riverboat Ramblers) | | \$30.00 _____ |
| Ticketed Luncheon - Saturday | March 6 | \$25.00 _____ |
| | Total | \$ _____ |

Payment Method: _____ Personal check _____ Money Order _____ School/Inst. Check *(No purchase orders accepted)*
Make checks payable to TNTE SOL.

Mail this form and payment to:

Margaret Burroughs, ESOL
 Hixson Elementary School
 5950 Winding Lane
 Hixson, TN 47343

Marriott Hotel, 2 Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN 37402
www.marriott.com/chadt
\$135.00 TNTE SOL Rate
800-841-1674 Code:TTETTEA

For further conference information, contact Edie Barry tntesol2010@yahoo.com, 423-493-0372 or 423-503-8620



Call for Proposals

2010 TNTESOL Statewide Conference

Downtown Chattanooga Marriott Hotel and Convention Center

March 4-6, 2010

Deadline: February 12, 2010

Name(s) of Presenters: _____

Professional affiliation of presenter(s): _____

Mailing address of contact person: _____

Home phone: _____ Office phone: _____

Email address: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Do you want this presentation to be judged for an opportunity to be selected for a travel grant?
 Yes No (See www.tntesol.org to determine eligibility for grant --click on "Development", then "Awards", scroll down to "Travel Grants".) If yes, we request your attendance at the Saturday luncheon.

Type of presentation (Check one) Paper Demonstration Discussion Group
 Workshop Panel Discussion Poster Session (Please include handouts. Poster should be no larger than 4'x 6' and be attached to a surface such as foam or tag board. Please consider leaving the poster displayed for the entire conference.)

Interest Area (Check one or more)
 Elementary education Higher education Research
 Secondary education Teacher training Refugee Ed
 Adult education Administration

Time needed: (check one) 50 minutes 80 minutes
 Other _____

Audio/Visual Equipment: Please check below to indicate audio/visual equipment needed for your presentation. **Due to compatibility issues, please furnish your own laptop, projector, and cords.**

You will need us to furnish: TV DVD VCR Overhead Screen

Please attach: 1. An abstract of your presentation (200 word maximum)
2. A short description of your presentation for the conference program (40-word maximum)
3. A biographical statement of each presenter (20-word maximum for each presenter)
All materials must be submitted in typed form.

Email completed form, abstract, description, and biographical information to:
Valerie-Rutledge@utc.edu . Access the *Call for Proposals* form online: www.tntesol.org

For further conference information, contact Edie Barry at tntesol2010@yahoo.com

ALL presenters must complete registration form and submit payment fees for conference.

TNTESOL Newsletter
c/o English Language Center
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Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37203