



Spring 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 38, Issue 2

**Including Conference Highlights from
TNTESOL 2017: R-E-S-P-E-C-T
Bridging Languages, Academics and Communities**

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Cover photo: Memphis Conference logo

Message from the President

Spring 2017

Dear TNTESOL Members,

I would like to start by thanking you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of this amazing organization. I have been an active member of TNTESOL since I was pregnant with my son who will graduate this May. I am honored to represent you as we move from a spring to fall conference. This decision came about after several years of bad winter weather and the demands of state K-12 testing. We are grateful to all past and present members who gave thoughtful consideration into this transition.

Our conferences are always special. I would like to thank Abasi McKinzie and his team for giving us a Respectful time in Memphis. We enjoyed sharing ideas, learning about upcoming state issues, and meeting new people. Furthermore, I am glad to announce our next conference dates will be September 19-22, 2018 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs hotel. It will be exciting to see what Joseph Whinery and Lee Kirkpatrick plan for our first Fall Conference. I would like to give a final shout out to Renee Combs, our 2019 conference chair. This conference will take place in East Tennessee. If you are interested in helping with these future conferences, please contact a board member.

TNTESOL cannot give enough praise to Dr. Tammy Harosky, our outgoing president. She has continued to build on the leaders of the past by helping to equalize the board's regional representation and finalize the budget guidelines for upcoming conferences and yearly expenses. Dr. Harosky has also worked tirelessly to promote student representation on our board. I look forward to her counsel in the next year.

Welcome to our newest board members, Christy Duncan, Tiffany Wilson-Mobley and Michelle Sluder. Along with our returning members-at-large, our appointed members, and our officers, we will continue to keep TNTESOL a vital and growing organization for you, the members. If you would like to contact any of us with ideas or concerns, please refer to the email address at the front of the newsletter. You can reach me at president@tntesol.org or at smsteach12@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Christine Tennyson, EdD
TNTESOL President



TNTESOL is your organization. Please get involved.

Communication



Linked In — Search for and join Tennessee Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TNTESOL).

TennesseeESL@Yahogroups.com — moderator Deborah Sams



Facebook has a private TNTESOL group with closed membership. If you would like to join, please contact the TNTESOL webmaster.

Follow TNTESOL on **Twitter** — Chat with us Monday evenings at 7pm CST.

Abasi McKinzie (@mckah01) and ChristineTennyson (@CBTennyson) moderate our #tntesolchat



Advocacy Day — Do you know of issues that need to be brought to the attention of political leaders? The TNTESOL Advocacy Representative, Abasi McKinzie will listen and bring your concerns to Washington. Contact him at 1vicepresident@tntesol.org



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 **email attachment** along with your personal information by the issue deadline to:

Andrea Bontempi, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@tntesol.org

Deadlines

August 15, 2017
December 15, 2017
April 15, 2018

Issue

Summer/Fall 2017
Winter 2018
Spring 2018

TNTESOL Newsletter
c/o ESL Instructional Facilitator
Instruction Department,
Rutherford County Schools
2240 Southpark Blvd.,
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

First Conference Experience

Jeanie L. Dennis
Williamson County Schools

As a first time attendee and presenter at the TNTESOL conference, I found it was a very positive and impactful experience. The conference began with the State Day. This day was a day to meet other teachers from around the state, to register, and to set the tone for the conference. Jan Lanier spoke for the first half, and Kathleen Leos spoke for the second half of the day. I really enjoyed hearing both of these speakers. They are obviously very knowledgeable and passionate about English learners, and they delivered this effectively. Both of these speakers challenged me to rethink some common teaching myths that I and many other teachers have believed to be facts. Friday and Saturday were days filled with many choices of breakout sessions. I was able to attend sessions that interested me. I especially enjoyed a session about writing, and I was able to implement the strategies immediately into my teaching. I also really enjoyed a session about creating songs about ELA topics. The presenter even gave each attendee a CD containing the songs that she has written. On Saturday, I presented with several of my colleagues. We presented about effective parent communication. The attendees were very positive and engaged during the presentation. Overall, this was a wonderful experience. I left feeling refreshed and excited to go back to my classroom with new teaching ideas. I thoroughly enjoyed presenting and found the audience to be very receptive. I am looking forward to sharing these new ideas with my colleagues and administrators.



Welcome New TNTESOL Board Members

Jordan Smith from East TN joins Wood Rodgers from West TN as Student Representatives on the TNTESOL Board. Middle TN is still accepting recommendations for a student representative.

Members-at-Large serve a three-year term and represent their Tennessee region:

Michelle Sluder (West)



Tiffany Wilson-Mobley (Middle)



Christy Duncan (East)



A Message from the State

Dear Fellow TNTESOL Members,

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost finished. I hope that WIDA ACCESS went well in your area and that you are getting some great professional development and rest to prepare yourselves for the 2017-18 school opening. The number of English Learners (ELs) in Tennessee continues to grow.

TNTESOL's Spring Conference in Memphis was outstanding. A special thanks goes to Abasi McKinzie and the Memphis team who made the conference so meaningful. The department hosted the opening day, and there were more than 275 in attendance. We had a thought-provoking session with Kathleen Leos, a former director of the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), and one of the keynote speakers, Dr. Margarita Calderon, as they shook up our thinking about the possibilities of early exit for English learners. It is important to hear theorists who challenge our thinking and help us determine our personal education philosophy. For example, hearing someone say that there is no silent period forced me to examine the fact that the silent period is not silent, but truly a valuable pre-productive period. Listening to speakers challenge the research on the length of time an EL needs to reach proficiency forced me to question how quickly we might move young ELs to proficiency. How much quicker can a middle school student with interrupted formal education reach proficiency if that student receives strategic ESL services that are differentiated to his/her needs? Could it be done in five years, or even three years?

The department is excited to have submitted the state Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. Please watch your email for announcements regarding Title III/ESL updates related to the ESSA Directors Institute, August 21–23, and the third annual Title III Directors meeting, August 24, at the Embassy Suites in Cool Springs.

Jan

Jan Lanier
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WIDA Screener Training

During the first week of May, the TDOE held four sessions across the state using a train the trainer format. Districts sent one representative to learn about the new WIDA Screener. Tennessee will begin using the online assessment on July 1st. While the format and platform are identical to the WIDA ACCESS, the scoring of the Speaking and Writing domains will be done locally. Approximately two hours after the student completes the Screener, the test administrator will log into WIDA AMS to access the speaking and writing responses and enter scores. Rater reliability is crucial, and scorers must pass the appropriate quizzes to gain access to the scoring tab in AMS.



Lori Nixon, TN Department of Education, introduced Terri Mosgrove, WIDA Professional Development Outreach Specialist

The presenter from WIDA, Terri Mosgrove, was engaging and knowledgeable. After the full day interactive presentation, the participants returned to their districts to continue their training, pass their quizzes, and prepare to train their ESL teachers locally. Overwhelming at first, this new process will become second nature and will yield a number of benefits to the screening process.



Mid-Cumberland Collaborative ESL PLC

Representatives from the districts in the Mid-Cumberland region met in April at the Williamson County Schools Professional Development Center in Franklin. The meeting included a presentation on ESSA and ELs by Joann Runion, TDOE Coordinator of English Learner Instruction and Intervention. Amy Gullion, Academic Consultant, TDOE Mid-Cumberland CORE, facilitated two sessions: one on strategies for direct instruction including collaboration with general education teachers; and the second on RTI and Special Education challenges and solutions. The meeting was hosted by Joseph Whinery, ESL Regional Advisor and ESL Supervisor for Williamson County Schools.

*EL Collaborative PLCs meet across the state during the year
Please send your photos and news to newsletter@tntesol.org*



Website Survey

Jordan Burgess
King University student

Starfall

URL: <http://www.starfall.com/>
 Author: Starfall Edu. Foundation
 Language: English
 Grade: Pre-K-2
 Accessibility: Categorized by grade and subject matter
 Credibility: Founded by EDU
 Purpose: Teacher, Parents, and Students
 Content: PK-2 Reading and Math
 Cost: Some membership fees.
 Pros: Very colorful and engaging.
 Cons: Not all content is free.

Dave's ESL Café

<http://www.eslcafe.com/students/>
 Author: Dave Sperling
 Language: English
 Grades: Accessible for all grades
 Accessibility: Yes, but drab
 Credibility: Run by a single person, possible but unlikely issues.
 Purpose: Student and teacher
 Content: Reading (verbs, pronunciation, idioms, etc.)
 Cost: Free
 Pros: The website is free
 Cons: The website is boring and unengaging

English Live

URL: <http://www.englishtown.com/community/portal/default.aspx>
 Author: EF First Education Group
 Language: English but available in other languages
 Grade: Intermediate level
 Accessibility: Not user friendly

Credibility: A credible source
 Purpose: Teachers and Students
 Content: Practical English (interviews, using internet, etc.)
 Cost: Membership required
 Pros: Teaches how to do things in the real world using English
 Cons: Not free; not user friendly

Activities for ESL Students

URL: <http://a4esl.org/>
 Author: The Internet TSL Journal
 Language: Content available in multiple languages
 Grade: All grade levels
 Accessibility: very user friendly
 Credibility: .org reliable information found on this site
 Purpose: Teacher and student
 Content: Grammar and vocabulary
 Cost: Free
 Pros: The website does not require a membership
 Cons: The website is somewhat boring to look at (not colorful and fun)

Learning English

URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/>
 Author: BBC
 Language: British English
 Grades: all grade levels
 Accessibility: user friendly
 Credibility: .co.uk Yes, credible
 Purpose: Student
 Content: Practical English
 Cost: Free
 Pros: No membership cost
 Cons: British English is used

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engVid

URL: <https://www.engvid.com/>

Author: Not stated

Language: English

Grades: all grade levels

Accessibility: very user friendly

Credibility: seems to be credible

Purpose: Teacher

Content: Video lessons

Cost: Free

Pros: The website does not require a membership and is full of online English lessons

Cons: There are ads on the website

Fun Brain

www.funbrain.com

Author: Fun Brain Holdings

Language: English

Grades: all grade levels

Accessibility: very user friendly and fun

Credibility: the website is credible

Purpose: Student

Content: educational games for all content subjects

Cost: Free

Pros: The website is very user friendly and would be fun for students

Cons: The website is full of games and could be distracting

Literacy Center Edu. Network

<http://www.literacycenter.net/>

Author: Literacy Center Education Network

Language: English but accessible for multiple languages

Grade: K-5

Accessibility: User friendly.

Credibility: The website seems to be full of credible information

Purpose: Parents, teachers, and students

Content: Literacy games for students to play, as well as lessons and information for teachers and

parents

Cost: Free

Pros: The website does not require a membership and is user friendly.

Cons: The website is geared toward lower elementary grade levels.

ADHD in the ESL Classroom

URL: <http://busyteacher.org/24766-adhd-in-esl-classroom-practical-tips.html>

Author: Susan Verner

Language: English

Grades: K-5

Accessibility: User friendly for teachers

Credibility: .org, Yes, credible

Purpose: Teachers

Content: Tips for teachers dealing with ESL students that have ADHD

Cost: Free

Pros: Membership not required

Cons: Geared for only elementary grades.

SDL Free Translation

<https://www.freetranslation.com/>

Author: SDL

Language: Multiple languages available

Grade: K-12

Accessibility: Very accessible and easy to use

Credibility: The website seems to produce credible translations

Purpose: Teachers, parents, and students

Content: The website is used to translate one language to the desired language

Cost: Membership fee is required

Pros: The website is a great source for students who have classroom teachers that do not speak their first language

Cons: The website requires a membership.



TNTESOL Conference Reflection

Emma King
King University

My experiences with TNTESOL are never short of anything but amazing. As a student at King University, I am blessed with the opportunity to travel with my professor and fellow classmates to attend this conference. This trip to Memphis, TN for TNTESOL was actually my second trip to attend this amazing conference. TNTESOL opens up multiple windows of opportunity for future teachers, specifically ESL teachers. Not only is this conference filled with fun and friendships but it is also filled with many unique and exciting learning opportunities.

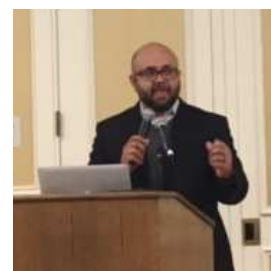
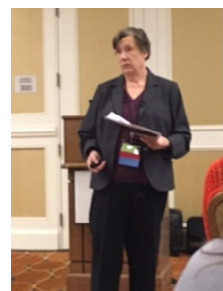
While attending this conference, I was present for State Day. During State Day I attended both lectures and expanded my knowledge of the behind the scenes process of the TESOL program. The first presentation was about upcoming changes for the ESL program within Tennessee. Every Student Succeed Act was discussed heavily during the first lecture. I believe that this Act is empowering to both teachers and students. Jan Lanier discussed how to involve students with this new Act and all the opportunities involved with Tennessee. As a future ESL teacher, I need to remember some of the key aspects of ESSA.

This conference has opened my eyes to many opportunities and problems within the ESL program in Tennessee. Attending this conference as a student prepares you for your real world job in the educational system. I believe that all teachers should have at least a background knowledge for ESL, or ELL, students. Among some of the conversations I heard and from personal experience, the ESL teacher and mainstream classroom teacher need to work together! I was very happy to hear that mainstream classroom teachers, ESL teachers, and administrators attended this TNTESOL conference. As a future teacher, whether it be mainstream or ESL, my main focus will be my students and their success.

Not only did I walk away from this conference with new knowledge, but I also walked away with a new defined respect for all the people involved with ESL students and the work they put into it. This conference helped me apply a new desire to help ESL students and their parents. These students hold a special place in my heart and I look forward to working with these kids in my career. An ESL teacher isn't just a teacher, but they can be a support system and influential character to his or her students! For me, ESL is my future. ESL may not be a major concept in Bristol, TN but it holds a major piece of my heart.



*Travel Grant Winners (left);
Teachers of the Year (right)
Keynote Speakers (below, left to right):
Jan Lanier, Kathleen Leos, Margarita Calderon with
outgoing president Tammy Harosky, Greg Diaz*



Pre-Service Teachers: Professionals for the Weekend

Jordan Burgess & Faith Booher
King University

There is a certain emotion that comes with being able to attend a conference for teachers, as a pre-service teacher. If excitement and fear came together, those would be the emotions that we felt when we attended TNTESOL 2017 in Memphis, TN. We were excited because we would be introduced to the world of teaching on a professional level. The emotion of fear because we would be thrown into the professional level of teaching, swimming amongst those who have been in the profession for years.

It was a great conference. We were thankful for the opportunity to attend different sessions and meet a lot of different people. Our favorite session was a phonic lesson. We listened to the presenter talk about letters and how to teach sounds to students. She had a song for the students to learn to help them remember the letter sounds. The letters each had an animal or character to help the students learn and remember them. We learned a lot about teaching letter sounds and how to write letters.

One thing that that we did not realize before the conference is that a content area teacher doesn't always collaborate with the ESL teacher which would make the learning process easier for the students. After attending TNTESOL, we understand the importance of this collaboration and will strive to ensure that it takes place in our future classrooms.

Now we feel more prepared for the professional world. Being immersed in the professional vocabulary, current issues, success stories and environment was a learning opportunity that we will cherish. Our experience with TNTESOL has been priceless. TNTESOL has helped to prepare us for the professional world and has placed a burden for English Language Learners and their success on our hearts.

First Time Conference Experience

Claudia C. Classen
Williamson County Schools

As a first time attendee at the TNTESOL conference, I had a wonderful experience. I don't know if I can break it down to what was the best part, other than to give you a brief synopsis of my three days. The conference in Memphis opened on Thursday with the State Day. The State Day had two extremely knowledgeable speakers, Jan Lanier, for the first half, and Kathleen Leos for the second half of the day. Both of them delivered a strong message on how we need to help ELs achieve success at grade level. Ms. Lanier's State Introduction was based on TN Services, and both believe that teaching must align with the EL's grade level. The key to the EL's academic achievement stems in understanding grade level information. Since English is my second language, this process is something that impacts me personally. I was taught with lower level text books, taking me twice as long to achieve grade level success.

The next two days were a teacher's dream. The days were filled with short sessions lasting around an hour. The sessions I attended were very interesting. Some of the sessions had wonderful teaching ideas, some had great web sites to use, while others had some information on some national issues. There were so many great teaching strategies that I took from this conference. I have updated my lesson plans to include some of the methods and strategies that I have gleaned from this conference. I am extremely thankful and blessed to have been able to go with a few of my colleagues who presented at this conference. I hope that my next experience will be to present some of the ideas that I have reaped from this conference.

Gundi-Ressin Scholarship Winner

Employees at Lipscomb University Receive English Lessons

Steve Sherman, Missionary in Residence
College of Bible and Ministry
and Todd Beard, EAP Program Director

Lipscomb University employs individuals from a variety of nationalities and backgrounds, many of whom speak very basic levels of English. This can make it very difficult for the employees to adjust to their new life in America and a new culture.

Dr. Steve Sherman, Missionary in Residence at Lipscomb University since 2001, initiated a program a few years ago to help these employees have an opportunity to improve their English. Operating such a program on a shoestring budget can be a challenge, even when every penny is carefully counted. Recently almost all the funds necessary to run the program had been depleted. That's when Sherman connected with TN TESOL to apply for the Gundi Ressin Scholarship. Once the grant was awarded, Sherman was eager and excited to keep the program running. The grant funding from Gundi Scholarship allowed textbooks to be purchased. "They will be recycled as many times as possible to get the most use out of them," says Sherman.

Each semester, Sherman asks students in one of his communication classes for volunteers to tutor employees. "Since I teach intercultural communication, providing an opportunity for my university students to teach a new English language learner is for me a win-win opportunity," says Sherman. Training is given for these volunteer student-teachers and allows the participants to understand how to best communicate with and teach non-native English speakers. The teachers are given binders and instructional materials so that they can keep all their tools in one place. Once the training is complete, students are matched with an employee and the tutoring begins. Tutoring takes place around campus at various times of the day or early evening.

An unfortunate fact is that these employees are often in the lowest paying jobs at the institution. In many instances, they are working two or three jobs to support their families. Such intense work schedules mean they lose opportunities to learn or improve their English skills. Guleh Akrawi, Coordinator of Custodial Services, said "I think [the classes] are working good. A lot of people, they speak English good now," noting the importance of these classes, despite the employees' challenging schedules.

The university's Service Operations Department recognized the value of these lessons and the dedica-

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tion of the employees to learn. As such, they give the employees two hours a week of paid time while they receive the English lessons. It's an expression of Lipscomb's mission and commitment to its community.



Sherman states, "This ELL program provides both students and staff at Lipscomb the opportunity to serve our foreign nationals by teaching them English and at the same time, building cross-cultural relationships that serves both the teacher and the learner."

"Lipscomb's immigrant employees can learn English and my students are exposed to excellent cross-cultural experience without leaving Lipscomb's campus," continued Sherman.

Not only do the employees have an opportunity to improve their language skills and adapt to the culture, friendships are forged and new relationships bloom through this program. A familiar face on campus makes everyone feel more at home, even if home is far away from Nashville, Tennessee.

*Mirtala is a Lipscomb employee who says,
"I like the first level English. It's good for me."*

View the guidelines for the Gundi-Ressin Scholarship Award at www.tntesol.org

Letter to the Editor

Patti Wright
ESL Teacher
Trenton Special School District

Spring 2017 issue

Re: Field Trip in Nashville by Dr. Johnna Paraiso

I just finished reading the article. I can't stop crying. I will share this with my students and other educators. The Holocaust and other tragedies should be taught every year in every grade only because of the student's question: "Could it happen again?" Thank you.



TNTESOL Annual Conference Awards



2017 TNTESOL Travel Grant Winners

ESL Students and the Art of Reference
Meghan Lupole and Phillip Taylor
(Overall Travel Grant Winner)

Closer Read n the ESL Classroom
Tanya Hill

Digital Citizenship: Citizens Bridging Borders in Cyberspace
Jennifer Meyer



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President's Award



This award is presented by the outgoing president of TNTESOL, Tammy Harosky. "The TNTESOL President's award for 2017 goes to Lee Ann Kelly. I have selected Ms. Kelly because during my time on the board, she has always been there to answer questions, provide support and encouragement. Ms. Kelly has a true passion for ESL which is evident in everything she does. She has been a wonderful mentor to many members of the TNTESOL board. In appreciation of all she does, the TNTESOL President's award for 2017 is presented to Ms. Lee Ann Kelly."

Lee Ann Kelly

2014-15 TNTESOL President

2017 President's Award Recipient

Administrator of the Year Award

Recipient

Andrew Duck

Shelby County Schools



Mr. Andrew (Andy) Duck began his role as ESL Supervisor in May, 2005. He supervises a group of 264 ESL teachers, 36 Bilingual mentors, and an office staff of 2 ESL Instructional Advisors, 1 ESL Data Specialist, and 5 ESL Counselors.



Mr. Duck works beyond that of the daily management tasks that come with these huge numbers. He often extends his work day to evaluate high school transcripts, interpret for parents at community events, and/or remain at scheduled professional development offerings and hiring events for teachers. His past experience has included teaching English in Saudi Arabia and Spain, working for the TN Dept. of Education, and teaching ESL in the Memphis City (now Shelby County) School system. He is known and appreciated for his ability to manage all of his responsibilities, all the while making time for those in the community who need his assistance.

Charles Gillon Professional Service Award

Recipient

Heidi Ramirez

While serving as the Central Academic Officer of Shelby County Schools, Ms. Ramirez elevated the role and importance of ESL within the school district and increased awareness of ESL issues.



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TNTESOL Educator of the Year

Becky Young—East Tennessee and Overall Tennessee Educator of the Year

I was honored and humbled to receive the East Tennessee and overall Tennessee TNTESOL ESL Educator of the year awards. Thank you for this honor!

My interest in other cultures began in my childhood. My parents were missionaries in Ethiopia and I had the experience of being the stranger who did not speak the language. I did not initially choose ESL or even education as a career path. Instead, I chose biology, but then took a break to be a stay at home mother for several years. After volunteering in my children's schools, I decided to go into education as a second career. I chose ESL because of my background and because of the growing need. I attended UT-Knoxville to get my M.S. in ESL Education. After graduation in 2003, I was hired to teach ESL at Dayton City School. They did not have their own ESL program, so I had to set it up. Our program now serves about 70 students from various language backgrounds. I am one of two full-time teachers and I coordinate the program. I love my students and want to help each one reach his or her potential.

Because I know how hard it is to set up and run a small program, I have done my best to serve as a resource for and collaborate with other ESL Coordinators in my region. It has also been my privilege to serve as an adjunct instructor at Bryan College teaching the Introduction to TESL course for them for several years.

TNTESOL has been very important in my teaching career. The professional development received at the annual conferences has been invaluable. The opportunities to meet, enjoy, and collaborate with fellow ESL professionals have been enriching. A highlight of my career was the term I was privileged to serve as a member-at-large on TNTESOL Board. To be honored by this organization and by my peers in the field is something I will always treasure. Thank you.



Carol Ray Richardson— West Tennessee Educator of the Year

Carol Ray Richardson received a Bachelors of Science Degree in Education from the University of Memphis in 1994. She began her commitment to education as a Shelby County Schools Kindergarten teacher at Collierville Elementary almost twenty-three years ago. In 2008, she returned to the University of Memphis to obtain a Graduate Certificate and later received a Masters of Art in Teaching English as a Second Language. After successfully teaching Kindergarten for sixteen years, Mrs. Richardson decided to shift her focus to teaching and advocating for English language learners. Her passion and dedicated service has led to her becoming the proud recipient of the 2017 TNTESOL West Tennessee ESL Educator of the Year Award. Mrs. Richardson is honored that she was selected from such an outstanding and deserving group of nominees.

In addition to her success in the classroom, Mrs. Richardson has shared her expertise with colleagues in various districts throughout West Tennessee. Over the years, she has been a grade chairperson, cooperating teacher, and supervisor of practicum experiences for aspiring ESL teachers. She has also mentored and trained ESL teachers as needed in the Collierville Schools District. Carol was selected to work on committees to write ESL test exemplars for the Tennessee Department of Education, design the first standards-based Kindergarten Report Card and align K-2 Common Core Standards with ESL Standards for Shelby County Schools. In an effort to share ideas and strategies with her colleagues, Carol has given presentations at PLCs, District Learning Day, and at



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the TNTESOL conference in Bristol, Tennessee. Mrs. Richardson's active professional organization memberships include; TNTESOL, Delta Kappa Gamma, CEA, TEA and NEA.

As an ESL educator, Mrs. Richardson has established relationships with families across cultures and nationalities. She volunteers to tutor English language learners on Tuesday evenings at the Hope House, a neighborhood facility in Collierville. Mrs. Richardson often spends additional time with parents to address their questions about school related matters.

Carol attributes her success to her faith in God, supportive colleagues, and administrators at Collierville Elementary. She is extremely thankful for the encouragement she has consistently received from her wonderful husband and two beautiful daughters.

Jennifer Wilson, Wilson County Schools—Middle Tennessee Educator of the Year

I've always loved languages.

It is such an honor to be recognized by my peers, who know exactly how rewarding it is to be an ESL teacher. I grew up with both my parents as educators - my father an elementary school principal and my mother a high school special education teacher. My two sisters and I never knew any other way of life. We always had a chalkboard in our bedroom or garage and shelves and shelves of books that held our favorite stories we could read over and over.

Ironically, I didn't hop right into majoring in education as I entered university. Instead I chose the next most obvious path....librarian. I graduated from the University of North Texas with a double major in Library Science and Spanish. Immediately after, I was the librarian at Northwood Business College in Cedar Hill, Texas for five years. It was a lovely small campus and as much as I enjoyed it, I jumped ship when a girlfriend told me there was an opening for a Marketing Assistant at a corporate travel company called Maritz Travel. My friend mentioned that the position was for someone to write business proposals, which I wasn't immediately enthralled with, but then she mentioned the travel benefits and I was sold. I spent 12 years with the travel company and had the unique opportunity to visit Australia, Spain, England, Ireland, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Mexico, Canada, Alaska and The Netherlands.

It wasn't until I was married with two young sons, that the traveling life was too tough to juggle and I longed to get back into the world of education. So, by August of 2001, I was standing in my very first classroom at Sam Houston Elementary in downtown Dallas, Texas ready for my 4th graders to walk in the door. I had been well prepared and thoroughly inspired by the veteran educators of Dallas Public Schools and I knew I was where I was meant to be.

After four years in Dallas, my husband had a job transfer and we packed up and went to Kenosha, Wisconsin. I was the itinerant ESL teacher for the county. Our stay there was only two years and then we headed back south to Nashville.

Within the Wilson County School District, I have had wonderful opportunities to serve ESL families beyond the classroom. For many years, I have tutored after school, sponsored clubs, coordinated ESL Summer Camp and taught adult English class. Serving students and their families, as well as collaborating and learning from the talented professionals in Wilson County is the most rewarding work I'll ever do.

I would like to thank the knowledgeable and inspiring leaders at TNTESOL who continue to provide an annual conference that provides important and focused professional development that strengthens our ESL educators across the state. There are many hard-working and dedicated ESL teachers in Tennessee deserving this award, but it is exciting to receive this special recognition and to represent my Wilson County ESL team.



TNTESOL Conference Memories



The Friday night social event: After a tour of the National Civil Rights Museum, attendees relaxed with dinner, games, Karaoke and dancing.



Yvonne Parrish tweeted I had the pleasure of meeting Memphis' fabulous mayor, Jim Strickland.



Continued on page 19

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This experience proved to be very emotional for those of us who were alive during many of the events commemorated in the museum.

The World Comes Together at TESOL

TESOL 2017

International Convention & English Language Expo

21-24 MARCH 2017 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA



TESOL 2017 Seattle

Jennifer Meyer
Williamson County Schools

For the third year in a row, I was honored to have my proposals selected for presentation at the International TESOL conference in Seattle, Washington.

Two years ago, I wrote about my experience submitting a proposal for the Toronto conference in this newsletter (Spring 2015, Vol. 36, Issue 2). But not only is there the opportunity to submit a proposal to the general conference, there is also the opportunity to submit a proposal to the Electronic Village. Proposals for the Electronic Village can cover a wide range of topics; however, all are related to Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL).



This year, like in 2015, my proposal to the general conference was not accepted. This is always very disappointing and frustrating. One way the TESOL Call for Proposals is different from the process TNTESOL uses is TESOL proposal reviewers provide feedback as to why the proposal was not selected. Especially frustrating is when this feedback is not relevant to the topic of your proposal or clear that the reviewer did not understand the topic of your proposal due to lack of knowledge on the topic. To solve this problem, TESOL has proposed a new way to vet proposal reviewers prior to entrusting them with the task of reviewing proposals. All volunteers interested in reviewing proposals will be required to fill out an application, demonstrating subject-area knowledge for proposal topics indicated in the application. This means if you want to review proposals for topics in the CALL-IS (Computer Assisted Language Learning Interest Section), you will have to demonstrate qualifications, skills, and experience related to CALL topics before you will be approved to review proposals in this Interest Section. I think this will improve the proposal review process by making sure that only experts in a field are evaluating proposals. I strongly encourage anyone interested to submit an application to TESOL to review proposals. It provides excellent experience in this area and is a boost to your resume and professional development.

Even though my proposal for the general conference was not accepted, two of my proposals for the Electronic Village were accepted. One session was part of a Technology Fair entitled "Turn Passive Watchers into Active Learners: How to Enrich Videos in ELL Instruction." I demonstrated how to use www.playposit.com to enrich videos with embedded questions. A further benefit of using this website is students can embed student-initiated questioning in their own videos. When I used this website with my students, it helped change their perspective on test taking/making. They were suddenly confronted with the task of developing higher-order questions, while at the same time knowing the correct answer in advance! It was very challenging for them; but once they got the hang of it, they were very engaged and excited to develop tough questions for their classmates. This forum is not a typical break out room session where attendees sit in a big room and listen. Because this session took place in

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the Electronic Village, several other demonstrations were taking place simultaneously. Presenters repeat the same session over two 20-minute periods and attendees in the room are alerted to change tables at the appropriate time. Although I was prepared for this scenario, I had latecomers at each 20-minute session, so I repeated the same session 4 times in the 40 minutes allotted. It is a high-speed demonstration with attendees coming and going; but those who remained at my table had many questions, and I was happy that I could help teach them about this website and the benefits of implementing it in the classroom. I even received an invitation to be a keynote speaker at Dominican Republic TESOL this July by the conference organizer.



Classroom of the Future



The second session I presented was in the Classroom of the Future in the Exposition Hall. This space is a little intimidating because it is not in a typical break out room; instead, it is located in the center of the football field-sized room where the vendors are located. If you can imagine how a fish in a fish bowl feels—that is the same feeling of presenting in this space. This session about “Digital Citizenship: Teaching Digital Empowerment in a Web 2.0 World” was a recap of the presentation I gave at TNTESOL in Memphis, for which I was chosen to receive one of three travel grant awards this year. Presenting is always a rewarding experience. You learn so much from the entire process starting with writing the proposal, to organizing the presentation, to speaking in a public forum, to on-the-spot problem solving when the audio doesn’t work and you can’t show your cool videos.

In addition to presenting at TESOL 2017, I also served as an elected member of the CALL-IS steering committee, helping to plan, organize, and implement all the activities offered by the Electronic Village and Technology Showcase venues. Last year, I first got involved with the Webcasting Team through a generic call for volunteers issued by TESOL. After attending several online, live training sessions with webcasters from around the world, I felt



Dr. Juan Valdez, President Dominican Republic TESOL; his colleague; and Jennifer Meyer presenting at the Technology Fair

ready to implement what I had learned at TNTESOL 2016 in Murfreesboro. I successfully webcast State Day last year and was then ready for the test of webcasting internationally at TESOL 2016 in Baltimore. After my successful experience in Baltimore, I felt ready for a larger commitment to the webcasting team and joined three other members in a search for a new webcasting platform. Once we decided on the platform, we had to teach ourselves how to use it, and I beta tested it at TNTESOL 2017 in Memphis very successfully. With the knowledge I had gained from implementing the software in Memphis and our several online training sessions, the webcasting at TESOL 2017 in Seattle was an even greater success. For TESOL 2018 in Chicago, I will be taking over as Webcast Team Leader, and I hope we can continue to improve and optimize our process to bring more sessions to those who cannot attend conferences in person.

You can view the **TNTESOL 2017 State Day** sessions here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCl-WmxVA-GRHR658WREA87Q>

I also was responsible for webcasting sessions all day Friday and Saturday for the general conference at **TNTESOL 2017**. As I was also part of four other presentations, I couldn’t have completed this task without the help of Aaron Thompson and Howon Lee. Here is the link to the Friday and Saturday sessions:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN5PnkHq737quMLCL8GO_fw

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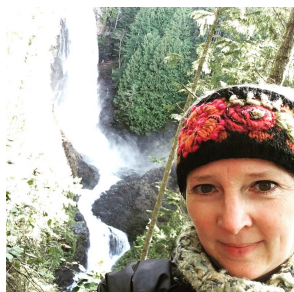
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Here is the link to view all webcast sessions from TESOL 2017 in Seattle:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChnWYx1ZGtHnzpV5t98J4Q>

If you still need professional development hours, you might consider contacting your district administrator regarding watching these recorded sessions for professional development credit.

In addition to presenting at and attending TESOL 2017 in Seattle, I also spent a little extra time visiting relatives who live in the area. Thirty years ago, I spent a summer with my cousins, who lived in central Washington at the time. We spent a lot of time out in nature and exploring the forests and mountains of the region. Ever since, I have always longed to return and spend more time in the forests, so I made arrangements with my aunt to spend a day



Jennifer Meyer hiking at Wallace Falls State Park

hiking. We chose a waterfall near Everett, Washington, at Wallace Falls State Park. Due to large amounts of recent rain, the falls were exceptionally beautiful; however, the forest was also exceptionally dangerous. On the return hike, 1.5 miles from the trailhead, unexpectedly and silently, a large branch fell from a very tall tree. It hit me directly on the top of my head and knocked me to the ground. There was a lot of blood, but due to all her years of hiking and exploring the forests and mountains of the area, my aunt was prepared for just such an accident. We got the bleeding under control, and with the help of some other hikers, got me back on my feet and down the mountain. I ended up needing two staples in my scalp, but not getting a concussion or suffering any other complications from the accident. And now I have an exciting story to tell about my trip.



If you are interested in the wonderful experience of attending and presenting at an international conference like TESOL, I encourage you to submit a proposal for a presentation. The deadline is usually in early June, so get your topic ready and your proposal submitted before you break for summer. (<http://www.tesol.org/convention2017/tesol-2018-call-for-proposals>). If you have any questions about the Call for Proposals, the rubric utilized by TESOL, or how to get started writing your proposal, feel free to email me: Jennifer.meyer@wcs.edu. There are also several ways to get involved with TESOL as a volunteer or as a member of an Interest Section. Visit this link to find out more: <http://www.tesol.org/connect>

Next year's conference will be in the Windy City of Chicago March 27-31 so mark your calendars and get ready.

<http://www.tesol.org/convention2017>



Sherman Alexie
Opening Keynote
Tuesday, 21 March, 05:30 PM
Power and Empowerment: An Urban Indian's Comic, Poetic, and Highly Irreverent Look at the World



Dudley Reynolds
Presidential Keynote
Wednesday, 22 March, 08:00 AM
PROFESSIONAL English Language Teachers in a 2.0 World



Guadalupe Valdes
James E. Alatis Plenary
Thursday, 23 March, 08:00 AM
Ruminations of an Old Language Teacher



Yong Zhao
Morning Keynote
Friday, 24 March, 08:00 AM
Perils or Promises: Education in the Age of Smart Machines

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James May, Jennifer Meyer, Jack Watson, and Abe Reshad (standing). Members of the CALL-IS Webcast team at work



Tiffany Wilson-Mobley, Jan Lanier, Chris Tennyson, Jennifer Meyer, and Joseph Whinery



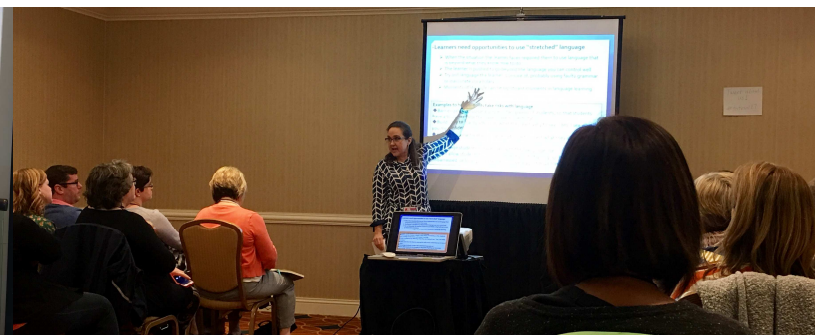
Jennifer Meyer and former TNTESOL member Harriet Strahlman reunite at Pike Place Market to present at TESOL17



More TNTESOL Conference Memories

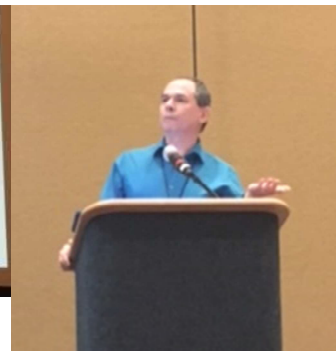
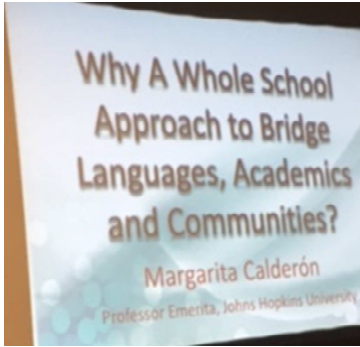


Dr. Tammy Harosky with pre-service teachers from King University



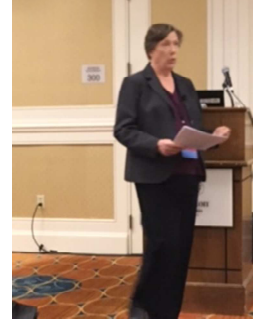
Breakout Session with Dr. Christine Tennyson

TNTESOL Conference Memories

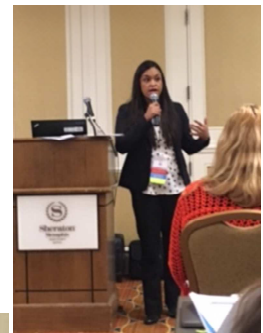


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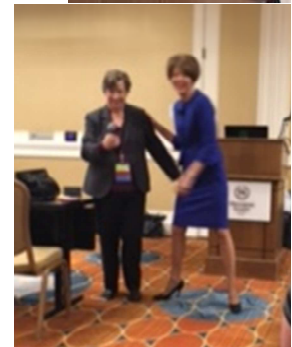
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TNTESOL Conference Memories



Vocabulary Tiers for ELs		
Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
Content/Key Vocabulary	Process, Idioms, Sophisticated	Simple Words
summoned	in time	wish
fortunate	take care	grey
generation	replied	queen
persistently	no matter what	castle
faithful	elderly	rule





2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Hurry - Early Bird Rates End May 31, 2017!

REGISTER NOW

*United in Purpose,
Unique in Practice*

October 16–19, 2017
Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Florida

WIDA Screener

The WIDA Screener is an English language proficiency assessment given to incoming students in Grades 1–12 to assist educators with the identification of students as English language learners (ELLs). The purpose of this assessment is to help educators make decisions about whether a student is a candidate for English language support services.

As a flexible, on-demand language proficiency assessment, WIDA Screener can be administered at any time during the school year, depending on the needs of the district, school, teacher, or student.

The WIDA Screener is available as either a paper-based or online assessment. Both WIDA Screener Paper and WIDA Screener Online assess the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

Grade-Level Clusters



To learn more about WIDA Screener Paper and WIDA Screener Online, please select the relevant mode (Paper or Online).

**WIDA Screener
Paper**

**WIDA Screener
Online**



Tennessee Intensive English Program Highlights

Phil Taylor
TIEP Instructor
Tennessee Intensive English Program/
International Programs & Admissions
University of Tennessee at Martin

Students from
Hansung Uni-
versity, Seoul,
South Korea
visiting at the
UT-Martin
Chancellor's
Luncheon

[Faculty]: Dr.
Keith Carver,
Chancellor of
UT-Martin;
Lynn Patterson,
TIEP Instructor;
Phil Taylor,
TIEP Instructor



UT-Martin TIEP students with Skyhawks' player, Chandler Rowe. These students had only been in the U.S. for less than 24-hours and were completely jet lagged when they all asked to go to the game. Since they didn't yet have student I.D.s, the UT-Martin athletic department comped the students tickets for UTM's first ever home game in a post-season tournament. The students are from Fukuoka, Hirosaki, and Tokyo, Japan.

Photo credit: Phil Taylor



Rotation of Southeast TESOL Conferences

Fall 2017 — AMTESOL

Fall 2018 — The SETESOL Conference is cancelled because

GATESOL will host the TESOL Convention in Spring 2019.

Fall 2019 — Sunshine TESOL

Fall 2020 — VATESOL

Fall 2021 — GATESOL

Fall 2022 — TNTESOL

Fall 2023 — Carolina TESOL

Fall 2024 — ARKTESOL

Fall 2025 — LATESOL



Dr. Susan Spezzini, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of ELL Education, University of Alabama at Birmingham, promoted the SETESOL Conference at the TNTESOL Conference in Memphis.

SETESOL

Southeast TESOL Regional Conference



Featured Speakers:
 Stephen Krashen, Ofelia Garcia,
 Rebecca Oxford, Paulette Dilworth,
 Ester de Jong, Amy Hewett-Olatunde,
 and others

Birmingham, Alabama
October 4-7, 2017

hosted by



Alabama-Mississippi
 Teachers of English
 to Speakers of Other
 Languages (AMTESOL)

Presentation Proposals due **June 1st:** www.amtesol.org/setesol-2017

Pre-Conference Institute

Wednesday, October 4 • 8:00am-4:45pm
 ESL/EFL Workshops, PK-12 Dream Day,
 and PD strand for PK-12 administrators

SETESOL Conference

8 keynote addresses and
 160+ concurrent sessions

Thursday October 5 • 8:00am-4:45pm
 and also 5:00-8:00pm Vulcan Park and Museum

Friday, October 6 • 8:00am-4:45pm
 and also 5:00-7:00 pm Reception

Saturday, October 7 • 8:00am-11:45am

Additional information: www.amtesol.org

The Wynfrey Hotel Hyatt Regency Birmingham

Alabama-Mississippi TESOL
 Group Reservations at
www.amtesol.org/hotel
 800-233-1234 by Aug. 20, 2017
 (or until room block is filled)

Educator Rates and Student Rates
 Early Bird Registration until August 30
 Regular Registration until September 30



*The African English is
 mostly spoken in the
 African West and Midwest*

Parent Involvement

Rutherford County Schools (RCS) Parent Facilitator, Clara Rodriguez, organized and presented two evenings for Spanish-speaking parents and their 8th grade students to prepare them for high school and beyond. A guest speaker from the YMCA Latino Achievers shared information about scholarships, financial aid, and other resources. A former RCS EL who is a current college student gave

an encouraging and inspiring message to the students, and his mother spoke, stressing the importance of parental support to ensure success. The meetings were conducted in Spanish, and were held at opposite ends of the county making it possible for many parents to attend.



In addition to the Parent Nights, Clara Rodriguez and Andrea Bontempi, ESL Instructional Facilitator, hosted monthly meetings for the Japanese Parent Advisory Council. With the assistance of translator, Mari Myamamoto, we covered topics that answered questions about our educational system here in Tennessee. The meetings were always well-attended, and the parents were extremely grateful for the information they learned about assessment (WIDA and TNReady), attendance, report cards, parent conferences, and how to help their child at home. The final meeting of the year was a potluck celebration, and the talking points pertained to the calendar and procedures for the end of the year and the beginning of the next school year. Everyone had an enjoyable time!



The parents showed their appreciation! (L—R) Nona Hall, EL Coordinator, Andrea Bontempi, ESL Instructional Facilitator, Mari Myamamoto, Translator, and Clara Rodriguez, Parent Facilitator.

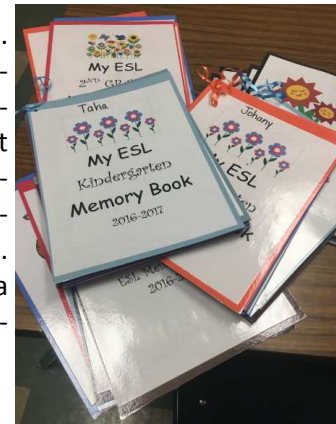


The Practitioner's Corner

Spotlight on the Elementary ELL Classroom

Wendy Gurley
Rutherford County Schools

April and May are a great time for academics and fun to meet in ELL classes. While studying animal, insect, and plant life cycles, you can introduce vocabulary like metamorphosis and proboscis. This may lead you to plant seeds, design a rooftop garden, or enjoy a fun salad bar. Enjoy these beautiful days with outdoor lessons and fun. With all these projects you can make a cute memory book with pictures, progress goals, and new friends.



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*The editorial committee of
TNTESOL
would like to thank
WAX Family Printing
for outstanding service.*

Call for Papers

The Editorial Board of the **TNTESOL Journal** seeks articles of general interest on any aspect of the teaching of English as a second or foreign language in elementary, middle, high school, college/university, or adult/immigrant education. The topics can be varied and wide-ranging.

The submission deadline for the annual Journal is June 1st.

*Please see www.tntesol.org and click on the publications tab for the **Journal Submission Guidelines**.*



The Editor of the **TNTESOL Newsletter** requests your articles, anecdotes, book reviews, photos, etc. for inclusion in the next issue of this newsletter.

Send your attachment in an email to newsletter@tntesol.org

The next deadline for submission is August 15, 2017.

*Please see www.tntesol.org and click on the publications tab for the **Newsletter Submission Guidelines**.* ▲

TNTESOL, or Tennessee Teachers to Speakers of Other Languages is an affiliate of TESOL International Association and SETESOL.



Why become a member of TNTESOL?

TNTESOL Newsletter

TNTESOL Journal

Networking and collaboration with ESL peers across the state

Access to "Members Only" website pages and forum for WIDA Standards and Lesson Plans

TNTESOL Advocacy Representative in Washington, DC

Discounts on conferences

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Languages,
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