

### **A Message from the President:**

Dear Three Rivers TESOL Members,

#### **In this issue:**

- >President's message
- > Meet our new VP
- > Upcoming Events Pitt Symposium
- > Fall Conference
- >Member News
- >Spring Meeting Recap
- >Major Changes to Chathams ELP
- > Assessment Techniques for Multiple Intelligences
- >Photo Gallery
- > 3RT Interests
- Sections Add Graduate Forum Group

The long, slow, lazy days of summer may be upon us, but if you attended either the Three Rivers TESOL Fall Conference or the Spring meeting, you know that neither slow nor lazy describes our energized Three Rivers TESOL members and our rapidly growing organization which that energy is producing. Thanks to each of you and your contributions of ideas, experience, and time, Three Rivers TESOL has expanded to over 120 members, with each of you having unique skills, expertise, and insights that enrich us all. Three Rivers TESOL has also welcomed five institutional members, whose support has enabled us to provide solid professional development opportunities to our members. Moreover, our administrators', K-12's and CALL's interest groups have been relaunched, and an international teaching assistant interest group poised for take-off. All of these wonderful developments have grown out of your willingness to share your time and expertise to foster the development of our profession in this region. To all our members, we express our sincere gratitude for all your contributions, be they great or small.

With growth, of course, come some challenges. We are aware that as our membership continues to grow, so, too, does the diversity of our members' needs and interests. As a result, we are exploring additional interest groups and other means to address expanding professional development needs. We are also aware that regardless of the types of programs or students we serve, we are all facing the challenge of providing high quality educational experiences with ever decreasing educational resources and funding. These are topics about which we want to share ideas and explore solutions as we move forward in the upcoming academic year. Our Fall Conference provides an excellent opportunity to sustain this expanded dialogue. Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 27, for this day of sharing ideas, posing questions and exploring solutions. We are excited to have author and educator Steven Brown as our plenary speaker. He will enable us to enhance our classroom practices as he speaks on "Listening to Research: Applying Second Language Listening Research to Classroom Teaching."

Please consider submitting a proposal as we, your colleagues, need your voice and your ideas. And please remember, without you in our organization, we are all diminished. See you at the Fall Conference!!

Looking forward to talking with you at our Fall Conference,  
Cynthia Lennox  
Three Rivers TESOL President

Check us out  
at:

<http://3riverstesol.org/>

### Welcome our New 3R TESOL Vice President

Greetings 3R TESOLers! My name is Heather McNaught and I will be joining Three Rivers TESOL this year as the incoming vice-president. Here's a little about my background: I received my B.A. and M.A. degrees in Applied Linguistics from Ohio University. After graduation, I went to Taiwan where I taught in a teacher-exchange program at Feng Chia University in Taichung. I loved living in Taiwan and I was able to indulge my passion for both teaching ESL and learning Mandarin Chinese. Flash forward 17 years and my family and I made the decision to move to the United States.

I had the great good fortune to find a job at Chatham University, which brought us to the wonderful city of Pittsburgh. Having grown up in Cleveland, I was a bit skeptical at first about the possibility of us becoming Pittsburghers, but we were won over almost immediately and we now can't imagine living anywhere else.

I started my position as the testing supervisor at the English Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh in August of 2011. I'm really excited about having this opportunity to become more involved in our local TESOL organization. I look forward to getting to know more of you and hope I can be a useful addition to the organization.

### Upcoming Events:

The English Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh invites you to attend its **1st Second Language Acquisition Symposium**. The symposium will highlight research conducted in association with the English Language Institute. Please register by July 1.

English Language Institute, University of Pittsburgh's

#### **Second Language Acquisition Research Symposium 2012**

**Date:** Saturday, July 7, 2012    **Time:** 8:30 am – 3:00 pm    **Location:** University of Pittsburgh, Sennott Square, Room 2400 10 South Bouquet Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Registration:** All talks are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required.

Please register online by July 1, 2012 at [www.eli.pitt.edu/symposium2012](http://www.eli.pitt.edu/symposium2012).

For more information, contact: [elipages@pitt.edu](mailto:elipages@pitt.edu).

#### **Sponsored by:**

English Language Institute, Department of Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh

[www.eli.pitt.edu](http://www.eli.pitt.edu)

Additional support from: [www.learnlab.org](http://www.learnlab.org)

LearnLab at the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center is funded by the National Science Foundation award no. SBE-0836012. Previously, it was funding NSF award no. SBE-0354420.

**YOU ARE FORMALLY INVITED!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WHEN:** October 27, 2012 from 8:30 – 4:00 (come early for a free, light breakfast!)

**WHERE:** College Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

**WHY:** For Recharging Professional Batteries, Exchanging New Ideas, Finding Solutions and Networking with some really cool, creative people at the

**Three Rivers TESOL Fall Conference**

**Plenary Speaker:** Dr. Steven Brown, Professor of English and author.

His topic is for teachers at all organizations and levels:

“Listening to Research: Applying Second Language Listening Research to Classroom Teaching.”

**Other Events:**

Concurrent sessions, interest group roundtables, & on-site networking lunch. Come and share your creativity and your expertise by being a presenter and/or a participant. An announcement call for proposals is coming soon, so be sure to start thinking about ideas to share, questions to pose, and topics to explore!!

**Member News:**

- **Secretary Janet L. Pierce, Ph.D** recently had an article based on her dissertation published in TESL-EJ vol. 16. The article, titled “Using Geosemiotic Analysis to Explore Power and Interaction in ESL Classrooms” can be found at : [www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume16/ej61/](http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume16/ej61/) .

**If you have read an article or book you found helpful, please send us the title, and internet link. We will be glad to share it with others if we deem it newsworthy!**

**Likewise if you have recently gotten something published let us know, we would like to share the news!**

## 2012 Annual Spring Meeting Recap

By Susan Todhunter, Ph.D.

Past President Three Rivers TESOL

Director, English as a Second Language Program, Duquesne University

More than forty Three Rivers TESOL members turned out for the Annual Spring Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed chatting over breakfast with colleagues representing ESL programs both near and far – from Chatham University, our hosts, all the way to the University of Michigan. Roundtable discussions were lively! A new interest group for International Teaching Assistants joined the Administrators, K-12, and CALL groups. National Geographic/Cengage Learning representative Dave Lynn came with a variety of materials and generously shared information and exam copies.

The meeting featured a panel discussion by four experts on writing. Janet Pierce, ESL Teacher & ELL Coordinator at Franklin Regional School District, broadened our knowledge of writing instruction and assessment using the WIDA (World Class Instruction, Design and Assessments) Can Do Descriptors. Jóna Hammer, retired Associate Director of the Duquesne University ESL Program, addressed the thorny topic “Teach the Unteachable to the Unreachable,” explaining how to synchronize attention to “good ideas” with structure and mechanics in teaching and assessment. Janine Carlock, Visiting Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh Writing Center, told us her story of authoring a textbook, “The Trials and Tribulations of Giving Birth: The Evolution of the ESL Writer’s Handbook.” And Claire Bradin Siskin, Director of the Writing Online Workshop at Excelsior College (ESL-WOW), updated us on her project, an online multimedia program designed to guide non-native speakers of English through each stage of the writing process.

Our Spring Meeting was a great success! Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to leadership for the interest groups, the board, and the Writing Panel. Thanks to the English Language Program at Chatham University for hosting the meeting. And thanks to each member of our active and growing community for participating!

## **Major Changes at the Chatham English Language Program**

by Linh Phung

Chatham English Language Program Coordinator

As part of the Office of International Affairs, the English Language Program (ELP) at Chatham University has undergone major changes after Ms. Ida Mansourian started her position as the Assistant Vice President of International Affairs at the university. The program has added another intensive level, a basic level, and is transitioning to become fully co-ed. These changes build upon the existing curriculum for part-time beginner students and the successful integration of male graduate students into the English for Academic Purposes classes. Chatham University believes this change will add diversity to the program and create exciting learning opportunities for all students. As the Chatham ELP implements this positive transition the faculty and staff of the program remain committed to serving current students and will do their best to consider students’ personal comfort when placing them in different classes.

## **Photo Gallery**



**Networking and meeting with colleagues, checking out educational materials was part of the 3rd Spring Meeting! Many groups were represented.**



**More Photos...**



New Board 2012,



Janet Pierce represents 3rt at the Affiliate Leadership Council Colloquium at TESOL 2012.



**And more photos!**



**From all of the board, past and present we hope you can come to our next conference Sat. Oct. 27, 2012!**

## Assessment Techniques for Multiple Intelligence (MI) Activities

By Janet L. Pierce, Ph.D.

In a decade when differentiation is a key concept used in most classrooms, there has been a return to examining the use of Multiple Intelligences as one method for keying into students' best ways of learning. In addition to activities for students, one must also consider assessment. When developing activities for students in whatever class you have, you will want to make your assessment a fair tool that adequately measures what you have asked the student to do in that activity. Rubrics are a great tool to use when doing this. Decide what you want the student to do or create or demonstrate. Then decide how you will measure it. Then develop your rubric with common focus for grading the various assignments. Here is an example:

### **Applying MI to a Scientific Concept (grades 3-5, 6-8):**

#### **The Universe and Space Exploration**

##### MI Objective:

\*Students will be able to list and define and discuss vocabulary words associated with the unit on space Exploration.

\*Students will be able to summarize key concepts using academic vocabulary pertinent to the topic in a variety of ways using their strengths (MI).

**Materials:** Paper, pencil, dictionary and textbook.

**Preview/Motivation:** Students will talk about what they already know about the universe and space exploration, making a list on the board. (Linguistic And Interpersonal MI)

**Activities:**

1. Students will read the textbook with a partner.
2. They will each list words they do not understand PLUS the bold or highlighted words. They will look at context clues to figure out the words they do not understand. Then they will look the words they still do not know, up in dictionaries.
3. They will copy down the definitions.

**Closure:** Students will work with another group and discuss the vocabulary words they wrote down, comparing words, explaining why they chose the words they did.

##### **Homework/Assessment the next day:**

**Interpersonal-** Using the words students have defined, each student will reflect and write a summary of what they have read. **Visual-**This can be in pictures. **Linguistic-**written summary; **Mathematical Logical-** outline or even in a crossword puzzle; **Musical-** this summary can be sung or chanted; **Intrapersonal-** reflect and write/draw information in a journal. **Interpersonal-** create a script (with dialogue) to share with another person discussing the key concepts covered.

##### Sample Rubric:

Students will show in which ever mode they chose (MI):

\_\_\_ x number of ideas related to the topic

\_\_\_ Using x number of new vocabulary words covered in the reading.

\_\_\_ Making the summary understandable

Each of the categories listed above is worth 5 points. For each category that is done correctly you will get the points.  $3 \times 5 = 15$  total possible points.

Student score= \_\_\_/15.

Finally, remember to show students the rubric so they know how they will be graded. This concept can be applied to any topic at any grade level, using the appropriate topics and expectations for any type of student.

## **Don't forget:**

### **Three Rivers TESOL Administrators' Group**

Three Rivers TESOL is working to establish an Administrators' Group, similar to an Interest Group within TESOL International Association. The main purpose of this group is to establish a system of communication and support for those who work in administrative positions or have administrative tasks in the 3RT community. Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Duquesne University, LaRoche College, the University of Michigan, and the University of Pittsburgh were represented at the fall and spring meeting, and we hope that representatives from other institutions will join us as well. If you are interested in joining us, please email: **Dr. Dawn E. McCormick**. English Language Institute, University of Pittsburgh [mccormic@pitt.edu](mailto:mccormic@pitt.edu)

### **Three Rivers TESOL K-12 Group**

Three Rivers TESOL is establishing a K-12 ESL professional group similar to an interest section within TESOL International Association. We started collecting names and email addresses at the fall and spring conference for an ESL Café Interest Group for K-12 ESL professionals. Contact: Janet Pierce at [jlperce494@gmail.com](mailto:jlperce494@gmail.com) to find out more information.

### **Three Rivers TESOL CALL Group**

The Three Rivers TESOL CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) Interest Section was formed in the fall of 2011 to address the needs of instructors working in the cloud, online, at a distance, and incorporating technology in their face-to-face classes. We welcome active and potential CALL ESOL instructors to join our Interest Section. At future conferences and meetings we will meet to share methods, ideas, and anecdotes! Please send Shannon Mischler at [smischler@tiu11.org](mailto:smischler@tiu11.org) an email to be placed on the CALL email distribution list.

If you are actively using CALL with English language learners, and might be interested in joining a proposal submission for a panel discussion group at the Fall 3RTESOL Conference on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Duquesne University, please contact Shannon Mischler at [smischler@tiu11.org](mailto:smischler@tiu11.org).

**NEW!!!!**

### **3RT Student Forum Group!**

Want to discuss issues you face as a graduate student in the TESOL field? Want to share experiences, offer advice and learn from each other and professionals in the TESOL field? Want to learn techniques to polish those proposals for conferences? Then you might want to check out this group. Contact Janet Pierce at [jlperce494@gmail.com](mailto:jlperce494@gmail.com) to find out more information.