

## In this Issue:

Three Rivers TESOL  
Conference Info. p. 1

International TESOL  
Virtual Seminars p. 2

3R TESOL Conference  
Proposal Form p. 2

3R TESOL Conference  
News & Tips p. 3

Volunteer Opportunities  
for Greater Pittsburgh  
Literacy Council p. 3

International TESOL  
Scholarship & Grant  
Opportunities p. 4

## 2005 Three Rivers TESOL Conference

### **\*\*Conference Proposal deadline extended\*\***

Proposals will now be accepted until October 5th, 2005.

**When:** Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Register from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. in the Kurtzman Room in the William Pitt Union.

**Where:** The University of Pittsburgh campus - William Pitt Union (registration & publishers' booths) and Cathedral of Learning (presentations). Please register before attending presentations.

**Plenary speaker:** Susan Finn Miller, SouthEast Professional Development Center (SEPDC): "Learning to Read and Write in English: Literacy Development for Adolescent and Adult Immigrants in the US"

**Other:** Directions, map at <http://www.umc.pitt.edu:16080/tour/>

Take the opportunity to present your ideas, learn more about the ESL/EFL field, and meet new people in a comfortable environment!



## TESOL Virtual Seminars

### Connect Online to Experts on these Hot Topics!

TESOL's virtual seminars are 90 to 120 minute webcasts that give you the opportunity to connect with your peers on important issues in ESL and EFL.

The first virtual seminar will focus on strategies related to the No Child Left Behind Act:

Tues., Oct. 18, 2005  
 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EST  
 "Responding to High-Stakes Assessment for English Language Learners: Key Issues and Strategies"  
 Presenter: Margo Gottlieb

To connect to this virtual seminar, go to [http://www.tesol.org/s\\_tesol/sec\\_document.asp?CID=244&DID=4443](http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/sec_document.asp?CID=244&DID=4443).

The second virtual seminar is targeted to a global community. It will focus on how to apply curriculum development resources to strengthen programs, keep teachers energized, and motivate students:

Wed., Nov. 9  
 8:00 am – 9:30 am EST  
 "Curriculum Development Strategies for EFL Teachers"  
 Presenter: J.D. Brown

To connect to this virtual seminar, go to [http://www.tesol.org/s\\_tesol/sec\\_document.asp?CID=244&DID=4444](http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/sec_document.asp?CID=244&DID=4444)

For more information about the virtual seminars, contact: [deprograms@tesol.org](mailto:deprograms@tesol.org).

## 2005 Three Rivers TESOL Submission Proposal Form

**Please submit your proposal online on our website at: <http://3rtesol.org/conf/fall05/>.**

You may also mail a completed form and abstract to:

Peter Kolenich  
 Department of Linguistics  
 2816 Cathedral of Learning  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Presentation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Format of Presentation** (Please check the appropriate line):

- Lecture (20 min. talk, 10 min. for questions)     Workshop Session (60 min.)  
 Open Discussion (30 min.)     Poster Session (30 min.)

**Equipment** (Check the equipment needed for your presentation. If you do not request equipment at this time, none will be reserved for you. As with any conference, please be prepared for potential technical difficulties.

- Overhead Projector     Computer Projector (presenter provides own computer)  
 CD or Cassette Player     TV and VCR

**Please submit an abstract of no more than 200 words in addition to this form. Proposals must be received by October 5th, 2005. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent via e-mail.**

## Three Rivers TESOL Conference News & Tips

### Finding your Niche

Those of you who belong to TESOL know that, as a member, you can also join any of a number of interest sections.

3RTESOL has asked you to indicate your interests on the membership form in the past, and at this year's fall conference, we will be inviting all of you to help us organize and develop interest sections in 3RT.

Check out the sessions on Saturday afternoon at this year's conference. Members of the 3RT community will be there to explain what 3RT can offer the interest sections as well as what each interest section can do to improve 3RT.

Together we will be able to create new and exciting environments for learning and exchange in the 3RT community.

### Presenter Tips

1. Be prepared for problems. Even if something goes wrong, you can still have a great presentation if you remain calm.
2. Don't forget to practice before you present. Time yourself so that you can finish in time to allow questions at the end.
3. Be professional – even though it's your local affiliate, you can take this opportunity to practice presenting in front of larger groups and networking with other TESOL professionals.
4. Have fun! Enjoy the conference so that you'll take away not only information, but also new friends and exciting ideas about teaching.



## Volunteer for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

Open up a life by volunteering for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council! Training is provided, free of charge, for all volunteer positions.

GPLC's mission is to ensure that adults families acquire reading, writing, math, English language, workforce skills and computer skills so they may reach their fullest potential in life and participate productively in the community.

In addition to providing adults with basic skill GED courses, and workforce, computer, and health training, GPLC provides ESL courses to Pittsburgh's international community.

Several different ESL tutoring positions are available. Work as an ESL tutor with an adult student or group of students. Meet with your student(s) whenever it is convenient for you, four hours a week for a 6-month commitment. GPLC will provide you with materials and support.

You can also volunteer to teach your own ESL class at the downtown center. You can teach a pre-designed or create your own curriculum. Possible topics include computer skills, math

brush-up, banking, and English conversation – or, create your own class on a topic of your choice. This tutoring position entails a time commitment of one two-hour class a week, for 4-9 weeks.

If you're short on time, GPLC offers a "quick" ESL volunteering opportunity: Telephone Conversation Partners. As a Telephone Conversation Partner, you'll get the name and phone number of an ESL student and arrange for two 30-minute to one-hour phone conversations a month. You can work with your student on speaking and listening skills.

Training and tutoring take place in one of GPLC's many branches across the Pittsburgh area, including Squirrel Hill, Downtown, South Hills, North Hills, and the East suburbs.

For more information, contact GPLC's Office at (412) 661-7323 to request a volunteer application packet. You can also copy and print a volunteer interest form from the website at: [www.gplc.org](http://www.gplc.org).

# TESOL Scholarship & Grant Opportunities – due by Nov. 1

## **Thomas Heinle Award**

International TESOL is currently offering this by-nomination award, honoring ESL/EFL teachers who are considered by their colleagues to be excellent teachers.

The winner will be awarded \$1000, donated by Thomson Heinle Publishers. Any TESOL member with at least 5 years of ESL/EFL classroom experience can be nominated.

To propose a colleague, visit TESOL's award website.

## **Materials Design Award**

The Mary Finocchiaro Award for Excellence in the Development of Pedagogical Materials offers \$500 for a TESOL Member who has achieved excellence through the development of practical pedagogical materials not currently under consideration

for publication.

The materials must be pedagogically innovative and related to some aspect of ESL/EFL teaching, addressing an area such as curriculum, teaching techniques, materials development, testing systems, or computer software.

## **Classroom Action Research Award**

Any instructor who is a TESOL member with at least 5 years of ESL/EFL classroom experience who has completed a classroom action research project of significant value to the profession may apply for this \$1000 award for excellence in action research in ESL/EFL language teaching and learning.

The award will be given to facilitate attendance and present research findings at the TESOL annual convention.

## **Professional Development Scholarships**

Forty scholarship waivers are available for the International TESOL Convention – some include tuition for one Pre- or Post-Convention Institute.

Applications are evaluated according to the statement of (a) how attendance at the TESOL convention will further the applicant's professional development, (b) how attendance will benefit the applicant's ESL/EFL community, and (c) demonstrated need of financial assistance to attend the convention.

**For more information about all Scholarship and Grant Opportunities, visit <http://www.tesol.org/awards>**

Three Rivers  
TESOL

Questions?  
Comments?

Contact information  
for all officers can be  
found on our website!

*Visit us at:*

**[www.3rtesol.org](http://www.3rtesol.org)**