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A Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Three Rivers TESOL Members,

Thanks to everyone for making the Three Rivers TESOL Annual Conference a success! The presenters, publishers and attendees all helped to make the conference successful. A special thanks as well from the Three Rivers TESOL Board to Ann Conable, of Cambridge University Press. And thanks again to our institutional members for their support.

With your help, Three Rivers TESOL is able to be completely financially independent, and we no longer have to rely on the financial largesse of the institution of the president for the cost of the conference, Spring Meeting, mailings, and other expenses.

This was an important step for Three Rivers TESOL, and has opened up more opportunities for members. Anyone, full-time or part-time, can now serve on the board in any position, and be assured that you will not have to ask for the financial support of your institution.

We encourage you to use this opportunity to get involved! We hope to see many of you at the Spring Meeting this year, where we will hold elections for the upcoming year. See p. 2 for more details and visit our website – www.3rtesol.org - in the upcoming weeks for complete and up-to-date information.

It's been a great year for our organization; let's continue to work to make Three Rivers TESOL even better!

-Maeve Eberhardt

E-Mail: president@3rtesol.org

Three Rivers TESOL Spring Meeting & Elections

When: Saturday, April 9 - exact time will be available on the website (www.3rtesol.org) in March

Where: Carnegie Mellon University, Hamburg Hall, Room 1000

On the agenda: Guest Speaker - to be announced on the website in March, Vice President elections, Board meeting, free food

Other: free parking across Forbes Ave. in outdoor parking lot; check for directions and map at www.cmu.edu/home/visitors/directions.html

Take the opportunity to express your ideas to the board, enjoy free food and great conversation in a friendly and informal environment!

International TESOL 2005 Convention Info



The 2005 TESOL Convention, "Teaching Learning, Learning Teaching: A Nexus in Texas" will be held March 30-April 2, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas.

Conference attendees can enjoy a week of speakers, workshops, and exhibitions, a job marketplace, and a lesson plan swap shop.

Special interest meetings include the Graduate Student Forum, Research Symposium, Evening TESOL Peace Forum, in addition to interest section and caucus meetings.

Attendees can earn academic credit or continuing education units. Two first-timers' orientations will be held to help new attendees make the most of planning their week.

Registration for the conference is now open and can be completed online, by fax, or by mail. Fees before Feb. 25 are \$226 for members, \$395 for nonmembers, \$75 for student members, and \$140 for retired members.

Hotel registration at specially negotiated TESOL convention rates can also be completed online.

An online planner, descriptions of all events, conference and hotel registration and other useful information can be found online at TESOL's website: www.tesol.org/tesol2005

Three Rivers TESOL will be sending vice-president Peter Kolenich as its representative to the International TESOL 2005 Convention.

He will be happy to represent your concerns, comments, and interests at affiliate meetings. Please let him know what issues are important to you so that he can better represent all Three Rivers TESOL members.

Email Peter at:
vp@3rtesol.org

Get Active in Three Rivers TESOL!

Ask not what Three Rivers TESOL can do for you, but what you can do for Three Rivers TESOL!

Did you know that Three Rivers TESOL is run entirely by a volunteer board? That means *you*, too, can volunteer to get more involved in your local TESOL community. Start today by:

- 1) **Attending our Spring Meeting – Find out more about how Three Rivers TESOL works and what issues are important to us!**
- 2) **Run for the open position of Vice President by attending the Spring Meeting!**
- 3) **Submit an essay, letter, book review, article, poem, artwork, photos to the newsletter – we want to know what’s going on with *your* organization, and share that information with other Three Rivers TESOL members!**
- 4) **Publicize your upcoming events – just send us the information!**
- 5) **Volunteer to help at the Fall Conference – help is needed in many areas!**

Fulbright Program Offers International Exchange

Sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Fulbright Teacher and Administrator exchange arranges direct one-to-one classroom exchanges to over thirty countries for teachers at all levels.

Most exchanges occur for an academic year. Argentina, Mexico, and the United Kingdom offer fall-semester exchanges, and the United Kingdom and Morocco offer six-week exchanges.

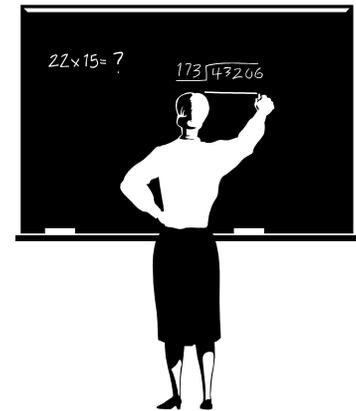
In addition to the teacher exchanges, there are administrative exchange opportunities in Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Mexico, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Thailand, Turkey, and

the United Kingdom. In addition, Jordan and Uruguay currently offer opportunities to host incoming administrators during site visits to the United States. Germany offers a two-week special program for US principals to study the school system.

The program also offers eight-week seminars in Italy or Greece for teachers of Italian, Latin, Greek, or the Classics.

Prospective applicants must meet the following general eligibility requirements:

- US citizenship
- fluency in English
- Bachelor’s degree or higher
- be in at least 3rd year of full-time teaching
- have a current full-time position



The application deadline is October 15, 2005 for the 2006-2007 program year. For more information or to apply, please call (800) 726-0479 or visit the website at:

www.fulbrightexchanges.org

Connecting with English Teachers in the Balkans

Three Rivers TESOL member Claire Bradin Siskin will spend 3 weeks in the Balkan countries at the invitation of the US Department of State. Arriving at the beginning of May, she will serve as an English Language Specialist for the School Connectivity Project (SCP) for Southeast Europe.

The SCP is effected via Internet technology, and it involves English teachers and their students at secondary schools in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and the United States. Approximately 92 schools, 304 teachers, and 1986 students are currently participating in the project.

The goals of the School Connectivity Project are to

- increase inter-ethnic dialogue among schools in Southeast Europe and the United States;
- develop mutual understanding between American and Southeast Europe schools;
- facilitate communication between youth in joint learning projects;
- generate personal and institutional ties among students, educators, and schools across borders; and
- provide a support network for teachers so that they may continue to incorporate web-based learning in other educational settings.

The main website for the School Connectivity Project is <http://www.schoolconnectivity.net>.



During Siskin's visit, five national SCP conferences will be held throughout the region. She will give seminars and presentations at each regional conference. She will also visit schools that are participating in the SCP and consult with teachers in support of their efforts to use the Internet to further students' communicative skills in English.

In addition to her consultation with the SCP, Siskin will be a plenary speaker at the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) English Language Teachers' Association Conference, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from May 6 to May 8. Siskin will report on the School Connectivity Project and on her experiences in the Balkans at the Three Rivers TESOL Fall 2005 Conference.

TESOL's Recommended Tsunami Relief Organizations

International TESOL and Three Rivers TESOL join the global community in support of tsunami victims in Asia. Below are just some of the agencies involved in providing aid to the victims:

CARE
<http://www.care.org/>

US Fund for UNICEF
333 East 38th Street
New York, NY 10016 USA
<http://www.unicefusa.org/>

International Aid
<http://www.internationalaid.org/>

Project HOPE
<http://www.projecthope.org/>

Relief International
<http://www.ri.org/>

International Aid
<http://www.internationalaid.org>

Indonesian government
<http://www.embassyofindonesia.org/aceh/PR%20-%20relief2.pdf>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<http://www.ifrc.org/>

American Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org/>

Oxfam – <http://www.oxfam.org>

Visit TESOL's website for more agencies and a list of addresses:

www.tesol.org

Enrich a Life - Volunteer to be an ESL Tutor

Been looking for a volunteer opportunity? Make a difference in someone's life by tutoring ESL with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit or the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council!

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit is a local organization that began as an ESL program for refugees and immigrants. Today they provide essential English skills to a diverse educational and socio-economic group.

Interested tutors of all levels of training and experience will receive 14 hours of free training, and are then matched with individuals or small groups. At the moment, the AIU has a particular need for tutors during daytime hours, and those interested in tutoring writing, although director Danis Kubiak

stresses that all volunteers are welcome: "We have people from 40-50 different countries who come here for no charge, so it's a very student-centered program. It's one of the most rewarding types of volunteer activities because you're really supporting a person's improvement to go on to the next step."

Kubiak adds, "We have three tutors who went on to get their ESL certificates or MA, so it's an excellent introduction into the field and a great way to practice teaching. We will definitely need volunteers for the summer."

AIU's next training session will be in March, so contact Kubiak soon at (412) 394-5700.

The Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council is also a community-

based program that provides 4 hours of instruction per week, emphasizing everyday language, life skills and civic involvement - based on learning goals set by the students themselves. The tutors are volunteers from all walks of life: students, professionals, and even those with no prior teaching experience.

Tutoring sessions are either 1-on-1 or small group. All volunteers are required to attend a 12-hour training workshop before being matched with students and are asked to make a commitment of 6 months or longer.

GPLC's training is offered monthly - find more information on the website at: [http://www.gplc.org/TUTOR WORKSHOPS.HTML](http://www.gplc.org/TUTOR_WORKSHOPS.HTML)

ACTFL announces "Year of Languages"

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language is celebrating the year 2005 as The Year of Languages. The goal of The Year of Languages (YOL) celebration is to advance the concept that every American should develop proficiency not only in English, but in other languages as well. To achieve this, ACTFL will promote strategies to:

Celebrate!

Celebrate the increasing importance of language learning in American education and American life. Special community events, school programs and student activities will build public awareness of the diverse languages and cultures that enrich the American way of life. Our friends, neighbors, colleagues and employees come from a vast array of backgrounds, and knowing more about their heritages, cultures and literature will build stronger ties and increased understanding between us.

Educate!

Educate students, parents and the public in general about the benefits that students gain from studying and learning other languages. Provide them with a

compelling reason to make language courses a part of a balanced core curriculum. The ability to converse in and comprehend another language is only the beginning.

Communicate!

Communicate the importance of language programs in American education and society. ACTFL will join with educators throughout the U.S. to make the 2005 school year a time of renewed awareness of the academic and cultural value of these programs. Government officials at the federal, state and local levels, school administrations, classroom teachers and ACTFL and its affiliate organizations will team to build greater public awareness of other languages and cultures. The Year of Languages will encourage everyone with a stake in the future of these programs to step up and speak up on behalf of language learning.

For more information, visit the Year of Languages website at: <http://www.yearoflanguages.com>

Institutional Memberships

Three Rivers TESOL appreciates the support that its institutional members provide. In order to clarify what an institutional membership means, the board has outlined the following definition:

** An institutional membership is paid by an institution to Three Rivers TESOL.*

**It includes a link to that institution on the Three Rivers TESOL website*

It also includes **two free individual memberships for the year. If your institution is an institutional member, **only** the two people selected on the membership form are given free membership for the year.*

Please note that institutional membership does **not include free membership for all members of the institution.*

We apologize if there was any confusion about this new membership category.

Individual Memberships

Thanks to everyone who joined or renewed their membership for the 2004-2005 year. Because most of our members renew at the fall conference, individual memberships in 3RT are valid for the year from fall conference to fall conference. If you join or renew anytime between the conference and June 30 of the following year, your dues will be applicable to that year (that is, the year that begins with the past conference). If you pay July 1 or later, your membership will begin immediately and your dues will count toward the following membership year. Please refer to the following examples:

** Jane Doe doesn't attend the Fall 2004 conference and forgets to renew her 3RT membership until February 2005. Her membership is valid for the year 2004-2005. When she comes to the 2005 Fall conference & says, "I already paid my dues for this year," she will be told that her dues were for the year just ending.*

** Mary Coe moves to Pittsburgh in July, 2005, and finds out about 3RT in August, 2005. She immediately joins. Her membership would be valid for the year 2005-2006, so she will not have to renew her membership until the fall conference in 2006.*

Please note that if you received a paper copy of this newsletter with the '04' written on the label, you have not renewed your membership for the current year and this will be your last 3RT newsletter. If you think there has been an error, please let the 3RT Secretary, Dorolyn Smith, know by sending a message to secretary@3rtesol.org.

Three Rivers
TESOL

Questions?
Comments?

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

Visit us at:

www.3rtesol.org