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## A Letter from the President

Dear Three Rivers TESOL members,

I hope all of you are spending a pleasant summer, be it studying, working, or relaxing. Rest assured that your elected 3RT board has been working at growing the organization.

Speaking of the board, Allegra Elson, our newest member, was elected at the spring meeting. She comes to us from the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council and is a great asset to 3RT. Please get to know her at the fall conference.

As you all know, the big event for the year for us is the fall conference. This year, it will again take place at Pitt (on October 15). I invite all of you to join one of our new interest section meetings which will be held during the conference. By becoming involved with these groups, you will have the opportunity to meet others with similar TESOL interests and be able to direct the group as you collectively would like. This is a chance to be involved on a whole new level.

Also, over the past few years, we have reached out to K-12 educators in the area, and we have provided the opportunity for them to earn Act 48 credits. This year, we hope to offer continuing education credits to even more teachers.

Additionally, I’d like to ask all of you to join me in saying hello to our new sister organization- the Learner Development group of the Japanese Association of Language Teaching. In fact, one of their members will soon be moving here to work on her Ph.D. at IUP. Please take the time to read her letter in this newsletter.

Finally, I invite all of you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the fall conference!

-Peter Kolenich

E-Mail: [president@3rtesol.org](mailto:president@3rtesol.org)

## 2005 Three Rivers TESOL Conference Information

**When:** Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Where:** The University of Pittsburgh campus - William Pitt Union and Cathedral of Learning

**On the agenda:** Guest Speaker waiting for confirmation..., interest section meetings, presentations, workshops, poster session, publishers' tables, raffles, light refreshments

**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!

## 2005 Three Rivers TESOL Proposal Submission Form

**Please submit your proposal online 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 September 9, 2005. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by September 16, 2005.**

## Teachers as Learners in Japan

by Marlen Harrison, Momoyama Gakuin University, Japan

It's really a magical when teachers come together to share ideas and support each other in their personal endeavors. This kind of collaboration becomes a learning experience and can be as useful to teachers as taking courses can be for students.

Because of the conference newsletters, friendships, and opportunities for growth, I became an active member of the national organization for language teaching in Japan, Japanese Association of Language Teaching (JALT). It was because of the paradigms of development and autonomy that I chose to become active in the Learner Development special interest group.

Learner Development (LD) is

a Japan-based, high energy special interest group focusing on learner (and teacher) autonomy and development. Started in 1994 as a network for language teachers interested in developing learner autonomy, learning skills and language acquisition, our members hail from around the globe and work in a variety of educational settings in Japan and elsewhere (USA, Australia).

As one of many groups within JALT, LD prints a bi-annual newsletter, Learning Learning, and creates a quarterly e-newsletter, LD-Wired, highlighting a variety of topics. We also host a forum of presentations highlighting projects and research in learner development and autonomy at



our annual national conference, and our own LD conferences once or twice a year. In addition,  
*continued on p. 4 (back)*

## Individual and Institutional Membership Update

Because most of our members renew at the fall conference, individual memberships in 3R TESOL are valid for the year from fall conference to fall conference. If you join or renew any time between the conference and June 30 of the following year, your dues will be applicable to that membership year (that is, the year that began with the previous conference). If you pay July 1 or later, your membership will begin immediately and your dues will count towards the following membership year. Please refer to the following examples:

Jane Doe didn't attend the Fall 2004 conference and forgot to renew her 3R TESOL membership until February 2005. Her membership is valid for the year 2004-2005. She will need to pay dues at the Fall 2005 conference as her membership year is just ending.

Bill Coe moved to Pittsburgh in July 2005 and finds out about 3R TESOL in August 2005. He immediately joins. His membership will be valid for the year 2005-2006, so he will not have to renew his membership at the Fall 2005 conference.

In addition to individual memberships, 3R TESOL offers institutional memberships. 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 that year.
- Please note that institutional membership does not include free membership for all members of the institution.

We apologize for any confusion about this new membership category. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email Peter Kolenich (President) at: [president@3rtesol.org](mailto:president@3rtesol.org).

# TESOL Scholarship Opportunities

# Japan continued...

International TESOL is currently offering the TESOL Thomson Heinle Award for Excellence in Teaching. This by-nomination award honors 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 nominate someone you know, go to the TESOL Awards and Grants Web page at: <http://www.tesol.org/awards>.

TESOL is also accepting nominations from affiliates for the Virginia French Allen Award for Scholarship and Service. This award honors an ESOL teacher who has shared scholarship and provided service at the affiliate level. The recipient will be awarded a 3-year membership in TESOL, including a subscription to TESOL Quarterly.

If you would like Three Rivers TESOL to nominate your colleague, please send us **your name, the name of your nominee, and your contact information** so that we can contact you about the person you are nominating. Please email the above information to: [president@3rtesol.org](mailto:president@3rtesol.org).

we have published a book entitled *Autonomy You Ask (AYA)*, exploring learner and teacher autonomy in Japanese contexts, and are currently working on our second volume, *AYA 2*.

Because we are spread out around the country, and around the globe, we enjoy communicating by email and treasure those rare opportunities when we can come together in person.

As current Co-Coordinator for this group, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work and learn with such intelligent and supportive individuals. I realize that my experience and development as a teacher wouldn't have been the same without them.

For more information about the LD special interest group and its activities, contact Marlen Harrison at [scenteur7@yahoo.com](mailto:scenteur7@yahoo.com).

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)

