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A Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Three Rivers TESOL Members:

We appreciate your membership and support of Three Rivers TESOL. This year we would like to see our membership grow. We would like to see more K-12 ESL instructors, students, adult educators, post secondary instructors and researchers participate in Three Rivers TESOL, an International TESOL affiliate. Please help us to recruit your colleagues! If you know of a TESOL professional who is not a member or unaware that there is a professional organization to support them and seeks their participation, please forward this newsletter to them.

Let them know about the Three Rivers TESOL Fall Conference, “Linking Theory to Practice” at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on Saturday, September 29th. Electronic proposal submissions are being accepted at the website, www.3rtesol.org.

Or better yet, let them see for themselves the dynamic, diverse group of TESOL colleagues as Three Rivers TESOL holds it’s first “MEET & GREET” on Thursday, July 26th at Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh. All are invited for appetizers and a cash bar in an informal setting!

I look forward to serving you as the new President of Three Rivers TESOL. I want to extend my deep appreciation to the Past President, Allegra Elson, who continues to serve our organization maintaining our mission and refining our constitution. Thank you to Tricia Pharmakis, outgoing Treasurer, for her fine record keeping. We welcome new board members, Janet Pierce, Vice President, and Peter Kolenich, Treasurer, and we appreciate the service of our continuing board members, Emily Corrado, Secretary, Jennifer Haberman, Editor, and Claire Bradin Siskin, Webmaster.

Have a safe, happy summer!
Shannon Mischler
Email: President@3rtesol.org

Joan Lucas Memorial Scholarship

Joan Lucas was a local international education professional. Sadly, Joan died on January 23, 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Many of us in ESL and NAFSA in Pittsburgh knew Joan. She completed an MA in Linguistics/TESOL at Pitt in the 1980s. Joan worked many years as an international student advisor, both at Pitt and ELS at Point Park; she also taught at Pitt's ELI and at ELS at Point Park. Joan had a beautiful singing voice and made singing her hobby -- she sang in many local choirs and vocal groups.

Friends of Joan's in ESL and international student advising would like to remember her with a scholarship. The Board of 3RT has kindly agreed to handle the scholarship and choose an awardee. We would like to sponsor a local ESL teacher to attend the 2008 TESOL conference in New York City.

Our preferred awardee will be a part-time ESL teacher working in the Pittsburgh area. We hope to be able to pay at least for conference registration, transportation and possibly hotel. Details will be in the Fall 3RT newsletter.

If anyone would like to contribute to the Joan Lucas Memorial Scholarship, please send donations to:

Dorolyn Smith
2816 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260



THANK YOU!
Spring Meeting 2007

Thank you to our Spring Meeting host the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, ESL Program and the Program Coordinator, Danis Kubiak for allowing us use of their expansive classrooms on Forbes Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh.

The Spring Meeting, "Reading and the English Language Learner," panelists were a wonderful cross section of TESOL professionals in Western Pennsylvania. Lois Wilson from the University of Pittsburgh English Language Institute (ELI) represented post secondary ESL instruction, Kathy Ramos from Pittsburgh Public Schools represented K-12 ESL instruction, Allegra Elson represented adult ESL instruction, and Rose Marotta, a recent M.A. in TESOL from Westchester University, represented a new ESL professional in adult education. We are very appreciative of the wealth of knowledge and experience that Lois, Kathy, Allegra, and Rose shared with all of us.

Please keep in mind what fields or methods of ESL you would like to see represented in our Spring Meeting 2008. A suggestion box will be on hand at the Fall Conference at IUP on September 29th.

Meet the President...

Shannon stumbled upon EFL while in Japan. She had recently completed a graduate program in literature and had been teaching in a U.S. community college. While in Japan she landed a job on the spot teaching English at a software company. As she was thrown into the mix without a curriculum or even a text, she quickly fell in love with her students and the TESOL field. Since that time, Shannon has taught adults and children in multiple environments, such as: universities, intermediate units, community based organizations, and family literacy programs.

After teaching EFL/ESL and coordinating ESL programs in Japan, Austin, and Pittsburgh, Shannon has recently taken a new position with Infinite Family. Founded by two mothers with children from South Africa, Infinite Family matches U.S. volunteers with adolescents in South Africa orphaned by H.I.V./AIDS, via videoconferencing and email within a mentoring relationship.

-Shannon Mischler
President, 3R TESOL

2007-08 Board Members

Title	Name	Affiliation
President	Shannon Mischler	Infinite Family
Vice-President	Janet Pierce	Franklin Regional School District FRSD ESL Center – Heritage Elementary School
Past President	Allegra Elson	Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC)
Secretary	Emily Corrado	Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council (GPLC)
Treasurer	Peter Kolenich	English Language Institute (ELI) - Department of Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Haberman	Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh - Goodwill Literacy Initiative (GLI)
Newsletter Co-Editor	Martin Senger	Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC)
Webmaster	Claire Bradin Siskin	Robert Henderson Language Media Center - University of Pittsburgh

Call for Articles!

We'd love to hear from YOU! If you have an article, teaching tips, lesson plan, or news pertaining to the TESOL field - let's hear it. Please submit your articles or ideas to editor@3rtesol.org.

The 2007 Three Rivers TESOL Fall Conference Update



THEME

This fall our Three Rivers TESOL Conference will be at Hadley Union Building at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) on Saturday, September 29, 2007. I am excited about this conference, and as the newly elected Vice President and Site Coordinator for this conference, I welcome everyone to this event. **Our theme**, “Linking Theory to Practice” encourages ESL teachers, students of TESOL and those involved in the educating process at all levels: pre-school, public education K-12 and post-secondary, as well as ESL family advocates, to learn more about how to infuse our teaching with best practices based on second language acquisition (SLA) theory as we serve English language learners.

PLENARY SPEAKER

Our **Plenary Speaker** is Dr. Jerry Gebhard, a recently retired professor in the Composition and TESOL Department of IUP, as well as an international speaker and advocate for ESL/EFL teaching. Throughout his career, Dr. Gebhard has taught English to a variety of different students, including Buddhist monks in Northeast Thailand, Vietnamese and Laotian refugees in Hawaii, immigrants in New York City, intensive language institute students in New York City and Indiana, Pennsylvania, university English majors and non-English majors in Thailand, businessmen in Japan, and undergraduates at IUP. He has also taught English teachers and developing scholars enrolled in the Ph.D. Program in Composition & TESOL and in the MA TESOL Program at IUP, as well as teachers in China, Japan and Hungary where he taught as a visiting professor. After earning his doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University, he focused on developing principles and practices that teachers can use to make their own informed teaching decisions, rather than to depend on the prescriptions of others.

Dr. Gebhard is the author of *Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language* (University of Michigan Press, second edition, 2006) and *Language Teaching Awareness: A Guide to Exploring Beliefs and Practices* (Cambridge University Press, 1999, with Robert Oprandy). He has also published scores of book chapters and journal articles. His most recent book chapter is “The TESOL Practicum” (In A. Burns and J.C. Richards, eds. *The Cambridge Guide to Second Language Teacher Education*, Cambridge University Press, in press).

For our conference, Dr. Gebhard’s speech is titled: “Principles and Practices in Teacher Development: What Busy Teachers Can Do to Become More Aware of Their Teaching.” He explains, “To develop as language teachers, we can benefit from knowing how to make our own informed teaching decisions, rather than to simply follow the teaching prescriptions of others. In this presentation, I explain how we, as teachers, can become more aware of our teaching beliefs and classroom practices. I begin my talk by explaining principles that underlie my notion of teacher development. I then explain and illustrate what teachers can do to gain awareness of teaching, including: self-observation, peer observation, keeping a teaching journal, doing action research, and forming teacher support groups. I also provide ideas about how busy teachers can implement these activities, and I make recommendations to administrators and policy makers about how they can support such teacher development efforts.”

PROPOSALS

We encourage participation in our conference and the proposal for presentations is on our website at <http://www.3rtesol.org>. Proposals may be for one of the following - workshops (60 minutes), lectures (20 minute presentation and 10 minute questions), Open Discussion (30 minutes), Poster Session (30 minutes), and Student Symposiums - and must be received by September 7, 2007 in order to be considered for the conference. Presenters will be informed by September 14, 2007.

SITE DETAILS

IUP located about 45 miles north of Pittsburgh and is easily reached by Route 286, and Route 119 from the south and Route 422 from the north, west and east. The conference will be held in the Hadley Union Building (or the HUB, as it is affectionately called). Registration will be in the lobby and presenters will have a Continental Breakfast, sponsored by the English Graduate Department's Composition and TESOL Program, starting at 8 am, in the Ohio Room. This is where our Plenary Speaker and vendors will also be located. Presenters will be located in either the Monongahela Room, which can seat up to 50 people; the Susquehanna Room which seats around 80; the Allegheny Room which can seat around 70 people, and the two conference rooms, the Conemaugh and the Knowlton, each of which seat 25-30 people. All rooms except the two conference rooms will have smart carts for those presenters with laptops and/or Power Point presentations on flash or jump drives. More information about IUP can be found at: www.iup.edu

DIRECTIONS / HOTEL RESERVATIONS

For presenters/attendees wishing to come up to IUP the night before, the Holiday Inn, (1395 Wayne Avenue, Indiana, PA) has rooms set aside for the conference. Room rates are \$89 plus tax per night if rooms are reserved by August 29, 2007. To reserve a room please contact the hotel at <http://www.indianapa.holiday-inn.com> and state you are coming with the 3Rivers TESOL conference in order to get the discount rate. Directions from the Holiday Inn to the HUB are; turn left out of the Holiday Inn parking lot onto Wayne Avenue for 1.5 miles, then turn left onto Locust, before the light. Then at the first stop sign, turn right, and at the next stop sign go straight into the parking lot. The Coop Store is in the front and there is sign directing you up steps to the left of the store. Go up the steps and bear right, going into the lobby where the registration is located. More information about Indiana, PA can be found at: www.indianapa.com

FOOD

Inside the HUB there is a small food court for lunch or on campus there is the Folger Dining Hall. For off campus dining at lunchtime, people may walk or drive a few blocks to Philadelphia Street, which has a variety of local restaurants. More information about local dining can be found at www.indianapa.com/restrant.htm

VOLUNTEERING

Anyone interested in serving on the registration committee or as facilitators for the presenters should contact the Vice President at vp@3rtesol.org. Several people have volunteered so far, but more are always welcome, whether it is to sit at the registration table handing out packets and program information or directing people to their presentations. Facilitators will help presenters, contacting the technical advisors if there are problems and introducing the presenters as needed as well as providing guidance with timekeeping for presenters.

VOTE FOR CHANGE IN BY-LAWS

There will be information at the registration table about some changes that the board would like members to vote upon. Please take a look and cast your vote.

As you can see, there are some exciting things planned for the fall conference. So whether you are a student in the TESOL field, an ESL/EFL teacher at any level of education, or an ESL family advocate, we will have something to help you link theory to practice. I hope to see you there!

-Janet Pierce

Vice President

2007 Three Rivers TESOL Conference Site Coordinator

Mark your calendar!

JULY	SEPTEMBER	APRIL 2008
<p><u>Summer Meet & Greet</u> Church Brew Works 3525 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh 5:00 to 7:00 PM Appetizers & Cash Bar</p> <p>Bring a TESOL friend!</p>	<p><u>Three Rivers Fall Conference</u> Theme: <i>Linking Theory to Practice</i> Saturday, September 29, 2007 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Indiana University of Pennsylvania Indiana, PA Proposals will be accepted until September 7th Proposal submission online at www.3rtesol.org</p> <p>For more information: www.3rtesol.org</p>	<p><u>International TESOL Conference</u> Theme: <i>Worlds of TESOL: Building Communities of Practice, Inquiry, and Creativity</i> April 2-5, 2008 New York Hilton & Sheraton New York New York, NY</p> <p>For more information: www.tesol.org/2008convention</p>

Three Rivers TESOL

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