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Check us out at:

<http://3rtesol.wordpress.com/>

OR

<http://3riverstesol.org/>

A Message from the President:

Dear Three Rivers TESOL Members:

Let me start by thanking all those who participated in the 2010 fall meeting at Clarion University! We appreciate all the hard work you put in attending and sharing your work with us. I particularly was delighted at the level of interaction our attendees and presenters alike had to discuss research, theory, and practice in the field and how it applies to ELL learners, especially at several sessions. While the turnout was not what we expected, the interaction and networking went beyond our expectations!

I am very pleased to announce that the board awarded Dr. Lilya Savova, the Dedication of Excellence in Service Award, an award that recognizes an individual who has done an outstanding job supporting fellow members and the organization at large. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Savova for all her work in the past years in ensuring the success of our constituents and the organization. And please join me in congratulating Dr. Pierce, our board member who has been elected Member A in the TESOL Affiliate Leadership Council! Congratulations Janet and we wish you the best of luck! I would also like to thank all those people whose work is not seen or observed, but felt through every venue of the Three Rivers TESOL organization. I want to thank the board members for working out the details of the conference, usually at the expense of their precious and valuable time!

This past fall conference reminded me of the important work the Three Rivers TESOL organization undertakes. Whether it is providing a venue for ELL professionals in the region to share their work, or to create an opportunity for emerging scholars to engage in serious scholarship, all these details are important pieces of a larger narrative that illuminates an important detail: Our work in Three Rivers is critical! We might not be solving pivotal issues that pertain to ELL learners; we might not even be addressing the core problems that teachers and students alike face in the ESL/ELL classroom. But we certainly are making it possible for our fellow members and their immediate constituents to start the conversation on these big issues. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Gloria Park from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has captured this theme in her keynote address on Pedagogical Content & Learner Knowledge in World Englishes: A Critical Call for Raising Our Awareness and Enacting Change. It is time we began this conversation!

I cannot stress how important it is that you support Three Rivers TESOL. Get engaged! If you are not already, join today, and become a member! And if you are already, renew your membership! There are so many opportunities for professional development that our personalized conferences provide! We will be posting all information about the conference and our Spring Meeting soon, so please make sure you check our websites at www.3riverstesol.org and blog about it at 3rtesol.wordpress.com

I am looking forward to meeting at you the TESOL conference in New Orleans, LA. Mark your calendar: TESOL 2011 Annual Convention and Exhibit Examining the Equity in TESOL+ March 16-19, 2011 New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Pierce and I will be attending and presenting at the conference, so if you are planning to attend, drop us a note and let's get together and talk TESOL stuff! We will be happy to see you there! And remember, your comments and feedback are always appreciated! Let us know how we can make Three Rivers TESOL better!

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Mahmoud Amer, President

Dr. Gloria Park Speaks about World Englishes

With globalization and internationalizing influencing the ways in which the fields of TESOL, Applied Linguistics, and Composition explore what we do as teacher-scholars, there is an urgent need to examine and re-configure how the English language is perceived, learned, and taught in the academy. For instance, one area to explore is to understand how issues connected to world Englishes help both teacher-scholars and their students to (re)conceptualize what we teach and how we teach English as an international language, problematizing the issues related to "standard English" and "NES/NNES dichotomy." Another area to explore is the notion of "best practices" and how this construct often overlooks the specific needs of our students' educational goals and the contexts in which they learn and use the English language. Hence, "best practices" should take into consideration the many varieties of English spoken by our students in their particular contexts. As such, there is a critical need to raise our awareness about alternative pedagogies that are practical, particular, and possible for multilingual students all over the world. Let's continue to remind ourselves as advocates of our students to deconstruct these notions of "one-size fits all" approach to teaching and see English as a "standardized" not "standard" language taking into consideration multiple varieties of Englishes that can equally be standardized.

After an overview, Dr. Parke reflected on what world Englishes is and how we are all affected by this call for a sociocultural and sociopolitical curricular change. Second, we looked at some world Englishes literature to ground our argument for promoting the use of world Englishes in Inner, Outer, and Expanding Circle countries. The presentation ended with some pedagogical suggestions and implications for embracing world Englishes in our teaching and scholarship.

Editor's Note: To save space, references and suggestions for future research are available at:

Gloria.Park@iup.edu



Dr. Savova wins Excellence in Service Award

Dr. Lilia Savova was awarded the Three Rivers TESOL Excellence in Service Award this past year, for her continued outstanding support of Three Rivers TESOL. Dr. Savova, a professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania encourages her MA-TESOL and PhD. TESOL and Composition students to participate in the annual Three Rivers TESOL Conference, providing support and instruction in professional presentations at the conference and encouraging her students to be active in Three Rivers TESOL and TESOL. We are proud to recognize Dr. Savova as a valuable contributor to the success of Three Rivers TESOL.



Board member Dr. Janet Pierce presents Dr. Savova with the Three Rivers TESOL Award for Excellence in service.

Meet Our Vice President

Our new Vice President of Three Rivers TESOL is Dr. Susan Todhunter. Dr. Todhunter has a wealth of experience in the TESOL field. Originally from eastern PA, she has lived in Pittsburgh since 1977. She has an MA in Linguistics and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and instruction both from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, Todhunter has taught ESL programs at Pitt, Point Park College, Duquesne University, and Carnegie Mellon University.

Todhunter has teaching experience in Barcelona Spain and Kazan, Russia where she was a Fulbright Scholar at Kazan State University in the Spring of 1997. Most recently she has taught at the Bakmun Girl s' High School in Incheon, South Korea. Todhunter, has been at La Roche College since 2000 and is currently the Associate Professor of ESL and

Assistant Director of the ESL Program. In May, Todhunter will become the ESL Program Director at Duquesne University.



Dr. Susan Todhunter, the new VP of Three Rivers TESOL.

Board Member Elected Member A of TESOL Affiliate Leadership Council

Dr. Janet L. Pierce was nominated and elected to the Affiliate Leadership Council (ALC). Dr. Pierce will continue as Secretary of Three Rivers TESOL as she begins her new duties as Member A of the TESOL Affiliate Leadership Council at the conclusion of the 2011 TESOL Convention.

Dr. Pierce has been a member of Three Rivers TESOL since 2004 and served on the board as Vice President, Present, Past President and currently as Secretary. As Member A she will be responsible for the two ALC newsletters, and attend the ALC meetings at TESOL, and during the year. After serving as member A, Pierce will become Chair Elect, then the Chair of the ALC in subsequent years.

“This is quite an honor and a growing opportunity for me,” Pierce explained. I hope to learn new ideas that will benefit Three Rivers TESOL.”

Korean Students’ Construction of Writer Identities

By
Soyoung Burke, Ph.D.

This presentation was based upon Dr. Burke’s dissertation and utilizes social constructivist theory and Halliday’s (1994) view of language in terms of ideational aspect. It concerns a qualitative case study which examined how six Korean ESL students construct their writer identities through L1 and L2 writing practices. Their academic papers and interviews were collected to gather their beliefs and experiences. The Korean students showed various approaches in constructing their writer identities influenced by their previous Korean writing practices, privileged academic discourse, marginalized ESL social and linguistic identities, and level of the degree program, and resistance. Their multiple writer identities were shifting, conflicting, and developing in the academic contexts of writing. The presenter highlighted the different approaches between

undergraduate and graduate students in framing writer identities and discussed the implication for teaching English academic writing to ESL students.



Dr. SoYoung Burke presents information from her dissertation at Three Rivers TESOL.

Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners with ESL-WOW

The ESL Writing Online Workshop (ESL-WOW) is currently entering its second year of development. This multimedia program is intended to guide English language learners through the pre-writing, while-writing, and post-writing processes. ESL-WOW consists of 4 basic modules: "Getting Ready to Write," "Developing Your Ideas," "Revising Your Work," and "Editing and Polishing." ESL-WOW will also host the Faculty Writing Exchange, a virtual meeting place for online instructors and tutors to meet, collaborate, and share ideas. A tutorial on plagiarism will also be available. ESL-WOW is designed for students at community college students and adult learners, but once created, it will be available free of charge to individuals and educational institutions all over the country.

A guiding principle of the project is to develop online materials that are easily accessible and understandable by English language learners. In the independent study component, there will be tutorials, audio/video files with transcripts, glossaries, and interactive exercises. In the "Community of Writers" component,

learners will experience interaction with human tutors and with other students through discussion boards, feedback from tutors and peers, and other means of collaboration. These 2 sections may be used separately, but in many cases they will complement each other. Once the materials have been developed, a pilot study will be conducted with partner Mesa College in San Diego.

ESL-WOW is a grant project which is funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education (FIPSE). The contents of this article were developed under grant #P116W090076 from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U. S.

Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. For more information, email info@eslwow.org or go to <http://www.eslwow.org>.

Claire Bradin Siskin
Director

ESL Writing Online Workshop (ESL-WOW)
info@eslwow.org

Conference Photo Gallery



THREE RIVERS TESOL

The Board

President:

*Dr. Mahmoud
Amer*

Vice President:

*Dr. Susan
Todhunter*

Treasurer:

Peter Kolenich

Secretary:

Dr. Janet L. Pierce

Webmaster:

Dr. Greg Mizera

La Roche College hosts Spring Mini-Conference

Our Spring Mini Conference and Meeting will be on **Saturday, April 2, 2011** from 9-Noon in the Multipurpose room of the Wright Library (Building #2 on the campus map) at La Roche College. There will be a *Technology and Teaching in the ESL Classroom Forum* focusing on: Online learning, Moodle, Freeware applications, and Smartboard use in the ESL classroom. Enjoy networking with other professionals in the ESOL K-16 field; refreshments; and learn how technology can help you in the ESL classroom. After the Forum, there will be a General membership meeting and elections of officers.

See Campus Map at: <http://www.laroche.edu/tour/tour.html>
and directions at: <http://www.laroche.edu/about/directions.asp>

Directions to La Roche College

FROM I-79 NORTHBOUND

- 1) Off I-79 northbound, take the Wexford Exit (# 73). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Route 910 East.
- 2) Follow Route 910 to the intersection of Rt. 19/Perrysville Ave. in the town of Wexford.
- 3) Take a right at that intersection, and follow Route 19/Perrysville Ave. south through Wexford, PA.
- 4) At the bottom of a hill beyond the Wexford business district, Route 19 splits between Route 19 Business / McKnight Road and Route 19/Perry Highway. Follow the Route 19 Business/McKnight Road exit by bearing right.
- 5) Proceed to the stoplight at the intersection of Cumberland Road and McKnight Road (beyond the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant).
- 6) Take a left at this intersection onto Cumberland Road. Follow Cumberland Road to the next stoplight where it intersects with Babcock Boulevard. You will be directly across from UPMC Passavant.
- 7) Take a right at this intersection.
- 8) Take the second left onto the Main Campus marked by the La Roche College sign.

FROM I-79 SOUTHBOUND

- 1) Off I-79 southbound, take the Cranberry/Mars Exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Route 228 West.
- 2) Follow that to the next intersection with Route 19. Take a left on Route 19 and follow it through Cranberry Township, under I-79 and into the town of Wexford, PA.
- 3) At the bottom of a hill beyond the Wexford business district, Route 19 splits between Route 19 Business/McKnight Road and Route 19/Perry Highway. Follow the Route 19 Business/McKnight Road exit by bearing right.
- 4) Proceed to the stoplight at the intersection of Cumberland Road and McKnight Road (beyond the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant). Take a left at this intersection onto Cumberland Road.
- 5) Follow Cumberland Road to the next stoplight where it intersects with Babcock Boulevard. You will be directly across from UPMC Passavant.
- 6) Take a right at this intersection. Take the second left onto the Main Campus marked by the La Roche College sign.

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE

- 1) Take the Butler Valley exit off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. At the end of the exit ramp, bear right and take the ramp toward PA Route 8 North toward Butler.
- 2) At the first traffic light (100 yards from ramp), turn left onto West Hardies Road. Follow that for approximately three miles.
- 3) Turn right at the first traffic light onto Wildwood Road. Follow for approximately two miles.
- 4) Turn left at first traffic light onto Babcock Boulevard. Follow Babcock Boulevard for approximately four miles through the first traffic light (at the intersection with Cumberland Road).
- 5) Take the second left onto the Main Campus marked by the La Roche College sign.