

A Message from the President:

Dear Fellow Members of Three Rivers TESOL,

I'm pleased to report on some of the exciting things happening in our organization this year. First, our Spring Mini-Conference, held at La Roche College on April 2nd, was a success. We met some new members and saw old friends. Thanks go to our forum contributors – Mahmoud Amer, Janet Pierce, Greg Mizera and Na-Rae Han – for updating us on classroom technology topics from interactive smart boards to online courses. I'd also like to thank Cindy Lennox for stepping forward to serve as Vice President, and Peter Kolenich, Janet Pierce, Claire Bradin Sisken and Mahmoud Amer for continuing their work on the Executive Board.

A central goal for 3RT this year is to increase our membership and sustain its diversity. Our Institutional Members play a key role in achieving this goal. Organizations paying an annual fee of \$150.00 have their websites linked on the Three Rivers TESOL website. Now, each organization can register any number of its teachers and administrators for an additional \$10.00 per person. We hope that this new approach will reinvigorate membership from our local universities, schools, and other ESL education providers. If you are a decision-maker at your institution, consider committing to an Institutional Membership in 3RT for 2011 – 2012.

Many of our affiliate members shared the energizing effect of the International TESOL Conference in New Orleans in March. Janet Pierce made the presence of 3RT felt on the Affiliate Leadership Council. Plenaries about English as a Lingua Franca as (ELF) and “Teaching English as Something Other Than Language” made me appreciate once again the fascinating complexities that characterize my professional life. Whether we are teaching children or adults, in schools or informal programs, it matters how we think of the English we are teaching.

Our Fall Conference theme will be “Connections: The Classroom, the Community, and the World.” As president of Three Rivers TESOL this year, I hope to draw together our various groups of members more closely in the understanding of our mutual goal – supporting our students as they become users of English and members of multilingual communities, in Pittsburgh and around the world. Dr. G. Richard Tucker, our keynote speaker, will address the topic “A Rationale for Developing Additive Bilingualism in our Students.” Dr. Tucker has dedicated his career to the study of language learning and teaching. His lifelong engagement with language programs across the globe, from the elementary school level to the university and beyond, will give us a useful perspective on our collective endeavor. I think that all of us will discover useful and inspiring ideas in Dr. Tucker's talk. Come, meet and network with your colleagues, hear inspiring ideas, present your latest project, update your approaches and check your practice. We are expecting many interesting sessions. We hope to see you at Duquesne University on November 5th!

Best Wishes,
Sue Todhunter, Ph.D.
President

In this issue:

> **President's message**

> **Board Bios**

> **Expanding Horizons**

> **Conference News**

> **Call for Proposals**

> **Fall Conference Plenary Speaker**

> **TESOL Online Professional Development Opportunities**

> **Photo Gallery**

Check us out at:

<http://3riverstesol.org/>

Board Bios:



Our new Vice President: **Cynthia Lennox**

Ms. Cynthia Lennox serves as Learning Technology & Student Services Coordinator for the ESL Program at Duquesne University, where she has taught since 2000. She received her M.A. degree in English from Carnegie Mellon University and holds a dual B.A. degree in French and English with K-12 certification from Washington and Jefferson University. Her professional interests have focused on curriculum design and instruction related to speaking-listening, Business English, and intercultural education. Ms. Lennox was ESL Program Director at Bayer Corporation from 1987 to 2000. She founded and is president of Intercultural Communication, Inc., a consulting company serving international business and medical clients. Ms. Lennox is a co-author in the textbook series *Contemporary Topics: Academic Listening and Note-Taking Skills* and has presented results of her work at regional and national TESOL conferences.

Our new Webmaster: **Claire Bradin Siskin**

Claire Bradin Siskin has been a member of Three Rivers TESOL since 2000. She served as webmaster from 2003 to 2008 and has returned to this role. She taught ESL for 17 years, and she has been an enthusiastic practitioner of computer-assisted language learning (CALL) since 1983. She has held a variety of offices in TESOL International. She serves on the editorial boards of both *Computer Assisted Language Learning Journal* and *CALICO Journal*. She directs the ESL Writing Online Workshop (ESL-WOW) Project at Excelsior College.

Expanding Horizons

By

Janet L. Pierce, Ph.D.

Last March I had three wonderful opportunities as a board member of Three Rivers TESOL. The first one was to represent Three Rivers TESOL at the Affiliate Leadership Council as the incoming Member A. I was elected to this position shortly before the TESOL Conference in New Orleans. At the Affiliate Leadership Council (ALC) meetings my job was to take photographs of the various activities that take place at the ALC assembly, and various workshops. I was able to learn some information I hope to share with fellow board members this year about opportunities to help affiliates succeed through the use of newsletters, email communications and future workshops. Throughout this year I will also be organizing newsletters for the ALC. For this we depend upon news from each affiliate so I am hopeful I will hear from you, our members, as to our needs and helpful things we can do for you.

The second opportunity was to present with our Past President Mahmoud Amer at one of the Best of Affiliates presentations. It was an honor and an enriching experience. Presentations at the Three Rivers TESOL Fall Conference are considered by our board for submission to the

ALC for the International TESOL Convention. Our proposal, *Using Technology to Enhance and Expand ELL Instruction*, was accepted, and we were able to go to present there. Our presentation was based upon our presentations at the Spring Meeting/Mini conference, so this is another time members can learn, present and build their portfolio.

The third opportunity was the chance to meet and present with fellow colleagues of mine from our Ph.D. program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. During our Ph.D. and dissertation writing experience, we had created a virtual community of practice to help each other along the way. TESOL accepted our proposal so we presented a workshop on our experiences, *Examining Virtual CoPs for Research, Collaboration and Dissertating in TESOL*. As a result of my participation in Three Rivers TESOL I have and continue to grow professionally. I encourage all of our members to take advantage of the opportunities within Three Rivers TESOL to grow professionally. Later in this newsletter you will read about the Fall Conference and other professional development opportunities. I encourage you to read the articles and take advantage of the wonderful opportunities open to you.

Fall 2011 Conference Update

Our Fall Conference will be held on **Saturday, November 5th** from 8:00 – 4:00 at Duquesne University. The theme is “Connections: The Classroom, the Community, and the World.”

Keynote Speaker

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. G. Richard Tucker, addressing the topic, “A Rationale for Developing Additive Bilingualism in our Students.”

Cost and Membership Renewal

The cost of the conference is \$10.00 for members. You can renew your membership at the conference. Annual dues are \$30.00 (\$15.00 with a student ID). We provide Act 48 credits for K-12 educators.

Check online at <http://3riverstesol.org/conf/fall11/index.html> for more details.

Call for Proposals

Have you been working on a research study? Involved in a classroom project? Writing up some new materials? Thinking through a theoretical approach? Doing some nitty-gritty hands-on language and culture sessions with your students? Write it up and send it in! We encourage proposals from all our colleagues in K-12, higher education, teacher education, adult education, IEPs, ITA training, ESL, EFL, CALL.... did I miss anyone?

Presentation Types

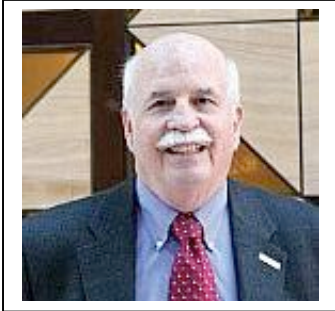
Lecture 25 minutes
Workshop 55 minutes
Poster session 55 minutes
Panel Discussion 55 minutes
Exhibitor 25 or 55 minutes

Strands

Adult Education
K-12
Higher Education
General Interest
Teacher Education
CALL
Exhibitor

Submit your proposal online at <http://tinyurl.com/4yg6244>.

If you prefer to mail in your proposal, please use the proposal form posted on our website.



Fall Conference Plenary Speaker

Dr. G. Richard Tucker, Paul Mellon University Professor of Applied Linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University, is internationally recognized as an expert on second language learning and instruction in diverse settings. He has conducted major research projects, published numerous books and articles, and served on many advisory boards.

As Professor of Psychology and Linguistics at McGill University, Dr. Tucker evaluated the effectiveness of French immersion programs in Quebec. Among his many contributions to the understanding of bilingual education during the 1970s was the publication in 1972, with Wallace E. Lambert, of *Bilingual Education of Children: The St. Lambert Experiment*.

Dr. Tucker served as president of the Center for Applied Linguistics from 1979 to 1991. His work as Language Education advisor for the Ford Foundation took him to Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Dr. Tucker joined the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University in 1992. He served as Chair of the Modern Language Department for 12 years. Last year, he took on the role of Interim Dean of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.

His recent publications include the collection *Sociolinguistics: The Essential Readings*, co-edited with Christina Bratt Paulston. With Richard Donato, Dr. Tucker investigated programs for Spanish and Japanese language programs for students in grades K – 12, resulting in *A Tale of Two Schools: Developing Sustainable Early Foreign Language Programs*.

Dr. Tucker has served on many national advisory boards, including the National K-12 Foreign Language Research Center; the National Advisory Committee for the Heritage Languages Initiative; the National Middle East Language Resource Center; and the Sociolinguistics and the Linguistics Advisory Committees for SIL International. He was one of the founders and currently serves as trustee for The International Research Foundation for English Language Education (TIRF).

Online Professional Development Opportunities for ESOL Educators

By
Claire Bradin Siskin

Are you concerned about keeping up with the profession but have a very demanding work schedule? The international TESOL organization offers online professional development opportunities of many types. Whether you are able to devote a minimal amount of time or many hours online, there is a seminar, workshop, course or program that should suit your needs. These sessions are tailored to every budget since the costs range from a few thousand dollars to completely free of charge.

TESOL Virtual Seminars: The Virtual Seminars are 90-minute webcasts that are broadcast several times a year. These are given by well-known specialists and leaders in TESOL on topics of special interest. Recent Virtual Seminars have included “Tech Tools for Busy Teachers,” “Effective Strategies for Collaboration between ESL/ELP and K-12 Classroom Teachers,” and “Why Are We Still Teaching the Wrong Grammar the Wrong Way?” These sessions may be viewed live at specified times. The recordings are also archived for later viewing and made available to TESOL members. Advance registration is necessary, but there is no charge for TESOL members. Non-members currently pay \$45 per seminar.

TESOL's Principles and Practices of Online Teaching Certificate Program: This extensive program prepares teachers to teach English online and in blended learning situations. In order to earn the certificate, students are required to complete a foundation course, two content and two general courses, and a completion course. Each course varies in length from four to six weeks. The current total cost for the certificate course is \$2200 for TESOL members and \$2800 for non-members. Individual courses may also be taken.

Leadership Development Certificate Program (LDCP) Online Workshops: The LDCP Workshops are designed for those who would like to develop their leadership skills in the field of ESOL. There are two strands: one for leaders in the TESOL organization and one for ESOL administrators. Strand One, “About TESOL and Perspectives on Leadership for TESOL,” consists of two online workshops: “About TESOL” and “Perspectives on Leadership for TESOL.” The duration of each workshop is two weeks, and the cost for each is currently \$50. To earn the certificate, additional workshops are taken as face-to-face sessions during the TESOL Conference each year.

TESOL Core Certificate Program: This program is described on the TESOL website as follows:

“...the TESOL Core Certificate Program is a 130-hour online training program providing a foundation in the theory and practice of English language teaching. The certificate program provides a summary of the core knowledge of the field to support individuals in enhancing their professional practice and careers in serving the needs of English language learners (ELLs). The program is designed for

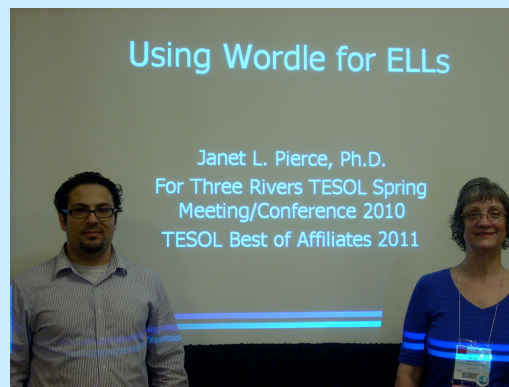
current or prospective teachers or administrators worldwide with who have little to no formal training in ELT. Participants can focus on teaching adults, in ESL and/or EFL environments, or on teaching young learners, in EFL environments.”

The program consists of two six-week courses and a ten-hour course; all requirements must be fulfilled within eleven months. The current cost is \$1000 for TESOL members and \$1095 for non-members.

For more information on all the sessions described above and to find out when they are offered, go to <http://www.tesol.org>, click on the Education tab at the top, and select the appropriate topic.

Electronic Village Online (EVO): The EVO courses are associated with TESOL because they are organized by the Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) Interest Section of TESOL. However, it is not necessary to belong to TESOL to enroll in them. If you have never taken an online course, EVO is a convenient, low-stakes way to get started since no fees are involved. Referred to as a “virtual extension of the TESOL Convention,” they are offered each year and are designed for those who cannot attend the annual convention in person. The five-week courses are taught by volunteers and sponsored by various TESOL Interest Sections. The topics vary from year to year, and they range from “Re-playing Process Drama” to “Digital Storytelling” to “Creating Vocabulary Activities.” The courses are offered each year from mid-January to mid-February, and registration opens in early January. See <http://evosessions.pbworks.com> for more information.

Photo Gallery



**Dr. Mahmoud Amer and Dr. Janet L. Pierce
Present at Best of Affiliates, TESOL 2011.**