



# AMTESOL News

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 1

FALL 2011

## 2012 AMTESOL Conference

*“The Many Faces, Places, & Ways of TESOL”*

January 27-28, 2012

Oxford Conference Center  
Oxford, Mississippi

Go to [www.amesol.org](http://www.amesol.org) for:  
Registration Form  
Hotel information  
Conference details



*Oxford Conference Centre, Oxford Mississippi*

Dear AMTESOL Members,

The Year of the Rabbit is nearing its end, and it was anything but warm and cuddly. Snow and storms filled 2011 since we were together, and I want to say how good it was to see so many people come together to help each other.

I want to reflect briefly on our last annual meeting, which was held at the tail end of the Year of the Tiger. Almost 300 of us gathered in the Loveliest Village on the Plains to teach and learn from each other for AMTESOL 2011. The Pre-conference workshops' attendance was greater than expected, and teachers from seven states and several different countries attended the entire conference. In the next few weeks, we will all catch up with each other and the latest in local TESOL issues at AMTESOL 2012 in Oxford, Mississippi, on January 27-28.

If you are looking for an opportunity for more great networking and learning in 2012, the Year of the Dragon, plan on attending the 2012 SETESOL Regional Conference. Tennessee TESOL will host “Connecting and Reflecting, September 27-29, 2012, in Knoxville, TN. The deadline to submit proposals is April 30, 2012.

For even more professional development experiences for next year, why not attend the international TESOL 2012 conference? The 46th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit will be March 29-31, 2012 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Closer to home, there are several opportunities to contribute to your local community and to our organization by getting involved with AMTESOL as a member of the executive board, as a contributor to our newsletter, or by participating in our conferences as a presenter or a host of the conference.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Diamond  
2011 AMTESOL President



### In this issue:

<b>AMTESOL Conference</b>	
Keynote Speaker, Catherine Collier.....Pg 2	
Pre-Conference Workshops.....Pg 2	
Statement on AL Immigration Law.....Pg 3	
Upcoming Events.....Pg 4	
TESOL Name Change.....Pg 5	
TESOL Online Teaching Certificate.....Pg 6	

## 2012 AMTESOL Conference - Oxford, Mississippi

*"The Many Faces, Places & Ways of TESOL"*

January 27-28, 2012

Oxford Conference Center



**Keynote Speaker: Dr Catherine Collier, "Learning Styles and Culture"**  
**Friday, January 27, 6-7 p.m.**

(From <http://crosscultured.com>) **Dr. Catherine Collier** has over 45 years experience in equity, cross-cultural, bilingual, and special education beginning with Civil Rights voter registration in 1964. She completed her Ph.D. with research into the referral of Latino/Hispanic students to special education programs. For eight years, she was a classroom bilingual/ESL teacher, special education resource room teacher, and diagnostician for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Arizona and Alaska. She established and directed the Chinle Valley School, *Dine Bitsiis Baa Aha Yaa*, bilingual services for Navajo

students with severe and multiple disabilities for the Navajo Nation. She was the director of a teacher-training program, *Ikayurikiit Unatet* for the University of Alaska for seven years, preparing Yup'ik Eskimo paraprofessionals for certification as bilingual preschool, elementary, and special educators. She was an itinerant (diagnostician/special education) for Child Find in remote villages in Alaska. For eight years, Dr. Collier worked with the BUENO Center for Multicultural Education, Research, and Evaluation at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she created and directed the Bilingual Special Education curriculum/Training project (BISECT), a nationally recognized effort. She was the Director of Resource and Program Development for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and is a Sequoyah Fellow.

Dr. Collier is the author of several books and articles on cross-cultural and multilingual special education. She is active in social justice activities for culturally and linguistically diverse learners and families. She started the first bilingual special education programs for the Navajo Nation and the White Mountain Apache. She works extensively with school districts on professional and program development for at-risk diverse learners. Dr. Collier provides technical assistance to university, local, and state departments of education regarding programs serving at-risk cognitively, culturally and linguistically diverse learners. She works with national organizations to provide professional development in the intersection of cross-cultural, multilingual, diversity, special needs issues in education.

She is the director of the national professional development project Curriculum Integration for Responsive, CrossCultural, Language-based Education (CIRCLE) at Western Washington University. She is the principal developer of the screening and software program "Acculturation Quick Screen" and many instruction, assessment and intervention materials for diverse learners. Her most recent publications are a chapter on acculturation in the *Multicultural Handbook for School Psychologists*, and two books, *Response to Intervention for Diverse Learners* and *Seven Steps for Separating Difference & Disability*.

### **Pre-conference workshops**

**"RTI for English Language Learners" - Presenter: Dr. Catherine Collier**

Dr. Collier will present research based information on identifying specific baseline concerns for LEP/ELL students with learning and behavior problems and how to monitor student response to intervention in these areas. This workshop addresses the development of instructional intervention for language minority students with learning and behavior problems. Dr. Collier will provide an introduction to the assessment, intervention, identification strategies that are most effective in identifying difference issues at the RTI and RTII stage. Specific strategies & interventions to implement during RTI will be demonstrated.

**"Academic English Upgrade: Empowering ESL Writers with High Style" - Presenter: Jennifer L. Greer**

In this workshop, teachers practice 7 strategies to help students upgrade their English for more powerful academic writing. Participants begin with a humorous "quick write" that reminds them academic English isn't *anybody's* first language. Then they explore the contrasts in language register and style, using sentence stems, word play, role play, and modeling to move ESL writers from slang to scholarly -- without losing their L1 or personal identities.

**"Interactive Notebooks and Foldables for Content Learning" - Presenter: Dr. Daniel L. Fisher**

In this workshop, teachers will be actively engaged in understanding, creating and using interactive notebooks to use with ELLs. These tools will support visual and kinesthetic learning with independent and folder-based 3-D graphics. The graphics aid students to think, to learn and to review in all content areas. Dr. Fisher uses fun, humor, and practical advice to guide teachers in a step-by-step manner. Participants will return to their school the following Monday morning ready to start their students creating their own interactive notebooks.

**Next issue: SHOWCASE of Master's in ESL Programs**

***Are you the director or coordinator of a Master's in ESL program in Alabama or Mississippi?***

***Highlight your program in our next AMTESOL issue!***

Please email the following information to  
Lisa Preston, Newsletter Editor, at [lkirkpat@uab.edu](mailto:lkirkpat@uab.edu)

- Name of University
- Department
- Website, Facebook address, etc.
- Degrees awarded
- Tracks and/or Concentrations (if applicable)
- Admission deadlines for Fall and Spring
- Coordinator/Director name & contact info
- Description of program (100-word maximum)
- Photos and logos encouraged



## **Joint Statement on New Immigration Law in Alabama**

*October 11, 2011*

The harsh new immigration law now going into effect in Alabama is a tragedy for children, families, and educators. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* in 1982 that all students are entitled to a quality public education, regardless of immigration status. The recent decision to allow the provision of Alabama's law that requires school officials to ask about students' citizenship or immigration status has created an atmosphere of fear in public schools, and has already resulted in a drop in attendance.

Classroom teachers and educators work to care for their students and help them learn and grow, not serve as immigration-law enforcers. This heavy-handed provision places an undue burden on teachers and jeopardizes their abilities to do their job, and threatens the education of every child.

TESOL International Association and its Affiliate Alabama-Mississippi Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (AMTESOL) stand with educators and civil rights leaders across the United States in opposition to this law, and urge the U.S. Justice Department to vigorously challenge its legality.

## Upcoming Events:

### *Symposium on the Effects of HB 56*

UAB & Samford University  
Birmingham, Alabama  
February 9-10, 2012



Save \$100—early bird registration before February 1, 2012

Online registration and information at:

[www.tesolconvention.org](http://www.tesolconvention.org)



28-31 MARCH 2012 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

### *"Scholarship of Teaching and Learning"*

**April 13-14, 2012**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, Alabama

See Symposium topics & register at:  
[www.uab.edu/languages/symposium](http://www.uab.edu/languages/symposium)

Early bird registration deadline Feb. 1, 2012

The First International Symposium on  
**LANGUAGES**  
for Specific Purposes

### **Southeast TESOL 26th Regional Conference**

**September 27-19, 2012**

**Knoxville, Tennessee**

***Deadline for proposals: April 30, 2012***

**For more information, visit:**

**[www.setesol2012.com](http://www.setesol2012.com)**





## TESOL Announces Name Change

TESOL, Inc. has a new name: TESOL International Association. Though their name has changed, the association will continue to be the premier source for knowledge, quality professional development, and important research in the field of teaching English as a

second language. Most important, TESOL is still a professional community of more than 12,000 members, representing 156 countries, and more than 100 international affiliates, of which AMTESOL is one.

Of course, "TESOL" is still a handy abbreviation, and it's been around for almost 50 years, so the association will continue to use it when appropriate to refer to the association as well as the field of English language teaching and learning.

So why the change? As the demand for English language teaching has exploded worldwide, the association has evolved to support it. Thus, following many months of deliberation and discussion, the TESOL Board of Directors recently approved a new name that more accurately reflects the mission and breadth of the organization.

In addition to the new name, the TESOL Board also recently approved a new logo, a 3-year strategic plan, a new credo, and updated core values. Also coming soon are a newly designed and more user-friendly website and an expanded and redesigned TESOL Connections newsletter with new feature articles and contributions from members.

## AMTESOL Executive Board

### President

Mary Diamond  
Auburn University  
diamoms@auburn.edu

### Vice President (Conference)

Nancy McCurdy  
Oxford City Schools  
nmccurdy@oxford.k12.ms.us

### Vice President (Membership)

Karen Smith  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
klwsmith@uab.edu

### Secretary

Cindy Hunt  
Auburn City Schools  
cbhunt@auburnschools.org

### Treasurer

Julia Austin  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
jaustin@uab.edu

### Member-at-Large (Alabama)

Susan Spezzini  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
spezzini@uab.edu

### Member-at-Large (Alabama)

Ann Marie Batista  
Huntsville City Schools  
abatista@hsv.k12.al.us

### Member-at-Large (Mississippi)

Alison Stamps  
Mississippi State University  
als11@ra.msstate.edu

### Immediate Past President

Esim Erdin  
University of Mississippi  
eerdim@olemiss.edu

### Newsletter & Website Co-Editors

Joy Brown  
University of North Alabama  
jmbrown@una.edu

### Lisa M. Preston

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
lkirkpat@uab.edu



Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained.

*James A. Garfield*

Are you interested in teaching ESL online but don't know how to go about it?

Do you already design or deliver online ESL courses and want to develop your skills to teach more effectively?

TESOL International Association's "*Principles and Practices of Online Teaching*" certificate program is designed for the experienced and the inexperienced online English language teacher and course designer. Whether you design and deliver courses that are fully or partially run online, or would like to begin doing so, the "Principles and Practices of Online Teaching" program will help develop the skills you need to effectively teach English language courses online or blend online segments with your traditional face-to-face courses. "Principles and Practices of Online Teaching" consists of certificate foundation and completion courses, and ten courses in general and content-specific topics.

Go to [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org), then **Education | Online Education | Online Courses** for more information.



# AMTESOL



AMTESOL was founded in 1982, and membership is open to everyone interested in and or involved in the teaching and administration programs in English as a second or foreign language. In Mississippi we have members from various intensive English programs and public school systems in places such as Hattiesburg, Starkville, and Oxford. In Alabama our members include ESL professionals from all over the state such as Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, Birmingham, Gadsden, and numerous places in-between.

AMTESOL strives to serve the needs of intensive program teachers, administrators, graduate students, and K-12 teachers in the field of ESL. Historically speaking, AMTESOL provided one of the few opportunities for ESL professionals in Alabama and Mississippi to receive local support, professional development, and opportunities to share ideas and experience. Today, AMTESOL strives to continue this service in combination with support programs that may already be in place. Over the years, members of AMTESOL have emphasized that one of the greatest benefits of membership is the connections made in the field of ESL, many of which have lasted for many years.

## Our Mission:

- To collect and disseminate useful information about teaching English as a second language.
- To provide opportunities for interaction among ESL professionals.
- To identify and address TESOL problems of local, regional, and national concern.
- To stimulate professional development within the TESOL institutions of the area.
- To promote and actively support programs in local communities that will improve the teaching of English as a second language at all levels of education.
- To advocate the recognition of the specialized nature of the TESOL profession on the local, state, and national levels.



**Would you like to write a regular column for the AMTESOL Newsletter?**

### Columns needed:

- Alabama programs
- Mississippi programs
- K-12 programs
- University programs
- Technology in the ESL classroom
- ESL and Special Needs Students
- ESL resources & book reviews

Or do you have another passion in the field of ESL that you would like to share?

Email the Newsletter Editor at [lkirkpat@uab.edu](mailto:lkirkpat@uab.edu)