



AMTESOL News

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 1

FALL 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER



January 28-29, 2011

2011 AMTESOL CONFERENCE
Auburn, Alabama

March 16-19, 2011

2011 TESOL CONFERENCE
New Orleans, Louisiana

October 2011

2011 SETESOL CONFERENCE
Richmond, Virginia

2011 AMTESOL UPDATE

By Mary Diamond
Auburn University

We here in Auburn, Alabama, are very excited about the upcoming AMTESOL conference to be held here on January 28-29, 2011. Together we can bid farewell to the Year of the Tiger and share our best practices and latest findings from our work with speakers of other languages and their teachers.

This year, our keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Deborah Short, who developed the SIOP model for sheltered instruction. In addition to the concurrent sessions presented by our membership on the afternoon of January 28 prior to our dinner with Dr. Short, there will be concurrent workshops offered in the morning. Also, Saturday will be a day of presentations and business meetings from morning until early afternoon.

Information about the 2011 AMTESOL conference is available on our website at www.amtesol.org. Here you will find information about hotels, registration, and the call for proposals. For questions about proposals, please contact Elise Harbin at eharbin@gadsdenstate.edu. The proposal deadline has been extended to Saturday, December 11, 2010.

The event promises to be a good opportunity to learn and enjoy one another's fellowship. Also, we are looking for volunteers, so now is your chance to get involved. We hope to see you in Auburn soon!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**2011 AMTESOL
CONFERENCE**

"The Year of the Tiger"

January 28-29, 2011

Auburn, Alabama

Extended Deadline:

Dec. 11, 2010

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AMTESOL News is a twice-yearly newsletter serving the Alabama and Mississippi TESOL affiliate.

Contributions from members about teacher preparation, student concerns, classroom ideas, educational material and services, opportunities for professional growth, and information of general interest are welcome.

Contact the newsletter editor at the address on this page if you would like to contribute an article or have news of interest that you would like included. Please send material by e-mail attachment.

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TESOL's office is generally open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) Monday-Friday, except on major holidays.

Advertising Rates Newsletter Ads

Full Page - \$100.00

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Business Card - \$25.00

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear AMTESOL members,

As we end the 2009-2010 academic year, I would like to share some thoughts and memories from the past year as well as look forward to the exciting opportunities the coming year promises to bring to AMTESOL.

When I volunteered to host the AMTESOL conference held at the University of Mississippi in January, 2010, I had no idea what an exciting and rewarding experience it would be for me and my graduate students. We were able to host more than 240 ELL and K-12 teachers and faculty. What is more, the evaluations indicated that the sessions were informative and thought-provoking, which made us very happy. Our workshop leaders, Susan Spezzini and Diane Carter, were exceptional, and our keynote speaker, Bonny Norton, captured her diverse audience with fascinating performances reflecting her work and understanding of "investment" in language learners.

Our upcoming conference promises to be just as exciting, if not more. It will be held in Auburn, Alabama, at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center on January 28-29th, 2011. Dr. Deborah Short has agreed to be the keynote speaker, and Mary Diamond (diamonds@auburn.edu) is the chair of the conference. Our website (www.amtesol.org) will provide you with more information about our upcoming activities. Please consider submitting presentations and supporting this wonderful event of sharing scholarship and expertise.

Also, Mary invites volunteers to help as the AMTESOL conference approaches. Your time would be spent benefiting not only your AMTESOL colleagues, but also the students who rely on our continued excellence in instruction in the ESL/EFL arena. By volunteering your time, you can help us ensure that our AMTESOL 2011 conference is a great one.

Finally, for those of you who plan to attend the 2011 TESOL conference in New Orleans in March, please consider arriving a day or half-day early to volunteer your time. LATESOL is still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, and having extra hands to assist with various conference-related duties would be much appreciated. Let's work together to support our Louisiana affiliate.

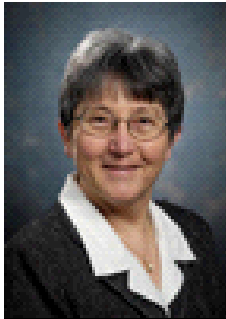
Sincerely,
Esim Erdim

Featured Members

2010 Board

From Alabama:

Susan Spezzini currently serves as a 2010-11 AMTESOL AL member-at-large. She has been an AMTESOL officer since 2005 and has also served as the AMTESOL liaison on the TESOL Affiliate Council. Before moving to Alabama in 2003, Spezzini was active in Paraguay TESOL as of its founding in 1989. Currently, Spezzini is Assistant Professor in ESL Teacher Education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Principal Investigator of National Professional Development grants from the Office of English Language Acquisition. Through these grant projects, Spezzini supports school-university partnerships for providing professional development to mainstream teachers on effective ELL instruction.



From Mississippi:

Alison Stamps currently serves as an AMTESOL 2010-2011 MS member-at-large and was previously AMTESOL's vice president of membership for five years. Stamps is the Curriculum Coordinator at the English as a Second Language Center at Mississippi State University, where she has been working with international programming since 2002. She graduated with a BA in English and Communication and an MA in English from MSU.



TESOL's 2011

Annual Convention

We have a great opportunity to attend the annual convention this year because it is close to home! The 2011 TESOL convention is in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 16-19, with the opening plenary taking place on the evening of Wednesday, March 16.

Registration for the convention opened December 1 for members, and check online to read the week-at-a-glance schedule, including pre- and post-conference activities. The website (http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/convention2011/) has extensive information about costs, hotels, CEU credits, and more.

Take advantage of this time to network, exchange ideas, and visit exhibitors. Also, check online for volunteer opportunities at the convention and in "The Big Easy"!

Peace Corps Teachers Needed

By TESOL President Brady Brock

The need for Peace Corps Volunteers is increasing, and in no area is that need greater than in education assignments. There is a particular need for TEFL volunteers on three levels:

- Secondary TEFL instructors
- University TEFL instructors
- TEFL teacher trainers

Peace Corps is a 27-month commitment (3 months of training and two years of service). A monthly living allowance is provided, along with housing, transportation, medical and dental benefits, and a readjustment allowance of up to \$7,400 upon completion of service. These 27 months allow volunteers to acquire another language, learn another culture well, make a real contribution to a community, and return with credentials and experience that are professionally respected.

For **secondary TEFL instructors**, various kinds of certificates and significant teaching experiences are needed for more demanding roles in these areas, but applicants with bachelor's degrees and good service experience can qualify for positions with as few as 30 hours of volunteer ESL teaching experience.

For **teacher trainers** and **university TEFL**, typically an MA or MAT is required, and teaching experience is desired.

Peace Corps is a U.S government agency, and applicants must be US citizens.

Please consider joining Peace Corps, and pass this message on to anyone who might also be interested. Peace Corps needs teachers now. For additional information, please visit www.peacecorps.gov or contact me at bbrady@peacecorps.gov.

Finally, Peace Corps needs helping in identifying ESL programs (preferably in adult education) in Alabama and Mississippi that are looking for volunteer teachers and that can provide at least some supervision and possible training to those volunteer teachers who need to acquire their 30 hours of ESL teaching experience. If you know of ESL programs that need volunteers, please contact Susan Spezzini at spezini@uab.edu.

Thank you, and I hope to hear from some of you soon. Please spread the word!



AFFILIATE ASSEMBLY REPORT

TESOL 2010

By Karen L. Smith
University of Alabama at Birmingham

While at TESOL in Boston this past March, I had the privilege of attending the Affiliate Assembly as AMTESOL's delegate. This meeting was very informative, and it was great to see firsthand this avenue for interaction between AMTESOL and TESOL.

During the opening of the session, we had the opportunity to meet representatives from TESOL affiliates from all over the world. It was inspiring to find so many people enthusiastically representing their TESOL affiliate groups and so many groups represented. (We had to move to a larger room.)

After hearing updates from the Affiliate Leadership Council, the delegates were given the opportunity to choose an issue of concern on the table, meet with other delegates to consider these issues, and regroup with comments for TESOL. Issues included increased relevance of TESOL, finances, communication and collaboration, and increased affiliate benefits.

I met with the communication and collaboration group, and we discussed suggestions for making the TESOL website more user friendly, improving collaboration among affiliates, and more prominently presenting affiliates during the annual TESOL convention.

The topic of collaboration with other affiliates was a particularly interesting discussion. There are many affiliates in countries outside of the US that are interested in partnering with US and other affiliates to strengthen their work. There was discussion about meeting together for annual affiliate conventions, traveling to one another's countries to broaden cultural understanding, and working together to promote international collegiality.

I came away with a new understanding of the role of affiliates in TESOL and am motivated to become more involved in the workings of our professional organization. After attending the Affiliate Assembly, I would like to send to the AMTESOL membership this message – we are a strong affiliate, we have a voice in TESOL, and we need interested members to work toward accepting positions of leadership in TESOL.

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