



AMTESOL CONFERENCE

January 24th & 25th, 2003

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**Alta Vista Hotel & Conference Center
Birmingham, Alabama**



Welcome to the 2003 AMTESOL Conference

Welcome to Birmingham, Alabama for this year's AMTESOL Conference. This year we have a wide variety of presentations, many of which are related to our theme "The Connection Between Language and Culture: Challenges for ESL Teachers," as well as many other presentations related to the many different contexts in which we teach. Whether your students are in kindergarten or graduate school, there are a number of sessions that will broaden your knowledge of ESL teaching and learning at this year's conference. I hope that you will take the opportunity to listen to a variety of presentations in order to get a feel for what people in our area are doing.

Our plenary speaker this year is Dr. Rebecca Oxford. She is the head of TESOL and Foreign Language Education at the University of Maryland. As a former director of teacher preparation programs at the University of Alabama, we are delighted to have Dr. Oxford returning to the south to share her expertise with us! For many ESL professionals, the name "Rebecca Oxford" is synonymous with the *Tapestry* series, an ESL resource series, as well as being well known in the field of language learning strategies. I know that everyone in attendance will benefit from her presentations on Friday and Saturday. We are also pleased to be having entertainment with an international flare in the form of a Middle Eastern dance group that will be performing Friday evening following Dr. Oxford's presentation.

In addition to the plenary presentations and concurrent sessions that AMTESOL has provided throughout the years, for this conference we are trying something new! Following the plenary speech on Saturday, we are offering a three-hour workshop. This workshop will present (1) the laws and court cases related to special education and second language students, (2) the most appropriate tests that are available for culturally and linguistically diverse students, (3) the role of culture in special education/ESL, and (4) ways to communicate effectively with second language parents.

This year we will be giving away three door prizes at the Friday evening dinner, the Saturday snack break, and the Saturday luncheon. Please be sure to register for a door prize at the registration table. Finally, please visit the publisher's booths, which will be displayed in the hallways and lobby of the hotel throughout the conference.

If you have any comments or suggestions about this conference or how AMTESOL can better serve you, I encourage you to speak with me or any member of the executive board.

Enjoy the conference!

Amy Snow, Conference Chair

2003 AMTESOL Conference Schedule

Friday, January 24th

4:30- 7:30 p.m.	Conference Registration (Board Room B)
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Buffet Deli Supper (Terrace Room)
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Conference Opening, Plenary Address from Dr. Rebecca Oxford (Terrace Room)
8:00-10:00	Middle Eastern Dance Group, Name That Tune with Bill Wallace (Terrace Room)

Saturday, January 25th

7:00-8:00 a.m.	AMTESOL Executive Board Meeting (Presidential Suite)
7:30-9:00 a.m.	Conference Registration (Main Lobby)
8:00- 8:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
9:00-9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
9:45-10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break (Blue Moon Café)
10:15-11:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Conference Plenary with Dr. Rebecca Oxford (Terrace Room)
1:00-1:30 p.m.	Business Meeting (Terrace Room)

Concurrent Sessions

8:00-8:45

► What We Wish We Had Known, Part 2

Room: Board Room B Bill Powell (contact), Pilar Aparicio, Dara Chambers, Jamie Hardison, Becky Langmeyer, Martha Martinez, Taralah Rios, Sabine Sanders, Naofumi Tatsumi, Claudia Triana, Mylene Valluet, Rachel Ward

Institution: The University of Southern Mississippi

International students already in degree programs were interviewed about their first semesters in a U.S. university. In particular, they were asked about what they wish they had known about university work before beginning their studies. University staff and faculty were also interviewed about their perceptions of international student needs.

Presenters: The presenters are all affiliated with the Master of Arts in the Teaching of Languages Program (TESOL Emphasis) at USM.

► Activities Abound: Making American Culture Interactive and Fun

Room: Homewood Alison Stamps

Institution: Mississippi State University ESL Center

Need a change of pace and new ideas? This presentation introduces several activities that can be used in almost any class. Specifically, the exercises are geared to the topic of American culture, but they can be modified as needed. These ideas offer a refreshing way to liven a lesson.

Presenter: Alison Stamps is a lecturer at the English as a Second Language Center at Mississippi State University.

► Prewriting Activities for a Linguistic Autobiographies

Room: Oxmoor Susan Spezzini

Institution: The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Participants are led through several pre-writing activities designed to help students gather data and generate ideas for writing their linguistic autobiographies. Activities include surveys, timelines, graphs, anecdotes, journals, and value lines.

Presenter: Dr. Susan Spezzini directs Project EQUAL at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Previously she taught linguistics at the National University in Paraguay and coordinated curriculum and staff development at the American School of Asuncion.

► Against Marginalization: English as a Resource for Chinese Intellectuals

Room: Vulcan

Xiang Zhang

Institution: The University of Alabama

This paper uses a critical approach to media discourse analysis to examine how government-controlled news media in China marginalizes intellectuals by categorizing them into three groups. The paper then examines how the use of English has emerged as a possible resource for Chinese intellectuals to respond to such marginalization.

Presenter: Xiang Zhang is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Educational Leadership Policy and Technology as well as a MA-TESOL student at The University of Alabama.

Concurrent Sessions

9:00-9:45

► Is the Language Lab a Thing of the Past?

Room: Homewood

Paula Ross

Institution: The Alabama Language Institute, Gadsden State Community College

This session will be an open discussion of both audio and computer language labs. Topics will cover history of the language lab, latest research into lab usage, best practices by teachers using labs, and problems with motivating students to use lab facilities.

Presenter: Paula Ross, an instructor in the Alabama Language Institute at Gadsden State, has 24 years of experience teaching ESL on the post secondary level. She is a candidate for a PhD from the University of Alabama and taught two semesters at Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Brasil.

► Minority Students: Culture Bearers in an ESL Literacy Program

Room: Vulcan

Estelle Ryan Clavelli

Institution: Stillman College

This presentation describes a language and literacy center (LLC) offered in Spring 2002 by Stillman College to struggling African-American and ESL students. The faculty in the LLC prepared 40 teacher candidates in a sophomore education course to address the needs of 40 struggling African-American and ESL 3rd-5th graders by using a language development model that laid the foundation for enhanced communicative competence. The key to the program was the role of culture, which provided the normative patterns for discourse.

Presenter: Estelle Ryan Clavelli, assistant professor of Education at Stillman College, prepares teacher candidates to teach in K-12th grades. Her research interests are in second language acquisition and cultural competence as they apply to K-12th literacy and pedagogy. She has taught, lived, and traveled abroad.

► International Fair Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service

Room: Board Room B

Jennifer Delmas and Emily Jo Nelson

Institution/School: The University of Southern Mississippi, Office of Community Service Learning, and English Language Institute

The University of Southern Mississippi's Office of Community Service Learning works with English Language institute students to celebrate MLK Day by sponsoring displays for local school children. This allows international students the opportunity to share information about their countries and cultures, get involved in community service, and practice speaking English.

Presenters: Jennifer Delmas, AmeriCorps *VISTA, American Humanities coordinator and Emily Nelson, ELL Instructor

► Integrating Error Treatment into the L2 Writing Classroom

Room: Oxmoor

Kelli Loggins

Institution: The University of Alabama

This paper examines patterns of error among various L2 writers enrolled in a university-level writing course. The data will be used to demonstrate how teachers can prioritize feedback and help students recognize and effectively deal with their errors. This presentation will also focus on ways that teachers can use structurally based error analyses to develop grammar activities that are relevant to their students' linguistic needs.

Presenter: Kelli Loggins earned her Masters in TESOL from the University of Alabama in May 2002. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics at UA.

Concurrent Sessions

10:15-11:00

► IEP Roundtable

Room: Board Room B

Molly Watkins and Melissa Williamson Hawkins

Institutions: MS State University & English Language and Culture Institute, Birmingham

This discussion will allow IEP administration and faculty to discuss current issues unique to IEPs and/or how involvement in AMTESOL can be most beneficial to IEP efforts. Specific topics will be developed by the participants.

Presenters: Molly Watkins is the Interim Manager of the English as a Second Language Center at Mississippi State University. Melissa Williamson Hawkins is the Program Coordinator of the English Language and Culture Institute sponsored by the Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education.

► Cultural Danger Points: Brazil vs. the USA

Room: Homewood

Alan L. Webb & Eliana Campbell

Institutions: The Alabama Language Institute & Adams Elementary School

This presentation offers an analysis of Brazilian and American cultures. The purpose is to expose areas of cultural similarities and dissimilarities that may cause difficulties for ESL instructors. The goal is to alert ESL instructors to these DANGER POINTS so that they might gain awareness of their potential danger, take preventative measures to keep them from occurring, and be equipped to resolve these problems when they occur.

Presenters: Mr. Alan Webb is a part-time instructor at the Alabama Language Institute in Gadsden, Alabama and is currently a candidate for an MATESOL degree from Shenandoah University. Mrs. Eliana Campbell, a native Brazilian, is an ESL teacher at Adams Elementary school in Gadsden, Alabama. She holds a Masters of Education degree from the University of Alabama with an emphasis in ESL.

► Questions and Answers about National Board Certification

Room: Oxmoor

Janice Cates

Institution: Jackson Public Schools

Thinking about working on National Board Certification? ESL is one of the newer certificates. Come to find out more about the process including what it involves. Learn about the monetary rewards and personal growth potential of completing the process.

Presenter: Janice Cates has worked more than a dozen years as an elementary ESL teacher and is now lead ESL teacher at her school. She is National Board Certified in Early Childhood and has completed graduate work in TESOL at USM. She holds a B.S. and M.Ed. from MSU.

► Dialogue Journals for English Language Learners: Theory into Practice

Room: Vulcan

Dr. Laureen A. Fregeau and Dr. Robert D. Leier

Institution: University of South Alabama and the Mobile County Public School System

This mini-workshop format will provide a brief theoretical background in the use of dialogue journals for second language development followed by discussion and practice activities for classroom implementation. Examining actual students' journals, we will focus on dialogue journals as tools for teacher-student communication, communicative writing, motivation, literacy and language development.

Presenters: Dr. Laureen Fregeau, Associate Professor of EDFL at the University of South Alabama, prepares educators to work with diverse populations. She has taught middle, high school and adult ESL. Dr. Robert Leier, Adjunct Professor of EDFL at the University of South Alabama and MCPSS Career Awareness ESL middle school teacher.

Concurrent Sessions

11:15-12:00



► Magic Moments With Culture

Room: Oxmoor

Bonnie L. Hendrix & David E. Luellen, Ph.D.

Institutions: Walker County Schools, Georgia and The University of Alabama at Birmingham

This amicable presentation will assist participants who want to infuse multicultural opportunities into the daily classroom experience. Those attending will discover many up-my-sleeve activities in a mixed format of fruitful participation and brief moments of direct instruction. Handouts.

Presenters: Bonnie L. Hendrix: Always popular with conference attendees, Ms. Beth and her co-presenter brother have devoted more than 70 years to careers in education. For the most part, the enthusiastic Ms. Beth has offered her skills to young children in Walker County, Georgia. She retired from the kindergarten classroom in May 2002. David E Luellen, Ph.D.: Always popular with conference attendees, Dr. Lu and his co-presenter sister have devoted more than 70 years to careers in education. The peripatetic doctor has circled the globe, teaching in secondary schools and universities in nearly a dozen countries. He currently directs Project ACCESS, a federally funded program at UAB.

► ESL for Mainstream Teachers- MCPSS Teacher Resource Site

Room: Vulcan

Dr. Robert D. Leier

TRIP
Teacher Resources

Institution: Mobile County Public School System and the University of South Alabama

for instructional planning

The on-going work of the website being developed for the Mobile County Public School System will be presented. It will provide curricular and assessment suggestions for both ESL and K-12 mainstream teachers who need to modify instruction and assessment for limited English proficient students in their classrooms. It will ensure that instruction is aligned with the Alabama Course of Study in the discipline areas of English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Math.

Presenter: Dr. Robert D. Leier, Adjunct Professor of EDLF at the University of South Alabama and MCPSS Career Awareness ESL middle school teacher.

► Language Learning Through Arts Integration

Room: Homewood Marlynn K. Martin

Institution: Rankin County School District

This demonstration will show how the teaching of the core curriculum and target language through the medium of the arts (music, rhythm and movement, dance) while integrating curriculum standards strengthens the acquisition of language, language structures, and the comprehension of content areas. Participants in this demonstration of recommended strategies will be involved in several activities including songs such as *Yellow Submarine* by the Beatles, *On Bended Knee* by Boyz 2 Men, *Getting to Know You* from *The King and I*, and the traditional children's song *Dos Elefantes* in both Spanish and English. These songs will be used as a springboard to show the impact music can have on the core curriculum as well as the acquisition of the English Language Institute (ELL).

Presenter: Marlynn K. Martin, Ed. Spec., has experience in the areas of music education, gifted and talented, elementary and secondary curriculum, and administration. She has written curriculum in a variety of areas for all grade levels and is currently the co-author of a teaching guide for classroom teachers of ELL students. Mrs. Martin is a teacher trainer, a regional and national presenter, a National Board Certified Teacher, and is currently the ELL district coordinator for the Rankin County School District.

► Opening Doors to Other Worlds

Room: Board Room B Pat Armour, Linda Harris, & Carmen Potts

Institution: Foley Elementary School

You will leave the workshop with great ideas on how to best teach your ELL students. You'll also get fun ideas for teaching multiculturalism in the classroom. You'll walk out with four school-wide projects on culture, valuable handouts, and an extra bonus on everyday useful Spanish classroom practices.

Presenters: Linda, Pat, and Carmen are currently working on their ELL certification through UAB. They have a combined teaching experience of 67 years in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Linda and Pat are currently full-time teachers, and Carmen is the ELL Coordinator at Foley Elementary. The growing population of ELL students and families in the Foley, AL community has required new and innovative strategies within their classrooms and their school to meet the needs of their diversified student body. Their experience, energy, and dedication are willingly shared with colleagues!

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Help put the "volunteer" in our volunteer organization...

Contribute to our Newsletter

AMTESOL News is a twice-yearly newsletter serving Alabama & Mississippi TESOL. Contributions from members about teacher preparation, student concerns, classroom ideas, reviews of educational material and services, opportunities for professional growth, and information of general interest are welcome. Contact the newsletter editor if you have news of interest or would like to contribute an article.

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AMTESOL Executive Board

* If you'd like to nominate someone or would like to volunteer yourself for a position, please contact:

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- Please see our website for the 2003 AMTESOL Executive Board: www.amtesol.org.