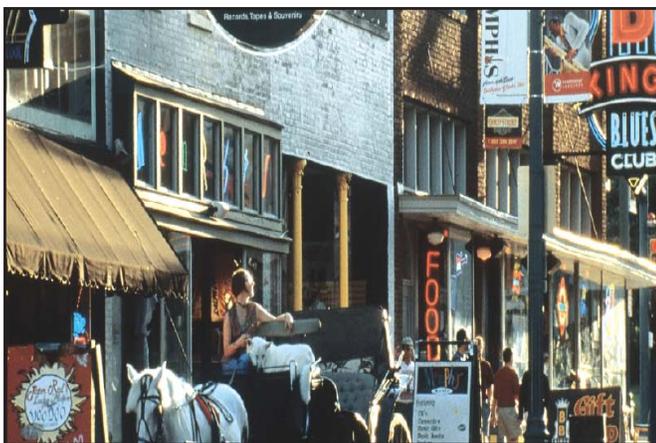




## TNTESOL in Memphis! ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE March 6-8, 2008



The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TNTESOL Conference is fast approaching. The conference is scheduled to be in Memphis on March 6, 7, and 8, 2008. This conference looks to be one of the best TNTESOL has ever celebrated. Jan Lanier and Paula Gaddis from the Tennessee State Department of Education will update us on ESL from across the state and its current status on the Thursday Pre-Conference day. Later in the evening, get ready to celebrate at the conference registration and reception at the Marriott Hotel Downtown. On Friday, a full day of innovative conference workshops is scheduled as well as our guest speaker, Peter Zamora, from Washington D.C. Also, at our opening ceremonies on Friday, get to see one of the most diverse school choirs offered in our city as they march in holding flags from

*Continued on p. 2*

## Message from the President

Judy Cleek  
University of Tennessee at Martin  
TNTESOL President

Greetings in the New Year, and Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Tennessee TESOL! With new beginnings come also reflections of the past, and both lead to an appreciation of the amazing progress our organization has made over the span of our 30-year history. It is truly a history worthy of our pride and our passion.

### TNTESOL 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference—March 6-9, 2008 in Memphis!

I hope you are making plans NOW to celebrate TNTESOL's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in Memphis at our annual Spring conference, March 6-8. "Language and Music: The Perfect Blend" evokes fitting links between TNTESOL's mission and the music heritage of Memphis, and the conference promises to tie the two together with the Mississippi River in the background! Some highlights of the conference are Jan Lanier's Pre-Conference workshops on Thursday, March 6, which PK-12 members will want to attend! Thursday evening, no one will want to miss TNTESOL's Birthday Party complete with birthday cake, "Reflections of the Past" presentation, and of course, the sounds of Memphis. Todd Goforth, Conference Chair, and his Memphis team have been making preparations for more than a year, so this conference promises to offer excellent keynote speakers, top-notch sessions, a host of publishers and opportunities to experience with fellow ESL professionals all that downtown Memphis has to offer! See the TNTESOL website at <http://www.tntesol.org> for all the information about the conference.

The success of the conference program depends on YOU!! Consider submitting a proposal and sharing a

*Continued on p.3*

### Inside this issue...

TNTESOL in Memphis!	1	TN Department of Education News	8
President's Message	2	Migrant Education Update	9
Something Special	3	Photos Needed!	9
In Praise of Rituals	4	TNTESOL Slate of Officers	10
Together We Can	5	Educator of the Year Nominations	12
Literacy & Kindness	7	TNTESOL Call for Proposals	14
		TNTESOL '08 Registration	15

**TN TESOL Board of Directors 2007-08****President**

**Judy Cleek, UT Martin**  
[jcleek@utm.edu](mailto:jcleek@utm.edu)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

**Jean McMahan, Maury County Schools**  
[mrsmac401@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsmac401@yahoo.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

**Todd Goforth, Shelby County Schools**  
[tgoforth@scsk.12.org](mailto:tgoforth@scsk.12.org)

**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Sandra Baker, UT Martin**  
[sbaker@utm.edu](mailto:sbaker@utm.edu)

**Parliamentarian**

**Byron Booker, Knox County Schools**  
[bookerb@k12tn.net](mailto:bookerb@k12tn.net)

**Newsletter Editor**

**Lee Martin, Vanderbilt University**  
[lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu)

**Past President (Ex Officio)**

**Danny Hinson, Carson Newman College**  
[dhinson@cn.edu](mailto:dhinson@cn.edu)

**TN Dept. of Education Representative (Ad Hoc)**

**Janette Lanier**  
[jan.lanier@state.tn.us](mailto:jan.lanier@state.tn.us)

**Members at Large**

**Hila Hill, 2008**  
 Knox County Schools  
[hillh@k12tn.net](mailto:hillh@k12tn.net)

**Bob Houston, 2008**  
 Clarksville-Montgomery C. Schools  
[bob.houston@cmcss.net](mailto:bob.houston@cmcss.net)

**Dianna Mohammad-Zadeh, 2008**  
 Warren County Schools  
[zadehd@k12tn.net](mailto:zadehd@k12tn.net)

**Clara Lee Brown, 2009**  
 University of Tennessee Knoxville  
[cbrown26@utk.edu](mailto:cbrown26@utk.edu)

**Deborah Sams, 2009**  
 Sevier County Schools  
[Dsams727@msn.com](mailto:Dsams727@msn.com)

**JaNelda Adamson, 2009**  
 Robertson County Schools  
[jadamson@k12tn.net](mailto:jadamson@k12tn.net)

**Andy Duck, 2010**  
 Memphis City Schools  
[ducka@mcsk12.net](mailto:ducka@mcsk12.net)

**Joe Reeves Locke, 2010**  
 Metro Nashville Public Schools  
[joseph.locke@mnps.org](mailto:joseph.locke@mnps.org)

**Sunita Watson, 2010**  
 Rutherford County Schools  
[watsonsu@rcs.k12.tn.us](mailto:watsonsu@rcs.k12.tn.us)

*Memphis! , continued from p. 1*

more than 25 different countries. Then, after an event-filled day of workshops, jump on the Main Street Trolley and head down to the Center for Southern Folklore as we celebrate at the TNTESOL 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. At this celebration, you'll get to enjoy world-famous Neely's Barbeque. Neely's was recently featured on the Food Network in a cook-off with Paula Deen. Then, for dessert, have a piece of anniversary cake prepared at the world-famous Bluff City Pastry and Bakery. After the big Friday evening anniversary party, it's off to different coffee houses and other venues to celebrate with your particular interest group of elementary, middle/high, or university ESL folks. Then, after a good walk down Beale Street and through the Grand Peabody Lobby, head back to the Marriott and get some rest as we prepare for the final day on Saturday. Saturday workshops will also be packed with new ideas and research. Finally, settle in for a wonderful Southern Lunch at the Marriott while listening to Mary Nell Zehr from Education Weekly Magazine. So, now is the time to print off your registration form, print off your call-for-proposals form and make hotel reservations. It will be time to pack your bags for Memphis before you know it. All forms are available at [www.tntesol.org](http://www.tntesol.org). ■

**Top 10 Reasons  
 to be in Memphis  
 March 6, 7, and 8, 2008**

10. Memphis Grizzlies vs. Boston Celtics at FedEx Forum
9. B.B. King's House of Blues
8. Graceland
7. Encore Restaurant Featuring Top World Chef
6. Panda Bears at the Memphis Zoo
5. Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Club
4. Corky's World Famous Bar B Q
3. Beale Street featuring Pat O' Briens
2. The Grand Peabody Lobby
1. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2008 TNTESOL at the Marriott Cook Convention Center

## Something Special Has Come!

Teresa Dalle  
The University of Memphis

In the fall *TNTESOL Newsletter*, I hinted that TNTESOL will soon be offering another benefit to its membership. Time now to reveal our big news....

In honor of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, TNTESOL will begin publishing the *TNTESOL Journal*. The journal will include articles on various aspects of ESL learning, teaching, and teacher-training and will appear annually in the fall. It will be sent to all TNTESOL members.

Currently we are seeking articles for consideration. If you have anything to share from your teaching, research, or study, we encourage you to do so. We welcome articles on best practices, novel ideas, lesson plans that work, book reviews, reflections on what you do, and research articles on any aspect of teaching and learning languages.

The first Editorial Board for the *TNTESOL Journal* includes Teresa Dalle of the University of Memphis, editor; Dorothy Craig of MTSU, assistant editor; Youb Kim of Vanderbilt; Beverly Hearn of UT-Martin; Lee Martin of Vanderbilt; Clara Brown of UT-Knoxville; and Gabriela Kleckova of the University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic. As you see, there is wide representation across the state and the world.

Please consider submitting an article for the journal. See the Call of Papers below for more specific information. I hope you are as thrilled as we are that our organization has grown into such a fine professional group.

### Call for Papers

The Editorial Board of the *TNTESOL Journal* seeks articles of general interest on any aspect of the teaching of English as a second or foreign language in elementary, middle high school, college/university, or adult/immigrant education. Our theme for the first edition is "Celebrating 30 Years," so the topics can be varied and wide-ranging.

Articles should be no longer than twelve pages, double-spaced, or no more than 4000 words. They should follow APA style format, use nonsexist language, and have bibliographic references for all citations or works referred to in the body of the article.

**Important note: All articles must be submitted electronically.**

To submit your article electronically, please do the following:

1. Write and save the article as a Microsoft Word document or in RTF, rich text format. Please do not send in docx format (Microsoft Vista); instead save as an earlier version of Word.
2. Submit your paper as an attachment to an email in which you provide the following in the body of the email: your name, address, home phone number, school affiliation, email address, and title of the paper. Include a statement that your work has not been printed elsewhere and is not currently submitted elsewhere.
3. Email to [tsdalle@memphis.edu](mailto:tsdalle@memphis.edu) and include the words "TNTESOL-J Submission" in the subject heading. You will be notified immediately by return email once the article is received.

**Deadline for submission for fall publication:  
April 30, 2008.**

*President, continued from p. 1*

research project, teaching method or lesson, strategies for mainstream teachers, using technology, new programs and projects, assessment, the state of IEPs across the state... Stretch your potential and expand your possibilities by sharing what has worked for you with other professionals in the field.

### ESL Educator of the Year Award—Beginning a Tradition

Tennessee TESOL is proud to begin a tradition that will recognize and honor outstanding ESL educators across the state; therefore, at the conference in Memphis, we will be announcing the selection of one outstanding ESL educator from each of the three divisions of the state: East, Middle, and West. From these three, one will be selected as the recipient of the Tennessee TESOL Educator of the Year Award, and all three will be recognized and presented awards at the Saturday luncheon. A nomination form appears in this issue, so I encourage you to nominate that colleague or fellow TNTESOL member who has had a significant impact on students, colleagues, school and community programs, and the field of ESL.

### SETESOL Conference in Louisville, KY — A Huge Success

The 2007 Southeast Regional TESOL Conference in Louisville, KY brought approximately 500 ESL professionals from eleven states together for a great professional development experience. A large contingency of TNTESOLers attended, and many presented sessions, including our SETESOL Travel Grant recipients, Hila Hill and Nancy Mullins-McNeal. The Kentucky Program Chair, Daniele Novak, expressed her thanks to TNTESOL for its huge support of this

*Continued on p.13*

## From the *TNTESOL Attic*: In Praise of Rituals

Frank Leach  
University of Tennessee, Martin

In the President's article in the fall *TNTESOL Newsletter*, Judy Cleek shared that she, Sandra Baker, and I have been assigned to document TNTESOL's past.

The shared experience already has been as though we have been allowed to go up into TNTESOL's "attic" and open the trunk where our organization's old yearbooks, annuals, holiday cards, and family memories have been stored. As the three of us have gone through each set of business meeting minutes, quarterly newsletters, and conference programs, numerous times we have commented, "Gosh, I didn't know that!" "It's incredible how little we had back then." "Were you ever aware how that got started?"

It is customary that births and marriages are acknowledged each year in some way, either with a special comment, a card, or a small gift. However, built into our culture are certain benchmarks of which we take special consideration. A child's first steps, a prom, a graduation, silver, gold, and diamond anniversaries are among these. TNTESOL has reached benchmarks of its own though there have been times that most individuals of the organization have been too busy to note them. And as is typical, there are those "family members" who are too young (in the ESL profession, in our case) to remember when some events occurred. Thus, as TNTESOL approaches its 30th anniversary, some previous experiences deserve to be acknowledged.

As TNTESOL approached its ten-year anniversary in 1988, the growth and maturation of the organization was demonstrated in several notable ways. Just as significant as when a child's weekly allowance is increased from 25 cents to \$2.50, the fact that TNTESOL's annual budget multiplied by ten times that of when it was first organized was an indication of the organization's responsible growth. The increase from less than \$200 to over \$2500 annually meant TNTESOL was able to finance more of its interests in ESL within the state and beyond.

Like a maturing child who grows out of the "me" attitude, TNTESOL made the effort to share its profession with others. Meetings were developed to benefit various constituents in the state. Sara West led one workshop related to Area IV Bilingualism. Another workshop was led by Susan Bayley on affiliate leadership. Memphis State created a special non-credit foreign-language weekend to enhance a desire for acquisition of a second language among west Tennessee residents.

The *TNTESOL Newsletter* sponsored regular articles concerning a classroom activity or technique sharing how "It Works!" For many around the state, these articles helped provide new and supportive ideas until their meeting at the next state conference.

Reaching beyond Tennessee, the organization established the sponsorship of third-world instructors interested in ESL. Honorary memberships for teachers and institutions were made available. Dr. Shao Xundao of Xian, Shaanxi, China, became TNTESOL's first recipient.

Again, as the tenth anniversary approached, the organization hosted its regional ESL peers from surrounding states for TNTESOL's first Southeast regional conference at the newly opened Stouffer Hotel in Nashville.

At the same time that TNTESOL was approaching its tenth

anniversary and its "parent" organization, International TESOL, was approaching its twentieth, birth was being given to yet another institution. Feeling a need for stronger peer identity, TNTESOL approached the other surrounding TESOL affiliates about formally organizing a regional accord. Teresa Dalle was instrumental in convincing representatives from each of the states to meet together for the first time in Chicago in 1988 at the International TESOL conference. Out of that meeting later developed SETESOL, the largest geographical TESOL group, that continues to be in existence, to evolve and to expand in number of states and members.

The state of Tennessee also experienced new international growth at this same time, and those in the field of ESL were given some new and perhaps greater recognition as the area around Smyrna, Tennessee welcomed the \$600M Nissan Motors Manufacturing truck plant. This event marked a change for some of the state's public schools from a focus on Southeast Asian refugees and boat people of the late 1970s to dependents of international corporations that began to locate in Tennessee.

While Judy, Sandra, and I have been going through those old documents, an admission ticket stub for an evening cruise dropped out of one of those "albums, annuals, and letters." As previously mentioned, significant anniversaries warrant recognition. And though TNTESOL, now looking back, was still relatively young, the organization marked its own tenth anniversary with a celebration by sponsoring an excursion aboard a paddlewheel steamboat during the annual conference in Memphis in 1988. The gathering was a far cry from a simple meeting of five people during a meal ten years prior, hoping to create a state organization for ESL professionals.

"My! How you grew during those first ten years!" ■

ELLIS<sup>®</sup>

---

Your Comprehensive Solution for  
English Language Learners

ELLIS leverages the power of technology to move your English language learners toward basic English fluency. From true beginners to more experienced learners, ELLIS is your comprehensive English language teaching and learning solution.

Learn more. Contact:

Joshua Brown ~ 678.249.8224  
joshua.brown@pearson.com



Copyright © 2007 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved. Contact Pearson Digital Learning at pdinfo@pearson.com. ELLIS is a trademark in the U.S. and/or other countries of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).

## East Tennessee Fall Mini-conference: Together We Can – Success for ELLs!

Carole Hudson  
ESL Teacher, Science Hill High School  
Johnson City, Tennessee

Early on the morning of Saturday, September 29, 2007, things were buzzing in upper east Tennessee. The doors at Science Hill High School in Johnson City were open at 6:30 a.m., and vendors were busily transporting materials from their cars to the display tables inside the cafeteria. ESL teachers and district staff were already there to make sure everything was in place for the first upper east Tennessee ESL mini-conference. Preparations for this day had begun the previous March, and now the big day was less than two hours away from beginning.

This mini-conference was literally born during a break-out session at the TNTESOL conference in Columbia in spring 2007. Deborah Sams, ESL teacher from Sevierville and TNTESOL Board member, gave a presentation on “How to Host a Mini-Conference.” I came away from that session convinced that our district could do that. I brought the idea back to my colleagues in Johnson City and they were enthusiastic about the possibility. I contacted Judy Cleek, TNTESOL President, to ask permission to advertise the event as “in collaboration with TNTESOL.” Without hesitation, Judy and the TNTESOL Board became our staunchest supporters providing advice, monetary backing, and details on how to advertise in the *TNTESOL Newsletter*. Their initial response to our request made our initial preparatory efforts much easier as they were there to guide and support us every step of the way.

Two major purposes were driving this mini-conference. In our area of upper east Tennessee it is “the norm” for most school districts to have one or two ESL teachers to serve the entire district. We were attempting to facilitate networking among the area’s ESL teachers in order to build academic bridges for future communication. Each ESL teacher is charged with the ultimate success of their ELL students. However, most of us are the only ESL teacher on our campus. We long for a “team” with which to discuss student issues, lesson ideas, appropriate materials, and lesson implementation. It was our hope that by providing a venue for networking and conversation, academic friendships could be established, and academic communication would become routine. A second purpose of the mini-conference was to provide opportunities for quality in-service training for our fellow ESL colleagues. Appropriate training opportunities within the field of second-language acquisition can be difficult to find. All of us in the ESL field have particular aspects from our experiences that we can share with one another. It was our hope that these “best practices” could be shared and used by other ESL teachers, and they, in turn, could and would share with others. When this sharing of ideas



becomes part of our everyday procedures, student success will improve.

The conference day turned out to be a huge success. We had seventeen districts represented and thirty-three different schools. Our attendees included district personnel, a school board member, classroom teachers, ESL teachers, administrators, district support personnel, and college students. Our keynote speaker and very special guest was Jan Lanier, Director of ESL Services for Tennessee. Ms. Lanier was a delightful speaker and was the overwhelming favorite of the audience. The high school ELL students from Joe Hoffman’s classes at Science Hill were another unique addition to the day. These young people came and helped guide attendees to the break-out rooms, answered questions, carried items from one place to another, helped presenters prepare their rooms, and generally did anything that was asked of them. They were a wonderful representation of some of our “best and brightest.”

Variety of topics and age groupings were evident in the break-out session choices which spanned morning and afternoon sessions. These included:

- Making Music Work for Your Classroom
- How to Add Some Drama to Your Life
- Survivor ESL
- What Works with Reluctant Writers?
- Practice Drills that Bring Smiles
- Special Education and the English Language Learner
- ESL Modifications for Content-Area Teachers
- Popular Culture, Content Area, and the Secondary ESL Classroom
- Tried and True Strategies for ELL Success
- Making the Mind-Body Connection for Learning
- Parent Advocacy – Above and Beyond



*Together, continued from p. 5*

We ended the day with an exit survey in which we asked for feedback regarding every aspect of the day. Most of the form was a simple checklist. We felt the feedback was necessary for our information in planning our next gathering. The comments we received were very helpful and much appreciated!

Without the combined efforts of my outstanding ESL colleagues in the Johnson City Schools, this day would have been impossible. My gratitude and heart-felt thanks go out to each one of them. The day was unquestionably a combined effort!

- Dr. Robbie Anderson, Director of Accountability and School Improvement
- Fernando DeSousa, Interpreter/Translator
- Joe Hoffman, Secondary ESL Teacher
- Angie Johnson, Elementary ESL Teacher
- Loreen Rorex, Elementary ESL Teacher
- Amanda Smith, Elementary ESL Teacher
- Paula White, Middle School ESL Teacher
- Jill Winiger, Elementary ESL Teacher
- Mary Katherine Wolfe, Elementary ESL Teacher

I hope you are thinking by now... "Could our district host a mini-conference?" The answer is "Yes, you can!" Don't be hung up on how someone else has done one. Make yours unique to your area's needs. Look around and assess what you and your ESL colleagues need and then be about the job of providing it! You can do it! ■



**TN TESOL** is an active and vital organization and we encourage and promote all TESOL professionals. If you know someone who would be interested, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.

The *TN TESOL Newsletter* is published four times a year. Submissions are accepted on a variety of topics. We welcome book reviews, issues in the fields of K-12, Refugee ESL, Adult Ed, Higher Ed and more, as well as articles on teaching strategies, news related to TNTESOL or the field, jokes, classroom anecdotes, even recipes. The style for submissions can be informal and articles are typically 500 words. Of course, exceptions can be made! A bibliography is not necessary unless the article is research-based.

Send your ideas via e-mail, an attachment, and your personal information by the issue deadline to

Lee Martin, [lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu).

### Publication dates

May

July

October

January 2009

### Deadlines

April 15

June 30

September 15

December 15



## Literacy and Hanna Montana? Learning about Kindness Through the Kindness Project

Teresa Dalle  
The University of Memphis

Debbie Thomas, ESL teacher at Willow Oaks Elementary in Memphis, wanted her students to understand the importance of serving others. In a project she designed called "Kindness Project," Ms. Thomas had her students consider how their own lives had been touched by kindness. The group then worked to share the gift of literacy by signing up preschoolers for Books from Birth, a program that provides free books for children every month,

In preparing for the project, the students worked for weeks planning, writing, and discussing acts of kindness that had made a difference in their own lives. One student, for example, related how great she felt when her second-grade teacher paid her field trip fee when she first arrived in America. "Everyone in class decided that was the kindest thing they knew of personally," Ms. Thomas said. The group of eight students then worked to reach more than 130 preschoolers, many of them also English learners and sign them up for the Books from Birth program.

Amazed by the efforts of these young students, who had worked so hard to promote literacy, the chairman of the Books from Birth program rewarded them with skybox seats for the hottest show in town – the sold-out Hannah Montana concert at FedEx Forum in Memphis.

"My kids went nuts," exclaimed Ms. Thomas. "They are now the talk of the fifth grade." They had no idea what to expect, actually never having been in a room larger than the school cafeteria, according to Ms. Thomas. This ESL teacher was proud to point out that most of her students wrote in their project journals that they weren't participating for a prize but rather to help younger children learn to read English. As Ms. Thomas reflected, "This week they are receiving a kind gift from someone who noticed their acts of kindness. It is a lesson they will never forget."

The students experienced several firsts on the way to the concert, and Ms. Thomas reserved the next day to have them write up their thoughts. She anticipated reading the comments on their impressions: "They screamed in the car when they saw the view of the bridge with lights and the Mississippi River as we approached Riverside Dr. from the interstate. They were snapping pictures and bouncing in their seats, amazed that this was the same river they had seen on maps. 'It's in our social studies book,' they noted. Only one had ever been downtown before."

It was a great experience, for both students and teacher. Ms. Thomas noted that the whole adventure certainly made writing lessons more fun and AUTHENTIC! ■

## Shelby County Schools Offers Free English Classes for Adults

Linda Smith  
Shelby County Schools

All parents want to be able to help their children with homework, they want to feel at home visiting their children's school, and they want to be part of their children's education. The lack of English proficiency keeps some parents from fully realizing these desires.

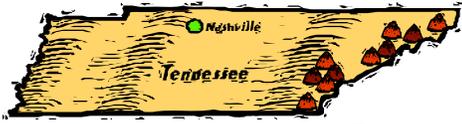
Shelby County Schools recognizes the value of parent involvement. To meet the needs of the growing number of non-English or limited-English parents, Shelby County Schools now offers free adult English classes at Harold Elementary in the Millington area. Classes are held Mondays, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The fifteen adults in the class range in age between 23 and 60. Some know no English while others are in class to improve their English. ESL teachers, Michelle Sluder, Danny Odum, and Momodou Keita, strive to make the classroom experience comfortable and helpful.



There are plans to expand the classes to other areas of Shelby County in the next two years to meet the growing need and interest. The English as a Second Language population grows by more than 200 students a year. Many of the parents of ESL students want to be involved in their children's education and school life but cannot speak enough English.

This past summer, Shelby County hosted its first ESL summer school. The popular program attracted almost 25% of the county's elementary English Language Learners. And this innovative program was the Tennessee State School Board Education in Excellence Winner. Students and parents were very pleased with the program. One student, for example, said at the end of the program, "I don't want it to end." The county plans to enlarge the summer-school program next summer.

## NEWS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE



Janette Lanier  
ESL Coordinator  
Tennessee Department of Education

### Happy New Year!

News from the State Department of Education is exciting. We were able to accomplish much in 2007 and have many new plans for 2008. Your input and thoughts are appreciated. Please continue to share ideas, thought and plans with our office.

Training to discuss changing program designs was held for administrators in the fall. This project is long-range, and the initial meetings began the dialogue that will take place over the next three to five years. As the population of English Language Learners in the state grows, we need to work smarter, not harder by considering shifting program designs. Of the 55 Title III subgrantees for 2006-07, 53 are still using pull-out for ESL classes. The good news is that there are also other designs being used by more than half of the subgrantees for Title III. We are using multiple designs in more than half of the active ESL districts in Tennessee.

The Title III office at the State is happy to be rolling out training sessions for the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA). These trainings will be live in six locations in the State and followed by a WebEx for teachers/administrators/testing coordinators who cannot attend a live session. The training will be given by Paula Gaddis. We are also offering, through Dr. Beverly Hearn of the University of Tennessee – Martin, regional workshops for regular education teachers. Each teacher will take a lesson or unit s/he plans to teach and modify that lesson for ESL students.

TNTESOL has graciously invited the State to provide a “State Day” on March 6, the Thursday that begins the Conference. We will provide updates on Title III, reauthorization, upcoming guidance, and a special discussion of Newcomer Centers. Please join us for this celebration of Tennessee’s ESL programs in public schools.

The new year will likely begin the process of reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. The Title III office in the State of Tennessee has attended the Limited English Proficient State Collaborative for Assessment and Student Standards (LEP SCASS). We have also attended the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Partnership meetings hosted by the Office of English Language Acquisition. During these meetings, Paula and I have attempted to represent your comments, ideas, and concerns.

The State Board of Education approved the ELDA

*Free English, continued from p. 7*

For those people who cannot attend an evening English class but have access to the Internet, the Memphis Public Library has a free online version of Rosetta Stone, a full English program (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). All that is required is a library card, which is free. Directions for using Rosetta Stone are in various languages including Spanish. For more information, visit a local branch of the Memphis Public Library System or go to <http://www.memphislibrary.org/>. With a library card number, click on “Databases” and then on “Rosetta Stone” to register.

For more information about the Shelby County ESL program or to register for the adult class, contact Shelby County ESL Specialist Todd Goforth at 321-2553.

The class is open to parents of English Language Learners in Shelby County Schools. ■

standards as Tennessee’s ESL Standards. We will be exiting students with a composite score of 5, and those with a composite score of 4 who have one other literacy assessment that shows grade-level proficiency, e.g. DIBELS, TCAP, Gateway.

Our Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for the past year should be arriving in your district by February. For the remainder of our contract with ELDA, these objectives should arrive in the summer so that parents can be notified of school choice early in the school year. There have been many questions about what happens if your district fails an AMAO. If you fail the same AMAO two years in a row, we need you to write a short improvement plan. This will allow the State to monitor your efforts at self-correction, or give your district the opportunity to explain any special situation. Should a district fail the same AMAO three years consecutively, the State asks that you begin to collaborate with the Title III office to correct the problems related to ESL students. Perhaps the district needs training related to ESL for all teachers, ESL and mainstream.

Tennessee has become very active in the English Language Development Assessment State Collaborative for Assessment and Student Standards (ELDA SCASS). As you know, the ELDA will be the English Language Proficiency Assessment for Tennessee for the next four years. Tennessee is fortunate to have the input of this prestigious group to aid in the item analysis and content review of the items that will be field-tested for the screening instrument that will be a companion to the ELDA. We hope to have this

*Continued on p. 9*

## UPDATE: Migrant Education



Paula Gaddis  
Migrant Education Consultant  
TN Department of Education

I wanted to take a moment as we hit the mid-point of the school year to share some happenings from the field of migrant education since our last TNTESOL gathering. There have been two significant occurrences during this time.

First, the drought that hit Tennessee this summer has lowered the number of migratory agricultural workers who have arrived in the state. Therefore, the number of qualifying migrant children has also gone down in many of our program areas for the late summer and early fall. Please be aware, however, that migrant families come and go at all times of the year. If you are in an area that experiences such movement, please do not be lulled into thinking that because of the harsh drought, resulting crop reduction, and lower numbers of migrant children in the late summer and early fall, that school year numbers will necessarily be down. Depending on the agricultural endeavor sought by the family, your school year numbers may not be down throughout the school year. As a reminder, a qualifying migrant student is between the ages of 3 and 21, without a high school diploma, who has moved across district lines to obtain seasonal or temporary work in agriculture or fishing, or who is traveling with a parent seeking said employment. This temporary work must be the primary source of income for the family. These students may or may not have been born in the United States and may or may not qualify for ESL services as their native and home language may be English. Regardless, the majority of the migrant student population comes from the culture of poverty.

Second are federal budget cuts. Even though Title I Migrant Education funding was kept at last year's level in the 2008 bill initially sent to the President, it suffered from the across-the-board cuts upon which the President insisted before he signed. The result: the federal Migrant Education Program budget is \$6.753 million less than last year. This will, naturally, trickle down to the states. In actual percentages, it means a 1.7% decrease in total funds for TN from what we had last year. This money is to fund programs for the 2007-08 school year and 2008 summer programs.

Thanks to all of you who help to reach and teach this special population of children. *See you in Memphis!*

*State News, continued from p. 8*

instrument ready for use in the summer. Measurement Inc. is working diligently to field-test the items and produce a quality screening device for ESL students in the State. Many of you have expressed concern about the testing window. The test window for ELDA will be in March for the next four years. The test materials should arrive in your district in late February, and you will be able to choose the testing window within March that works best for your district. Hopefully, the results will be back early in the summer, in time for planning for the first school semester.

Once again, thank you for your support and for the insight our department gets from so many of you. Tennessee is truly blessed to have such a dedicated group of professionals to serve our English Language Learners.

Jan Lanier  
ESL Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Education  
Phone: (615) 532-6314; E-mail: [jan.lanier@state.tn.us](mailto:jan.lanier@state.tn.us)

## PHOTOS NEEDED of TNTESOL Members!

Deborah Sams  
Sevier County Schools

You have an opportunity to honor the history of our organization by sharing a memory with fellow TNTESOLers at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March. Photos are being collected now to create a slideshow for viewing during the Memphis conference. Pictures from the past three decades will not only illustrate the growth and vitality of our organization, but serve as a photo history for future members of our affiliate. Possible photos could have been taken of TNTESOL members at past conferences, board meetings, classrooms, or other scenes that show members at work in our state organization.

We are aiming for photos across the decades....

- **Older photos.** We encourage members to look through their albums in the next month to locate photos from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Although older non-digital photos will need to be scanned and sent by email, they are highly valued for this project.
- **Current photos.** To prepare for the future, we encourage members to send a current picture of their ESL department. Current picture ideas include a group picture of your ESL department, members at work in the classroom or for a special project, attending a past conference, or departmental members at a well known landmark in their district.

Help us prepare for a great celebration!

**Please send photos by attachment to [Dsams727@msn.com](mailto:Dsams727@msn.com) by February 28th.** ■

## TNTESOL Executive Board Slate of Officers 2008-09

### President

**Jean McMahan** has taught ELL in the Maury County school system for 10 years as an itinerate K-12 ELL and an adult ESOL teacher. She currently serves on the state of Tennessee ELL task force. She has a BA in Education from San Diego State University, a MS in Special Education from Nation University San Diego, and she earned a CLAD Certificate from the state of California in 1994. She has presented at Tennessee TESOL conferences and county in-services. Jean began her professional teaching career in 1989, teaching ESOL to adults in Poway, CA, and worked as an ESL teacher in Vista, CA. She and her family returned to Columbia, TN in 1997. She is currently pursuing a masters degree in educational leadership at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. She has been a member of TESOL for several years, joined TNTESOL in 1997, and currently serves as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Jean sees the importance of TNTESOL to all ELL teachers in Tennessee and would like the opportunity to serve the members of the organization.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Todd Goforth**, ESL Specialist for Shelby County Schools in Memphis, has taught English and ESL for the past 17 years. Todd received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Mississippi and is currently pursuing his Administration Degree from the University of Memphis. Todd has served on the Tennessee State ESL Textbook Adoption Committee and currently serves on the Tennessee State CELLA Standards Committee. At present he is employed with Shelby County Schools in the position of ESL Specialist, where he is the coordinator of the English as a Second Language Program. Todd also serves as the editor of the Shelby County Schools ESL Passport, a county-wide ESL resource newsletter that serves 48 schools throughout the county. He currently serves on the Board as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and is chair of the 2008 conference committee.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Tracy Bullard, ESL Supervisor for Williamson County Schools in Franklin, is currently working on her Ed.D in Administration and Supervision. She has a BA in Psychology from the University of the Philippines; M.Ed in Special Education, endorsement in ESL, and Ed.S from Tennessee State University. Tracy began her teaching career in the Republic of the Philippines at Clark Air Base in 1989. Shortly after returning from the Philippines, she began teaching special education and then ESL (K- 12 and Adult ESOL) in Dickson, TN. In August 2001 she transferred to Williamson County Schools. Tracy currently serves on the State ESL Task Force and welcomes the opportunity not only to serve but to give back to the students, staff and families of Tennessee.

### Board Nominees

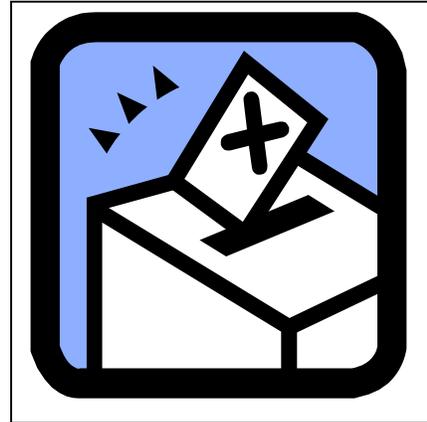
**Carole Hudson** currently serves as ESL teacher to the 8th and 9th grades of Science Hill High School in Johnson City. She has been in this position for two years. In September of 2007, she and her ESL colleagues hosted the first ESL mini-conference for upper east Tennessee. There were 17 school districts represented and 33 different schools. It was recently her delight to share some information from the mini-conference along with several TNTESOL Board members at SETESOL in Louisville. Carole graduated from ETSU and received her ESL endorsement through Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas. She has spent 25 years in education, with the last 23 in direct service to ELL students. She has served all ages of second-language learners from K-adult. During her years in Houston, she was the district Secondary ESL Curriculum Specialist for the Cypress-Fairbanks School District, with a total second-language population of 12,500 students. In this position, Carole was responsible for teacher training, peer coaching, and curriculum choice and design.

**Eddie Berry** is a native of East Tennessee and a UT Knoxville graduate. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and a Master's degree in Foreign Language/ESL. She has taught kindergarten through adult levels in Hamilton County schools, Chattanooga State Community College, and church-sponsored adult classes. Eddie facilitates annual workshops to train volunteers for adult conversational English. The last several years, she has served a dual role as a lead ESL teacher/elementary ESL teacher.

*Continued on p.11*

*Board Nominees, continued from p. 10*

**Dr. LaWanna Shelton** has been an educator for more than 20 years in both private and public institutions. Her experiences range Pre-K-16. After receiving a B.A in Spanish, French, and Portuguese from Michigan State University and a M.A. in Foreign Language and Pedagogy from Eastern Michigan University, she began her teaching career as a part-time professor of Spanish, French, and Chicano Studies at Olivet College. In 1990, she relocated to Southern California where she moved into public-school education, teaching Spanish, English as a Second Language, and Spanish for Spanish



Speakers. She left the classroom in 1995 to become the Primary Language Curriculum Leader and LEP Specialist for the Long Beach Unified School District. She moved on to become a site administrator at both the elementary and middle-school level at urban inner-city schools whose ELL population was nearly 100%. In 2005, LaWanna relocated to Nashville to finish her dissertation on the overrepresentation of second-language learners in special education. In 2006, Dr. Shelton became the ELL Coordinator/Title III Director in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools where she currently continues her tenure.

**Jamie Wolfe**, a native of Knoxville, has been an elementary ESL teacher with Knox County Schools for two years. Before that, she taught fourth and fifth grades for three years in Knox County and elementary ESL in Wilson County for two years. She has an Education Specialist degree in reading from UT-Knoxville. Because of her special interest in literacy and professional development, Jamie started and led a study group for Knox County ESL teachers in the fall 2007. She presented at TN TESOL 2007 on reading inventories and a comprehensive assessment system. Jamie is married and has two young daughters.

**Cheryl Roby – Clarksville-Montgomery County** – by *Bob Houston* [Bio unavailable at press time.]

**Susie Webb – Shelby County** – by *Todd Goforth* [Bio unavailable at press time.]

**Nancy McNeal**, who has an MST in Natural Science from MTSU, taught high-school science from Physical Science to AP Physics for more than 25 years. In 2005, after adding an ESL endorsement through her participation in the ESL Enterprise Project at MTSU, Nancy became a fulltime ESL teacher with Warren County Schools. She currently teaches English Language Learners in grades K-8 at Dibrell Elementary. Nancy has developed a training session for mainstream teachers of English Language Learners, which she has presented at schools, summer institutes, and symposia, and which she gladly provides to other ESL teachers for use in their own districts. She presented the workshop most recently at SETESOL in Louisville after it was named Best of TNTESOL 2007.

**Johnna Paraiso Torok** is a middle school ESL teacher in Rutherford County. Born and raised in Detroit, MI, Johnna taught in Detroit and San Francisco before coming to Tennessee. She holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Middle Tennessee State University and is an Education Specialist Candidate in the Instructional Technology program at MTSU. Johnna's main area of interest is technology integration with ELLs and student-created media. Johnna is currently the webmaster for the TNTESOL website. She and her three daughters, four cats, and one dog live in Murfreesboro.

**Dr. Pattie Davis Wiley**, educator, global citizen, and avid world traveler, is professor of World Languages and ESL Education at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education. She teaches graduate classes in world languages and ESL methods, Content Area Reading, Clinical Studies, and Trends and Issues in Teacher Education. Pattie advises and directs doctoral and master's students in WL and ESL Education and holds degrees from the University of California, l'Université de Montpellier, and the University of Houston. Pattie is a frequent presenter at TNTESOL, SETESOL, ACTFL and TFLTA. ■

## **TNTESOL Educator of the Year Award 2008**

On March 8, TNTESOL will recognize an outstanding TNTESOL member at the 2008 conference in Memphis. Nominees should be K-12 ESL teachers with distinguished careers in English-language teaching and a history of service to students, schools, and communities. Not only will we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TNTESOL, but we will also honor an English language educator who exemplifies the profession.

Please send the following items to the contact person in your area.

1. The nomination form below
2. A letter of recommendation with supporting information

Please include examples from the criteria below to describe the exceptional work of the nominee, but limit supporting information to no more than **one page**.

East Tennessee Deborah Sams, 104 River Garden Ct., Sevierville, Tennessee 37862 or [Dsams727@msn.com](mailto:Dsams727@msn.com)

Middle Tennessee Bob Houston, 54 Union St., Clarksville, TN 37040 or [bob.houston@cmcss.net](mailto:bob.houston@cmcss.net)

West Tennessee Andy Duck, 2385 Central Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or [ducka@mcsk12.net](mailto:ducka@mcsk12.net)

**All nominations must be received by Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Nominations will not be accepted after the February 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.**

### **Nominee for the TNTESOL ESL Educator Award**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

School district or institution:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Person making the nomination

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Teaching**

List examples of commitment and dedication, creativity and innovation in instructional strategies, and how the nominee demonstrates excellence in teaching in the ESL field.

#### **Community Service**

List examples of advocacy, service activities, volunteer and civic work that have served students, colleagues, schools, and communities with regard to the ESL field.

#### **Leadership**

List leadership activities, professional development, training, and other contributions by the nominee to the field of English as a Second Language.

#### **Awards**

List awards, special recognition, and remarkable accomplishments of the nominee in the ESL field.

*President, continued from p. 3*

highly successful conference.

A historic SETESOL Council meeting in Louisville produced long-awaited results! For the first time in more than 20 years, affiliate representatives from all the states in the Southeast Region sat around the same table, and in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, they discussed a number of issues aimed at creating a stronger and more cohesive SE Regional organization. A rotation system for the annual SETESOL conferences was established, and much progress was made toward the creation of a SE Regional TESOL Constitution that will serve to guide this group in achieving its goals. Many thanks go to Jan Lanier (TN Dept. of Education) and Frank Leach (UT Martin) for all their efforts in drafting documents that propelled the Council in this positive direction. It has been a slow process, but all of their hard work is now being recognized as essential to the efficient operation of the SE Regional TESOL organization. This regional group is now composed of nine affiliates:

TNTESOL, KYTESOL, ARTESOL, LATESOL, GATESOL, AMTESOL, Sunshine State TESOL, Carolina TESOL, and VATESOL. In 2008, the SETESOL Conference will be hosted by Alabama and Mississippi (AMTESOL) in Birmingham, September 25-27. Put this date on your new calendars!

#### **International TESOL—Go and Grow!**

Don't let the overwhelming number of attendees and sessions prevent you from an incredible professional growth opportunity in New York City, April 2-5, 2008! World-renowned leaders, authors, publishers, and other national and international presenters in the ESL field will take center-stage to bring a wealth of ideas to enrich and enhance our work with non-native English speakers. Go and grow in TESOL!! (You might even be able to enjoy a Broadway play, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, and even a peek in Tiffany's!)

Looking forward to seeing you in Memphis where language and music are truly a perfect blend!!



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2008 TNTESOL Conference - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Language and Music: The Perfect Blend

Memphis Marriott Hotel and Cook Convention Center  
Pre-Conference: March 6 / Conference: March 7 and 8

Deadline: January 25, 2008

Name(s) of presenter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Professional affiliation of presenter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of contact person:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Presentation:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of presentation (check one)  Paper  Demonstration  
 Panel Discussion  Workshop

Interest area: (Check one or more)

Elementary school  Higher education  CALL  
 Secondary Education  Teacher Training  Refugee Ed  
 Adult Education  Administration  Research

Time Needed: (check one)  50 minutes  80 minutes  Other

Audio/Visual Equipment: Please check below to indicate audio/visual equipment needed for your presentation.

Will you need us to furnish  TV  DVD  VCR  Overhead ?

**\*\*Due to compatibility issues, please furnish your own laptop, projector, and cords.**

Do you wish to be considered as a TNTESOL-sponsored presentation for the next Southeast Regional Conference?  Yes  No

Please attach: 1. 100-200-word abstract of your presentation  
2. 15-20 word biographical statement of each presenter  
(All materials must be submitted in typed form.)

Send completed form, abstract, and biographical information to:

Todd Goforth  
Shelby County Schools  
Curriculum/Accountability - Room 212-D  
160 South Hollywood Street  
Memphis, TN 38112

→ **ALL** presenters must complete the registration form and submit payment of fees for the conference.

**2008 TN TESOL  
REGISTRATION FORM**



***Language and Music: The Perfect Blend***

**Memphis, TN / Downtown Marriott Hotel/Convention Center**

**March 6, 7, and 8, 2008**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution or  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Where you wish to receive your TN TESOL Newsletter and other TN TESOL Mailings)*

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Interest Area: K-8 9-12 Higher Ed Adult Ed Program Administrator Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we publish above information in TN TESOL Directory? Yes or No  
(TN TESOL does not share member information)

---

**Conference Registration Information:** The pre-registration deadline is **February 25, 2008**. Onsite registration is additional \$25.00 to fees listed below. All presenters and vendors must register for the conference. Payment must accompany the registration form, and there are no refunds. Payment options are listed below. A receipt will be furnished with registration packet onsite.

Pre-Conference Workshop – Thursday, March 6 (State of Tennessee Title III Department) – <u>Open to All</u>	Free Will you attend? Yes or No
Conference Registration – Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8 ( <u>Includes</u> TN TESOL Membership Dues)	\$100.00 _____
Student Registration Fee – Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8 (Excludes TN TESOL Membership Dues)	\$25.00 _____
One Day Registration: Circle Day: - Friday or Saturday (Excludes TN TESOL Membership Dues)	\$75.00 _____
30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary TN TESOL Celebration Party – Friday, March 7 (Southern Folklore Dinner, 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake and 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Mug)	\$25.00 _____
Ticketed Southern Luncheon - Saturday 11:00 a.m., March 8 Mary Nell Zehr, Assistant Editor, <i>Education Week</i>	\$25.00 _____

**Total**

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: \_\_\_ Personal check \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_ School/Inst. Check (*No purchase orders accepted*)  
Make checks payable to TN TESOL.

---

Mail this form and payment to:

**Todd Goforth  
Shelby County Schools  
Central Office, Rm. 212-D  
160 South Hollywood Street  
Memphis, TN 38112**

<p><b><i>Hotel Information</i></b> <b>Marriott Downtown, 250 North Main, Memphis \$143.00 TN TESOL Rate 1-888-557-8740 or 901-527-7300</b></p>
--

***For further conference information, contact Todd Goforth at [tgoforth@scsk12.org](mailto:tgoforth@scsk12.org) or 901-321-2553***

**TNTESOL Newsletter**  
**c/o Box 510, Peabody College**  
**Vanderbilt University**  
**Nashville, TN 37203**