



## Reflections from TN TESOL 2008 Memphis

Todd Goforth  
Memphis City Schools  
Conference Chair



Lee Martin, newsletter editor, et al. boarding the Memphis trolley in the spring "blizzard of '08"!

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TN TESOL 2008 Conference took place in Memphis, TN on March 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup>. More than 400 ESL professionals from across the Mid-South attended the annual state conference. More than 50 presentations, 30 vendors, and numerous networking opportunities were available to all at the Memphis Convention Center. Also, a conference highlight was the three attendees from Egypt, representing the Egyptian military. The government of Egypt allows selected personnel to attend one ESL conference per year in the United States.

One of the most memorable events of the conference was the Sycamore Elementary Choir from Shelby County Schools who

welcomed the world to Memphis. As the choir sang, students from different countries marched in their native dress holding flags from their home countries.

Peter Zamora, Washington D.C. Regional Counsel for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), gave the group an ESL update from the national level during the Friday opening celebration and business meeting.

The Friday-night 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party was a huge success. Party attendees got to ride the Memphis trolley in the snow and get a taste of the World Famous Neely's Bar-B-Q while listening to some great jazz at the Center for Southern Folklore. Attendees got to tour the Peabody Asian Museum at Peabody Place before the dinner.

The Saturday luncheon was also a huge success, as Mary Ann Zehr gave her perspective on numerous ESL issues from her travels and blog writings for *Education Week* magazine. At the luncheon, more than 12 past presidents of TN TESOL were recognized. The Saturday luncheon concluded as Jean LaForest was honored as the TN TESOL ESL Educator of the Year.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TN TESOL Memphis Conference pretty much proved that language and music *is* the perfect blend! ●

## Message from the President



Jean McMahan  
Maury County Schools  
TN TESOL President

Past, Present, Future

As we celebrate 30 years of TN TESOL, we look back to the past and our humble beginnings to reflect on the changes that have taken place. Originally, teachers met around a kitchen table with the first official executive meeting held in Nashville on February 3, 1979. TN TESOL began with a small group of dedicated ESL teachers whose hope was to become an affiliate with international TESOL and for ESL to be recognized as a professional field.

Jump ahead to the present and the incredible TN TESOL 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference held in Memphis March 6-8. *Thank you to Todd Goforth and team for your dedication and hard work!!!*

*Continued on p.2*

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*President, continued from p. 1*

More than 420 attended the conference to learn new strategies, share ideas, and hear experts in our field speak about current issues. The participants included several past presidents who were honored at the Saturday luncheon and given a copy of our 30-year history. Thank you, Sandra Baker, Judy Cleek, and Frank Leach for researching and writing A 30-Year History: Tides of Change 1979-2008. Thank you also to JaNelda Adamson, Teresa Dalle, and Sunita Watson for editing this history. A special thank-you goes out to Jan Lanier, our state consultant, who presided over the preconference, bringing all up to date on ELDA and state policies.

With dedicated members like these, the future of TNTESOL promises to be exciting. Last year Judy Cleek, TNTESOL past president, challenged the membership to Encourage, Serve, and Lead. You have done a beautiful job encouraging each other through the Tennessee ESL list-serve, and sharing teaching strategies at conferences. You have served the profession by participating on the state ESL Task Force and editing the *TNTESOL Newsletter* and web site. Finally, you have led by developing the soon-to-be-published *TNTESOL Journal* and organizing teacher training opportunities and mini-conferences.

My challenge to you this year is to honor the past by becoming involved in the present, which will improve the future of our organization. Join international TESOL, mentor a new ESL teacher, submit a paper to the

the newsletter or our new *TNTESOL Journal*, participate in the list-serve, participate in professional development by leading a mini-conference in your area, and send in a proposal to present at a conference.

Mark your calendars and get your proposals ready!

The Southeast Regional TESOL conference will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, September 25-27, at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. For questions concerning this conference, contact [setesol2008@yahoo.com](mailto:setesol2008@yahoo.com).

The 2009 TNTESOL conference will be held in Franklin, March 5-7. Look for information on the TNTESOL web site soon on the TNTESOL web site <http://www.tntesol.org/>

The TESOL convention will be held in Denver, Colorado, March 25-28, 2009, at the Denver Convention Center. (Information to be available soon on the TESOL web site <http://www.tesol.org/>) ●



## Thank You, TNTESOL!

### A Message from Outgoing President

Judy Cleek

The year was 1981. Increasing numbers of non-English speaking students were appearing in Tennessee's K-12 schools. Although TNTESOL was in its infant stages, one of its early goals was to become involved in decisions made about English as a Second Language at the state level.

As a result, our organization pushed to move Tennessee toward certification in ESL. At the fourth-annual TNTESOL Conference at UT Martin, a Task Force was created to work on its first proposal for ESL endorsement. The Task Force was comprised of Charles Gillon, Ellie Gregor, Dale Myers, Skip Ward, Harriet Wilkins, Gary Wilson, and Sandra Baker. It was TNTESOL members who took the leadership roles in giving the field of ESL professional status in Tennessee during a time when most people were asking, "What is ESL?" TNTESOL helped frame the ESL curriculum, and working with Dr. Maurice Field, UT Martin professor in the Educational Studies Department, TNTESOL finally defined ESL licensure in Tennessee.

As TNTESOL evolved from a core group of 33 ESL professionals in 1978, most of whom were from IEPs in higher education, to a membership today approaching 400, the majority of whom are K-12, our organization has continued to be a strong voice for ESL professionals across the state.

Whether you are in higher education, K-12, adult education, or migrant education, you are an ESL professional...

- If you have ESL licensure in the State of Tennessee, you can thank TNTESOL for its vital role in helping to establish the curriculum leading to your licensure.
- If you are looking for professional development opportunities, you can thank TNTESOL for providing top-notch conferences and mini-conferences across the state.
- If you need financial support to complete a research project, to present a paper at a conference, to attend a TESOL Summer Academy, you can thank TNTESOL for its Gundi Memorial Fund and its SETESOL Travel Grants, which provide funding for worthwhile projects such as these.
- If you seek opportunities to develop your leadership potential, you can thank TNTESOL for encouraging members to step up to leadership positions within the organization—present a paper at a conference, organize a conference in your area, or become a candidate for member of the Board.
- If you want to feel a true sense of pride in being an ESL professional in Tennessee, you can read the TNTESOL 30-Year History and thank TNTESOL for its significant contribution to the field through the years.

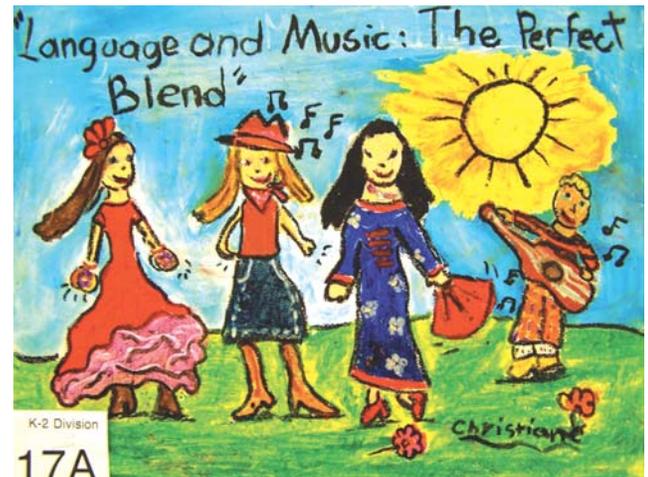
As I join the group of past presidents of TNTESOL, I do so with appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to encourage, serve, and lead. As outgoing president, I will continue to encourage our new president, Jean McMahan, and others within our organization, to find new ways to serve, and in the words of Dr. Neil Anderson, to "lead from behind." I challenge each of you to do the same. ESL—it's the name of the game!

Thanks for the memories...

Judy Cleek  
University of Tennessee, Martin

## The Winners' Circle

- TNTESOL 2008 Grand Prize Art Winner:  
Christiane Santisteban, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Macon-Hall Elementary  
Shelby County Schools



- TNTESOL Educator of the Year Award  
Jean LaForest (center) was honored at the 2008 conference with this first-ever award. With a distinguished career in English-language teaching and a history of service to her students, her school, and the community, Jean is an educator who exemplifies our profession.



- SETESOL Travel Grant Winners:

Joseph Whinery (of Franklin): *TASC: Teaching Alignment of Standards in Curriculum*

Jamie Wolfe (of Johnson City): *Kindergarten Literacy*

Christine Tennyson (of Murfreesboro): *The Seven Wonders of Teaching Reading* (Best in TNTESOL)

More winners, pp.5, 9

## Quotes from the Tennessee ESL Teachers Listserv

Deborah Sams  
[Dsams727@msn.com](mailto:Dsams727@msn.com)

TNTESOL in Memphis was one of the best-planned and well-executed conferences I have ever attended! Warren County brought 5 ESL teachers, 4 bilingual assistants, our super-director Dianna Zadeh, and Terri Talbert, a potential ESL teacher who currently teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. All of us enjoyed ourselves tremendously, but Terri had the most telling comment. She said that only 3 days in Memphis made her feel much more equipped to make the transition to working with ELLs fulltime. What a tribute to the efforts of the Memphis team and to the presenters who shared such a variety of information, strategies, and research. "Well done!" especially to Todd, and to all who worked so hard both before and during a great conference.

Nancy Mullins McNeal  
Warren County Schools

I can't express how surprised I was, and how honored, to receive the ESL Educator of the Year Award. I looked out over that crowd at the luncheon and saw the faces of good friends who have been in ESL much longer than I, who have contributed much, and who have mentored me over the years and couldn't believe that I was chosen. It wasn't until we were on the way home that I finally realized how good my staff is at keeping secrets! According to them, I gave them some very uneasy moments in the days preceding the conference. They are excellent conspirators. They are also much of the reason I've been able to do what I have over the years. I wouldn't trade them in for anything! Nor would I trade my years working with ESL students and working with the wonderful people in TNTESOL. May God bless you all and the work that you do.

Jean LaForest

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity of presenting at the TNTESOL conference. It was one of the best conferences that I have attended as a ZooPhonics representative. The teachers who attended the workshop were enthusiastic, energetic and excited to learn about the program and their excitement and enthusiasm was encouraging to see. It was wonderful to hear the compliments after the workshop and to hear the great things that teachers were saying about the session as well as how they were going to go back to their classrooms on Monday and begin using the Zoo-Phonics. I wish each of them the best of luck and hope to see them in the future. If anyone has any questions, please tell them to feel free to email me at [della@zoo-phonics.com](mailto:della@zoo-phonics.com). I am really looking forward to working with the ESL teachers of Tennessee. Thanks for a great experience. I also feel as though I learned a great deal from the teachers about teaching their ESL students and I am glad that I was able to attend.

Della Johnson  
Zoophonics rep and  
Pre-K teacher for Metro Nashville Schools

What I liked about the conference:

I thought the conference was great, better than I had ever expected! The knowledge that I received from the presentations and other ESL teachers is invaluable. As a first year teacher, the experience and advice provided me with more than any college course could have prepared me for.

Shelly Warner  
First Year ESL Teacher  
Sevier County Schools

I was very touched by the performance of the beautiful children who shared their talents in song and dance. What a wonderful way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of TNTESOL!

Grace Smith  
Rutherford County

There were many highlights to me at this year's conference. One was just being with everyone again. The Zoophonics workshop was the bomb! Della did an absolutely wonderful job. I am looking forward to starting as soon as ELDA is finished. As you have so eloquently stated, Todd and his team did a marvelous job! He seemed so calm even when the weather didn't cooperate. All in all -- it was a super conference.

Stacey Southard

We were so proud to see Jean LaForest honored at the TNTESOL luncheon. She truly exemplifies the heart of an ESL educator. All of us enjoyed the conference, and we know that much work and planning went into it.

Hope Hixson  
Maryville College

As a past president, I really enjoyed seeing the other past presidents and would love to have a meeting of all former board members at a future reception/gathering. I definitely did not want to miss our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event (only missed one conference in 21 years). The whole event was spectacular (sessions, entertainment, communication, etc.) and the committee did an excellent job in spite of the blizzard and worries it engendered about getting home on Saturday.

Dianna Zadeh  
Director of ESOL, Testing & Equity Programs  
Warren County Schools

From the moment that we checked in to the moment that we checked out, our ESL department enjoyed one of the best TNTESOL conferences ever. The well planned programs, presentations, speakers, and convenience of the facility really made it a treat to be there. The special dinner on Friday was such a delight! Bravo to Todd and the Memphis planning committee. You made the 30th anniversary of TNTESOL a true celebration and *walking in Memphis* a real inspiration.

Deborah Sams  
Sevier County Schools

This year's TN TESOL conference was incredible and that is not just because I did not have to plan it. Todd's group even included all the trappings of school; an unplanned fire drill and a snow day! All joking aside, I was relaxed and stimulated at the same time and that is a difficult task. It was everything from the location, sessions, and speakers, to the student performances, the schedule, and the food. GREAT JOB!!!!

Jean McMahan

Mark your calendars now to attend TNTESOL '09 in Williamson County, March 5-7, 2009, at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs! With a focus on increasing awareness of modifications for English Language Learners, renowned author Dr. Mary Lou McCloskey will be among the speakers present. Plan to come and enjoy three days of 'Meeting in the Middle - Teaching Side by Side' as we visit with colleagues, hear informative speakers, attend enlightening presentations, and enjoy ourselves in historic Williamson County, Tennessee! See you there!

Tracy Bullard

**New!**

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in the world of computers!

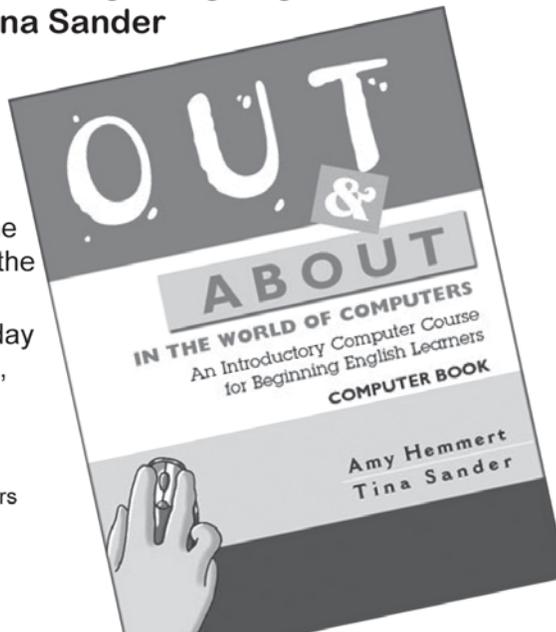
## Out and About in the World of Computers

An Introductory Course for Beginning English Learners  
by Amy Hemmert and Tina Sander

- step-by-step activities for learning Microsoft Word, navigating the Internet, and using email
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## 2008 President's Award



Teresa Dalle, University of Memphis  
Presented by Judy Cleek, Outgoing President

## Connecting ESL and Mainstream Teachers: Best of TNTESOL goes to SETESOL, Louisville

Nancy McNeal  
Dibrell Elementary ESL Teacher  
Warren County Schools

It was a great honor to be chosen *Best of TNTESOL 2007* and to represent our organization at SETESOL in Louisville! The session evolved from a request by our TEA Uniserv Coordinator to conduct a workshop at the TEA Spring Symposium on teaching English Language Learners. Since most of the participants at the symposium were regular classroom teachers, it was a rare opportunity to share facts about second-language acquisition with them as well as to dispel misconceptions they might have about "our kids". I wanted to put as much helpful information as possible into their hands since I had been in their shoes for many years as a high-school physics and physical-science teacher. I remembered thinking, "What am I supposed to do?" the first time a non-English-speaking student entered my class. Thus, "Help! She Doesn't Speak English! Teaching English Language Learners in the Mainstream Classroom" was born.

The presentation begins with a pre-test about second language acquisition and features an immersion simulation developed by Jean LeLoup, a professor at SUNY. A brief vocabulary lesson suited to English language learners is modeled, highlighting the use of music and movement. PowerPoint is used to present

ideas from experts David and Yvonne Freeman about strategies that lead to success for ELLs. Handouts include annotated resources for teachers of ESL and mainstream classes, explanations of the SDAIE and SIOP models of instruction, suggested multicultural books, and an outline of the session itself.

It was a natural evolution to share the presentation with other ESL professionals so they could use it with mainstream teachers in their own schools and districts, and the obvious place to do so was at TNTESOL 2007. I also presented it at the Upper Cumberland Teachers' Council Workshops, a Math-Science Partnership summer program at TTU, and at schools in Bedford and Warren Counties. After providing hard-copy handouts of the documents in Columbia and with other groups, I followed the example of Patty Davis Wiley when I traveled to SETESOL, and put all of the documents on CDs for the participants. I would be happy to share it with any TNTESOL member.

SETESOL 2007 was a terrific conference that featured many excellent sessions. I especially enjoyed those by fellow TNTESOL member Hila Hill and by Tery Medina. My session had about 40 participants, including some TNTESOL members I had not met before. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a great conference! ●

**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.

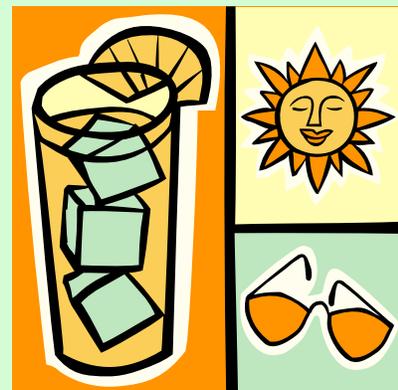
Send your ideas via e-mail, an attachment, and your personal information by the issue deadline to Lee Martin, [lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lee.martin@vanderbilt.edu).

### Publication dates

July  
October  
January 2009  
May

### Deadlines

June 30  
September 15  
December 15  
April 15



## Adding Math to ESL

*From a presentation given at SETESOL in Louisville, KY, November 2007*

Hila Hill  
ESL teacher and facilitator  
Knox County Schools  
[hillh@k12tn.net](mailto:hillh@k12tn.net)

*The presentation begins with a two-sided handout from two different Japanese math books, one sixth-grade and one seventh-grade.*

Everyone says that ELLs should have no problems with math because "math is universal." If math is so universal, why can we not do the problems on these pages? The answer is easy; both directions and word problems are written in Japanese. The numbers may be the same, but we do NOT know what to do with them without understanding the language of directions and word problems.

What about computation? It's universal, isn't it? Adding and subtraction and their signs (+ and -) are universal. Multiplying and dividing are not. The signs for multiplication may be the capital X that we use in the elementary grades; it may be the • or ( ) used in algebra. Despite possible different signs, the process of multiplication is basically the same. The symbols for division are ÷ or just :. The way that Americans do long division is definitely NOT universal. [Handout on different ways of doing long division in different countries.] If you have a student that has already learned how to do division in his/her home country, have the student show you. You might be amazed.

Another problem is the way that the numbers are hand-written. A one can look like an uncrossed capital A ( ), and a seven is always crossed to differentiate it from the one. The other numbers are all recognizable even if written slightly differently.

What Americans call a decimal point (.) causes even more confusion. In Europe and South America, our decimal point is their comma and vice versa. Thus a German would write 3,47 to mean 3 and 47 hundredths (3.47), while writing 3.400 to mean three-thousand four-hundred (3,400). This difference is very confusing for students (and adults).

An even larger problem for ELLs in math class is fractions. Because we are the only major country (and possibly the ONLY country) that has not switched to the metric system, we need fractions to deal with our units of weight, length, and capacity. When 16 ounces is a pound and 16 fluid ounces is a pint, who would not be confused? We need fractions to be able to find the correct wrench for a bolt and measure the length of a table. The rest of the world uses decimals and the metric system. Fractions are only division problems in other countries.

What does all of this confusion mean for ESOL teachers? It means that the content areas we need to cover for academic English must include math. The language of math is essential for our students, especially since NCLB requires students to take standardized tests (TCAPs) in math their first year in-country if they are in the third through eighth grades.

One resource that I found which helps students in their math classes is Scott Foresman – Addison Wesley's MATH Multilingual Handbook grades 3 – 6. This book has math terminology with explanations in English, Cambodian, Chinese, Creole (Haiti), Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. [ISBN 0-201-31347-2] It is reproducible, so I give a

copy to the students to keep with them for math class.  
<http://www.sf.aw.com>

A wonderful resource for ESOL teachers to include math in the curriculum is from Options Publications. This series is called The Math & Literature Connection. It begins with Level A, which has stories and exercises using limited English, and continues through higher levels. For example, Level E has stories written on about a fifth-grade reading level with such math work as mean, median, and mode.

For those of us who teach in Tennessee, a great resource for academic content area vocabulary was given to us by the state. The Tennessee Academic Vocabulary: A Guide for Tennessee Educators was issued by the Tennessee Department of Education in July 2006. It gives content-area vocabulary for K–12 in language arts, math, science, and social studies. You can get this item from the state website.

*If you would like copies of the handouts from this presentation, please e-mail me including your mailing address, and I will send them to you.*

## RECORD ATTENDANCE at 2008 TNTESOL Conference in Memphis!



**Plan Ahead...**  
**2009 TNTESOL Conference**  
**in Franklin, March 5-7:**  
**“Meeting in the Middle:  
Teaching Side by Side”**

## NEWS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE



Janette Lanier  
ESL Coordinator  
Tennessee Department of Education

What a great conference we had in Memphis! Thanks to Todd Goforth and his crew for making the entire conference dynamic.

And thanks to all of you who attended the State Day of the TNTESOL Conference on March 6. I believe it was the largest crowd that TNTESOL has had for a State Day. There were more than 250 people who came for part or all of the day. We talked about a lot of different issues. And ESL in Tennessee is full of good news!

Most of you are pleasantly surprised to see the new and improved OCR report. This multi-paged report has been simplified to the point that several of you have called to see if it is real! Lesley Farmer, our OCR attorney for the State of Tennessee is dedicated to seeing that all of our children in Tennessee have equitable opportunities. Any other information you need, we will pull from the State database.

Another piece of good news is that Tennessee met the growth and attainment Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for 2006-2007. Our goal for growth was 51% and we met that with a 70.5%. For attainment (proficiency) we had a goal of 39.1%; Tennessee met that with 50.4%. Thanks to your hard work, we are succeeding and making education more accessible to these at-risk children. We still have much work to do, but we are certainly off and running into success. If your district failed the AMAOs for the second and/or third year consecutively, we are asking that you fill out an improvement plan. This simple one-page form has been mailed to the district Title III directors. Should this be the third year, I will likely come and visit to see if we can find ways to improve ESL in your schools.

The federal government has released the *Framework for High Quality English Language Proficiency Standards and Assessments* in draft form. Deputy Secretary Ray Simon invited states to apply to be part of the pilot project to evaluate this draft. Tennessee is the lead state for a preview of the *Framework* for the English Language Development Assessment State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (ELDA SCASS). This project has forced me to take apart our standards-and-assessment system and review any weaknesses. I will be presenting my findings at our ELDA SCASS meeting in Charlotte, NC, May 7 and 8. The SCASS will provide input before we submit this for a final review.

Tennessee's screener for ELDA has missed a few deadlines; therefore, we do not anticipate having it to you as soon as planned. For those of you who do not know, this instrument is a Tennessee product; i.e., Tennessee will own the rights to this assessment. I am committed to seeing that it is a quality screening tool. During that two-day the ELDA SCASS meeting, the group will be reviewing not only the draft version of the screener that will be used in field testing but also the outline for testing this instrument. After the field test, the test will be subjected to psychometrics and then either altered and re-tested or accepted. Once the screener is accepted, it will be placed on the market for purchase. It is unlikely that it will be ready for summer intake testing. Your district may use the IPT, CELLA, or LAS links for screening until the intake

instrument is available. If you have other tests you want to use, please put that in writing to me at the state. This e-mail will need to come from the Title III Coordinator in the district to [jan.lanier@state.tn.us](mailto:jan.lanier@state.tn.us)

I want you to welcome Steven Nixon to the Title III team. He will be the ELDA Test Consultant and work with the data and the administration of the English Language proficiency assessment, the ELDA. Paula Gaddis will remain the Migrant Education Coordinator. I appreciate Paula's work and wish her well as she moves on to other projects with the State. We anticipate the transition being an easy one for both Paula and Steven. Steven is the newest member of the Assessment Department within the Tennessee Department of Education. Moving the ELDA into the Assessment Department gives Title III the same capabilities with contracts, research, training, and administration as is given with the TCAP and Gateway. The Assessment Department has more software to clean data and keep our files in good order for the research we hope to produce in the future. Steven's wife, Lori, is also in Assessment and they are the parents of two beautiful girls. They live in Maury County. I have had the privilege of working with Lori on a couple of small projects and if he is "okay" with her, then we have landed a very positive addition to our Title III department.

Steven writes this introduction: "Let me begin by saying how excited I am to have this opportunity. This position will be both challenging and rewarding. I am also looking forward to learning from those in the field. I am originally from Lebanon, Tennessee. I earned my BS from Middle Tennessee State University and my MEd from the University of Georgia. I have taught for more than ten years in Georgia and Tennessee. During my time in teaching, I have had the opportunity to attend conventions, workshops, and other professional development activities in the area of English as a Second Language. I do not believe that one can ever stop learning in order to help the students achieve. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the future."

Welcome Steven at his new e-mail: [Steven.Nixon@state.tn.us](mailto:Steven.Nixon@state.tn.us). When he is settled, we'll be sharing a phone number with you. After April 28, please address all calls and e-mail regarding ELDA to Steven.

All in all, the success in ESL is wonderful across Tennessee. Thanks to your hard work, we are seeing that there is No Child Left Behind. Enjoy spring! ●



## VirginiaTESOL joins SouthEastern TESOL

Judy Snoke and Karen Medina, VATESOL  
Bill Isler Carolina TESOL

2008 marks a major change for SETESOL. If anyone looked at a map of the Southeast Region of TESOL before last year, you would have noticed a big gap in the upper right-hand corner. Geographically, the Region had an empty spot unfilled by Virginia TESOL. On February 8, 2008, the Virginia TESOL Executive Board decided to join the organization as the first new member since Carolina TESOL joined in 1988.

The idea of a TESOL affiliate in Tidewater Virginia—in spite of the not too distant presence of Washington Area TESOL—began to take form on August 16, 1983, when the first meeting to form a TESOL organization in Tidewater Virginia was held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk; Boo Thiele and Janet Bing were among the founding members. It took little over nine months for the fledgling affiliate, Southern Virginia TESOL, to be accepted on May 31, 1984. The first conference was held in September with more than 30 attending.

The young affiliate grew rapidly. In 1985-1986 its membership increased to 113, but for some time thereafter conference attendance hovered around 50. In the spring of 1990 Regional Council Chair Bill Isler visited the affiliate spring conference to invite SoVaTESOL to join the SETESOL organization, but the small affiliate was not willing to risk taking on the heavy tasks of a regional conference as the previous SE Regional TESOL Conference had had 570 attendees.

Meanwhile, TESOL denied ESL teachers in Southwest Virginia the authority to use the TESOL name to organize a Blue Ridge TESOL affiliate for professionals and volunteers in the Roanoke and New River Valleys. Eventually this group and SoVaTESOL joined forces in a common effort, and, in April 1996, TESOL gave permission to extend membership from the Tidewater area to all of Virginia. In April 1997 the affiliate became a statewide organization, with its name officially changed to Virginia TESOL or VATESOL.

Since then the affiliate has continued to grow in membership and strength, to the point that, at the VATESOL Board meeting this February 8, 2008, the revised SETESOL Constitution was approved, and VATESOL became the ninth member affiliate, joining Sunshine State TESOL, Georgia TESOL, Alabama-Mississippi TESOL, Louisiana TESOL, Arkansas TESOL, Tennessee TESOL, Carolina TESOL, and Kentucky TESOL.<sup>1</sup> The affiliate has now set up a conference committee to prepare to host the SE Regional Conference in 2011. Virginia has several attractive potential locations with convention facilities to host a major regional meeting. Preplanning is underway, and we will soon hear what VATESOL is offering.

Stay tuned.

## 2008 TNTESOL Educator of the Year Regional Winners:

**Middle TN:** Johnna Torok,  
Murfreesboro

**West TN:** Linda Smith,  
Cordova

**Charles Gillon Award, 2008:**  
Rubbie Patrick-Herring

## 2008 is TNTESOL's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Learn about our state professional organization's beginnings and follow its development in....

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## Photos from TESOL, New York City, April 3-5, 2008

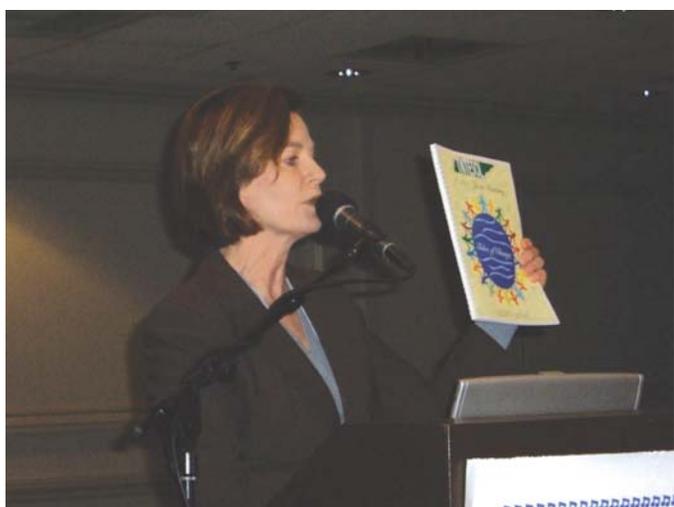


PRESIDENTS: (L-R) Sandy Briggs, TESOL 2007-08; Jean McMahan, TNTESOL 2008-09; Shelley Wong, TESOL 2008-09; Jun Liu, TESOL 2006-07; Judy Cleek, TNTESOL 2007-08.



TNTESOL President Jean McMahan meets Dr. & Mrs. James E. Alatis, former TESOL Executive Director. Dr. Alatis helped TNTESOL become an official TESOL affiliate in January 1979. He also gave the keynote address at our first conference, in Knoxville, May 1979.

## More photos from TNTESOL 2008, Memphis



Judy Cleek showing off our new *TNTESOL 30-Year History*



TNTESOL Executive Board 2007-08 with our Birthday Cake



TNTESOL President Jean McMahan & Past President Emily Thrush



Past President Beverly Hearn with visitor Elizabeth Alvarado from Mexico City

Join us in Birmingham, Alabama for



September 25 - 27, 2008  
at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex

**Invited Speakers**

David and Yvonne Freeman, Ann Ebe, Janet Zadina, Jim and Lydia Stack,  
Carlos Cortes, Catherine Collier, Debi Strevy

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

**September 24**

Workshops include Learning Styles, New Ideas for Teaching Pronunciation,  
and Strategies for Effective Interaction (check website for complete list of options)

**Focus Days** (cost for workshops included in registration or 1-day registration available)

*K-12 Strand: Mainstream Teachers*

**September 25**

*Post Secondary Strand: Intensive English Programs*

*K-12 Strand: Special Education and ELLs*

**September 26**

*Post Secondary Strand: Higher Education Round Table*

**Concurrent Session Strands**

**September 25 - 27**

*K-12: Elementary, Middle, Secondary, Special Education, General K-12, Teacher Training*

*Adult ESL: English for Special Purposes, International Teaching Assistants,  
Intensive English Programs, Higher Education, Research*

**Conference Information and Updates:**

<http://www.amtesol.org>

**Questions? Email: [setesol2008@yahoo.com](mailto:setesol2008@yahoo.com)**

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