## MIDTESOL Board Members

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<td>President</td>
<td>Terry Barakat</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Roberta Morgan</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Suzanne Van der Valk</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kimberley Kreicker</td>
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<td>Past President &amp; Nominating Committee Chair</td>
<td>Shaeley Santiago</td>
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<td>Historian</td>
<td>Arla Jones</td>
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<td>Publishers’ Liaison</td>
<td>Karen Craigo</td>
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<td>Awards Committee Chair</td>
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<td>Communications Director / Chair</td>
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<td>Rules and Resolutions Committee Chair</td>
<td>Elizabeth Gould</td>
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<td>Socio-political Concerns &amp; Professional Issues Committee Chair</td>
<td>Karen Thomas</td>
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<td>Member-at-large IA Representative</td>
<td>Melissa Meisterheim</td>
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<td>Member-at-large KS Representative</td>
<td>Stephanie Christenot</td>
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<td>Member-at-large MO Representative</td>
<td>Jeanne Sevart</td>
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<td>Natalie Baskin</td>
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<td>Conference Chair, 2015</td>
<td>Maureen Burke</td>
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<td>Cheryl Eason</td>
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<td>Conference Co-Chair, future</td>
<td>Kimberley Kreicker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community College/Adult Education IS Chair</td>
<td>Samantha Brush</td>
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<td>Education Technology IS Chair</td>
<td>Summer Peixoto</td>
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<td>Higher Education/Teacher Training IS Chair</td>
<td>Cheryl Eason</td>
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<td>Editor, Website</td>
<td>Melissa Lowery</td>
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<td>Marcellino Berardo</td>
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<td>Editor(s), Marketing</td>
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  - Gatherings
  - Presentations
- CALL Interest Section
Editors’ Highlights
Editors Kurtis Foster and Laura McBride

Hello all MIDTESOLers!

Please check out all of the great Information on the fast-approaching TESOL 2015 Convention in Toronto. Inside this issue don’t miss:

1) Opportunities to Network with Fellow MIDTESOLERS
2) Convention Website How To’s
3) Special Areas of Interest at the Convention

Questions you have about finding information about MIDTESOL or sending your ideas out to the region are always welcome.

Editors:
Laura McBride
lmcbride@spsmail.org
Kurtis Foster
KurtisFoster@Missouristate.edu

Top Tweets:
The most inspiring TESOL and Education conversations happening on the web.

Rocketship Education @RocketshipEd · Feb 24
What educators shaped your life? @npr_ed shares their favorite teachers
npr/16871UH #50GreatTeachers

These Are A Few Of Our Favorite Teachers
In our 50 Great Teachers project, we're telling stories of great teachers. Here are some from our own lives.

https://twitter.com/hashtag/50greatteachers?src=hash&lang=en
MIDTESOL Gathering 2015

Crossing Borders – Exploring Toronto— MIDTESOL Gathering

We welcome all MIDTESOL members who’d like to participate in our annual gathering at the 2015 TESOL Convention. Crossing Borders-Building Bridges is the theme for this year’s convention; as an affiliate comprised of 4 states, we seek opportunities to cross borders to strengthen our organization. Join us on Thursday evening, March 26, 2015 for a MIDAmerica TESOL gathering.

TESOL Reminders:

Visit us at the MIDTESOL booth, Thursday, March 26th from 11:30-12:30, Exhibition Hall. We’ll have MIDTESOL give-aways and our team will be ready to assist if you have questions.

MIDTESOL Gathering:

We asked for your opinion and you answered! The consensus was for a casual evening exploring historic Old Town and the Distillery District. A walk-about might seem daunting to some, but we’re from a region famous for exploration. To make the most of our time together, it might help to have a sense of the area. A great way to do this is by exploring websites which are provided within this document.

In reviewing options, we realized that it would be impossible to visit both locations in two hours. We’ve developed a tour of famous locations in Old Town with time for conversation over drinks near one of the most photographed locations in the area – the Flatiron building.

Old Town

Our plan is to meet at the convention center at 3:45 pm (north front entrance on Front Street), walk to the first public transit stop (intersection of Wellington St. W. at York) for the 4:01 bus; take public transport (East trolley 503) to the St. Lawrence Market, stroll to St. James Anglican Church, then walk a couple of blocks to the Flatiron building, ending at a venue, at about 5:15, that offers options for refreshments. MIDTESOL will cover costs of first round & appetizers.

Note: if you are interested in Old Town historic sites, you should explore during the daytime. Many historic sites close at 4:00, St. Lawrence Market opens early on Saturday morning – 5 am!

Contact Information:

Organizer: Roberta “Birdie” Morgan, Vice President
birdie@mst.edu; email to request additional contact information

Terry Barakat, President, TerryBarakat@missouristate.edu
Shaeley Santiago, Past President, Santiagosq12@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook & Twitter
Walkabout Itinerary, March 26:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 4:10 pm| St Lawrence Market 92-95 Front E. Toronto (closes at 5:00 p.m.)          | • meet at the front door  
• http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/                                             |
| 4:40 pm| St. James Anglican Cathedral, 65 Church Street, meet at the church at 4:40 | http://www.stjamescathedral.on.ca/HistoryArchitecture/tabid/63/Default.aspx |
| 5:00 pm| The Gooderham Building “Flatiron building” 49 Wellington St. E., Toronto | Look for MIDTESOLers taking snaps like happy tourists.                      |
|        | http://www.seetorontonow.com/content/pdf/path_brochure.pdf                |                                                                             |
| 5:10 pm| C’est What? 67 Front St E., for appetizers featuring pub-style food with   | MIDTESOL will cover costs of first round & appetizers!                      |
|        | vegetarian options; variety of local wines, beers & non-alcoholic        |                                                                             |
|        | beverages; close to Flatiron building                                    |                                                                             |
|        | http://www.cestwhat.com/                                                 |                                                                             |
|        |                                                                            |                                                                             |

Toronto Preparation:

Toronto Tourism website:
- Online magazine: Canadian Urbanism Uncovered: Spacing http://spacing.ca/toronto/  
  Provides great information about Toronto history, culture, current events

Getting around: http://www.seetorontonow.com/getting-around/
- Toronto Transit Commission: http://ttc.ca/index.jsp  
  http://www.seetorontonow.com/content/pdf/path_brochure.pdf
- The Portland conference provided transit passes; Toronto might have a similar option for conference attendees:  
  http://ttc.ca/Fares_and_passes/Passes/Convention_pass.jsp

Weather: Average weather at the end of March has temperatures ranging between 20-43º F, with potential for rain, snow and sun.  
Check this website for recommendations on packing: http://gocanada.about.com/od/monthbymonthtoronto1/p/march_toronto.htm

Money: Lonely Planet has good advice on tipping, taxes, money (loonie) denominations:  
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/canada/practical-information/money-costs
Oanda Currency converter: http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/

Top locations in Toronto:

Casa Loma: http://www.casaloma.org/  
Hours: 9:30-5:00 pm, entrance fee: $24.00

CN Tower (next to the Convention Center): http://www.ctower.ca/en-ca/home.html  
Hours: 10:00 am to 10:30 pm, entrance fee: $29 or $32 (must purchase online 24 hours in advance)

The Distillery District – you might recognize locations from scenes in recent movies. There are many eateries, shops, boutiques and galleries.  
http://www.thedistillerydistrict.com/

Hockey Hall of Fame - If you like hockey, this is the place! http://www.hhof.com/index.html  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm, admission 18.00

Shopping venues close to the Convention Center:
- Eaton Centre: (available by PATH and public transit systems)  
  http://www.torontoeatoncentre.com/EN/centreinfo/Pages/default.aspx

There are many other venues of interest – the art & history museums, zoo, aquarium, walks along the waterfront, ferry rides to the islands, but all honesty, TESOL is our primary reason for traveling. Good luck in managing your time!  
Enjoy the TESOL Conference!
This year’s app from TESOL has some amazing features. The ability to search for and add presentations to your itinerary is even better than last year’s, and the networking profile page could be a great resource for those trying to connect up with colleagues or make new inroads into the profession. Check out a few screen shots of the PC Version and download the device versions to synch your PC choices instantly to all devices you’ll have with you at the conference! Set up your Convention Experience before you arrive:

http://visitors.genie-connect.com/tesol2015/#/visitordashboard_42/

MY EVENT and EVENT DETAILS
Look for these collapsible menus on the far left of the screen. Here you can search presentations, add them to your schedule, check a map for reference in real time while navigating the conference, find networking opportunities, and even keep notes on the new ideas you learn.
Sessions

Use the “Sessions” section to find everything you want to see and learn and add it to your digital in app schedule.

Networking profile section:

Be sure to fill in a bio and enable networking with the toggle switch.

Keep in Synch

Downloading the app for android/iphone/ other devices will help you make the most of the conference. Make any decisions on your PC before the conference or back at the hotel at night, and your changes will be updated to your devices for easy access when you are in the convention center.
Greetings from the MidTesol Educational Technology Interest Section! Are you going to TESOL 2015 in Toronto? Join your colleagues in the Electronic Village, a place for people interested in viewing and demonstrating Computer Assisted Language Learning related programs, for workshops, demonstrations, and presentations on a range of topics including Google-themed workshops, gamification, social media, mobile applications, digital story-telling, and animated Ted-Ed lessons.

This year promises to be rewarding and enriching as we all convene to collaborate and share our collective ideas. I’d like to personally invite you to a session I am co-presenting on Using Voicethread to Enhance Student Engagement, which focuses on promoting autonomy and boosting student engagement in the active learning process. The workshop will examine the ways Voicethread can enrich work in pronunciation, mini-presentations, peer review, and group projects. For a more organized approach to navigating TESOL, download the 2015 Convention Application to mark your favorites, choose your sessions, connect with colleagues, and view maps of the local area. Follow News and Social Media activities, follow a live Twitter feed, and connect instantly to Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram using your mobile app. Stay connected! This year promises to be a wonderful combination of learning and collaboration.

Cheers and safe travels to Toronto!

Summer Peixoto
Educational Technology IS Chair
**Introduction**

Podcasts are weekly audio or video programs that you can listen to from both mobile devices and computers. Listeners can subscribe to podcasts for free so that each new episode automatically downloads each week. There are thousands of podcasts to choose from—just search based on any topic of interest from the podcast app that is included on most phone operating systems. While there are many podcasts available specifically for English language learners, non-ESL specific podcasts can be an engaging way to expose learners to authentic language use. Not only can they hear examples of natural, everyday English, learners will also be exposed to various aspects of American culture. Many of these podcasts also have an enthusiastic and extensive fan base, so a secondary benefit is that by listening to the podcasts, students will be able to contribute to the collective conversation as a way to engage with their American peers.

**Recommended Podcasts**

- **Serial** tells a true-crime story over the course of 12 episodes. A journalist investigates a murder case in order to discover who killed a young high school student in 1999.

- **This American Life** tells true stories in the life of everyday Americans. Each episode is based on a weekly theme and tells several stories related to the theme.

- **RadioLab** discusses topics about “science, philosophy, and the human experience.” Each show is also based on a weekly theme, using a variety of stories to explore the theme.

- **Grammar Girl** gives short explanations and tips about using English grammar. It also gives advice about how to improve your writing.

- **VOA Learning English** podcasts are created especially for ESL students. Each story uses a limited vocabulary and a slower pace to support students who are learning English.

- **TED Radio Hour** is a theme-centered show based on TED talks. This podcast explores those themes more in-depth with stories and speaker interviews.

- **Invisibilia** “explores the intangible forces that shape human behavior – things like ideas, beliefs, assumptions and emotions. [This podcast focuses on human behavior,] interweaving narrative storytelling with fascinating new psychological and brain science.”

**Suggestions for Using Podcasts with your Students**

While podcasts themselves are essentially weekly recorded audio programs, with a little creativity they can become an effective and versatile teaching tool. These are but a few suggestions for ways to incorporate podcasts into your lessons:

- **Create a mobile language lab in your classroom.** Tell students to bring their mobile devices (phones or tablets) to class. Students can listen at their own pace for note-taking, answering questions, etc.

- **Create an individualized critical listening activity.** Have students listen to the same podcast on their personal mobile devices. While students listen, they can contribute their observations/questions about the content to a group brainstorming area. Teachers can also send out polls to mobile devices to gauge understanding and interest (Tools like Poll Everywhere or Socrative would work well with this type of activity.)

- **Create vocabulary focused listening activities.** Encourage students to listen for key content words while listening to podcasts. Students can individually contribute to group word clouds while listening at their own pace. The more frequently individual students add the same word, the word will grow in size in the word cloud in real time. Teachers can use this information to create student-driven vocabulary activities. (Again, Poll Everywhere would be an effective tool for this type of activity.)

Katie McClintic, CALL IS member
Iowa News:

As we near the end of year, I’d like to share the events that have occurred in the past few months. Iowa has been very active this fall.

In September, Iowa State hosted the 12th Annual Technology for second Language Learning conference. Speakers included Michael (Mick) O’Donnell from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Dr. Carol Chappelle. Keep checking their website and the Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/TSLLConference) for information on next year’s conference.

In November, the Iowa Culture and Language Conference was held in Coralville, Iowa. MIDTESOL was one of the exhibitors and we held a social gathering for MIDTESOL members and conference attendees. A group of us met at 30hop, a restaurant featuring local food and beverages. We ate and chatted for several hours. It was enjoyable to talk to people from across the state and from different types of programs. Watch for more upcoming events and join us for more fun in 2015.


StudyIowa members this fall visited several embassies in Washington D.C. after participating in the Education USA Forum. It held its most recent meeting on Friday, December 5 in Marshalltown, Iowa. For future meetings, go to their website (http://studyiowa.org/).

The University of Iowa has announced that it is expanding its ESL faculty to meet the needs of its growing international student population. People who may be interested can go to the Jobs@uiowa website https://jobs.uiowa.edu/jobSearch/faculty/ and search for the following requisition numbers: 65549, 65559, 65578. Information about the positions and qualifications are available there.

While 2014 was a busy year, Iowa will have even more to offer in 2015. The University of Iowa is hosting MIDTESOL’s 2015 conference at the Iowa Memorial Union on its campus in Iowa City. The theme is “The Future is Now: Building New Traditions in TESOL”. The conference planners are pleased to announce several of the invited speakers for next year’s conference. These include:

  Randi Reppen from Northern Arizona University,

  Lia Plakans from the University of Iowa,

  the ESL Techies (aka Heather Parris Fitzpatrick and Lisa Estrada) from Nassau County, NY.

Keep checking midtesol.org for more updates on the conference and other Iowa events.
**Kansas News:**

**English Language Proficiency Standards Project**

Kansas joined ten other states (Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, and West Virginia) along with CCSSO, WestEd, and Understanding Language in an effort to more closely correlate English Language Proficiency Standards with College and Career Ready standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, Math, and Science. For our state’s part of the effort a 24-person committee was created representing all Board of Education districts, all levels of instruction, teachers, administrators, specialists and higher education. The committee's task was to provide detailed reviews, feedback, and guidance to a national team of expert standards writers.

**Kansas Adopts New English Language Proficiency Standards**

Adopted December 10, 2013. These new standards were strategically designed to simplify and streamline the process of learning in English in order to meet college-and-career-ready standards in academic subject areas. The ten standards highlight language functions and forms that English Language Learners (ELLs) need in order to succeed.

*For more information about the project and the new standards visit:*

[http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/ContentAreaA-E/EnglishLanguageProficiency/Standards.aspx](http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/ContentAreaA-E/EnglishLanguageProficiency/Standards.aspx)

**Missouri News:** The Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMOAs) came out in December of 2013.:


**Nebraska News:**

Nebraska is a member of the MIDTESOL Family and will be sharing their news and ideas with us soon. Teachers interested in serving on the MIDTESOL Board as a representative of Nebraska should be ready for an e-mail from MIDTESOL Past President Shaeley Santiago.
Edit your profile setting in your membership file.

Choose Educational Technology as your interest section.

Like us on Facebook and leave a comment. Share your projects and ideas with us.

Do you have wonderful apps or tools you’d like to share, too? Let’s talk!

Join us! Join us! Join us!

Summer Peixoto
Educational Technology Interest Section Chair
University of Kansas
Call for Submissions in The 2015 Essay Contest

It’s time for the next student writer extraordinaire to take their place in the MIDTESOL Hall of Fame by submitting their own High School Essay for the 2015 Contest. This time the contest is open to any ESL student at any level, Elementary, Middle, and High School. The details below will guide you in assisting students with the submission process. Please take special note that the deadline is April 25th and encourage your students to submit their work.

Best ESL Student Essay Award

MIDTESOL is pleased to invite teachers to submit student essays for the Best ESL Student Essay Award.

Eligibility: Must be an ESL student in good academic standing who is enrolled in an ESOL/ELL program in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, or Missouri.

Topic: Student essays must relate to this year’s conference theme, The Future is Now: Building Traditions. What are traditions from your family, culture or home country that you think are important? Which one do you value most? Explain it. Your essay should develop its main points, either by sequence or ways it is expressed. How will you continue this tradition in your future?

Rules and Format:

Each student may submit only one essay.
Essay must be submitted with a cover page, including the following
- student name and contact information (phone number, address, email)
- school (name, address, phone number)
- sponsoring teacher
Essay must be solely the work of the student with limited guidance from others.
Essay must be 500 to 700 words in length; typed (12-point Times New Roman font) and double-spaced.
There should be no identifying information listed on any pages of the essay. This includes any mention of name or school.
The deadline is April 25.

Failure to abide by any of the above conditions will result in immediate disqualification.

Judging: Essays undergo blind peer review.

Scoring Criteria: Essays are scored on content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanics. In short, judges look for writing that is clear, creative, articulate, and logically organized.

Awards: The selected recipient will be awarded $100. His/her name, photo, and school affiliation will be published in the ensuing issue of MIDTESOL Matters, the organization’s electronic newsletter. Additional awards include one second place award of $50 and one third place award of $25.

To apply, submit essay, including cover page, to Denise Mussman (denise@umsl.edu), MIDTESOL Awards Chair, by April 25. The subject line of the email should read “MIDTESOL 2015: Best Student Essay.” You will receive confirmation from the Awards Chair that your submission has been received and a notification if you are an award recipient by May 25. Please note that essays will not be returned. All applicant information will be kept confidential. Decisions made by reviewers are final.
MIDTESOL’s new Membership Benefits Through CVENT

Last year, your executive board made an important decision to bring our organization into the digital age and make being a MIDTESOL member easier and more beneficial! We purchased a contract with CVENT, an event and membership management system which allows you to register and pay for conferences and memberships all online – no more need to print, write checks, use envelopes, or spend money on stamps! Of course, if you prefer to use postal mail to send us fees, we are still glad to accept checks through the mail, although we do require membership registration be completed online.

Major benefits of this new system include:

♦ it puts your membership and registration information at your fingertips. You will always have access to your membership history;
♦ the system will remind you when it’s time to renew!
♦ You can see a record of each conference you have attended starting from October 2013, including workshop sessions.
♦ A page highlighting member benefits on the membership website
♦ You will find a code to use for a discount on your first TESOL International membership!

Finally, it provides you with a membership directory, from which you can easily contact colleagues that you have met at our conferences. We hope that you have already found the system to be helpful. If you have any questions about using the system or discover any issues that need to be solved, please feel free to contact Paula Moore, Past-President and Marketing Co-editor: paulamoore@missouristate.edu.

About our Organization

MIDTESOL is a professional organization, an affiliate of International TESOL, whose goal is to support teachers and enhance the teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

MIDTESOL Matters is a quarterly publication and is distributed to subscribers and dues-paying members of MIDTESOL. Articles, Teaching Tips, and Reviews are welcome from all members. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, clarity, or editorial balance. Materials published in MIDTESOL Matters become the property of MIDTESOL and could be shared with other TESOL affiliate organizations.

Expressed opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of MIDTESOL, TESOL, or

Our Mission

The mission of Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. As a regional affiliate of TESOL and a professional organization, MIDTESOL:

- Supports those involved with English language teaching, teacher education, administration and management, curriculum and materials design, and research;

- Provides leadership and direction through the dissemination and exchange of information and resources;

- Encourages access to the standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, and employment