

MIDTESOL MATTERS

The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

June 2014

Message from the President

Ahh, summer! Many teachers have a chunk of time off during the summer. It's often touted as one of the perks of our jobs. While that may be true, I am sure many of you will be attending professional development classes, trainings, or workshops over the summer. Also, there's the reflecting we often do on what went well during the past school year and what changes need to be made for the upcoming year. Along those lines, I would like to take a moment to look back at the MIDTESOL organization and reflect on some highlights from this past school year.

Last October in Lawrence, KS, we had one of the largest conferences in MIDTESOL's history with over 350 in attendance. From the pre-conferences on Friday to the closing plenary with Keith Folse on Saturday afternoon, it was a time of making connections with other like-minded professionals and extending our learning.

One highlight of Spring was the TESOL Convention in Portland. MIDTESOL hosted a walking tour of downtown Portland that was well attended and enjoyed by all. During the conference, Jennifer Morrison and I participated in trainings for affiliate leaders which allowed us to hear ideas from our counterparts on other boards and learn from professionals about running a volunteer board.

Personally, I was inspired by the affiliate leadership training to continue the work of refining MIDTESOL's strategic vision. I have been sorting through the list of ideas I collected from conversations with board members of other affiliates and beginning to implement some of them already. One of the ideas I hope to move forward on is strengthening MIDTESOL's relationship with our neighboring affiliates. I am also committed to growing our membership through focused efforts at recruiting new members and retaining current members.

In addition to these other areas, I cannot forget to mention the behind-the-scenes work that is already going on to plan our fall conference on October 24-25 in Warrensburg, MO at UCM. With a theme of "The Wise Learn from Everyone," you know there will be many opportunities for networking and growth. I hope you'll come see for yourself what all the excitement is about, but if for whatever reason you can't, stay connected to MIDTESOL via our [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#), and our [website](#).

"One of the ideas I hope to move forward on is strengthening MIDTESOL's relationship with our neighboring affiliates."

- Shaeley Santiago

In This Issue

- MIDTESOL 2014 Conference News
 - Featured Speakers
 - Award Information
- State by State Update
- Welcome to the New Newsletter
- MIDTESOL 2013 Essay Contest

Welcome to the New Newsletter

New Editors Kurtis Foster and Laura McBride

Hello all MIDTESOLers!

You may have noticed a few changes to our MIDTESOL Matters Newsletter. New editors Kurtis Foster and Laura McBride are responsible for the newsletter now and are excited about bringing MIDTESOL members information on all happenings in the field of English as a second language teaching in our region. It is our goal to keep you informed and up to date on issues in key areas of the profession, including professional development opportunities, advocacy for what we do and what our students need, technology and techniques for education, and ways to stay connected as colleagues. We look forward to communicating with you!

Kurtis Foster

While Teaching English as a second language to International Students at Missouri State University, Kurtis Foster has had the opportunity to explore the cultures of the world and the ways in which teachers can effect change in the lives of students. He has also been a member KOTESOL, an international affiliate of TESOL while teaching English at Kyungnam University in Masan, South Korea. Kurtis is excited about the possibilities the TESOL profession continues to bring to teachers and students in the Midwest.



Laura McBride

Laura has been in the TESOL field since 2009, when she began teaching at the English Language Institute at Missouri State University. She gained her Masters in English with an emphasis in TESOL and shortly after graduating, moved to Colombia, South America to teach at Liceo Pino Verde, a bilingual elementary and high school in Pereira. After a year of teaching there, she returned and has been a full-time instruction specialist at the English Language Institute at Missouri State for over two years. She loves being able to interact with people from different cultures every day.



Top Tweets:

Here we aggregate the most inspiring TESOL conversations happening on the web.



MIDTESOL @MIDTESOL · 55m

We're excited to have Kansas Teacher of the Year @Mrs_Smoke as our plenary speaker at MIDTESOL 2014 ow.ly/wvHKq

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More



Shelly S Terrell @ShellTerrell · 2h

"Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners" - Holt #Edchat

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More



Shelly S Terrell @ShellTerrell · 6h

18 Innovative Teachers Worth Knowing About bit.ly/1l8yxER #edtech #elearning

Collapse

Reply Retweet Favorite More

http://www.edudemic.com/innovative-teachers/?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed



Teaching English @TeachingEnglish · 8h

Handy #ELT Glossary with definitions of terms & concepts plus suggestions for further reading goo.gl/4G9pNR #esl #efl #eal

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More

<https://mycourses.nile-elt.com/mod/glossary/view.php?id=580>



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. The correspondence between the ELP standards and specific ELA, Math Practice and Science Practice standards are clearly identified.

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

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/ContentAreaA-E/>

Iowa News: Upcoming events

1. Our Kids Summer Institute will be held on Tuesday, June 24th & Wednesday, June 25th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at Waukee High School in Waukee, IA 50263. For more information, including featured topics and speakers, see [https://www.aea267.k12.ia.us/system/assets/uploads/files/1476/2014_our_kids_flyer_3_10_14_\(2\).pdf](https://www.aea267.k12.ia.us/system/assets/uploads/files/1476/2014_our_kids_flyer_3_10_14_(2).pdf).
2. The 2014 Teaching for Second Language Learning (TSLL) Conference will be held at Iowa State University in the Memorial Union on September 12 & 13, 2014. Its theme is "Beyond Form: Functional Perspectives on CALL Research and Teaching". The plenary speaker is Michael (Mick) O'Donnell from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. His speech's title is "Exploring Learner Development in Terms of Evolving Contexts of Use". For more information about the plenary and registration, go to <http://apling.public.iastate.edu/TSLL/2014/>.
3. The IOWA CULTURE & LANGUAGE CONFERENCE will be held on November 10-12, 2014 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Handouts from last year's conference and information about this year's conference can be found at http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/iowa_culture_language_conference/



Missouri News:

Heureux Été

Õnnelik suvi

الصيف سعيدة

καλό καλοκαίρι

快乐的夏天



Greetings from Missouri! Bonus points to the readers who can name the five languages I used to say Happy Summer! The answers are at the end of this report.

The Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMOs) came out in December of 2013.:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/qs-amao-Understanding-Title-III-AMAO-13-14.pdf>

This report shows the process of ELLS for both English/Language Arts and Mathematics in Missouri.

On Monday, June 2, 2014 from 1:30-3:00 pm the second in a series of webinars about Special Education and English Language Leaders. <http://dese.mo.gov/communications/webinar/SpecEdELL06-02-14>

On Thursday, June 26, 2014. 12:00-1:30 pm EDT NAFSA will offer a webinar about CPT regulations. The cost is \$159 for members and \$199 for nonmembers/http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Online/Webinars/Curricular_Practical_Training_Creating_Best_Practices_and_Policies/

Answers to Happy Summer: French, Estonian, Arabic, Greek, and Mandarin. Who got Estonian?

MIDTESOL 2014

The Wise Learn from Everyone

October 24-25

University of Central Missouri

Warrensburg, MO



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 .

“The Wise Learn From Everyone” MIDTESOL 2014 Conference

Plenary Speakers



Plenary Speaker Fredricka Stoller

Opening Plenary : Good Readers Are Fluent Readers: Giving Reading Fluency the Attention It Deserves

Sadly, the second language (L2) learners in our classrooms, at most levels of instruction, typically read too slowly to be good readers. Research has demonstrated that fluency contributes to students' reading-comprehension abilities, but fluency training is often neglected in our classrooms. Some teachers believe that they do not have class time to devote to fluency training; others assume that students will develop fluency on their own, over time; and many are simply unaware of the many activities that can be easily integrated into their classes to promote reading fluency. In this presentation, participants will be introduced to the key elements of reading fluency (e.g., automaticity, accuracy, reading rate, word- and passage-reading fluency) and then explore various ways in which reading fluency can be addressed in L2 classrooms—with existing reading materials, with students of all age groups, and for students at all proficiency levels.

Fredricka Stoller

Fredricka L. Stoller is a Professor of English at Northern Arizona University, where she teaches in the MA-TESL and Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics programs. She is co-author of *Teaching and Researching Reading* (2nd ed., 2011, with W. Grabe, Routledge); co-editor of *A Handbook for Language Program Administrators* (2nd ed., 2012, with M. A. Christison, Alta Book Center Publishers); and co-author of *Write Like a Chemist* (2008, with M. Robinson et al., Oxford University Press). Her professional areas of interest include L2 reading, project-based learning, disciplinary writing, content-based instruction, language teaching methodology, and curriculum design.

Closing Plenary : Keeping It Real for Kids

What do we want students to remember when they are 40, not just for the test on Friday? That is the teacher essential question for curriculum design, and it lays the foundation for life-long learning alongside our content areas. We all know rigor and relevance are more than ideals for great curriculum and dynamic classroom experiences. They hold the keys to providing authentic learning and assessment for our students, but knowing where to start can be a challenge. During this interactive plenary, we will explore how to fuel curiosity in students, tie in current events to learning, and enlist student voice and choice, so the classroom experience is meaningful and dynamic for every child.

Dyane Smokorowski

Dyane Smokorowski is the 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year and is currently serving as an Instructional Technology Coach in the Andover Public schools. Mrs. Smoke, as she's known to her students, believes in a project-based, student-centered classroom that helps students build skills in communication, planning, research and project implementation. She wants her students to develop a love for literature, communication, and technology, but also to understand how to use that love and passion to advance their own future, as well as that of their community.



During the conference, Smokorowski is also hosting a workshop :

Research, Explore, and Create Anywhere with Global Collaboration

We often hear of how small the world really is, but did you know that it's easier than ever for students to investigate Earth's cultures and wonders with just a few simple tools, a sense of curiosity and adventure, and the right teacher digital network? In this session, we will explore how to connect your students to experts, museums, National Parks, zoos, and even other classrooms around the globe through video conferencing tools. We will also examine globally connected classrooms that are taking the Common Core's concepts of curiosity, critical thinking, creating, and collaborating beyond the final frontier. Be prepared to take your imagination on an incredible journey as you develop opportunities for your own students in this session.

MIDTESOL 2014 Conference Workshops



Workshop presenters Dr. Joy Pedego (left) and Dr. Mary E. McConnell (right)

Distinguishing Special Education Needs from English Language Learning Development

Presenters Dr. Joy Pedego Fairley and Dr. Mary E. McConnell

Research shows that English Language Learners are typically over-represented or under-represented in special education programs. It is important that we accurately identify students for appropriate services and placement. This session will explore processes and procedures that can be used when there is concern regarding whether the issue is a language learning difficulty or a disability. The presenters will share what to do prior to making a special education referral. The presenters will discuss how this is done through a collaborative team effort with ELL and general education teachers and parents.

Dr. Joy Pedego Fairley

Dr. Joy Pedego Fairley has spent over thirty years as a teacher and Special Education Administrator in Kansas and Missouri. Dr. Fairley earned her B.S. in Elementary Education and M.S. Ed. in Learning Disabilities from the University of Central Missouri. She completed her Ph.D. in Special Education at the University of Kansas. Currently, Dr. Fairley serves as an improvement consultant for the Kansas City Regional Professional Development Center. She is an expert in the areas of school improvement, data teams, alternative assessment, and technology usage for students with special needs. She promotes social justice and is a committed advocate for all students.

Dr. Fairley has served as an adjunct professor in the School of Education at the University of Missouri–Kansas City for several years. Her most recent publication is Aitken, J. E., Fairley, J. P., & Carlson, J. K. (2011). Communication Technology for Students in Special Education Programs.

Dr. Mary E. McConnell

Dr. Mary E. McConnell has spent more than three decades working in the area of special education. Mary is a recognized expert in Response to Intervention (RtI), co-teaching, academic and behavior self-monitoring strategies for students, functional behavioral assessments, effective teaching practices for diverse learners, and effective classroom management strategies. Dr. McConnell is the author of three books, including *Functional Assessment: A Systematic Process for Assessment and Intervention in General and Special Education Classroom*, and has published several articles that address ways to work effectively with diverse groups of learners. Dr. McConnell has worked closely to support teachers and administrators in many areas and has a deep compassion and commitment to improving the learning outcomes for all students.

What Should They Read? Motivation and Readability for ELLs in the Common Core



Do you struggle with how to motivate English learners to read? Are your students frustrated with leveled readers? Are you puzzled by grade level readability metrics? Choosing the right books to read is the key to motivating readers and guiding them to reach the Common Core Standards. Readability for a language learner is surprisingly complex and confusing for teachers because a host of variables contribute to it. This workshop will hand you practical tools to select the right text for specific reading tasks, so you can boost your learner's motivation and self-efficacy with reading. You will also learn techniques language learners should know to choose authentic books that are just right to propel them to read on and achieve grade level standards.

Dr. Andrea Hellman

Dr. Andrea Hellman is a teacher educator and applied linguist at Missouri State University College of Education, where she is engaged in leading teacher inquiry and preparing all teachers to support English language learners in the mainstream classroom. Previously, she served as principal TESOL faculty and research associate for Project SPEAK, a Title III National Professional Development grant. She received her doctorate from Boston University and earned the Christopher Brumfit award for dissertation of the year in language education from Cambridge University Press. Andrea is a frequent presenter at various regional and international conferences; she is a Hungarian-English bilingual and adult immigrant to the United States.

IEP Workshop Accreditation and Assessment

This workshop will review current issues surrounding IEP program accreditation as well as discuss techniques for improving skill-level assessments and building student-learning outcomes.

Get to the Conference!

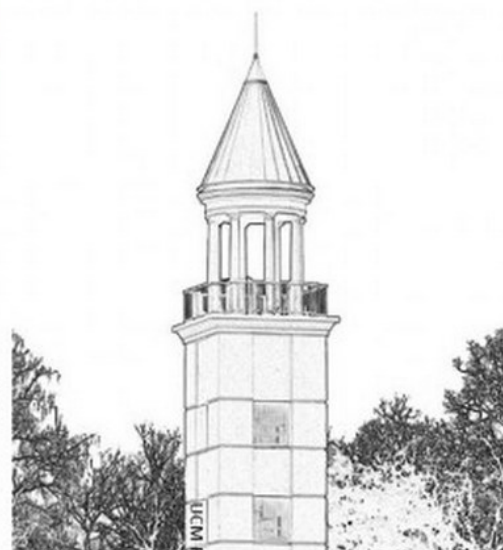
MIDTESOL is offering a number of awards to facilitate conference attendance for educators and students in the ESL field. If you would like to attend MIDTESOL 2014, but are unable to make the trip due to cost or ability to take leave time, consider applying for these awards .

MIDTESOL is always looking for ways to bring new opportunities to our members. Check out the awards available for 2014 and take your place at the conference!

SAVE THE DATE

Date: October 24 - 25,
Friday and Saturday

Place: University of
Central Missouri



MIDTESOL 2014 Conference @ UCM in Warrensburg, Missouri

Check out our MIDTESOL awards!

Travel Award: Up to three Travel Awards of \$150 each will be granted to those of you presenting at this year's MIDTESOL Conference. Tell us your name, email, and institutional affiliation; a brief statement (approximately 300 words) describing the benefit that attending and presenting at the MIDTESOL conference will bring to you and other ELT professionals in your community; an account of any outside funding sources received for travel to the conference; any MIDTESOL Travel Awards received in the past; and an agreement to submit a report outlining your presentation within a month of the conference for publication in *MIDTESOL Matters*, the organization's electronic newsletter.

Best Student Proposal Award: \$200 will be awarded to a student whose proposal was accepted. When submitting a proposal, indicate your eligibility for the award by checking the provided boxes on the form. Proposals are evaluated according to significance and relevance to ESL/EFL teaching and/or research, organization, clarity, and originality/creativity.

Best High School Essay Award: Teachers may submit student essays for the Best High School Essay Award. \$100 goes to first place, \$50 to second place, and \$25 to third place. Students must be a high school student (grades 9-12) enrolled or formerly enrolled in an ESOL/ELL program in a K-12 school in Iowa, Kansas, or Missouri. Essays must relate to this year's conference theme: *The Wise Learn from Everyone* and are scored on content, organization, vocabulary, language use, and mechanics. The winners will have his/her name, photo, and school affiliation published in the ensuing issue of *MIDTESOL Matters*, the organization's electronic newsletter.

Pat-on-the-Back Award: This award honors an individual's dedication to and leadership in MIDTESOL (current board members not eligible). The selected re-

- MIDTESOL 2013—High School Essay Contest Winner

MIDTESOL Matters would like to recognize Daniel Villarreal Acha -of Salina Central High School- for her outstanding essay entry into the 2013 High School Essay Contest. Her writing on how students can be engaged in their own learning, which won the 2013 competition appears in its entirety on the following pages. This essay is a great reminder to students and teachers alike of the importance of finding the real world skills students will need to be successful in the future and applying them in the classroom. We are all looking forward to what 2014's submissions hold.

MIDTESOL 2013 High School Essay Contest First Place Essay

**Daniel Villarreal Acha, 11th Grade
Salina Central High School
Sponsoring Teacher: Ms. Darcy Leech**

Learners who engage in their education do so by conversing with the teacher and by being a part of community-building activities. Engaging students can be done from a simple colorful room to being a part of the teaching process by conversing while being taught. Building communities is no easy task, but with extracurricular activities such as Cross Country, this can be accomplished easily.

As a student, I notice I learn better by being a part of a conversation instead of a monologue. Actively communicating with the instructor allows for a less boring and gray lecture, and a more active and interesting discussion. By doing this the teacher is less susceptible to prolong the oratory and him/herself find new ways to teach old information. Also, as I enter a room I feel uplifted if it is colorful and not prisonlike gray. As one of my classmates told me, "A colorful room makes me feel welcome and happy". Being active in class breaks the traditional way of teaching, but allows the students to better understand the content and have interesting class discussions that lead to an increase in interest for said class.

Finding a way to motivate learners can be a challenge, especially with the very diverse community we have in the United States of America. That is why having extracurricular activities such as Cross Country can aid the growth of community-building.

Cross Country is a sport that anyone can do. For that reason, Cross Country is a very multicultural sport. This translates into a wider spectrum of respect and understanding of each other. Numerous students join the Cross Country team in order to get in shape for another sport, others join to lose weight, but we all share the common goal to get in shape and better at running. In addition, Cross Country is not only a great goal-setting activity, but it is also a tremendous team-building sport. In my experience, being a part of a team helped me overcome linguistic barriers and my bashful nature. Being around numerous members of a team allows the student to learn team-building and problem solving skills, both which are essential when in the classroom. Something my school does that ties athletics and academics is sets a maximum amount of classes that a student may fail in order to continue on participating in sports. This encourages most students to perform well in classes, which leads to a more engaged learner.

which leads to a more engaged learner.

Learners who engage in their education do so by conversing with the teacher and by being a part of community-building activities such as Cross Country. Having minimal changes in the way teachers teach and the environment their classrooms emit can have unprecedented results in engaging learners. Having a diverse community may result in some linguistic or cultural differences that make teaching tougher. But, activities similar to Cross Country can aid teaching by showing the student the skills necessary to succeed in the classroom and a community. Teachers and community-building activities prepare the student for the real world, eventually students will become alumni and they will be left with the teachings of the ones before them, and then they will become the teachers. Educating students is important, but teaching students to learn by themselves is invaluable.

Second Place: Jose Montelongo, 10th Grade, Pittsburg High School

Third Place: Edgar Garcia, 9th Grade, Pittsburg High School

Sponsoring Teacher: Mrs. Linda (Garrow) Turner

MIDTESOL would like to congratulate all of the students who participated in the MIDTESOL 2013 Best High School Essay Contest, and the ESOL teachers who sponsored them.

Thank you!

Motels with blocks of rooms reserved for MIDTESOL 2014 Conference attendees

Listed below are the names, phone numbers, addresses, and approximant costs for a one night stay at the motels where a block of rooms have been set aside for MIDTESOL Conference attendees. Please mention that you will be attending the MIDTESOL Conference when you make your reservation.

You are urged to make your reservations early as room availability is limited. The reserved rooms are being held for us through September 30, 2014. On October 1, 2014, unused rooms among those reserved will be released.

Motels in Warrensburg:

Comfort Inn: 660-429-4848, 607 E. Russell, \$82/night + taxes

Day's Inn: 660-249-2400, 204 E. Cleveland, \$80/night + taxes

Holiday Inn Express: 660-747-3000, 626 E. Russell, \$90/night + taxes

Super 8: 660-429-2183, 439 E. Russell, \$69/night + taxes

Motel in Knob Noster (about 10 miles east of Warrensburg):

A-1 Motel: 660-563-3000, 2340 W. Irish Lane, \$50/night + taxes

Motels in Lee's Summit (about 35 miles west of Warrensburg):

Comfort Inn: 816-524-8863, 963 SE Oldham Parkway, \$85/night + taxes

Super 8: 816-524-8181, 607 SE Oldham Parkway, \$69/night + taxes

See You at the Conference!

2014 has some great things in store for TESOL professionals in our region. We are excited to see everyone at the conference this year!

Contact Us

Reach us with any questions about MIDTESOL

Editors:

Kurtis Foster
KurtisFoster@Missouristate.edu

Laura McBride
Lauramcbride@Missouristate.edu

Visit us on the web at
www.midtesol.org

