A Plug for Professional Development

As TESOL professionals, we are all dedicated to helping our students function more effectively and confidently in English. Unfortunately, time and budget constraints do not always allow us to devote as much time and energy to professional development as we would like. However, there is a lot that we can learn from each other, so seeking out opportunities for professional growth should be a priority for each of us.

One of the easiest ways to achieve this is to attend the annual CoTESOL Fall Convention, which will take place on this year on October 24-25 at the Red Lion Hotel in Aurora. With several plenary sessions and over 100 presentations covering a vast array of topics including humor, scaffolding, technology, pronunciation, reading, writing, music, brain research, TPR storytelling, improv techniques, video, action research, grammar, and hands-on activities for new and experienced teachers to name just a few, there is something for everyone. Last year, we set a new record with over 800 participants, making CoTESOL one of the most successful affiliates in the country!

In addition to the CoTESOL 2008 Fall Convention, Denver will host the 43rd Annual TESOL Convention in 2009, which will attract presenters and participants from all over the world. This event offers a rare opportunity to attend a major convention with thousands of TESOL professionals right here in our home state.

In short, there is much that we can learn, and there are great opportunities for professional development here in Colorado. Therefore, I sincerely hope to see all of you at the CoTESOL Fall Convention 2008 in Aurora as we celebrate our 32nd year, as well as at TESOL Denver 2009 in April.

Dieter Bruhn  
CoTESOL President
CoTESOL Directory

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CoTESOL
Colorado Affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

The CoTESOL Newsletter is published twice a year and mailed to all CoTESOL members.

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For due dates and copy specifications, please contact the Newsletter Editor at the address on this page.

Fall Convention Program Ads and Exhibits
For rates, due dates, and copy specifications, please contact the Publishers' Liaison at the address on this page.
The Applied Linguistics SIG Has Evolved into the Teacher Education/Action Research SIG

Joan D. Heiman, SIG Chair
Teacher Education/Action Research (TE/AR)

Why the Change?

Last summer, as the CoTESOL Board met to review the many proposals for the annual conference, an interesting conversation was started. Separating the proposals by their intended audiences, it struck us that there were very few proposals to read for the Applied Linguistics (AL) Special Interest Group—in fact, I believe we had all of two! Therefore, while the other SIG chairs and assistant chairs were busy reading and evaluating proposals, I was engaged in a conversation with a few others, exploring the possibility that an Applied Linguistics Special Interest Group (SIG) was no longer of ‘special interest’ to the majority of CoTESOL’s members.

Someone made a comparison between the AL SIG and the dissolving of the Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) SIG a few years ago after computers had become an integrated part of most teachers’ repertoires. I also realized that when I wrote proposals for previous conventions, I never chose Applied Linguistics as my intended topic since I am much more interested in teaching and learning than in linguistics, per se. I also thought that although many of us who attend the CoTESOL Convention may not be interested primarily in linguistic theory, almost all of us ‘apply linguistics’ all the time, in everything we do in the language classroom. So why have a separate special interest group for something that is essentially a part of every interest group?

The Board discussed this in another meeting prior to the 2007 convention, resulting in a recommendation to continue the discussion after the convention with those who attended the Applied Linguistics Forum.

At the AL Forum, there was general agreement that the time had come for yet another evolutionary step for CoTESOL. The participants felt that a more teacher education-oriented SIG would be of greater relevance and value for more people. This conclusion was submitted to the Board, and after yet more discussion, the Board voted to formalize the change. So please welcome the new SIG: Teacher Education/Action Research (TE/AR). (Those who still hear the siren call of Applied Linguistics are invited to pursue your interest and submit presentations to any CoTESOL SIG.)

Teacher Education

CoTESOL is all about education, so in a way it seems odd that there wasn’t already a SIG for teacher education and educators. A SIG that focuses on teacher education naturally encompasses a wide range of interests pertinent to everyone in CoTESOL. Those interests include policies and procedures intended to prepare teachers with the information and knowledge they need, and issues related to the attitudes, practices, and skills that contribute to effective teaching and learning.

This SIG will encourage exploration of curriculum development, supervision and evaluation of new and experienced teachers, assessment strategies—conventional and alternative/authentic—stress and self-care, specific teacher education programs, and so on. Raising teachers’ awareness of the need for their own and their students’ developed emotional intelligence; exploring and honoring whole person/whole brain health and learning; acknowledging and teaching to support different learning preferences and styles; and maintaining tolerance regarding diversity and gender could all fall under this SIG’s purview. As you can see, the possibilities are endless and exciting!

Action Research

According to Jeffrey D. Wilhelm (You Gotta BE the Book, 2008), “Teachers are necessarily researchers. They are continually evaluating,

(Continued on page 4)
interpreting, and making decisions — or they wouldn’t survive two minutes in a classroom... Is Joanie too upset to do her work? Does Max understand the lesson? What can I do differently to help Shana? Why didn’t Joe do his homework? Does Tommy really have to go to the bathroom? Why won’t Tanya read?” (196).

These questions and so many more run through my mind — often at a semi-conscious level — while I am in the classroom. Unfortunately, in the busy rush from class to class and day to day, many of my questions remain at that level and, therefore, go unattended. However, many of my mistakes, feelings of frustration and dissatisfaction, and the overall sense that I could be a better teacher can be addressed at a conscious level — that’s what action research is all about.

For the past year, at the Community College of Denver we teachers have been asked to identify one measurable or observable teaching practice at the beginning of each semester to assess at the end of that semester. We were asked to think in writing and in conversation with our supervisors about the ways we teach and the outcomes of our teaching.

This is a simple, rather informal, but effective form of action research. Our questions could be big or little, but they had to be important to us as teachers. Often one question led to another. In a learning college/learning organization philosophy, teachers as well as students are seen as always learning and developing. We can become more reflective and observant. We can understand and question ‘why’ we teach in the ways that we do, and we can decide when and where we might like to change. We can also involve our students in our decision-making processes by learning to see the classroom experience through their eyes. This is an exciting approach to ongoing professional development that really means something in the daily experience of teachers (and human beings) who seek to continue to learn and improve.

Many of us are put off by the word ‘research,’ thinking it is only for theorists in doctoral programs but not for practicing teachers in the classroom. Action research turns this perspective on its head. Who knows better about what goes on in your classroom than you and your students? Charles Kettering (in Hubbard and Power, *The Art of Classroom Inquiry*, 2nd ed., 1993, 2003) says, “Essentially, research is nothing but a state of mind ... a friendly, welcoming attitude toward change ... going out to look for change instead of waiting for it to come. Research is an effort to do things better ... It is the problem-solving mind as contrasted with the let-well-enough-alone mind. It is the tomorrow mind instead of the yesterday mind” (82).

**Come Learn More at the TE/AR Forum**

At the CoTESOL Fall Convention this October, Mia Thomas-Ruzic, Senior Instructor in Teacher Education at UCD, will lead the new TE/AR Forum in a discussion about Action Research. She will bring some of her student teachers who are currently engaged in action research projects in Denver schools. This forum will introduce the new SIG and provide an opportunity to gain ideas and support for reflective teaching practices that encourage continual professional development, whether we are beginning teachers or veterans.

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention and at the new TE/AR Forum.

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**Take advantage of Early Bird Registration for CoTESOL’s 32nd Annual Fall Convention and Exhibition**

**October 24-25, 2008**

**Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast (formerly the Radisson)**

3200 South Parker Road, Aurora, Colorado 80014
Executive Secretary’s Report

Colorado Was in the Spotlight at TESOL New York 2008

This was certainly Colorado’s year at TESOL New York! With delegations from CoTESOL and the local TESOL Denver planning committee, you could see Coloradans just about everywhere.

At meetings with other TESOL affiliates from around the world, once again CoTESOL received recognition as one of TESOL’s most dynamic affiliates. Volunteering at the booth promoting TESOL Denver 2009 was great fun.

Thanks to the local TESOL Denver planning committee for its excellent arrangements. And thanks to Andrea Heyman for representing us as “Best of CoTESOL.”

32nd Annual Fall Convention

The place to be this October 24-25 will be the CoTESOL Fall Convention. In advance of TESOL Denver 2009, people will be gathering at the Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast (known last year as the Radisson Southeast Denver Hotel) to meet, network, plan, and present. The national spotlight will be on CoTESOL as the host affiliate of TESOL Denver. Many CoTESOL members have graciously volunteered to join the local TESOL Denver planning committee. If you want to be a part of the excitement, plan to register for the Fall Convention.

Join the Board

CoTESOL wants you! If you’d like to join the CoTESOL Board as 2nd Vice President (a three-year commitment culminating in the presidency) or chair a SIG (a two-year commitment), please let us know. Contact any current Board member.

Convention Scholarships

CoTESOL offers a number of convention awards and scholarships (travel, registration, etc.). Detailed information is available on the CoTESOL web site. Part of your convention/membership fees covers scholarship costs.

Mission Statement

After a number of attempts over the years, the Board has approved a Mission Statement that faithfully represents the goals of CoTESOL:

CoTESOL supports its members.
- Encourages participation in professional discourse.
- Supports collaboration, networking, leadership and research.
- Provides professional development.
- Disseminates information.

CoTESOL supports students and education.
- Advocates and fosters respect for language and culture.
- Promotes high standards.
- Upholds the profession of English language teaching.

Western Slope Chapter

In addition to the highly successful Colorado Springs Chapter, CoTESOL has now been approached by members on the Western Slope of Colorado to establish a chapter there. The Board has approved such an affiliation and is working on details. CoTESOL’s goal has been to reach out as much as possible to areas outside the Denver metroplex.

Wiki

Thanks to Tom Rohrbach and Virginia Nicolai for setting up our Wiki. Watch for more details.

Business

CoTESOL continues to grow its membership. Our spring conference in Colorado Springs attracted over 200 participants, adding many new members. Our active membership now exceeds 900, making us one of TESOL’s larger affiliates.

Thanks to the generous support of our members, CoTESOL enjoys a strong financial position. This financial strength helps CoTESOL to funds its many worthwhile activities.
CoTESOL Awards: Call for Nominees

CoTESOL is seeking nominations for awards to be presented at the 32nd Annual CoTESOL Fall Convention. An awards committee—chaired by CoTESOL President Dieter Bruhn and composed of members of the Executive Board—will meet in October to evaluate nominees. Nominations are due by September 30, 2008. Please consider nominating your colleagues, your students, or yourselves for the following awards.

Virginia French Allen Award for Excellence in Teaching

Purpose: To honor a teacher who has excelled in classroom instruction and/or has demonstrated creativity in developing materials or a program of instruction.

Eligibility: Any member of CoTESOL (except Board members) who you consider meets the purpose.

Criteria: Evidence of each nominee’s adjustment to his/her teaching situation and students, and ability to motivate, encourage, and engage students in challenging and productive learning. Involvement in the community and with colleagues, and continued professional involvement, will also be considered.

Nomination process: Nominator submits a letter of nomination which includes the following items:
1. A biographical sketch and professional background of the nominee.
2. A description of your observations of the nominee’s teaching.
3. A discussion of the abilities and/or qualities that make the nominee a candidate for this award.

Gladys Doty Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Profession

Purpose: To honor a member of the profession who has made a significant contribution through research, publication, professional presentations, leadership, public service, or by assuming an active role in educational advocacy.

Eligibility: Any member of CoTESOL (except Board members) who you consider meets the purpose.

Criteria: Submitted evidence of professional contributions in the areas mentioned above.

Nomination process: Nominator submits a letter of nomination which includes the following items:
1. A biographical sketch and professional background of the nominee.
2. A description of the nominee’s contributions to the profession.
3. A discussion of the traits or achievements that make the nominee successful in her/her field.

Howard Moranie Memorial Scholarship

Purpose: To support a deserving student who is pursuing a degree in a teacher education program in the field of ESL or Bilingual Education. The amount awarded is $250.

Eligibility: Any student who meets the purpose. (Board members are not eligible.)

Criteria: The student should be enrolled in a teacher education program in the field of ESL or Bilingual Education.

Nomination process: Nominator submits a letter of nomination which includes the following items:
1. A biographical sketch of the student.
2. A description of the qualities that make the nominee deserving of the scholarship.
3. An explanation of the reasons for the application (written by the student).

Supporting documentation: None required, but if any, attach it to the nomination letter.
D. Scott Enright Professional Development Grant

One $250 grant will be awarded to a member of CoTESOL to enable pursuit of training in ESL/bilingual teaching, counseling, or a related field. Training is not limited to college or university work but may be used for educational opportunities such as a TESOL Summer Institute or TESOL conference. The purpose of the grant is to help members improve their ability to teach or counsel second-language learners.

Nomination Process: Send the applying CoTESOL member’s name, address, daytime/evening telephone numbers, and e-mail address (optional) in a letter explaining the training to which a grant will be applied.

Student Scholarship Support Grant

One $250 grant will be awarded to a student who is a non-native English speaker and who wishes to continue his/her education. The student must be nominated by a CoTESOL member in good standing.

Nomination Process: Please send the following items:
1. The nominating CoTESOL member’s name, address, day/evening telephone numbers and e-mail (optional), in a letter nominating the student.
2. A two- to three-paragraph explanation by the nominee of how he/she will apply the scholarship.
3. Additional letters of support (optional).

Convention Registration Scholarships

Purpose: To encourage participation in the CoTESOL Fall Convention by members who show a need for support in order to attend, CoTESOL will award up to five registration scholarships.

Nomination Process: Send a letter of application stating your need and describing how you plan to share what you learn with your colleagues.

Convention Travel Awards

Purpose: To encourage participation in the CoTESOL Fall Convention by members and non-members who live more than 100 miles from the convention site.

Eligibility: Individuals who will share the information and experiences gained from attending the convention with other ESL or bilingual educators in their area of residence. Three $150 awards will be given to offset travel expenses.

Criteria: Applicants must live at least 100 miles from the convention site and show the ability and willingness to present their experiences to other ESL and bilingual educators.

Nomination Process: To nominate yourself or a colleague, submit a typewritten letter that contains the nominee’s name, the name of the award, the nominator’s name, address, and phone number, and the nominator’s professional relationship to the nominee.

For printable nomination forms, see the CoTESOL web site:

www.colorado.edu/iec/cotesol/

Mail all application materials to arrive by September 30 to Dieter Bruhn, CoTESOL President, 2201 Pearl St., #321, Boulder, CO 80302.
For additional information, contact Dieter (see page 2).
**Bringing Words to Life – A Report**

Sandy Stokely  
Elementary Education SIG Chair

As an ELA/S teacher for Denver Public Schools, I am always interested in the “latest” research and techniques for improving my skills. I read a book recently that is a great help! *Bringing Words to Life* teaches “robust vocabulary instruction.” It was written by Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown and Linda Kucan—two professors and a research scientist.

The authors begin by explaining and analyzing their own engagement with language. They explore the conventional wisdom that students learn vocabulary from context and clarify why that does not always work.

Although the book addresses second language learners from kindergarten to college age, the techniques are excellent for those who teach native English speakers also.

The book is an easy read and includes many practical ideas for introducing vocabulary, developing vocabulary, and enriching the verbal environment of the classroom. Each chapter includes an invitation to explore what has been learned with a choice of “assignments.”

Appendix A lists many different trade book titles and identifies words the authors chose to develop from each of those books. Appendix B includes titles from different genres that are useful for developing an enriched verbal vocabulary.

I recommend this book, as a practical text and as a valuable addition to any professional library.

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**Higher Education/Intensive English Program SIG Announcements**

Tamara Milbourn and Ruth Moore  
SIG Co-Chairs

**Have you ever wanted to get published?** We are looking for articles to publish in the Winter issue of the CoTESOL News on any HE/IEP topic. This is a perfect opportunity if you have been hesitant to publish your work, or for graduate students entering the field. Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is October 31, 2008. Please e-mail your articles to either Tamara or Ruth; our addresses are on page 2.

**We are working on the SIG Forum** for the 2008 CoTESOL Fall Convention, entitled “Three Years Later: the TOEFL iBT.” We hope to enlist an ETS representative, TOEFL raters, and other professionals to discuss issues and concerns related to the TOEFL iBT. We would like to hear from YOU – our SIG members – so we can address topics you want to learn about in this forum. Please forward your questions and comments to us as soon as possible.

**Would you like to meet other HE/IEP members?** Would you like to get together with other professionals to network and share ideas? We are taking an informal poll to determine the level of interest for a Friday afternoon HE/IEP Happy Hour. Send us an e-mail if you are interested, and include where you would be willing/able to meet (Boulder, Denver, other).
Welcoming the World: In Person and on the Web!

Virginia Nicolai
2nd Vice President

Now that it's summer, the CoTESOL 32nd Annual Fall Convention is just around the corner! As a nod to the international TESOL convention coming to Denver next year, our convention theme will be "Welcoming the World."

This theme is also appropriate since our convention will take place at the Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast (formerly the Radisson) in Aurora. Just as Colorado will welcome our TESOL colleagues from around the world, the city of Aurora is truly welcoming a world of immigrants.

At the Aurora Language Center, I am witnessing first-hand the exciting changes in this expanding community. My program includes speakers of more than 20 different languages from countries as diverse as Ethiopia, Korea, Peru, Somalia, Myanmar, Russia, and Mexico—all of them eager to learn English.

In the coming months, CoTESOL will also welcome all members to our new wiki on the World Wide Web. Tom Rohrbach, ESL teacher and computer specialist at Spring International Language Center, came to the CoTESOL board with the wonderful idea of creating a wiki for the fall convention. For those of you unfamiliar with wikis, they are collaborative websites with pages that can be viewed, edited, and created by members. The name "wiki" comes from the Hawaiian word for "fast", because changes can be made quickly and easily without any knowledge of computer programming language.

Among other things, our wiki will be a place where CoTESOL members can access electronic versions of the convention program and presentation materials. I encourage presenters to "go green" this year by uploading handouts to the wiki instead of making paper copies for all attendees. (This will save you the stress of guessing how many copies to make, too!)

I think the wiki will be a great resource for attendees because you won't need to run around to different rooms, trying to collect as many handouts as possible. Instead, you'll be able to access handouts from all sessions—including those you didn't attend—on the Internet.

Hopefully, this wiki will develop into a place where CoTESOL members from around the state can connect with each other electronically throughout the year.

Tom and I are working on getting the wiki, hosted by PBwiki.com, up and running. Keep an eye on your e-mail inbox for an invitation to join. It will be available only to CoTESOL members and it's free to sign up.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person on October 24 and 25!

For the latest in organizational features and fall convention information—including Early Bird registration applications—visit the CoTESOL website at:

www.colorado.edu/iec/cotesol
CoTESOL’s 32nd Annual Fall Convention

Entertainment Gift to Members

Friday, October 24, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Jefferson Grand Ballroom,
Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast

Ash Dargan is one of the world’s premier performers on Didgeridoo from the Larrikia people of Australia’s Northern Territory. His distinctive blend of Australian indigenous and ecological world beats transports audiences on an epic journey into the heart of the Australian Dreamtime. Ash creates a living rhythmical dialogue between voices of nature recorded throughout Australia and one of the most powerful performances on Didgeridoo that can be experienced. These voices are layered seamlessly into live performances creating what Ash calls his ‘Eco/Tribal living pulse’ of Australia. The effect is powerful and intoxicating to the senses, leaving audiences entranced. His music is the soul of the Australian Dreamtime landscape with an abundance of primal grooves.

Don’t Miss It!!
Fall 2008 Plenary Speakers

Dorothy Zemach presents
"Hasn't that book already been written?"
Friday, October 24, 2008, 8:45 a.m.
Jefferson Grand Ballroom

Every year more ELT textbooks are published. Why? What has changed since the previous ones came out? This humorous presentation will examine ELT textbooks from the late 1800s to more modern times to examine what has changed about English and what we believe about how languages are learned and should be taught. Attendees will be challenged to examine their own assumptions and use their conclusions, both to judge published materials and to create their own materials that match their beliefs.

Dorothy Zemach is an ESL materials writer, editor, and teacher trainer from Oregon. She taught 18+ years in the U.S., Japan, and Morocco. A frequent plenary presenter and featured speaker at TESOL, and a columnist for TESOL's Essential Teacher magazine, Dorothy has authored over 15 ESL textbooks. Her interests include the teaching of writing, EAP, business English, testing, and humor in ESL materials and the profession.

Neil Anderson presents
"Developing fluency in L2 reading"
Saturday, October 24, 2008, 8:45 a.m.
Jefferson Grand Ballroom

Reading fluency is receiving increased visibility in classrooms, yet many programs fail to explain how to integrate this essential skill into a curriculum. Teachers and program administrators struggle to balance both silent and oral fluency instruction. Anderson maintains that to develop strong, fluent oral readers, you must first develop strong, fluent silent readers. This session will focus on how reading fluency can be implemented in classrooms. Anderson will review the pedagogical rationale and suggest activities that teachers can use for explicit classroom instruction on how to build and improve reading fluency.

Neil J. Anderson is a professor and ELC coordinator at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of over 40 books, book chapters, and professional articles. Professor Anderson served as TESOL President, 2001-02, and was a Fulbright scholar in Costa Rica 2002-03.

Lock in the lowest hotel price for CoTESOL Fall Convention 2008!

RED LION HOTEL DENVER S.E. $89 SPECIAL
3200 South Parker Road, Aurora, CO. 80014

CoTESOL members who register for the October 24-25, 2008, convention will receive a special $89 (plus tax) rate for each night's lodging at the Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast (formerly Radisson).

Make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at (303) 695-1700. Mention CoTESOL. Or, go to http://redlion.rdl.com/ and enter Group/Convention Code 0810COTESOL

This rate includes breakfast buffet for two in the Aspens Café.

Treat yourself to a pleasant hotel stay at the Red Lion and help CoTESOL. Each convention guest who stays at the Red Lion helps to reduce CoTESOL's convention costs. We appreciate your support.