

MIDTESOL MATTERS

Summer 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>MIDTESOL News:</i>	2-5
<i>TESOL Information</i>	6
<i>Editorial</i>	7

MIDTESOL Executive Board

President: Nick David**Vice President:** Paula Moore**Secretary:** Suzanne Van der Valk**Treasurer:** Sarah Henderson-Lee**Past President:** Val Heming**Members-at-Large:**

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Jeanne Severt—Missouri

Kim Kreiker—Kansas

Publisher's Liaison: Lindsay (Lyn) Miller**Historian:** Roberta Morgan**Awards:** Miranda Wilkerson**Rules & Resolutions:** Terry Barakat**Socio-Political Concerns/Professional****Standards:** Joan Chamberlin**Membership:** Heather Ditzer**Conference Chairs:** Suzanne Van Der Valk (2012)

2013—Kim Kreiker

Webmaster: Jim Ranalli**Newsletter Editor:** Jennifer Morrison**Interest Sections:** Jamie Schindewolf (IEP), Shaeley Santiago (K-12)

Rachel Herman (Higher Ed/Ttraining),

Gisella Aitken-Shadle

(Adult/Community College)

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

BY NICK DAVID, MIDTESOL PRESIDENT

Fall is almost upon us, and the changing of the seasons provides a time for reflection. In the next few months, we will watch the expectancy and hope of spring and the profusion of growth of summer wind down into the mellowness of fall. Sadly, so much of the area that MIDTESOL serves has been ravaged by drought, and that abundant harvest that we hope for may not this year meet our expectations or hopes.

The farmers this past summer have done all that they can, and come harvest time, they know that any surplus will not have been simply due to favorable conditions, but due in large part to their determination and effort.

This time for reflection can also be found as we have passed the first few days of the fall semester. Much like the spring season, we may begin the school year with big plans, new ideas and techniques to try, and then the reality of the work of the semester hits. We may go from the vision of the classroom we had during the first few days into work of grading assignments, meeting outcomes, and making lesson plans, the "heat of the summer work" of the semester. During this time, it is easy to lose focus on what we had set out to do in the beginning and simply get bogged down in

the work at hand. Sometimes we need a vision of the possible harvest of fall to get us through the hot days of summer.

I hope that this year's conference in Ames will provide us an opportunity to reflect on the perspective that autumn gives, while still, for the most of us, being in the "summer days" of the semester.

I believe that we are entering an era in MIDTESOL where we have begun to stretch our vision beyond the tasks at hand to what this organization can become. I believe that it is in large part due to the work of our past-president, Valerie Heming, our soon to be president, Paula Moore, and the hard work of all of the MIDTESOL Board. We are looking forward to seeing the first edition of the *MIDTESOL Conference Proceedings*, planning future conference sites, reaching a larger membership, and providing more opportunities for connection for current member.

One of the things that I find to be at the heart of MIDTESOL is the interaction between students and professionals at our annual conference and the recognition that we have a common commitment to increase the quality of education for ESL students. I am grateful to have been a part of that this past year,



and I look forward to the leadership of Paula and the enthusiasm she will bring to the next year at MIDTESOL.

MIDTESOL 2012 Conference

Hosted by Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
October 19-20, 2012

We are honored to host
our plenary speaker,
Dr. Keith Folse.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

MEMBER / NON-MEMBER

Early Bird
(by September 17, 2012)

\$75 \$90

Regular
(September 18, 2012 and thereafter)

\$85 \$100

Student
(must send proof of enrollment)

\$45 \$50

On-site Registration

\$75 \$105

Registration numbers
are limited! Check the
website for updates! It
is best to pre-register if
you can!

Visit our website for information on
discounts for student volunteers and travel grants:

<http://www.midtesol.org/midtesol/>



MIDTESOL 2012 Conference Awards

Submitted by Miranda Wilkerson, Awards Chair

MIDTESOL 2012 will be held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. The MIDTESOL Board invites submissions for the following conference awards:

Travel Awards

If you have been notified of acceptance to present at MIDTESOL2012, you are encouraged to apply for a Travel Award to help cover travel costs to the conference. To apply, submit your contact and presentation information to Jennifer Morrison (morrisonj@evangel.edu), *MIDTESOL Newsletter Editor*, including the abstract and description of your presentation by October 1. The subject line of your email should read "MIDTESOL 2012: Travel Award Submission."

Up to three Travel Awards of \$150 each will be granted. Notification of acceptance will be sent no later than October 10. Winners must write up a short (600-700 word) article for *MIDTESOL Matters* and have that submission accepted for printing before the award is distributed.

Best Student Presentation Award

MIDTESOL recognizes the contributions students make to the success of the conference as well as to the field at large. If you are a student who has been notified of acceptance to present at MIDTESOL 2012, you are encouraged to apply for the Best Student Presentation Award. To apply, submit your contact and presentation information, including the abstract and description of your presentation, together with documentation of your full-time student status to Miranda E. Wilkerson (mwilkerson@ccis.edu), *MIDTESOL Awards Chair*, by October 1. The subject line of your email should read "MIDTESOL 2012: Best Student Presentation Submission." Submissions will undergo blind peer review. The winner will be announced at the conference. Good luck!

Pat-on-the-Back Award

You are invited to participate in the celebration of extraordinary service in our organization by nominating an individual you believe is most deserving of the Pat-on-the-Back Award. This award honors an individual's dedication and contribution to MIDTESOL.

Nomination materials must include: (1) your contact information and (2) a concise description/narrative (300 words or fewer) of the nominee, including his/her institutional affiliation, and his/her accomplishments and contributions to MIDTESOL. Nominations may be made without the knowledge of the nominee; however, the nominee must be a non-board member. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

-William Arthur Ward

MIDTESOL State News

For this edition, we have combined the news from Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. Please contact your state representative with important news that you would like to share with our membership!

Contact TESOL!

General Information: info@tesol.org
 Membership Information: members@tesol.org
 Convention Information: conventions@tesol.org
 Career Services Information: careers@tesol.org
 Publications information: publications@tesol.org
 Essential Teacher Editors: et@tesol.org
 Matters Editors: tm@tesol.org
 TESOL Quarterly Editors: tq@tesol.org
 TESOL Journal Editors: tj@tesol.org
 Awards and Grants Information: awards@tesol.org
 Affiliate information: affiliates@tesol.org

Missouri Linguists

From 1937 to 1944, Marshall McLuhan taught English at Saint Louis University. He was famous for generating the expressions "the medium is the message" and "the global village". He is often credited for coining the word "surfing" to refer to speedy scanning of a body of documents. He was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Cambridge in 1936. McLuhan had a cameo appearance in the movie *Annie Hall*. He also predicted a form of the internet 30 years prior to its conception. McLuhan proved to be right about how a particular method of communication affects us and what we can accomplish through that method. From hieroglyphics to the use of computer files, our finite human memory is becoming unlimited. We no longer have just 26 letters in the alphabet, but a literate language and culture built on letters and pictures and their multiple combinations. Some common examples are: IMHO, :-), and #McLuhan; LOL is universal and 24/7 is

international. This expansion of our symbol pool from 26 letters to infinite marks of representations of meaning might lead to unlimited and unimagined technical and technological breakthroughs. McLuhan's insights continue to be relevant today.

Marshall McLuhan. (2012). In Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/355118/Marshall-McLuhan>

State Rep: Jeanne Severt,
 JeanneSevert@missouristate.edu



State Rep: Kim Kreiker,
 kim.kreiker@gmail.com



State Rep: Sarah Thao,
 sethao@dmacc.edu



2012 Voting Issues

This year, MIDTESOL members will vote on 3 board positions: Vice President, Treasurer, and Iowa Member-at-Large (State Rep). Please read about each candidate below. Elections will be conducted via electronic ballot, and details will follow. Election results will be announced at the annual business meeting, which will be held on Saturday afternoon in Ames.

Biodata for the Candidate for MIDTESOL Vice President

PLEASE NOTE: For the position of vice president, we have one nominee.

Shaeley Santiago

Shaeley Santiago received her Master's in TESL/ Applied Linguistics from Iowa State University. She taught secondary ESL first in Perry, IA, for three years before taking a job at Ames High School where she continues to teach ESL. She also works at Drake University as an Adjunct Instructor in the School of Education teaching ESL endorsement students. She has been a member of TESOL for 10 years. Most recently, she has served as the K-12 Interest Section Leader for MIDTESOL. She maintains an active presence on Twitter (@HSeslteacher) and is a regular participant on the Monday night #ELLchat.

Biodata for the Candidates for MIDTESOL Treasurer

Sarah Henderson Lee (incumbent)

Sarah Henderson Lee recently earned a Ph.D. in English, TESOL/Composition emphasis, from Indi-

ana University of Pennsylvania. As an Assistant Professor of TESOL at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, she teaches such graduate TESOL courses as Second Language Acquisition, TESOL Methods, Assessment in TESOL, and Linguistics and English Language Teaching. Her current research interests include second language writing, language socialization, transnational rhetoric, discourse analysis, and critical pedagogy in TESOL.

Jean Craft

Jean Craft teaches English at the Intensive English Program at Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla, MO.

Biodata for the Candidates for Iowa Representative

Katya Koubek

Katya Koubek is Associate Professor of Education/ ESL at Buena Vista University (BVU), Storm Lake, IA. She received her Ph.D. degree in Administration, Curriculum, and Instruction with an emphasis on Second Language Acquisition/Foreign Language Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Her research interests are in the areas of teacher education, second language acquisition, and assessment. At BVU, she teaches methodology, assessment, and pedagogy to future teachers of English learners as well as classroom management and evaluation techniques to all education students. She has presented in many regional, national, and international conferences such as MIDTESOL, ICLC, IWLA, CSCFL, MLA, ACTFL, and TESOL.

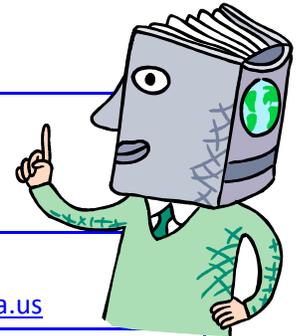
Melissa Meisterheim

Melissa Meisterheim received her M.A. in Linguistics with a TESL focus and her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Iowa. She has been teaching at the University of Iowa for 12 years, teaching various types of courses for graduate students, students in the Iowa Intensive English Program and the MBA program, as well as employees in area businesses. In addition to teaching, she is the curriculum coordinator for the IIEP and has served on committees responsible for addressing international student needs at the university. Having been a member of MIDTESOL for several years now, Melissa would be honored to expand her participation as a representative-at-large.

What's your interest?

MIDTESOL has four Interest Sections (IS) to facilitate communication among members working in various corners of the ESL profession. If you are a new member and would like to participate in an IS, please contact the chair of your interest section indicating your interest. There is no registration, no dues, just a shout out that you want to be part of the interest section. Include contact info and tell the chair where you work and what you do.

IEP IS	Jamie Cardwell cardwellj@ritenour.k12.mo.us
K-12 IS	Shaeley Santiago Shaeley.santiago@ames.k12.ia.us
Community College/Adult Education IS	Gisella Aitken-Shadle Aitken-shadleg@nicc.edu
Higher Education IS	Rachel Herman herman@ucmo.edu



MIDTESOL's Professional Journal Is Here (almost)!

By Jennifer Morrison, *MIDTESOL Editor*

Publication Update:

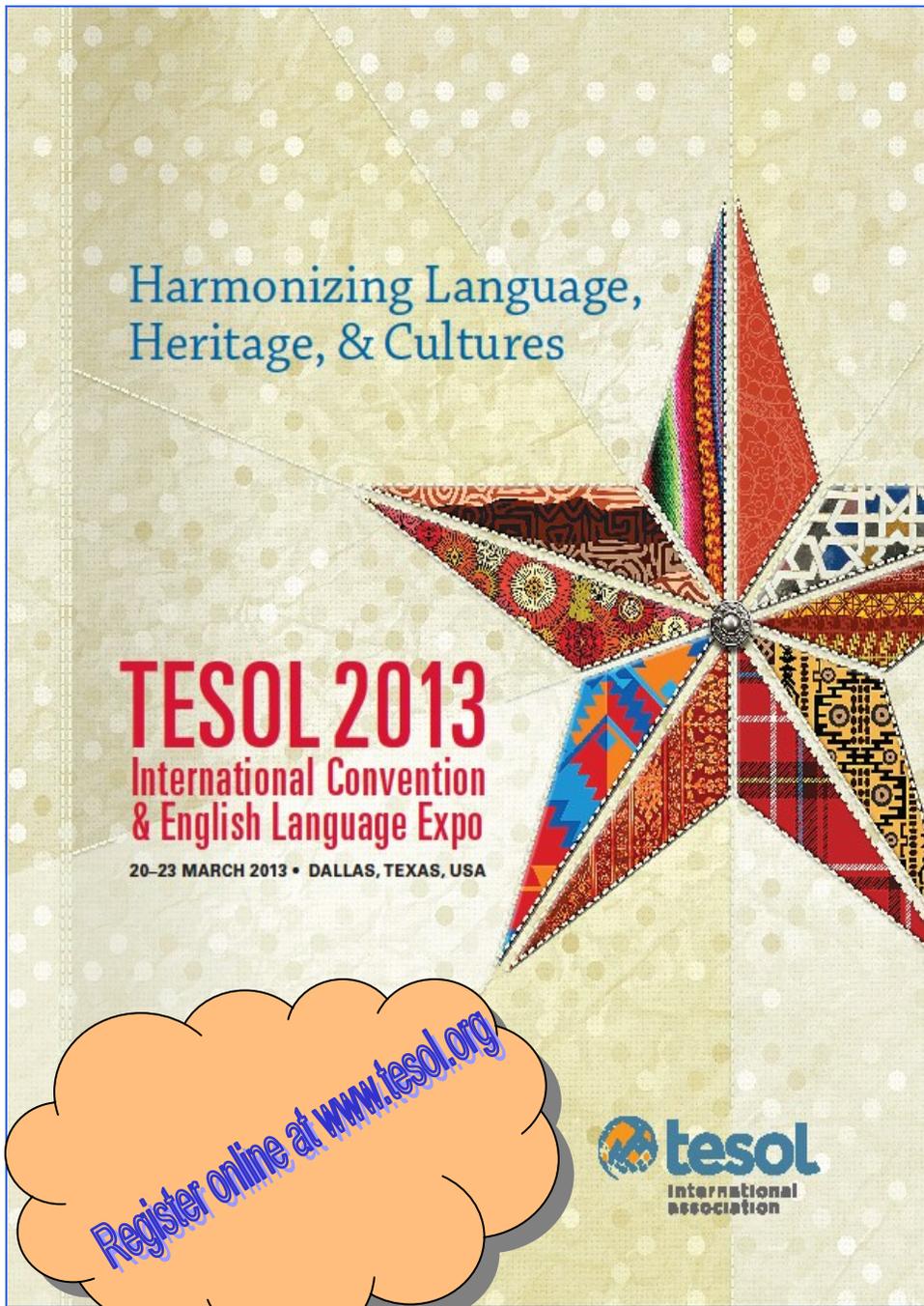
The *Conference Proceedings* team is feverishly working on the final edits on the first edition of our journal! As we have been working through this process, we have realized that it is taking much more time than we thought to get it all together and ready for publication! However, we *will* have the first edition ready for you by the opening of the conference in Ames.

We hope you have as much anticipation as we do to see the final product! We also thank you for your patience.

See you in October!

The Conference Proceedings of
MIDTESOL

2011: Gateway to
Global Citizenship



TESOL 2013
See you there!

MIDTESOL at TESOL

Keep your eyes open for information about the “MIDTESOL at TESOL” gathering that will take place in Dallas during the International TESOL conference! It is always a fun time of networking together! There should be more info in the Winter edition of *MIDTESOL Matters*.

Editor's Corner
By Jennifer Morrison,
MIDTESOL Editor



So, is anyone else ready for this election to be over? I sure am! It seems like I feel more and more that way as each election cycle comes and goes. Although I do highly value the democratic process and thank those who have fought and continue to fight for those rights, it seems that when elections come around, all I want to do is turn off the TV, radio, Twitter, FaceBook...whatever media is ranting at me for months on end. As we get closer to November, I'll probably be listening to my downloads in my car, just so that I don't have to be inundated with the constant barrage of "they said/we said" political ads that I know will be pretty much all of the news until after the election.

After reading that initial paragraph, you might think that I am apolitical. On the contrary, I do have strong opinions regarding how our great country is governed. What is troubling to me is the partisan wrangling that

only seems to rile up those on the extreme edges of the two political parties, leaving extreme rhetoric the driving force of an election in which civility is lost. Of course, some would say that there is no civility in politics. However, when the rhetoric that is espoused by those who are "leading" our country filters down to the citizens, that lack of civility becomes more and more apparent on the corner of first and main.

Compromise has been the cornerstone of our democracy. Granted, there have been dark times in our history where compromise was only achieved after great conflict (or war, as in the case of The Civil War), but can't our "leaders" be the ones to attempt to bring our country together instead of drive us farther apart? I suppose President Lincoln struggled with these questions, and it is hard to imagine how he finally came to his decision to begin the war. Still, when one studies Mr. Lincoln's writing, his angst is apparent, and his civility remained in tact.

I do strongly believe that a civil conversation between people who disagree can be

part of who we are as a democracy—**should** be part of that democracy. Similarly, I believe that we as teachers should be some of the best examples of how a democracy should handle itself when passions overtake civility. Although we hold our opinions strongly, we must not express them in a manner that derides or disrespects those who might not agree with us.

Perhaps in a time when politicians and pundits will not step up as an example of civility, we are called to do so as an example to our students and the world at large. As we delve into the details of this political season in our classrooms or in our various spheres of influence, may we remember that our example reaches beyond the present into the borderless annals of history.

Jennifer Morrison is Assistant Professor of English/TESOL at Evangel University in Springfield, MO.

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 the MIDTESOL Executive Board.

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**