



# Tex TESOL V

## Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

☞ **Dr. Don Weasonforth, Region V** ☞



Let me begin this address by expressing gratitude to all board members—past and present—and to general members who have provided support to

TexTESOL V over the years. I would like to thank Zarina Blankenbaker, our past president, and last year's board for laying the foundation on which we can build future success for the organization. Last year, the Board, under Zarina's leadership, updated our constitution, formulated a mission statement, vision statement and strategic plan, and drafted a yearly calendar of responsibilities, all of which will guide the organization in years to come. Last year's board also organized the 2006 Fall Conference, the most well-attended fall conference in years. The proceeds from this fall conference will be necessary to support not only this year's fall conference but also the 2008 State Conference, which TexTESOL V will host in Richardson. As you have no doubt noticed, a new TexTESOL V logo, one developed by Grand Prairie students, was selected. Last, but certainly not least, last year's board successfully negotiated with the TESOL office to bring the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit to Dallas in 2013.

I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to serve the organization in the capacity of president during the next year, and I entreat all members to continue their support to the benefit of English language instruction in North Texas, nationally, and globally. Let me briefly note what I envision for the organization this coming year.

We have a fine set of board members, with whom I look forward to working. Most of our current members have already served on the TexTESOL V Board in some capacity. I would like to welcome the following, who are serving on the board for the first time: Mary Peacock, our secretary, and Jana Schaffner, a co-representative for secondary education. As any of our board members will tell you, serving on the board is a rewarding, professionally invigorating experience. Please take advantage of the opportunity this year to join the TexTESOL V Board in support of local English language teachers and students.

The well-being of an organization rides on two abilities, its ability to generate vision and the ability to marshal its resources to realize its vision. A mutually agreeable, inspiring vision is the lifeblood of the organization, the ideas which inspire its members to commit themselves to expend money, time, and effort to the benefit of the organization. Vision, however, remains merely an unobtainable goal unless the organization also has the ability to manage its resources to realize it. My challenge to the Board will thus be twofold.

I will ask the Board to review the strategic plan approved last year, not only to identify accomplishments, but also to flesh out the general goals set out in the plan:

- Promoting professional development
- Strengthen general membership
- Recruit and mentor new board members
- Pursue partnerships with TexTESOL affiliates and other organizations

Much work will be devoted to organization for the 2007 Fall Conference and the 2008 State Conference, both of which will provide many opportunities for professional development. While the organization already provides a number of benefits to its members, I will ask board members to consider other benefits, including engagement in organizational decisions, such as the proposal of conference themes at the 2006 Fall Conference. Increased responsiveness to members, through surveys and possibly through a reformatted newsletter and website, might also serve the membership more effectively. One of the first challenges to board members this spring will be the identification and recruitment to the board of professionals who would serve the organization well. I would also like to see TextESOL V work with other Texas affiliates to support advocacy efforts at the state and national levels and to shore up the governance of the Council of Presidents, which oversees the consortium of Texas affiliates.

There lies ahead of us a rich, professionally rewarding year! Take part by doing the following:

- Serve on the TextESOL V Board! (Your service will prepare you to help with the 2013 TESOL Convention in Dallas.)
- Volunteer to help with the 2007 Fall Conference and the 2008 State Conference!
- Apply for the 2007 TESOL Academy Scholarship and encourage your colleagues to do the same!
- Nominate a colleague for the TextESOLer of the Year award!

## President-Elect

**☞ Caroline DeCoux, Region V ☛**  
TextESOL V Colleagues,



I am honored to serve as your new President-elect. I have been a TextESOL V member since 2000 and on the board since 2002. I have seen quite a few changes in that time and am thrilled to be working with such creative, dedicated professionals. I am especially excited by the fact that last year we established a Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan. I feel this will drive our growth in the future and I am privileged to support them and help further TextESOL V.

My main responsibility as President-elect is to organize our annual Fall Conference. The theme this year, submitted at last year's Fall Conference by Margaret Wilson, is Language Links Our Lives. As for the site, we are considering UTA and Mountain View College. Both are great locations and have wonderful, energetic people to help make the conference a success. Last fall the conference was a rounding success. The major criticism was the size of the rooms. As you know, schools do not usually have exceptionally large classrooms. But to address this, we are trying to secure a few larger rooms and also will ask the presenters to present twice if possible.

If you have suggestions for the conference or would like to be involved in the planning, please do not hesitate to drop me an email at [cdecoux2@yahoo.com](mailto:cdecoux2@yahoo.com).

## Introducing New Board Member

**☞ Mary Peacock ☞  
Region V Secretary**



Hi, I'm Mary Peacock, secretary for 2006-2007. This is my first year on the board and already, I have learned what a pleasure it is to work with the people in this organization.

I was born in Japan, attended Defense Department schools near Tokyo, and grew up thinking I knew how to speak both Japanese and English. In my first year in Texas, however, I found a good proportion of the conversation around me a mystery, because either the accent or the cultural context stumped me! I learned to smile and nod a lot while remaining generally confused. Despite the culture shock, I earned a B.A. from UT, then spent four years at The University of Michigan, where I received a master's in Anthropology and did some research. I began teaching at Richland College in 1998 and now teach ESOL in the credit program. I also work with developing curricula and resources to support computer assisted language learning.

I look forward to working with you over the next months.

## Returning Board Member

**☞ Janine Kornegay ☞  
Region V Advocacy Representative**



I have served on the TESOL V board since 2005 as the Advocacy Representative. I have been teaching ESOL in a variety of capacities for the past four years. Prior to that I worked in corporate America. Charmed by the beautiful languages and interesting cultures, I was pulled into the world of ESOL about five years ago. I began this journey at Dallas County Community College District, and continue to teach at Richland College and EL Centro colleges. I teach in both the credit and Continuing Education areas. I have taught Listening and Speaking, Workplace Basic Essential Skills, Writing, Grammar and Reading. Since the fall of 2006, I have also have been teaching middle school full time for Garland ISD. My educational background includes, a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Virginia and ESL, English Language Arts-Reading, pending certification. I am currently working on my master's degree in Education.

Prior to joining the TESOL V board, I attended TESOL regional and international conferences. I was also afforded the opportunity to present at a regional conference. Joining TESOL V has given me the opportunity to network with colleagues from all over the metroplex. I now have a greater awareness of the ESOL opportunities, and support available to me as a result of attending and working at meetings and conferences.

## The 2006 Fall Conference: A Review



**Dr. Don Weasenforth**

From a post-holiday perspective, with our focus now on the new year, the 2006 TextESOL V Fall Conference is a faint memory for some of us. Let me, however, remind you of the very successful conference we held at the end of last September and encourage you to participate in this fall's conference.

We would again like to thank North Lake College for hosting over 400 attendees at the 2006 Fall Conference. North Lake was easily accessible to ESL professionals from all parts of the Metroplex, and the campus is a beautiful setting for any event. How relaxing it was to enjoy lunch on a warm, sunny fall day alongside the College's lake!

Speaking of catering, Black Eyed Pea did a fantastic job at pleasing the appetites of attendees. To the EI Centro baking classes we would like to express great appreciation for all the delicious pastries served throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Our professional appetites were filled as well with an outstanding list of keynote and concurrent presenters. Carolyn Graham entertained and engaged as always. She inspired creativity in the classroom, an essential aspect of effective language instruction. Anne Marie Weiss-Armush's political astuteness and recent demographic data spurred attendees to consider the educational and social ramifications of an ever-increasing population of non-native speakers of English in the Metroplex. The keynotes were complemented by thirty-eight concurrent sessions on a wide variety of topics for K-12, college/university, and adult education audiences. Attendees also had access to seventeen exhibitors, which included major publishing companies and professional organizations.



For a visual summary of the conference, check the TextESOL V website at [www.textesolv.org](http://www.textesolv.org) soon for photographs from the 2006 Fall Conference. We are indebted to Danielle Plauche for capturing these memorable moments for our membership to enjoy!

The Board would like to thank you, all general members, for your helpful evaluations of the conference! Based on your feedback, we are addressing two concerns: the size of concurrent presentation rooms and the organization of the program booklet. We are working to find a location that will offer larger presentation rooms for the 2007 Fall Conference. Please note that we are constrained to using locations that provide space free of charge or for a minimal fee. Also expect to see a program organized according to session times to make it easier to navigate.

Although not mentioned in your evaluations, we will work to improve the new-member reception. We are also considering incorporating an employment forum and job postings, which would make the conference more helpful for members searching employment and/or wanting to improve their job search skills.

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A number of experimental additions to the 2006 Fall Conference worked very well, and we plan to incorporate them in the 2007 Fall Conference. The \$20 vouchers given to presenters were well received by presenters and publishers, so be sure that you submit a proposal for this year's Fall Conference! Paypal offered members a means of using their credit cards to pay registration fees; although there is a small fee involved for TextTESOL V, our use of Paypal provides a helpful service to members. The 90-minute sessions offered in both the morning and afternoon provided opportunity for workshops throughout the day, a generally welcomed format. Also well received were the ½-hour exhibitor session in the morning and the meeting-free lunch which allowed more time for networking. Because of its reception and the importance of advocacy, we plan to continue offering an advocacy session in future fall conferences.

As you see, the board has already given quite a deal of thought to the 2007 Fall Conference, so we expect another great meeting this fall. You will find more information about this year's fall conference in the next issue of the TextTESOL V Newsletter and in your E-mail soon.



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## 2007 TESOL Academy Scholarship

The TextTESOL V Board announces the opportunity for a TextTESOL V member to receive a \$450.00 scholarship to attend the 2007 TESOL Academy at Boston University in Boston on June 22-23. See [http://www.tesol.org/s\\_tesol/sec\\_document.asp?CID=247&DID=7776](http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/sec_document.asp?CID=247&DID=7776) for more information about the Academy.

Scholarship applications are due Friday, April 27, 2007. Contact Don Weasenforth at [dweasenforth@ccc.edu](mailto:dweasenforth@ccc.edu) for more information.

## The Winners Are: The Best of Fall 2006

Attendees at the 2006 Fall Conference were asked to select the concurrent session which they thought was the best they attended. Many of the 415 attendees responded, identifying a good number of presentations.

Of the many presentations that were identified, the honor of "Best of Fall 2006" goes to Sheryle Kuehl, from Crowley ISD, and Kary Johnson, from The Reading Connection, for their presentation, "Hands-on Methods to Integrate Reading and Science."

As winners, Sheryle and Kary are guaranteed a spot in the 2007 State Conference, which will be held in Galveston this coming fall. They also thereby have a chance to be chosen the "Best of State 2007," which would guarantee them a spot in the TESOL Convention program.

Consider giving a winning presentation at the 2007 Fall Conference this fall. The presenters of the "Best of Fall 2007" will win a place in the program for the 2008 State Conference, which will be held in Richardson during the first weekend in November. You will find more information about the 2007 Fall Conference in the next issue of the TextESOL V Newsletter and in your e-mail this spring.

## Winners of "Provide-a-Theme" Contest

During the 2007 Fall Conference at Northlake this past September, all 410 attendees were invited to submit suggested themes for the 2007 Fall Conference and the 2008 State Conference. A 256M PNY flash drive with USB cable and lanyard were offered to authors of the chosen themes.

Margaret L. Wilson from Fort Worth ISD provided the winning theme for our 2007 Fall Conference. Her entry, "Language Links our Lives," speaks to the importance of language learning to all aspects of our lives and those of our students. It should serve as a creative basis for many presentations this coming fall.

Lisa Yabuki provided the theme for the 2008 State Conference, which will be held at the Richardson-Dallas Renaissance Hotel and Eisemann Center in the fall of 2008. "**Teachers of English: Stars of Texas**" is an inspiring theme which reflects the importance of language instruction in the Lone Star State and will offer an opportunity for all TextESOLers to celebrate the commendable work done in the State to provide English language instruction.

Below are the names of other TESOL V members who submitted a theme:

• Karen Liroy from the University of North Texas	• Cynthia Miller from Dallas County Community College
• Sheila Lantz from Mansfield ISD	• Sandra Mejia from Grand Prairie ISD
• Donna Bruton from Mansfield ISD	• Sandy Myers from Texas Wesleyan University

John Wheeler  
Region V Higher Educational Rep

Dear Colleagues,

It was great seeing so many of you at the HEIS meeting of our fall regional conference at North Lake College, and it was also the largest total number of participants I ever remember seeing at one of our local conferences. We had a full and varied conference program with lots of offerings for members of our Interest Section, including topic areas such as self-editing writing skills, integrated academic skills through synthesis, high-tech language learning and teaching, and cultural sensitivity. If you were not able to attend the conference, the detailed Conference Schedule is available on the TextTESOL V website <<http://www.textesolv.org>> as of this writing, and I

may be able to put you in touch with any presenters that you wish to contact. This is not to overlook the yummy and satisfying lunch courtesy of Black-Eyed Pea, plus the refreshments which were available throughout the day! Many thanks to John Drezek, Site Chair, and Donald Weasenforth, Conference Chair and former President-Elect, for making all this happen. After the traditional introductions of newcomers to start off our IS meeting, I reminded everyone of the new password-protected feature of parts of our website. This applies to the most recent editions of our newsletter located in the Newsletter Archives <http://www.textesolv.org/www/Frames/NewsLetterV/Newsletter1.htm> and to our soon-to-be updated Directory of Regional ESL Programs <<http://www.textesolv.org/www/Frames/Forms/TextTESOLV%20Directory%2004-05>>. To gain access to these resources, you need to become a member

of TextTESOL V <<http://www.textesolv.org/www/Frames/Forms/TextTESOLVMembership.9.22.06.p>>.

It was then announced that the credit ESOL Program of Eastfield Community College has been resurrected, so we warmly welcome our colleagues in Mesquite back to the fold! Please e-mail me about any other program changes/openings/closings you may know of, and I would be happy to pass those on to our membership. Also, please pass on any job notices you would like for me to forward to our group, and you can e-mail me the e-mail addresses of any of your colleagues who wish to be added to the HEIS e-mail distribution list.

The 2006 fall statewide conference in Austin has since taken place, and many of us are now heatedly making plans for next month's TESOL Convention in Seattle. I announced that the TextTESOL V board is currently making preparations for our next Regional Conference "Language Links Our Lives" to take place sometime towards the end of September or beginning of October either at UTA or Mountain View College. I have just found out that the 2007 TextTESOL statewide conference "Different Languages, Diverse Cultures, One TextTESOL!" will be held shortly afterwards, October 25-27, in Galveston. Our board has also already begun plans for the 2008 Statewide Conference "Teachers of English: Stars of Texas," which our region will host once again at the Renaissance/Eisemann complex in Richardson, November 6-8. Finally, the biggest news of all is that Dallas has been tentatively selected as the site for the 2013 TESOL Convention--yes, International TESOL!

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The following names were offered as suggestions for keynote speakers and presenters for our upcoming conferences:

1. **Keith Folsie** (he recently spoke at one of our regional conferences, so the Board is considering him for 2008 State)
2. **Ann Strauch** (Cambridge)
3. **M. Remont** (?)
4. **Randall Davis** of "Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab <<http://www.esl-lab.com/>> " website (being considered for our 2007 Regional Conference)

And the following conference presentation topics were proposed:

1. HE enrollment and other administrative issues
2. Technology for instruction and testing
3. Preparing students for the Internet-Based TOEFL and/or ACT
4. Issues in placement/entrance testing
5. (something non-technical, less academic, and more motivational for HE teachers)

Any takers for any of these topics for our fall regional conference? As always, e-mail me any other topics you would like to see presented, and I will pass those on to our group. And don't forget our three HEIS presenter mentors who are ready and waiting to offer their assistance: Debra Basler [dba-sler@eli.uta.edu](mailto:dba-sler@eli.uta.edu), Anne Savidge [aws8415@dcccd.edu](mailto:aws8415@dcccd.edu), and Donald Weasenforth [dweasenforth@ccccd.edu](mailto:dweasenforth@ccccd.edu).

Those present at the meeting agreed upon the following revised version of the HEIS Description which will appear on our website (special thanks to Yaroslav Malyuta of UTA for his considerable syntactical advice):

*Higher Education - promotes ESL as an academic discipline among area community colleges, private and state universities, and intensive English programs, encouraging exchanges of views and research, and addressing other issues of common interest.*

As if that weren't enough for one 45-minute meeting, we also briefly discussed several hot topics including the difficulty of setting up individual (non-institutional) accounts at [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) <<http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>>; the question of whether educational institutions had the right to prevent their students from transferring to another institution; and problems with unreliable addresses of Palestinian students and Financial Guarantees for government-sponsored Saudi Arabians.

Finally, many thanks to the generous publishers who provided giveaways for the prize drawing which capped off a very full and productive meeting.

Best of luck to you in the new semester,

John E. Wheeler

TexTESOL V Higher Education Interest Section Rep.

## Implementing Negotiation and Technology in Pronunciation Practice

☞ Danielle Plauché ☞

At Richland Community College, we have a wonderful ESOL listening and speaking program with learning objectives geared towards improving the listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills of learners. Last semester, I wanted to experiment with something a little different than I had used for pronunciation practice and assessment in the past.

At the start of the semester, I designed flashcards that matched all of the American English phonemes from our course textbook. I then made copies for the learners to construct cards of their own. During the first couple of weeks in the semester, I modeled how the cards should be used by testing the students on a daily basis for about five minutes a day. I suggested that studying these cards should take no more than 10-15 minutes a day. Granted, a teacher holding flash cards in front of the class to aid rote memorization of data isn't really innovative, and I was constantly thinking about how this task could be achieved in a more communicative, student-centered way.

Experimenting, I asked learners to form into groups and quiz each other using their cards. I was amazed at how much the learners enjoyed this activity. Each learner took turns quizzing, modeling, and giving feedback on the pronunciation of the target sounds to the other learners in the group.

Meanwhile, for assessment purposes, I made photocopies of a list of the target phonemes in their initial, medial, and final positions and distributed one test to each learner. I, then, passed around a small digital voice recorder and asked the learners to pronounce all of the sounds as fast as they could. In one classroom setting, each learner participated in an individual assessment while the other learners were engaged in practicing and negotiating pronunciation sounds in small groups.

That night, I listened to each learner's pronunciation and was surprised that in less than an hour of grading, thanks to Windows Media Player, I was able to identify pronunciation strengths of these learners in a focused manner. I was also very pleased to discover that no learner in the class scored less than a B!



☞ John Drezek☞

**Region V Advertising Manager**



## **Advertising Manager Plans for 2007**

This looks to be an exciting year for TextESOL V as plans are being finalized for our Fall Conference on Saturday, September 29, 2007 with a "Language Links our Lives." theme. Mark your calendars now for this tremendous professional development opportunity!

I thoroughly enjoyed our 2006 Conference with over 400 attendees, dozens of presenters on an amazing variety of topics, and of course scores of publishers. Carolyn Graham, our featured speaker and author of Jazz Chants set the tone of the conference with her energy, and no doubt there was a lot of chanting in ESOL classrooms around the metroplex and surrounding areas in the weeks following her presentation.

I was impressed with the wide variety of topics covered in the sessions and wish I could have attended all of them. And, as usual I couldn't resist visiting the publishers to see the latest texts and software. I feel like such a kid in the candy shop and want one of everything. I must congratulate Liz Martin for doing such a remarkable job finding so many enthusiastic publishing representatives with materials for every age and English proficiency level. Even though I do not teach children anymore, I still enjoy looking through the stories, workbooks, puzzles, and project resources. Feedback from our 2006 Fall Conference indicated you too had a positive, professional development experience too, and I intend to work very hard as your Advertising Manager to make our 2007 Fall Conference just as successful.

I will investigate free advertising opportunities such as the community calendar at Fox 4 / Channel 27 where they not only broadcast upcoming events, but also include the information on their websites, and may even do a news story highlighting key events at our conference. I will invite as many publishers and educational software developers that have materials or services applicable to our TextESOL V members. Communication and planning are essential, and this is where you can make a contribution. When you talk to publishing representatives at your school, would you talk up our fabulous Fall Conference (Sept 29, 2007) and pass on contact names and phone numbers to me at [jdrezek@dcccd.edu](mailto:jdrezek@dcccd.edu) so that I can field questions and get them on board? I look forward to hearing from you about other issues or suggestions as well, so please shoot me an email and I will do my best for you. See you in September!

## 2006-2007 TexTESOL V Board Members



POSITION	NAME
PAST PRESIDENT	Zarina Blankenbaker
PRESIDENT	Donald Weasenforth
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## **MEMBERSHIP Change of Address**



**Cathy Watkins  
Membership**

It's important that TextESOL V be able to communicate with you. If you are moving or changing your e-mail, please update your personal information at this site:

<http://www.textesolv.org>

## **e-Newsletter Subscriptions and Manuscript Submissions**



The Tex TESOL V Newsletter is published quarterly by TextESOL V, a Texas affiliate of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

**Subscriptions:** Subscriptions to the Newsletter is a benefit of membership to TextESOL V. Information for membership application can be found at [textesol.org](http://textesol.org).

**Manuscripts submissions:** We welcome your articles, reviews, announcements and comments. Please send your contributions as attached files or cut-and-paste them into an email message to the editor,

Diana U. Bustillos at [dbustillos@dcccd.edu](mailto:dbustillos@dcccd.edu) or to the co-editor, Danielle Plauché at [dep8401@dcccd.edu](mailto:dep8401@dcccd.edu).