

To: Members of CCSU's TESOL Alumni/ae Network  
From: Leyla Zidani-Eroğlu (TESOL Programs Director) [zidanil@ccsu.edu](mailto:zidanil@ccsu.edu)  
Date: Spring 2010

## News of Network Members

**Congratulations** to our graduates! The list includes, in alphabetical order:

M.S. TESOL (Spring 2009-Spring 2010).

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nancy Adelson         | 7. Ewa Sliwowski       |
| 2. Scot Andersen         | 8. Tara Kelly          |
| 3. Donna Arnold          | 9. William Toftness    |
| 4. Joan Barker           | 10. Jennifer Vecchitto |
| 5. Agie Bubloski         | 11. Stephanie Virgulto |
| 6. Elizabeth (Liza) Love | 12. Lida Xhoxhi        |

P-12 ESL Certification (Spring 2009-Spring 2010)

1. Michael Hickey
2. Angie Klimas

## Professional Appointments and other Accomplishments:

- \* *Eloise Barreto*, *Laura Herold*, and *Elvis Minga*, three of our current students, each presented a paper at the Applied Linguistics Conference in NYC this March.
- \* *Susan Para*, a former alumna, and a longtime IELP faculty here at CCSU is now working for the Manchester School System in a full time position.
- \* *Nancy Gooding* is teaching at Johns Hopkins.
- \* *Marcelo Pelliccioni* received his Doctor of Educational Leadership in 2003 from the University of Hartford.
- \* *Ryan Cronin* has been teaching ESL at Whiting Lance Elementary School in West Hartford on a full time basis.
- \* *Joel Klimas* has been teaching ESL both in the US and Korea.

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### A Note from Joan Barker:

I helped write and edit a grant for Federal PIP Funding (Program Improvement Project), with specific aims to improve Adult Education programs and EL/Civics classes. I teach an ESL/Civics class to resettled refugees in Hartford, which is why the grant is so important to me. We have received continuous funding since January of 2009 and have successfully been able to integrate more technology into the classroom and civics-based field trips throughout the New England area.

In addition to this class, I have also been teaching night and weekend classes for Hartford Adult Education. I teach both Citizenship and ESL, and have also begun to teach GED as well.

I am hoping that within the next few years I will be able to find a teaching position abroad. Having recently attended the annual TESOL conference in Boston, it seems like there are endless possibilities out there! I cannot wait to hear what others have been up to.

All the best,  
Joan Barker

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## **Reflecting on your experience with us:**

### **Post TESOL Capstone Masters Liza Love**

Last summer, just one month after receiving my MS in TESOL at CCSU, I was searching for a summer position in an ESL program. Working as an elementary school ELL Tutor during the academic year, I realized I needed summer work to extend my paycheck and I was also eager to apply some of my newfound knowledge by working with adults.

Thanks to Alina Ciscel, I was able to land a seven week stint as a substitute in Goodwin College's adult ESL program where I would be teaching learners three nights a week. I also had the good fortune to be working with a TESOL colleague and since I did so many observation hours at Goodwin for all of my classes, I happen to know a lot of the students fairly well. All of this helped to create a fairly comfortable environment for the students and for me.

While teaching a level three grammar class I found myself hearing Dr. Leyla's voice while I consistently applied Syntax, and even more practically, the Second Language Testing principles. Word order, reflexive pronouns, subject verb agreement, and adjuncts were no longer a part of abstract theory. The errors students made were now analyzable forms. I also wrote several tests and each seemed to be pretty valid and reliable. I am very glad I didn't sell or give away those textbooks!

My level four reading class carried on several interesting discussions each night. One in particular that I recall was about the Renaissance and hence the role of the explorers. This led us into talk of trade languages and then Creoles and Pidgins, acrolects, and the willingness of youth to change a culture at a crossroads with the older men. The students and I often discussed the roles of women as well (it was a predominantly female group. I sort of pitied the two men). The beauty of each discussion was that they were primarily led by the students. Some of those terms weren't literally used, but that's what my students were talking about with regard to the Quechuan language and as they said, the Hispanioles. (There were a lot of Peruvian students.) Sociolinguistics, in other words, (thank you, Dr. Ciscel) was implicit in our conversations.

With regard to Second Language Acquisition and Phonology, most of my students were those whom I had surveyed for my research on Wh-questions and inversions with regard to arguments and adjuncts with Dr. Lee. The concepts of SLA that I had extracted from that research were frequently applied as I taught the students how to form questions from declarative sentences. I was also able to witness transference, Universal Grammar principles and phonological anomalies. I found that Phonology is always, always in the forefront but as of yet I have not brought up Optimality Theory. ☺

I am therefore grateful to the TESOL professors for all I have learned and now applied. At the time, I found the work fairly grueling, to put it mildly. As students of any age do, I was guilty of complaining about the difficulty of the work and how all this hard stuff could apply in the real world. Now I know why.

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## **TESOL Program News**

1.

**Annual Guest Speaker Series in Spring 2010  
Will be held May 1 at 10:30 am in Room 105, Vance Academic Center.**

**Prof. Dr. Liliana Sanchez  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

**“Linguistic Development in Heritage Spanish-English Bilingual Children”**

Keep in eye on further detailed information in due time!

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2. Our annual Certification Luncheon took Place April 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Anne Pautz, School of Education, Associate Dean and Certification Officer, was our guest speaker. Dr. A. Pautz talked about the new State Regulations and what implications they might have for TESOL certification programs.

3. CCSU participated in the NACLO (North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad) competition for the first time. CCSU is one among a handful US universities that participated in this event. The event was sponsored by a Community Engagement Grant granted to the TESOL Faculty. We have secured the same grant for this event again. Please help us advertise this event in the middle and high schools at which you are working .

4. We would like to thank Eloise Barreto and Jon Hennessey for serving as the President and Secretary, respectively, to the TESOL GSA.

5. We would like to thank our part-time colleagues for teaching in the program in the past academic year: Dr. G. Gigliotti, Dr. Tom Ernst, Dr. Margaret Dunn, and Dr. Simona Herdan, and Christie Ward.

We wish you the best! Stay in touch and share your experiences with us! You can reach us as follows:

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