

To: Members of CCSU's TESOL Alumni/ae Network  
From: Leyla Zidani-Eroglu (TESOL Programs Director) [zidanil@ccsu.edu](mailto:zidanil@ccsu.edu)  
Date: Spring 2009

## News of Network Members

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

### M.S. TESOL (2005-present)

1. Ahmad, Sara
2. Cronin, Ryan
3. Currao, Merriah
4. Davis, Rebecca
5. De La Cruz, Christian
6. Efremova, Elena
7. Hickey, Michael
8. Hornreich, Dina
9. Huang, Yu Han
10. Gooding, Nancy
11. Goliszek, Sylvia,
12. Hwan-Ru, Sher
13. Kim, Guemmi
14. Klimas, Joel
15. Lee, Chia Chia
16. Lukaszewicz, Monika
17. Macy-Painter, Jane
18. Mascolo, Anna
19. McKeag, John
20. Miseok, Seo
21. Miyazaki, Fumi
22. Newson, Georgiana
23. Ratcliffe, Patricia
24. Ryu, Geum-Suk
25. Shiono, Fumiya
26. Stein, Rebecca
27. Wu, Chen-His
28. Wielgoszinski, Stephanie for finishing her MS in 2008. The title of her M.S. Thesis is "Parental Involvement and Attitudes in FLES Education" (Thesis supervisor Dr. M. Ciscel)

### P-12 ESL Certification (2005-present)

1. Darrow, Maribeth
2. Hornreich, Dina
3. Lawrence, Johanna
4. Lind, Nicole
5. Putnam, Mariana
6. Ryba, Lynda
7. Mascolo, Anna

### **Professional Appointments:**

Students and Alumni/ae currently teaching or involved in TESOL related professional activity include:

1. Sara Ahmad is teaching ESL at the University of Delaware.
2. Megan Alubicki was on Fulbright in Europe carrying out sociolinguistic research for her Masters in International Studies.
3. After successful teaching at IELP, CCSU, for a few semesters, Nancy Gooding moved to the DC area.
4. Grant Rogers and Scot Anderson are involved in TOEFL Testing.

### **On a more personal note:**

-Michael Hickey is now a Dad and back in the States pursuing his ESL Certification here at CCSU.

-Melissa Sloat is now Melissa Kegler, Congratulations on her marriage.

-Lynda Ryba finished student teaching in the fall, and is looking forward to finishing up this semester.

-Joel Klimas went South to improve his Spanish.

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

#### **Lessons Well Learned (by Nancy Gooding)**

In November 2004, I received the exciting news that I passed the “comps”, thus ending my very intensive MS TESOL program at CCSU. It wasn’t easy. In fact, there were times when I felt like I was drowning in a sea of linguistic theory. There were also times when I struggled to connect what I was learning to what I thought I needed to learn in order to develop solid ESOL teaching skills. After all, how could the X-bar theory possibly help me in the classroom, the “real world”? It all seemed so ludicrous at the time. Well, guess what? After teaching in the “real world” for four years, I’ve discovered that my linguistics classes have played a crucial role in helping me internalize the marvels and intricacies of the language learning process. Knowing *how* my students learn has made planning *what* to teach more efficient and more relevant to my students’ needs. My deeper insight into how my students are learning has given me the sense that I’m not only an active part of their learning process, but also an active part of their learning progress. What a bonus! The connection between what I learned and what I needed to learn has been made. I truly believe that my TESOL degree has prepared me to be the teacher that I have always aspired to be...competent, confident, and connected to my students.

## TESOL Program News

Congratulations to Dr. Matthew Ciscel on being promoted and tenured! Congratulations are also due to the entire Ciscel family for welcoming Dorian (born 12/26/08) to their family!!!

Dr. Andrea Osburne retired at the end of 2004-05 academic year. We wish her well!

We would like to welcome Dr. Seunghun Lee to our faculty as our new full-time Phonology professor. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University with a thesis titled "Consonant Tone Interaction in Optimality Theory". Some courses Dr. Lee will be teaching include Second Language Acquisition, Modern Phonology, and Second Language Composition.

Dr. Lee is also working on updating the Phonology and Speech Acquisition Lab. The Lab is located in the Writing Center. The equipment in the lab includes a main computer, two hand-held recorders (Zoom H4) for L2 speech recordings, a noise-cancelling head set for L2 perception studies, and a high quality microphone for L2 production studies.

Our new GSA President is William Toftness. Our Secretary is Melissa Kegler. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to the outgoing GSA President Jeremy Coster, who has done a fabulous job securing funding and maintaining a good standing for our student organization.

Our new Graduate Assistants are Scott Bennett and Melissa Kegler. Scott can be found tutoring ESL students in the Writing Center. Melissa can be found tutoring Linguistics students in the Writing Center.

We held our annual Graduate Student Orientation on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Willard 306 at 6:50PM. Faculty met with Graduate students already in the program and ones just joining the program.

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### Dates to Watch Out For:

**ConnTESOL at CCSU, Fall 2009**

[www.conntesol.net](http://www.conntesol.net)  
[conntesol@gmail.com](mailto:conntesol@gmail.com)

There will be a keynote speaker, workshops and textbook venders.

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### Annual Spring TESOL Certification Luncheon

Date: Spring 2009; Details to follow.

Since 2005 we have hosted the following speakers:

1. Certification Consultant in the Department of Education, Certification Office
2. Assistant Dean Dr. A. Pautz, Anne (School of Education), who spoke about state regulations and their effects on ESL candidates.
3. Ms. Lillian Rausch, who is a graduate of our own, talked about some practical advice of 'dos' and some 'don'ts' that eases their student teaching experience.

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**Annual Guest Speaker Series in Spring 2009**

**Will be held April 25 at 10:30 am in Room 105, Vance Academic Center.**

**This year's speaker will feature**

**Prof. Dr. Susan Gass**

**University of Michigan**

Keep in eye on further detailed information in due time!

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Speakers of the last three years have included:

- Spring 2008. "Foreign Language Production and Perception: Implications for Brain Plasticity" by Prof. Dr. Ellen Broselow, Stony Brook University
- Spring 2007. "Global Englishes, ELT Practices, and Critical Applied Linguistics" by Dr. Rakesh M. Bhatt, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- Spring 2006 "Being There...Again: Memory and Second Language Learning" by Dr. Patsy Lightbown, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Concordia University
- Spring 2005. "The Role of Syntax in Development of L2 Reading Comprehension: a Study of Bilingual Children" by Dr. Gita Martohardjono, City University of New Graduate Center.

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

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Dr. L. Zidani-Eroğlu [zidanil@ccsu.edu](mailto:zidanil@ccsu.edu)