Message from the I-TESOL Board

by Brent Green, I-TESOL President

Dear I-TESOL Members,

This month, we are excited to present you with a new reformatted I-TESOL Newsletter. We want to thank Mary Rice for the many years of service that she gave as newsletter editor and welcome Heidi Hyte as our new interim editor. If any of you are interested in helping with the newsletter, please contact Heidi at heidihyte@gmail.com.

We are all excited about this year’s upcoming I-TESOL events and activities. First, we are revamping our I-TESOL webpage (www.itesol.org) with the help of our new webmaster, Cary Anson (WSU). I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous work of our former webmaster, Ben McMurry.

Next, we are conducting a survey on I-TESOL member needs and interests. We are hoping that the results will further help inform the planning of future I-TESOL events and activities. (You can access the survey online at http://goo.gl/FLdPD.)

Finally, we are planning for this year’s I-TESOL Fall conference. Jim Pettersson (UVU) has been busy organizing the venue and plenary speaker. We will keep you all updated through email and our I-TESOL webpage with additional information.

I feel that it is an exciting time to be an English language educator in the Intermountain Region! I hope that as you read about our current and upcoming events, you will commit to making our organization better by participating fully. I am looking forward to a successful year and hope you are, too!

Sincerely,
Brent A. Green

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Save the Date!

Fall I-TESOL Conference:
October 12-13, 2012, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at Utah Valley University in Orem, UT

The plenary speaker will be Marianne Celce-Murcia.

Her topics will include Teaching Grammar through Discourse and Content and Language Teaching and Historical Perspective.

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MEET THE I-TESOL BOARD

Jim Pettersson: First Vice President

Amy Delis: Second Vice President

Jim has taught ESL full and part-time for the last thirty years. For the last twenty years, he has taught at Utah Valley University. During his time at UVU, he has served as the ESL Program Coordinator (twice), Interim Budget and Assessment Coordinator, as a Faculty Senator, and has participated on a variety of university, college, and departmental committees. At the present time, he is the ESL Program Director at Utah Valley University, holds the rank of Professor of English as a Second Language, and serves as an advisory board member for the website BasicComposition.com. Jim has had the opportunity to make professional presentations at local and regional conferences, as well as at International Conferences.

A TESOL MA graduate of Brigham Young University, Amy Delis has taught English to speakers of other languages since 1997, in Utah, Hawaii, and China. She now works as a Course Development Specialist at the University of Utah in the English Language Institute.
We hope you enjoy the new format of the I-TESOL newsletter...but we need a name! Do you have a creative suggestion for what to name the new I-TESOL newsletter? Submit your suggestions to Heidi Hyte via email at heidihyte@gmail.com by Friday, June 8th. The I-TESOL Board will select their favorite name, and the winner will receive free registration to the 2012 I-TESOL Conference in October! That’s up to a $100 value!

BY HEIDI HEALY • HIGHER ED. INTEREST SECTION CHAIR

On Saturday, March 3rd, the Higher Ed. and Adult Ed. interest sections met at the English Language Center at BYU for a joint I-TESOL mini-conference. Dr. Lynn Henrichsen from BYU and Dr. Roland Brown from SUU presented at the conference.

Dr. Henrichsen invited four grad students from BYU to present on the program they are currently developing for training novice TESOL teachers called Basic Training and Resources for TESOL (BTRTESOL). The program focuses on providing basic information about TESOL for people who are teaching English as another language, but have not received formal training. The program can be accessed at www.btrtesol.com. The four grad students who presented were Beth Anne Firnges, Udambor Bumandalai, Amanda Malaman, and Heidi Healy, and they shared information about their individual units that they are developing for the program.

Dr. Brown discussed his EARN principles in relation to using technology in the classroom. He suggested that sometimes technology distracts us from learning. EARN principles can be helpful in making decisions about technology use, as well as other aspects of teaching. The principles are: Establish foundation, Add value, Research needs, and Negotiate commitment. Dr. Brown also suggested that one of the keys to using technology is to be teachable and willing to learn new programs and software if they are beneficial to teachers and students.

Following the presentations, attendees enjoyed refreshments and visiting. Thank you to all who attended!
I-TESOL Events • Spring, 2012

Higher Ed./Adult Ed.
Spring Mini-Conference,
English Language Center,
Provo, UT

TESOL Conference/Rocky
Mountain Reception,
Philadelphia, PA