TESOL Opening Reception
Come meet AU TESOL students, faculty, and staff. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.
Tuesday, August 28, 2012
4:00pm-5:00pm
Mary Graydon Center 245

Portfolio and Oral Comp Information Session
This meeting is required for students assembling their portfolios during Fall 2012, but also for students who want to find out more about portfolio contents and the structure of the Oral Comprehensive Exam. Pizza and light refreshments will be provided.
Thursday, September 6, 2012
7:00pm-8:00pm
Mary Graydon Center 245

TESOL Open House
Attend the AU TESOL Program’s Open House to learn more about our exciting Certificate and MA Programs in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
6:30pm-8:00pm
Mary Graydon Center 247

TESOL Holiday Potluck
Celebrate the season, the end of the semester, and our December graduates with AU TESOL students, faculty, and staff.
Thursday, December 6, 2012
4:00pm-5:00pm
Letts Lower Level Conference Room

TESOL Socials
4:00pm-5:30pm on the following Thursdays:
September 20, October 18, November 15
TESOL Program Office
Letts Lower Level, Suite 5
Need a break from studying? Want to socialize with other TESOL students outside class? Join us in the TESOL Program Office this fall for coffee, cookies, and conversation!
Dear AU TESOL Community,

Welcome back!

The new academic year is here, and we have a number of exciting events planned. As always, we look forward to seeing you at American University!

This year in the fall, we are thrilled to be able to offer the very popular *Call 'Em As You 'Ear 'Em* pronunciation workshop lead by our own Dr. Robin Barr. Please join us on Saturday, October 13, 9:00am – 2:00pm to learn more about ear training and transcription techniques presented in an interactive and vibrant manner. More information about the workshop and registration is on p. 4.

This academic year, we also continue to devote our events to the topic of Bilingual and Multilingual Education. In May 2012, we explored issues of bilingual K-12 education through the film “Speaking in Tongues” and in a conversation with the film’s producer Marcia Jarmel and our panelists Joy Kreeft Peyton (Center for Applied Linguistics), Sarah Irvine Belson (School of Education, Teaching and Health, AU), and Carol Da Silva (School of Education, Teaching and Health, AU). In the summer, Drs. Kendall King and Carol Benson presented a global perspective on bilingual and multilingual education in a 3-day summer workshop. In our spring workshop, on Saturday, January 26, 2013, we will continue exploring language variation in the classroom. During this workshop, Drs. Anne Harper Charity Hudley (College of William and Mary) and Christine Mallinson (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) will engage with the audience to discuss issues raised in their book *Understanding English Language Variation in U.S. Schools* (2011, Teachers College Press). And in April, Dr. Sarah Shin (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) will talk about her new book *Bilingualism in Schools and Society: Language, Identity, and Policy* (2012, Routledge). For more details about these two events, see p. 4 of this newsletter.

We also look forward to our joint AU TESOL-WATESOL spring conference that will gather language educators from the Washington, DC metro area on AU’s campus for plenary and breakout sessions on contemporary issues of English as a Second/Foreign language pedagogy. Join us on Saturday, April 27 for this event. And of course we hope to see you at AAAL and TESOL International conferences in Dallas, TX in March!

I wish you all a productive and exciting academic year and look forward to seeing you soon.

With warm wishes,

Polina Vinogradova
Director, TESOL Program
“Call ‘Em As You ‘Ear ‘Em”
Saturday, October 13, 2012
9:00am-2:00pm, 6th Floor Boardroom, Butler Pavilion

Led by Dr. Robin Barr, American University’s Linguist in Residence

What’s the first sound in unicorn? In apple? [Hint: they aren’t vowels!] How many syllables are there in feel or file? Do you think that flour and flower sound alike? How about cot and caught? Writer and rider? Dr. Robin Barr, AU’s Linguist-in-Residence, will show you how to detect invisible consonants and missing vowels, and help you become more aware of the way you actually speak, as opposed to what you think you’re saying. Brush up on your phonetic transcription and features, and learn how to use phonetics as a tool for sharpening your ears and teaching your students more accurately. Then hang on tight as Dr. Barr takes you on a journey beyond vowels and consonants into syllables, rhythm, intonation, stress, linking, and even The Brain! Learn the suprasegmental tricks with rubber bands, kazoos, and songs that you can use to help your students become more comprehensible, even if they still have trouble distinguishing ship and sheep, or rake and lake. The workshop features entertaining, low-cost activities that you can use right away in your next class. Visit http://www.american.edu/cas/tesol/rsvp to register.

Meeting Educational Challenges of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students through Professional Development, Student Community Engagement, and Research
Saturday, January 26, 2013
9:00am - 2:00pm, 6th Floor Boardroom, Butler Pavilion

Led by Christine Mallinson and Anne H. Charity Hudley

Students whose language differs from the variety of English they are expected to use at school often face educational challenges for reasons that are related to both culture and language. In this workshop, Dr. Christine Mallinson and Dr. Anne H. Charity Hudley, authors of Understanding English Language Variation in U.S. Schools (2011, Teachers College Press), will use an interactive approach to sharing their sociolinguistic research and professional development that helps K-16 educators, meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students. They also will report on service learning and community centered initiatives that promote greater linguistic and educational awareness among undergraduate and graduate students and provide them with unique opportunities to connect academic learning and research with the needs of local schools. Through these initiatives, students and educators can work together to promote linguistic awareness and apply critical insights about language and culture to understanding both educational and social issues in diverse schools and communities. To read more about the book Understanding English Language Variation in U.S. Schools go to http://charityhudleymallinson.com/book/. This event is open to public and requires registration. Registration starts on January 3, 2013.

Bilingualism in Schools and Society: Language, Identity, and Policy
Lecture and Book Signing by Sarah J. Shin
April 2013

Date and Location to be Announced

To read more about the book Bilingualism in Schools and Society: Language, Identity, and Policy go to http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415891059/. This event is free and open to the public.
FALL 2012
TESL-560: Research Methods in Instructed SLA
Dr. Younghee Sheen
Wednesday, 5:30pm-8:00pm
This course provides an introduction to the field of instructed second language acquisition research. It examines methods for conducting different types of research into second language learning and teaching in the classroom. Students will be familiarized with a variety of research tools for collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data. The course also aims to enable students to evaluate existing studies of second language classroom research, design their own, and carry out research in an instructed SLA setting.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the key research issues and questions that have been investigated by classroom SLA researchers
- Describe and critically analyze frameworks for investigating interaction in the second language classroom
- Contrast qualitative and quantitative approaches to classroom research
- Carry out critical evaluations of empirical research into instructed second language acquisition
- Prepare a detailed research plan to investigate some aspect of instructed second language acquisition

SPRING 2013
TESL560: Words through Time and Space
Dr. Robin Barr
Occurring on the following Saturdays:
- February 2, 10am-2pm
- February 23, 10am-2pm
- March 30, 10am-2pm
- April 20, 10am-2pm

Is “crocodile” really related to “sugar”? Why can you say “yellower” but not “oranger”? See words in four dimensions by discovering their hidden relationships with other words, their histories through millennia of changes, and their travels through languages from across the globe. Favorite examples of true (though unlikely) etymologies, folk-etymologies, and etymthologies will be considered. Join linguist Dr. Robin Barr for this fascinating one-credit course held on four Saturdays throughout the semester.
As an MIP student, I have the unique opportunity to earn an MA in TESOL and serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. This fall will be my third semester teaching with the English Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology. I will have been in Jordan for one full year come this October and, so far, my teaching context has changed constantly and drastically. For example, I taught a seminar on academic writing to graduating seniors majoring in English, I co-taught a TOEFL Prep Course to a small group of Masters students, and I co-taught a conversational English workshop at a neighboring university with over 80 multi-leveled students. I have established a number of conversation partners and I occasionally tutor one-on-one. I am also responsible for implementing secondary projects that engage the youth and sometimes they involve promoting English language learning.

The variety of courses in the TESOL Program has prepared me in many aspects of my teaching experience abroad. For instance, ELT I and II showed me what to look for when I observed classrooms for the practicum during my Pre-Service Training (PST). TESL 527 helped me recognize critical incidents in cultural discourse that I experience on a daily basis. TESL 531 taught me the different ways of assessing students’ progress, and TESL 542 gave me practical experience in teaching pronunciation to NNS with its semester-long project. Attending the various workshops sponsored by the TESOL Program has also been a great source of useful information that I regularly refer to. Most importantly, the faculty members in the TESOL department have proven to be an extremely reliable support network that I feel very fortunate to have.
Welcome to AU TESOL!

MA TESOL STUDENTS

Ashjan Allhedan
Ashjan has graduated from the English Department at Princess Noura Bint Abdulaziz University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and has practiced teaching different stages of all levels at the English Language Institute (ELI), King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. At the ELI, she gained experience working as an English instructor, as a coordinator, head of the Students Services Unit, and a member of the Professional Development Unit among other roles.

Sharla Branscombe
Sharla is from Sussex, NB, Canada. She has taught English overseas in the Czech Republic and the Dominican Republic. Sharla loves to read, write and cook, as well as explore new places! She looks forward to getting to know DC.

Yu Zhao
Yu received her Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature in Jinan University (China). She has been enrolled in TESOL program at American University as a full-time graduate student.

Elise Gorman
Elise received her degree in Middle Childhood Education from the University of Dayton. Following graduation, she taught middle school for four years and volunteered with WorldTeach as an English teacher in China for a year. She spent the past summer volunteering at IFRC Cincinnati teaching a small group of refugees.

Paige Rueber
After earning her BA in Human Development and Family Science, Paige worked for a family literacy program in DC. She was the Student Services Manager and taught basic computer, ESL, and parenting classes to adult students. She also volunteered for a year in rural Guatemala with a community organization in their educational programs.

Kathrina Konfirst
A native German speaker with minors in French and Spanish, Kathrina taught Foreign Languages in the Chicago area for several years. She is very enthusiastic about becoming an MA TESOL student and subsequently serving in the Peace Corps with her husband. Aside from language learning, Kathrina enjoys cooking, traveling and hiking.

Marcel Sain
Marcel graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2010 with a B.A. in Classical Civilization and Religious Studies and a certificate in Ancient Mediterranean Studies. Prior to entering the MA TESOL Program, Marcel was an AmeriCorps State member whose work centered on developing the literacy skills of K5-3rd grade students. Her experience within AmeriCorps sparked her interest in English language development and teaching. She is pleased to begin her first year at American and is looking forward to beginning her career as an English language teacher.
CONTINUING TO MA TESOL

Lucy Ruiz
After deciding to become a teacher of the English language as a second career, Lucy ventured into learning the latest tools in the field by completing a TESOL Certificate Program at American University. The courses in the certificate program left Lucy with an enormous desire to learn more. Lucy is starting the Master’s Degree in TESOL this fall, and completing the program will help her realize her dream of becoming an effective language teacher.

INCOMING TESOL CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

Veronica Beaver
Veronica is a senior at AU majoring in Spanish Studies and pursuing a Spanish-English Translation Certificate. Veronica has volunteered as a teacher at Language ETC and interned at a bilingual school in Madrid teaching English. She enjoys sharing English with non-native speakers and finds language teaching to be a rewarding experience.

Erin Ross
Erin sees TESOL as a way to synthesize her education, her experience as an expat and mother of three third-culture kids with her love of languages. In addition to the AU TESOL Certificate, Erin is completing the practicum for Georgetown University’s online TEFL certificate. She has a BA in International Relations from Brown University.

Andrea Duarte
Andrea is currently an undergraduate senior at AU majoring in Economics.

Danielle Jones
Danielle is a senior in the School of Communication. She is majoring in Public Communication with a minor in education studies while working towards her TESOL certificate. She intends to pursue her M.B.A after graduation. She is originally from Texas.

Katherine Harkins
Katie is a senior at AU majoring in International Studies. She studied abroad in Madrid, where she interned with the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement International. Last summer she organized and monitored over 200 international participants as they developed community projects for their home countries as part of her internship at the Youth Programs Unit of World Learning. Katie is passionate about international education and looks forward to developing her skills as an English teacher to help the youth of the world.
The AU TESOL Program helped me in so many ways. I was a merit scholar from 2004-2006, and due to the generous scholarship and graduate assistantship, I was able to focus on my studies and explore the field of TESOL in depth. After I completed my degree, I took a full-time teaching position as an ESOL teacher in a start-up program at Crossland High School in Temple Hills, MD.

With that teaching experience, I applied to be an English Language Fellow and was awarded a fellowship to Novi Sad, Serbia. Once I returned to the U.S., I applied for and obtained a contractor position at the U.S. Department of State as a Materials Writer/Editor. Luckily, the office was looking to fill a Full-Time Employment [federal] position and about six months later, I became a full-time federal employee.

Now, I currently work in the Office of English Language Programs as a Technical Writer-Editor. In my position, I am the chief project manager for an upcoming publication of *Trace Effects*, an interactive 3D video game for English language learners. I also support the Office of English Language Materials Branch by developing, writing, editing, and producing English language program materials for classroom use and teacher training, including student texts, teacher reference books, websites, computer games, and audiovisual materials via print and online means.

In addition, I am the European region representative for my branch. I also manage contracts for the Office of English Language Programs Materials Branch as a Contracting Officer Representative, and contribute to task forces for online development of English language teaching online initiatives and website management and development. Recently I traveled to Indonesia to launch *Trace Effects* and trained students and teachers on how to use computer games in the classroom. I have also been editing a book that will be coming out in the fall, entitled *Create to Communicate: Art Activities for the English as a Foreign Language Classroom*.

While all of the AU TESOL courses were excellent, the ones that most shaped my current career were *Program Management in ESL, Curriculum and Materials Design, Cultural Issues in the ESL/EFL Classroom, Teaching Grammar,* and *Teaching Pronunciation.*

I hope you have a great year in the AU TESOL Program. If you want to get in touch with me, I can be contacted at gardyJA@state.gov.
RECENT TESOL GRADUATES

FALL 2011

Heather Benucci
Heather applies her AU TESOL knowledge on a daily basis in her work with the US Department of State’s Office of English Language Programs. Heather develops and edits EFL publications and materials, and she manages several projects that bring technology into classroom and teacher training contexts around the globe.

Cynthia Hatch
Cyn works as the ESL Support Specialist for the American Culture and Language Institute at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria/Arlington Campus. Cyn reports that they have recently completed their first oral language placement testing via Skype using a combination of audio, photography, and interview questions.

SPRING 2012

Michal Panner
Shortly after graduation from the TESOL Program, Michal taught Advanced Academic Communication Skills to a diverse group of international students at the Center for Language Education and Development (CLED) EFL Program at Georgetown University. Following the completion of her summer semester at Georgetown, Michal accepted a position with the Cultural Orientation Resource Center at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL).

LAURA WILKINSON
Laura is a full-time instructor in the English Language Program at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA). This semester Laura is teaching Vocabulary & Idioms II, Written Communication II and Intermediate Business English. She hopes to continue working at VCU through 2013 and then might pursue a Ph.D. in Education specializing in curriculum design and instruction. She continues to love her students, her work, and her field!

SUMMER 2012

Kaitlyn Belloli
Kaitlyn Belloli finished her masters degree in August 2012 and began teaching at American University and English Now. Kaitlyn teaches New Media and Culture class at AU in the International Gateway Program. At English Now, a private language school, Kaitlyn is teaching an intensive English course.

Connie Gelb
After graduation, Connie is looking forward to teaching LIT-160 at AU this fall to international students and continuing as an academic writing counselor.
JOINT AU TESOL/WATESOL CONFERENCE
APRIL 27, 2013

The conference will feature several break-out sessions, led by professionals in the field as well as graduate students.

Look for more updates on this conference in the future from the AU TESOL Program.