



Georgia TESOL Newsletter Pre-Conference Issue 2006

A note from our conference chair, Dell Perry. . .

Happy New Year, Georgia TESOLers.

I just want to fill you in on what's going on with the Georgia TESOL Conference being held this year February 24th-25th at the Georgia International Convention Center. There has been a terrific team of volunteers working behind the scenes to make this conference a success, and I have every reason to believe that it will be one of the best ever. So, to help get you excited about what's to come, I have outlined below some of the highlights as well as information you'll want to know:

- We're meeting for the first time at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, a wonderful, modern facility that will accommodate our growing organization. Visit the website (www.gicc.com) to check it out and get directions. Parking on site will be \$3.00 per entry, so come and plan to stay the whole day.

- Speaking of the whole day, that's really what I mean. We've got a fabulous lineup of presentations beginning at 8:00 a.m. and going on until 5:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. Our opening plenary speaker, Dennis Parker, will deliver his address entitled "*Strategic Schooling and Interactive Instruction: Success for the First Time for First-Generation Immigrant Students*," and we'll finish up on Saturday with a closing address from Chris Barbic entitled "*Excellence in Education for Low Income Minorities*" at 4:00. You can view more information about both Dennis Parker and Chris Barbic on the Georgia TESOL website (www.gatesol.org).

- I'm also very happy to report that we received a record number of proposals for Concurrent Session presentations, over 110, and we were able to accommodate just about every one. In addition to the incredible number of proposals, the presentations are very balanced in terms of topic areas and interest levels. So, everyone from elementary to higher education and from parental involvement to computer assisted language learning will find presentations to fit their interests. Along

Georgia TESOL Conference
Live, Learn, Laugh, LANGUAGE



with the Concurrent Sessions, we've scheduled Interest Section Meetings throughout the conference so that you will be able to meet and network with people who share your more specific interests. If you're interested in checking out the program before the conference, we have posted the Preliminary Program on the GATESOL website.

- All the stimulating presentations and conversations are sure to make you hungry, but we've got you covered. Our sit-down, business meeting and lunch will begin at noon on Saturday, complete with musical and comedic entertainment to go along with our theme, *Live, Learn, Laugh, Language*. For your other meals, there will be concessions available for purchase on site for breakfast and lunch on Friday and breakfast again on Saturday.

This letter continues on page 2.

•Finally, if you've got a laptop with a wireless card, bring it along. We have arranged for our entire area to be wireless, at no additional cost to participants, for both days of the conference.

I think that just about covers the highlights. Check the Georgia TESOL website regularly for conference updates, and if you haven't registered, there's still time to do so. If you have any questions or concerns that I can help with, feel free to contact me anytime. This is going to be an extraordinary conference, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Dell Perry, Conference Chair 2006

dellperry@gmail.com

Conference Schedule 2006			
Friday, February 24, 2006		Saturday, February 25, 2005	
8:00 -12:00, 12:30 - 4:00	Registration	7:00 - 11:50	Registration
8:00 - 11:50	DOE Meeting with Evelyne Barker	8:00 - 8:50	Concurrent Sessions
8:00 - 8:50	Concurrent Sessions	9:00 - 9:50	Concurrent Sessions
9:00 - 9:50	Concurrent Sessions	10:00 - 10:50	Concurrent Sessions
10:00 - 10:50	Concurrent Sessions	12:00 - 1:30	Business Meeting and Lunch
11:00 - 11:50	Concurrent Sessions	1:30 - 2:00	Visit Publishers' Exhibits
12:00 - 12:30	Visit Publishers' Exhibits	2:00 - 2:50	Concurrent Sessions
12:30 - 1:45	Opening Plenary - Dennis Parker	3:00 - 3:50	Concurrent Sessions
2:00 - 2:50	Concurrent Sessions	4:00 - 5:00	Closing Plenary - Chris Barbic
3:00 - 3:50	Concurrent Sessions		
4:00 - 4:50	Concurrent Sessions		

Dear Fellow GATESOL Members,

Message from the President

I have been very honored to serve as your president this past year, working with an outstanding Board. We have had a very productive year. Our conference attendance and membership increased tremendously last year and we are expecting an even larger attendance this year at our annual conference.

The board established guidelines for the creation of possible local chapters within our organization. This has led to the formation of a new Augusta Chapter with the help of Dr. Magali Duignan.

In our previous newsletter, it was stated that we would be presenting new information concerning our new Regional Liaisons. I have appointed five liaisons who will serve for two years. Their role will be to disseminate information concerning the organization, to encourage membership in GATESOL, to identify future leadership within their region, to respond to any questions from members within their region and to foster professional development. We welcome our new Regional Liaisons listed here:

Region I- Rachel Norwood rachel.norwood@charter.net

Region II- Dr. Gerald Johnson jhgerald@bellsouth.net

Region III- Alice Walkemeyer walkietalkie190@cox.net

Region IV-Dr. Inez Heath iheath@valdosta.edu

Region V-Dr. Lucia Ribeiro lucia.ribeiro@cobbk12.org

You can locate the map of regions on our GATESOL webpage. Please take a moment to view the map and find your region. We have many plans for the future use of our Regional Liaisons, and hopefully we will begin to reach members and prospective new members in all parts of our state in a more efficient means in order to open up the lines of communication.

I hope you are all planning to attend our conference at the Georgia International Conference center in Atlanta on February 24-25. We have two full exciting days planned for everyone. Dell Perry, our Conference Chair, and Dana Pavluck, our Program Planner, have been working very hard to ensure that there will be something for everyone at the conference. Personally, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dell and Dana, for their dedication and for the wonderful job they have been doing!

As my year as President of GATESOL draws to a close, I have been reflecting on all that we, as a Board, have accomplished. This could not have been done without the collaboration of our wonderfully talented and dedicated board members. Without them, there would be no GATESOL. I thank all of our board members for their many hours of dedication, advice and wisdom. It truly has been a pleasure to work with all of you these past two years, and I continue to look forward to working with all of you in the future.

As GATESOL members, all of you are encouraged to volunteer to assist the Board in some capacity and to think of ways to increase membership and make us an even better organization by contacting your Liaisons with new ideas. Please view the short introduction of our proposed slate of officers for 2006-07, and vote at our conference. As participants involved in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, it is vitally important that we become active in our organization, promote membership, and stay informed of innovative ideas and new research. This can be accomplished through GATESOL, as well as International TESOL. With one strong, united voice, much can be accomplished for those we serve.

Sincerely,

Barbara Beaverson



GEORGIA TESOL CONFERENCE 2006

Live, Learn, Laugh, LANGUAGE

Georgia International Convention Center

College Park, Georgia

February 24-25, 2006

Network with and learn from your peers across Georgia and throughout the Southeast.

TWO FULL DAYS of professional learning and development.

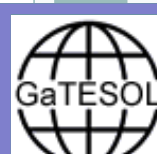
MORE THAN 110 DIFFERENT SESSIONS provide tips, ideas, reflections, and research to help you help the students in your classrooms, whether they are children in elementary school or adults in higher education and intensive English programs.

21 INTEREST SECTION MEETINGS to meet and network with other ESOL professionals whose interests are similar to your own.

TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (see next page) and numerous ***FEATURED SESSIONS*** covering a wide range of topics.

OVER 30 EXHIBITORS demonstrating some of the latest products and publications in the field.

A WONDERFUL, MODERN FACILITY that will accommodate over 800 participants and ***FREE WIRELESS INTERNET*** for all conference attendees.



Register online: www.gatesol.org

Keynote Speaker: Dennis Parker

DENNIS PARKER is currently a faculty member of UCLA's School Management Program (SMP). He also does a very limited amount of consulting under the auspices of Best Practices in Education.



He brings a broad range of field experiences as a high school and college teacher, elementary resource teacher, district bilingual program director, and pre-school principal. He has consulted in a variety of states.

In addition, he holds credentials for teaching, administration, and bilingual/cross-cultural education as well as a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics and graduate work in Multicultural Education.

For the past 20 years, he has served as both consultant and administrator at the California Department of Education. There he worked on initiatives related to bilingual education, the School Improvement Program, Reading / Language Arts, school coaching, Title I, and programs related to low-performing schools. His current focus is translating theory and research into dramatic academic gains for the state's least successful students, teachers, schools, and districts.

Keynote Speaker: Chris Barbic

CHRISTOPHER BARBIC is currently the Founding Head of Schools of YES College Preparatory Schools. Chris graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1992, with a bachelor's degree in English and Human Development. Upon graduation, he joined Teach For America and taught for six years in Houston ISD. In 1995, Chris was named Houston ISD's Outstanding Young Educator, an award given to the district's best teacher under the age of 29.

In 1998, Chris founded YES College Preparatory School, an open enrollment State of Texas charter school for grades 6th-12th. YES College Preparatory School is an academically rigorous, college preparatory school that begins working proactively with urban minority students as they enter 6th grade. Students at YES College Prep are required to gain acceptance into a four-year college or university in order to receive a high-school diploma. YES has since expanded and now serves 900 students at three campuses YES and is in the process of creating the city's first charter school district.



Since its first year, YES College Prep has been named an Exemplary School by the Texas Education Agency and was named the top performing high school in the state of Texas. The school has been featured in the *Houston Chronicle*, *Houston Press*, *002 Magazine*, *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, KTRK-TV (ABC), ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, KHOU-TV (NBC), and KTRH Radio. Chris received the 2000 Do Something Brick Award, was appointed to President Bush's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, and recently received The Gleitsman Foundation's 2004 Citizen Activist Award.

Chris lives in Houston, TX. with his wife Natasha and their two children, Tatiana and Ramiz.

2006 Slate of Officers (Approved by the Board)

First Vice President/Conference Chair: Dr. Karen Patricia Harris (Kennesaw State University)

Dr. Karen Patricia Harris is an Assistant Professor of ESOL and Special Education at Kennesaw State University. Her research interests include: (1) the socio-cultural aspects of language and literacy development and (2) culturally responsive language and literacy practices. As a speech and language pathologist licensed in Florida and Georgia, she holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA). She has been a practitioner in both public school and clinical settings. Dr. Harris is a member of several professional organizations in the areas of TESOL, multicultural education, and special education. Dr. Harris received her doctor of philosophy degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of South Florida and is a LASER Scholar Alumnus.

Second Vice-President: Torrie Voss (Fulton County Public Schools)

Torrie Voss is an ESOL teacher at Webb Bridge Middle School in Fulton County. She is the ESOL and Foreign Language Chairperson and chair of the multicultural committee at her school. She is also a District ESOL Trainer for Fulton County. She recently implemented an after-school ESOL coaching program in conjunction with members of the community and STAR house, a non-profit organization. She was a presenter at the National Middle School Association's Conference in 2004.

Secretary: Adrienne Ochoa (Georgia State University)

Adrienne has taught ESL/EFL for eight years in the U.S., Colombia, and France. She has taught a variety of proficiency and age levels (pre-school, elementary, high, college) in numerous settings (academic, adult ed. public/private school). She earned her MA from GSU in 2002 and currently teaches in their IEP. She regularly presents at conferences, loves to review upcoming publications, and has done some teacher training.

Treasurer: Sandra Nunez (DeKalb County Public Schools)

Sandra has 20+ years in teaching ESOL at all levels. Her accomplishments include designing and implementing ESOL programs including selecting textbooks and teaching resources, abroad and in the U.S., She has ample supervisory and administrative experience in public and higher education institutions, carrying out the positions of full-time faculty; coordinator, assistant director and director of ESOL and language programs. She has had five years teaching ESOL in the Intensive English Program of DeKalb County International Center; and was named Teacher of the Year for the International Center in 2002. Sandra has one year as a Teacher on Special Assignment assisting the International Center Director in various administrative duties. She is currently principal of the DeKalb County International Center.

Members-At-Large (4 will be elected)

Paula DeVivo (Gwinnett County Public Schools)

Paula has been a teacher for 31 years. She has been a regular classroom teacher, curriculum assistant, and is now an ESOL teacher in Gwinnett County. She teaches grades K-5 at Mason Elementary. She has lived in Venezuela and Spain, where she experienced first hand how difficult it is to learn a second language. She is currently on the TESOL conference registration committee.

Hema Ramanathan (University of West Georgia)

Hema has been teaching almost 30 years. Her teaching career spans from K-12 grades and adult ESL in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and, presently, ESL certification courses at the University of West Georgia. She believes English Language Learners will be served best by a true partnership between content area teachers and ESL coordinators who are conscious of, and educated for, such a role.

April Roberts (Clayton State University)

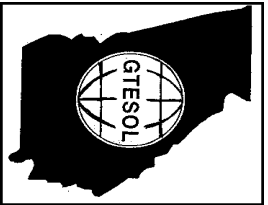
April graduated from Clayton State University School of Business and soon after completed the Georgia TAPP program to teach in public schools. She has taught ESOL for 3 years in Franklin County, ranging from grades K-12. She currently teaches full time at Franklin County Middle, and studies Spanish in her spare time.

Victoria Webbert (Gwinnett County Public Schools)

Victoria is the ESOL/INC Lead Program Facilitator for Gwinnett County Public Schools and oversees the operations of the INC Center in its responsibility to complete the intake process of international students new to GCPS. Victoria's ESOL experience range from being an ESOL Program Specialist for the Georgia Department of Education to the ESOL Assistant Principal on Special Assignment for the ESOL Department in GCPS. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Curriculum Studies/Instructional Improvement at Georgia Southern University.

Jeannie Worlock (Walton County Public Schools)

Jeannie is a 12 year veteran teacher with a B.S. degree from the University of Georgia. She is certified in General Education K-8, Music K-12, and holds an ESOL Endorsement. She is currently the ESOL teacher at Youth Elementary and Loganville Elementary in Walton County. Jeannie has had many rich and rewarding experiences in dealing with and being around various cultures, as she has traveled extensively intermingling with and absorbing the cultures. In her spare time, Jeannie is a realtor.



GATESOL

410 Prince Charles Place
Alpharetta, GA 30022

www.gatesol.org