

ESL GO Newsletter December

Yes, that's right! Time again for yet another exciting edition of the ESL GO! Newsletter. This month, we've got good news from the past, present, and future to help put you in the holiday spirit (because we all know how easy it is to feel like a Scrooge around finals week).

On Friday, November 20th at 5:30pm, ESL GO! hosted the first of what we hope will be many fruitful roundtable discussions. This time the topic was publication. A sizeable crowd of graduate students showed up to share their experiences, ideas, and reservations about getting published in our field's print and online journals. Next time, we hope even more of you will show up and contribute to the discussion. Keep checking back in with us here at the ESL GO! website (web.ics.purdue.edu/~eslgo) for future dates and topics.

And to show that all this talk of publishing as a graduate student is more than just talk, we are pleased to announce that Masakazu (Kaz) Mishima has a book out with VDM Publishing House titled *Challenging the Native Speakerism: Teaching English as a Global Language in Japan*. Here's the blurb from the jacket:

“The native speakerism has developed into a prominent social phenomena in the world of English language education known as Native speaker vs. Non-native speaker dichotomy. It is a manifestation of the ideology which favors native speakers as superior language teachers based on their native language status. A discriminative hiring practice against even highly trained non-native English speaking teachers is a typical example of the dichotomy. This book examines this social phenomenon in the context of Japanese English education and challenges the myth that native speakers are intrinsically superior to their nonnative counterparts as English language teachers. The author applies linguistic, social, as well as pedagogical, perspectives to examine the issue and argues that the existence of the dichotomy is not only a disservice to English language learners but also the development of fair professionalism in the nation.”

Congrats, Kaz! You're an inspiration to us all.

But if you don't feel up to publishing that paper you're writing for Quantitative Research or World Englishes just yet, then you can always present it at a conference. In fact, Mira Bekar has informed us that an international conference titled *FROM TEACHING TO LEARNING: CURRENT TRENDS IN ELT* will be held at South East European University in Tetovo, Macedonia on April, 9-11 2010. The organizers welcome proposals in the following areas: English for Specific Purposes, Assessment and Testing, Course Design and Needs Analysis, Classroom Management, Relationship between L1 and L2, Literature and ELT, The role of culture in ELT, Technology in the EFL Classroom. You can submit either a paper (30 min.) or a workshop (40 min). Please send proposals to: conference@seeu.edu.mk. The deadline for Proposals is Friday, December 18th, 2009.

We'd also like to recognize Laurel D. Reinking, who's in her final year as a Ph.D. student, for receiving funding for the 2009-2010 academic year through a Bilslund Strategic Initiative Fellowship. To fulfill her fellowship responsibilities, Laurel facilitates two conversation groups for international graduate students at the OEPP every Wednesday. She was also awarded a research grant by the International Writing Centers Association. This fall, along with co-presenter Yumi Takamiya, Laurel presented at the Second Language Research Forum, held at Michigan State University.

In professorial news, April Ginther recently accepted an appointment as Book Review Editor for *Language Testing*. Congrats to her as well!

Guess that's all for now. Hope to see you all at Tony & Margie's annual holiday extravaganza this Saturday, and best of luck with all your final papers, projects, and exams!