

ITBE Newsletter

TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE

Anne Bollati, *Black Hawk College*

At Black Hawk College, we have initiated the conversion of the traditional ESL program curriculum to a web-enhanced one. It is a work-in-progress. The process has required the ESL faculty to acquire a new set of skills, spend many hours in development, and, with a leap of faith, undergo a change in mindset. After two years, the faculty is anxious to complete phase one and move on to phase two.

This shift forced all of us to acquire new skills. The College had made the decision to create all online classes with WebCT. This course platform contains tools for creating content pages, discussion boards, student homepages, online testing, email, and student discussion groups. After learning to locate particular functions in the program and the sequences of clicks needed to activate those functions, we faced the more difficult task of determining the content of each online component. While playing with the WebCt tools, we realized that they were limited and that the need to redesign lessons to work within those limitations required creative thinking.

That creative thinking centered on the connection of the online component to the face-to-face class. How would the elements of the online component relate to the objectives of the face-to-face class? We decided the

online class could support the work of the face-to-face class; in other words, students could be given an assignment to demonstrate understanding of the course work or to advance a project begun in the class. For example, students could be required to do the research online for a speech to be presented in a class. In turn,

the online class could extend the work done in the classroom.

For example, in our pronunciation/conversation class, students now go online to find slang expressions, which they record in the homepage of the online class. Through this assignment, the students are able to extend the vocabulary work on idiomatic expressions that is completed in the classroom. At the end of the course, the students can print their slang homepage, which extends the word list tested in the class. Another possible benefit is that the online component can present a related topic that is not taught in the classroom. For instance, in the online component of the pronunciation/conversation course, students read about various cultural topics and comment on them, using the discussion board. Mechanical practice is another good use of online instruction. Drill work and grammar exercises are more ideally suited to the online environment. In our online grammar components, students are required to complete online grammar exercises each week. Finally, testing can be taken out of the face-to-face class and completed in the online environment.

To illustrate the connections more completely, I will give examples from specific courses in our program. The first illustration is from our intermediate reading class. During Week 3, the students begin a unit on human intelligence. The topic is introduced in the online class, and the students activate background knowledge by completing several assignments. They are asked to go to the discussion board and post their own definition of intelligence, giving examples of people that they consider to be intelligent. They must read the postings of all of their classmates and comment on two of them; thus, they become aware of how broadly intelligence can be defined. Next, they must explore two websites that discuss IQ and EQ and take short tests that demonstrate how these two forms of intelligence are measured. These activities are directly related to the theme for the following week's face-to-face class. In addition, students must complete electronic exercises that review the concepts of main idea and supporting details. They then use the same program to complete short readings to expand reading fluency and vocabulary development exercises that help develop reading skills.

(continued on page 4)

In This Issue

- 1,4 Teaching and Learning Outline
- 3 Message from President
SIG News
- 5-6 32nd Annual ITBE Convention
- 7 Member Snapshot
From the Technology Chair
- 8 News Bites
- 9 The Ticker
- 10 Professionals Planner
- 11 Call for Nominations
- 12 Membership Application

The newsletter is a publication of Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages•Bilingual Education, a non-profit professional organization, founded in 1970, which disseminates information, provides a forum, and serves as an advocate for students, educators and administrators in the field. Illinois TESOL•BE is an affiliate of TESOL, an international organization.

Membership in Illinois TESOL•BE is open to all interested individuals. To join, please use the form in this issue of the *Newsletter*; for further information about membership, call (312) 409-4770 or visit our web site at www.itbe.org.

Submission Information

Illinois TESOL•BE welcomes letters and contributions to the *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* is published four times per year with the following copy deadlines: **July 15 • October 15 • January 15 • April 15**

Articles and other items for consideration should be submitted as Microsoft Word attachments to email and sent to: news@itbe.org Alternatively, Microsoft Word documents on disk, with hard copy enclosed, can be submitted. (For those without access to computers, hard copy only is acceptable.) Mail to:

Irene Brosnahan, Editor
ITBE Newsletter
Dept. of English, Campus Box 4240
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-4240

Citations and references should conform to APA guidelines. The editors reserve the right to modify any material selected for publication to fit the available space, or to improve on clarity and style. Authors will be consulted prior to publication if changes are deemed by the editors to be substantial.

The *Illinois TESOL•BE Newsletter* limits the space devoted to advertising. To inquire about placing an ad in the *Newsletter*, contact **Marsha Santelli** at (773) 525-3960 or e-mail marsantell@aol.com.

Graphics and layout by Kerri Bonds. Printing by Pantagraph Printing, 217 W. Jefferson St. Bloomington, IL 61701 • (309) 829-1071

2005-2006 Executive Board

Yasmin Ranney
President
Northeastern Illinois University

Madonna Carr
Past President
University of Illinois at Chicago

Kasia Stadnik
First Vice President
Illinois State University

Paul Angelis
Past Second Vice President
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Laurie Martin
Executive Secretary/Co-Treasurer
Adult Learning Resource Center

Irene Brosnahan
Newsletter Editor
Illinois State University

Marsha Robbins Santelli
Director of Exhibits and Advertising
Consultant, Chicago

Members-At-Large

Mary Aquila
Truman College; Albany Park Community Center

Angelyn Balodimas-Bartolomei
North Park University

Claudia Becker
Saint Xavier University

Eric Bohman
National-Louis University, Chicago and William
Rainey Harper College

Virginia Duran

Jennifer Eick-Magan
DePaul University

Matt Huseby
McHenry County College

Ana King
Truman College

Betsy Kubota
William Rainey Harper College

Antonio Lollino
College of DuPage

Kay Maslanka
College of DuPage

Leah D. Miller
National Louis University

Michael Morrison
North Park University and Wright College

Parul Raval
Northeastern Illinois University

Maja Teref
Roosevelt High School and Truman College

Special Interest Group Chairs

Becky Eagen
Higher Education, DePaul University

Pam Forbes
Larkin High School

Margaret Gigous
Elementary Education, Villa Park School District #45

Vickie Green
Secondary Education, Veterans Memorial Middle
School

Barb Linek
Adult Education, Illinois Migrant Education Even Start

Newsletter Staff

Editor **Irene Brosnahan**
Illinois State University

Editorial Assistant **Carol Kerestes**
Illinois State University

News Bites **Elizabeth Minicz**
William Rainey Harper College
Palatine

The Ticker **Kathryn Mundell-Bligh**
Bloomington Junior High School

SIG Chairs **Becky Eagen**
DePaul University

Pam Forbes
Larkin High School

Margaret Gigous
Villa Park School District #45

Vickie Green
Veterans Memorial Middle School

Barb Linek
Illinois Migrant Education Even
Start

TESOL Liaison **Madonna Carr**
University of Illinois at Chicago

Advertising **Marsha Robbins Santelli**
Consultant, Chicago

Webmaster **Darcy Christianson**

Graphic Designer **Kerri Bonds**
Illinois State University



Message From The President / Board News

Yasmin A. Ranney, Northeastern Illinois University and Triton College



Yasmin Ranney
2005-2006 President

Happy New Year! I hope that 2006 is rewarding and filled with promise for all of us. Your ITBE board has been busy planning the final stages of our 33rd Convention. Two sets of mailers were sent to our membership seeking the submission of proposals and convention registrations. Mailings were also done to other area resources for

the purpose of advertising the Convention to prospective vendors, schools, and educational, cultural and social service organizations in the Chicagoland area, as we attempt to spread the word about our 33rd Convention on March 3 and 4, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, Illinois. Our Proposal Review Committee is currently reviewing your submitted proposals and finalizing the program for a successful convention. If you have not already registered, please do so via our website at www.itbe.org.

Your ITBE Executive Board has been busy. During our last two meetings (November 11, 2005, and January 13, 2006), we approved changes to ITBE's constitution. A summary of these changes is as follows: 1) The elected position of 2nd Vice President has been replaced by an appointed Convention Committee Chair, and 2) Organizational voting once restricted to ballots sent by mail may now take place by other means such as by email.

A vote of the ITBE membership is now needed to approve these changes to the constitution. Please check out our website at www.itbe.org for details of the changes and watch your mail for your ballot. Please vote on these changes so that they may be fully approved, by voting and mailing in your ballot as soon as you receive it. Thank you for your attention to this request. These changes must be voted on by the ITBE membership.

Past issues of ITBE newsletters are now available via our website at www.itbe.org. Please visit our website to view previous issues of the Newsletter, an effort that is coordinated with professionalism by our very own Irene Brosnahan. Irene, thank you for the work you do as you serve ITBE as our Newsletter editor.

In closing I ask you to consider serving along with other board members by putting your talents to good use. We are a professional organization and can use a variety of skills and talents. Call or email me via our website, and I will return your call and see how you can best support our organization. Good luck, and I look forward to welcoming you at our Convention in March 2006.

Sincerely,
Yasmin Ranney, President, 2005-06

SIG News

Adult & Higher

Adult SIG News

Adult Education SIG Coffee Turns into Resume-writing Session: Adult educators came from all over Chicagoland for a lively morning get-together at Caribou Coffee in Downers Grove in November. Barb Linek, SIG Chair, had invited educators to bring their resumes and information on job openings. She also brought copies of jobs posted on ITBE's website. As everyone swapped resumes and tips on finding jobs and improving resumes, they asked Barb to conduct a session on resume-writing at ITBE's Annual Convention in March. Watch for "Resumes That Get Results!" on the Saturday schedule.

Dinner Discussion: IL TESOL•BE Adult Educators are invited to a Dinner Discussion at:

La Mex
500 75th Street (west of Fairfield Ave.)
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 5:30 P.M.
RSVP by 3/17 to Barb at adultsig@itbe.org

Higher Education SIG News

Meeting was held Oct. 15th at Truman College. Much of the discussion centered on assessment of ELL students: what assessment tools are currently being used at the secondary level in Illinois. Other topics discussed that would be possible topics for future workshops and/or conventions were:

1. assessment of ELL students with special needs
2. the WIDA ELP standards and how to use them
3. access for ELL students Facilitator Training
4. writing strategies and rubrics being used to assess writing

(continued from page 1)

The online component of the advanced grammar class demonstrates all of the multiple connections. As mentioned above, mechanical practice of grammar points is a part of each weekly unit. In addition, students are required to write on a topic for the week, using the grammatical structures studied in the face-to-face class, thus extending the practice of the classroom. Next, students are given an assessment question which requires them to post explanations and examples of key grammar concepts in a homepage. At the end of the course, they can print this off and keep this addition to their grammar texts. The final component of the class is an online quiz or test.

Teaching in this new environment has presented our instructors with challenges big and small. The biggest challenge is to create dynamic interaction within the online environment; in other words, to convince students that entering WebCT is like walking into a classroom where communication is demanded and valued, rather than ruffling through the pages of online worksheets. Teachers accomplish this by framing discussions with introductory statements that are both personal and provocative. They read and comment on students' postings to the discussion board in a timely fashion and encourage students to complete the exchange by returning to their postings to read the comments of their classmates. Teachers also make sure to be available to students through email during the weekend, so that questions about assignments can be answered almost as immediately as they are in face-to-face class. Students also become aware of how they can contact each other personally through the class email function, again to maintain contact in electronic space. Teachers are also prepared on Monday to follow through on any activities started in the online environment so that there is a seamless connection between the two environments.

Students also face challenges big and small. Many of the students in our program began with minimal typing skills. Therefore, responses to assignments took many times longer than they would in the conventional classroom. In addition, these students were not familiar with the basic functions of word processing and the computer. To help these students, the program offers typing tutorials before the beginning of each semester and two computer orientations on the first two Fridays of the semester. Also, for the rest of the semester, the tutor in the computer lab guides the students through the format and the content of each class module. Access to

computers is another obstacle the students have to overcome. Since many of the students do not have computers with internet access at home, they have to make time during the weekend to use the computer labs on campus. To accommodate the students' needs, the program coordinator had to negotiate with the administration to open a computer lab on Sundays. As students become more confident working in the new environment, they may buy home computers and incur the additional expense of internet connections.

The change of the curriculum is still in progress, and the evaluation of the change is still in progress. In the end-of-the-semester evaluations of the courses, the students state their frustrations with working online: it is time-consuming; it is difficult to find enough time to sit at a computer; it is hard to get responses in a timely manner. Yet, despite these criticisms, they all feel that learning to work in this environment is valuable and necessary if they are to continue to study in academic and vocational programs in the U.S. They are willing to work through these frustrations for a tangible future gain--greater access to education in a more flexible time frame.

The value of online learning in the ESL Program is confirmed through the experience of one of our graduates who had struggled through WebCT. During his first registration for his business major, he knew that his shift at work would change in the middle of the semester. Since he wanted to be sure that he could continue in the course throughout the semester, he opted to take his class online. When he completed the class successfully, he told me that the experiences in the ESL Program had contributed to that success because he had no trouble working with the technology.

Now that our instructors no longer doubt the benefits of our blended curriculum and feel more comfortable with the technology and new work habits, we continue to search for new ways to be more effective instructors in both formats. We look to the future when we will develop a series of advanced classes that will be offered completely online to our alumni worldwide. Thus, we will be able to continue to expand our learning and communication network while stretching ourselves to meet the new challenges of our teaching profession.

Anne Bollati has been the ESL Program Coordinator at Black Hawk College for fourteen years. She has taught English as a Second Language and Spanish in colleges and universities in New York, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, and Ecuador.

32nd Annual ITBE Convention

Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, IL

March 3 & 4, 2006

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Executive Board and officers of Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages•Bilingual Education, I invite you to our 32nd annual ITBE convention, which will be held on **March 3 and 4, 2006** at the **Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, Illinois**.

Our annual convention is one of the largest gatherings of state-affiliated ESL and Bilingual Education professionals in the United States. This event provides a setting for teachers, teacher educators, students, administrators, researchers and publishers to share their work, experiences, and questions on a wide range of topics in these fields. This year's convention is moving to a **new suburban location**. We hope this will provide an opportunity for our suburban colleagues to more easily participate in the ITBE annual convention. We are also offering the option of **registration packages for Friday and Saturday** or the new option of **single-day registration** for either Friday or Saturday only. However, we encourage all our members to take advantage of the excellent programming and economic benefits offered by registering for both Friday and Saturday. Also new this year, registration includes a full buffet luncheon on both Friday and Saturday at the Holiday Inn Select.

The theme for the 2006 convention is **A Circle of Service**. This year's theme was chosen to reflect the essential link in the circular connections between learner, teacher, family, and community and the many and varied roles that the ESL and Bilingual Education professional plays in the process. We will have a special plenary speaker on each of the two days of the convention. On Friday, March 3, our invited speaker will be **Elise Klein** of **Teachers Against Prejudice**, a grassroots non-profit organization that works with students and educators to create open environments for discussion of issues affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. On Saturday, March 4, our plenary speaker will be **David Mendelsohn, Professor of Applied Linguistics and ESL at York University**. In addition to his 41 years of teaching and training experience, this widely published author and lecturer continues to explore new areas related to language learning. He is currently working on a book of refugees to Canada telling their own stories. Both speakers will preside at smaller group sessions in addition to their plenary addresses. In addition to our morning plenary speakers, this year we are lucky to have the Saturday closing plenary presented by **Mr. Nathan Bierma** of the **Chicago Tribune's** column **On Language**.

Over the two days of the convention, there will be **more than 60 individual sessions** in which presenters will discuss research, instructional methods, materials development projects, and a variety of professional issues relevant to our work today. Participants may earn **Continuing Professional Development units (CPDUs)** for attendance at the convention. Please note the early registration deadline of **January 30, 2006**.

Complete information on all aspects of the convention as well as procedures for registration and proposal submission can be found on the **ITBE website: itbe.org**.

I look forward to joining you in Naperville on March 3 and 4, 2006. If you have additional convention questions, please contact me via e-mail at: convention@itbe.org.

Sincerely,

Madonna Carr, Chair
Convention Committee

~~~~~SAVE THE DATE ~~~~~

Spring Workshop: Saturday, April 15, 2006. Location: TBA

# Illinois TESOL - BE 32nd Annual State Convention

## March 3-4, 2006, Naperville, Illinois

### PLENARY SPEAKERS



**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 3**

**Elise Klein**

Educator, academic director, curriculum developer, teacher trainer, facilitator, workshop presenter and speaker Elise Klein has worked in the field of ESL and cross-cultural communication both domestically and abroad for

17 years, doing her part to bring the world closer together. Currently president and founder of TAP, Teachers Against Prejudice, a grassroots non-profit organization which works with students and educators from elementary school through college on issues dealing with prejudice and discrimination through the critical exploration and examination of television and film. Elise's presentation will focus on human rights, civil rights, and equality for all: raising awareness of prejudice and discrimination while creating open environments for discussion and fostering critical thinking in people of all ages and backgrounds.

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 4**

**David Mendelsohn**

is a Professor of Applied Linguistics and ESL at York University. He is also the Director of the Graduate Programme in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics.



He has been teaching ESL and training teachers for 41 years, and has taught and lectures in many countries around the world.

He has published seven books, six of which have been linguistics and/or ESL related. His most recent book is on a non-ESL topic. He is currently writing a book of refugees to Canada telling their stories. In addition to the above, David

has published numerous book chapters and articles in scholarly journals, and has given over 200 conference presentations, several of them being invited keynote/ plenary addresses, including two plenary addresses at TESOL International Conferences in 1992 and 1996.

In June of 2005 he received an award from TESL Canada for lifetime service to the ESL profession. He is happily married and grandfather to a collection of wonderful grandchildren.

#### CPDU CREDIT:

Convention participants may arrange to earn Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU) for attending the convention.

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

In the 90 minute or 45 minute sessions, presenters will address instructional methods, techniques and materials, and curricular concerns.

#### PUBLISHERS' EXHIBITS:

During the convention, publishers will be on hand to display and demonstrate the latest educational materials available.

#### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETINGS:

During the SIG meetings and Friday evening dinners, attendees will have the opportunity to voice concerns and meet with colleagues in Elementary, Secondary, Higher, and Adult Education.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Holiday Inn Select  
1801 Naper Blvd.  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(630) 505-4900

#### Room Rates:

Sales tax added to room rate  
King or Double \$79.00  
King Studio \$99.00

King Suite \$109.00. Room reservations must be made no later than February 9, 2006. Please mention the ITBE Convention to receive these rates.

#### REGISTRATION FEES:

**EARLY Registration**  
(Postmarked or posted online through January 30)

| Friday and Saturday |       |                      |       |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Member              | \$105 | Non-Member           | \$135 |
| Student             | \$70  | Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

| Friday Only |      |                      |       |
|-------------|------|----------------------|-------|
| Member      | \$75 | Non-Member           | \$115 |
| Student     | \$60 | Student** Non-Member | \$70  |

| Saturday Only |      |                      |       |
|---------------|------|----------------------|-------|
| Member        | \$75 | Non-Member           | \$115 |
| Student       | \$60 | Student** Non-Member | \$70  |

**REGULAR Registration**  
(Postmarked January 31 - February 24. After January 24 register on-site only)\*

| Friday and Saturday |       |                      |       |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Member              | \$130 | Non-Member           | \$175 |
| Student             | \$85  | Student** Non-Member | \$100 |

| Friday Only |       |                      |       |
|-------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Member      | \$125 | Non-Member           | \$160 |
| Student     | \$75  | Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

| Saturday Only |       |                      |       |
|---------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Member        | \$125 | Non-Member           | \$160 |
| Student       | \$75  | Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

\* Buffet lunch included on both Friday and Saturday.

### REGISTRATION FORM

Both registration and membership including payment of fees can be processed via our website: [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org).

#### 1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of School/Employers: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I work primarily in:

- Adult Education
- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- Higher Education

#### 2. ILLINOIS TESOL • BE MEMBERSHIP

Complete the following information to join or renew your membership. Then register for the Convention at the member rate.

##### 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$35.00
- Student\*\* \$20.00
- Joint \$45.00

##### 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

- Regular \$60.00

I am interested in working on the following committees:

- Convention
- Exhibits & Advertising
- Fundraising
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Nominations
- Part-Time Issues
- Professional Concerns
- Program
- Publicity
- Scholarship

#### 3. REGISTRATION FEES

Check the appropriate box.

**EARLY Registration**  
(Postmarked or posted online through January 30)

| Friday and Saturday           |       |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$105 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$135 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$70  | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

| Friday Only                   |      |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$75 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$115 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$60 | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$70  |

| Saturday Only                 |      |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$75 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$115 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$60 | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$70  |

**REGULAR Registration**  
(Postmarked January 31 - February 24. After January 24 register on-site only)\*

| Friday and Saturday           |       |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$130 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$175 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$85  | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$100 |

| Friday Only                   |       |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$125 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$160 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$75  | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

| Saturday Only                 |       |                                            |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="radio"/> Member  | \$125 | <input type="radio"/> Non-Member           | \$160 |
| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$75  | <input type="radio"/> Student** Non-Member | \$85  |

\* Buffet lunch included on both Friday and Saturday.

#### IF REGISTERING BY MAIL

Send this form and payment to:

ITBE Convention Registration  
IL TESOL - BE  
C/O Adult Learning Resource Center  
1855 Mount Prospect Road  
Des Plaines, 60018

ALL EARLY REGISTRATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 30, 2006.

Early registration materials postmarked after the EARLY registration deadline will be charged the REGULAR registration price and the difference must be paid, at the latest, upon arrival at the convention. For additional information, e-mail [convention@itbe.org](mailto:convention@itbe.org) or leave a message at 312/409-4770 Visit our website at [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)

Only forms postmarked by January 30, 2006 will be eligible for the "Weekend Getaway for Two" Drawing

#### DRAWING!

#### Weekend Getaway for Two

At the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville. One double-occupancy room for two nights, including two breakfasts. One winner will be chosen at random from early registration materials postmarked no later than January 30!

2. Membership Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Early Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(if postmarked by January 30, 2006)

OR

Regular Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase orders and credit cards cannot be accepted as payment. Make check payable to Illinois TESOL • BE

Total (add 2 and 3 above) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Illinois TESOL • BE will assessed a fee of \$50.00 on all returned checks.





# Member Snapshot

**Name:** Betsy Guild Kubota

**Currently Working As:** I have been teaching ESL in the Non-native Literacy Department at Harper College, Palatine, for the past eight years. I actually teach off-site at a community center in a Hispanic neighborhood.

**Years in Education:** I started teaching, actually tutoring when I was an exchange student in college in Japan. I felt terrible because I didn't know much about teaching, and after graduating from Kalamazoo College, I found myself teaching again at an international student center. That's when I decided to get my Master's at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

**Years as an ITBE Member:** Since the late 1970's, except the years I taught in Sweden and Denmark.

**Memorable experience:** A memorable experience for me: One of my favorite memories is of a class I taught at Truman College when they had the Indochinese Refugee Program in the mid 1980's. We had a lot of Laotian and Cambodian students and decided to take all the classes downtown to see an exhibit of photographs of Pol Pot's Killing Fields (a little gruesome, I admit). When it came time to leave, I decided to take my class back to Truman, and we head



ed to the L in rush hour with, I thought, my 20 students following me. When I realized there were probably 50 people, I tried to get them to wait before boarding the train, but two of my students got on alone. The two were newly arrived Laotians who spoke little or no English and, I knew, had no money as they had borrowed money for the train ride. I hardly slept that night, wondering where they ended up and whether they were safe. Fortunately, they were in class the next day with big smiles, telling me how they had seen Truman out the train window and knew to get off!

**A regrettable professional experience:** It's hard to think of any—maybe the time my night class was locked out of the Catholic school we were using because they thought we had been smoking in there. We had to march down the street to a Chicago Boys' Club and beg for a room for our class that night!

**Professional Passions:** I love introducing my students to computers and seeing the excitement

on their faces when they send their first e-mail or print their first document.

**Future Plans:** I hope to get to travel again in the future, something I love but haven't done enough in recent years. And of course, keep teaching ESL to adults.

**Beyond Work:** My kids are 11 and 14 years old so they keep me busy when I'm not working. We spend a lot of time on soccer fields and at basketball games. Like most teachers, I love reading too.

## From the Technology Chair: Maja Teref

Do you wish to be on Illinois TESOL•BE's e-mailing list and receive our monthly announcements and updates? You can now keep abreast of all the exciting ITBE news and events by doing the following:

1. Log into your account through the Member Log-in Area
2. Click on "Change Name & Address Info" under "My Membership"
3. Select the option E-mail list? (members@)

For any further questions, e-mail [technology@itbe.org](mailto:technology@itbe.org)

The Illinois TESOLIBE Member Log-In Area is up and running. You need to be a member and have your email address registered in order to participate in the Member Log-In area. If you have not received a welcome letter via email, please contact Illinois TESOL•BE at [webmaster@itbe.org](mailto:webmaster@itbe.org) requesting to receive a username and password. For more information, view the Member Log-In webpage.





**Elizabeth Minicz**, Associate Professor Nonnative Literacy  
*Harper College, Palatine, IL*

### **Anti-Foreign Language Sentiment—Again**

The Monday, January 2, 2006, edition of the *Chicago Tribune* contained a story in the Metro Section by Jo Napolitano about Oak Lawn Community High School's possible shortening of the school day in response to budget constraints. Students would have the option of earning a diploma with 22 or 24 credits. About 60 percent of Oak Lawn's students pursue a college education. I was taken aback by a comment by Superintendent Kevin Burns, who said, "If you're not going to college, then you don't need a foreign language." This kind of thinking is wrong on so many levels that I barely know how to respond, but of course I will try. I wonder if Oak Lawn has considered eliminating sports. After all, if students are not going to be professional athletes, why should schools spend money on sports programs? If a 17-year-old decides not to go to college when she graduates from high school, does that mean she will never go? Will English-only speakers never come in contact with those who speak other languages or who come from different countries, at work, in the community, in their families? Fortunately, Carol Garding, head of the teachers' union, thinks the change in the diploma, "would shortchange students and risk jobs." Apparently Mr. Burns is unaware that 2005 was "the Year of Languages."

### **Chicago Leads Effort to Teach Mandarin**

In Chicago 3,000 students and 20 schools have been teaching Mandarin for six years, according to an article in the November 8, 2005, *Christian Science Monitor*. Amanda Paulson, author of the story, says proponents of teaching Mandarin view it as a "leg up in a global economy where China is growing in importance." She quotes Michael Levine, director of the Asia Society, "Globalization has already changed the arrangements in terms of how children today are going to need to think about their careers . . . The question is when, not whether, the schools are going to adjust." (Are you paying attention, Mr. Burns?)

Pre-collegiate enrollment in Chinese classes has grown from 6,000 in 1992 to 24,000 in 2002. The College Board reports that 2,400 schools want to offer Advanced Placement classes for Chinese. The largest obstacle is hiring enough qualified teachers. Only two U.S. universities currently have certification programs. Perhaps Chicago Mayor Richard Daley could use his connections and influence to promote university certification programs in Illinois. According to Paulson, Daley said, "Languages are

needed to compete in this world is flat society [*sic*]. We want to give our young people opportunities to advance and [Chinese] is a great opportunity to survive in today's economy."

### **Meanwhile in Beijing**

For two days in October 2005, 35,000 people attended a foreign language festival in Beijing. To many Chinese, English is not just the global language of business and technology, but a status symbol. What a change from the days of the Cultural Revolution, when English was expunged from even the names of schools and hospitals. According to Evan Osnos, who reported on the Beijing Foreign Language Festival for the *Chicago Tribune* on October 21, 2005, "But today, China is not defined by ideology and isolation but instead is driven by a hunger for economic, personal, and political change. The model workers of today's China are no longer wizened farmers and bricklayers but young real estate moguls and Internet millionaires." (Uh, oh. Is this really a good thing?")

Beijing will host the 2008 Olympic Games and the government has been promoting English language use. Even cabdrivers have been given audiotapes of useful English phrases to learn. (One wonders what will happen when someone utters a phrase not in the guidebook.)

English instructors are being recruited from overseas to teach in the many language schools that have sprung up in Beijing. It might be nice to also arrange for some teacher exchanges between the U.S. and China. One vendor at the Beijing festival claimed he could teach fluency in business English in 10 weeks; another was selling a DVD which claimed it could teach the same fluency in three days! On the other hand, it supposedly takes 63 weeks of 30-hours-a-week instruction to reach a working fluency in Mandarin. There's still time before the Olympics!

### **Suspended for Speaking Spanish at School**

The December 9, 2005 edition of the *Washington Post* published an amazing story by T. Reid. Sixteen-year-old Zach Rubio was suspended from the Endeavor Alternative School in Kansas City because he was overheard speaking Spanish to another student in the hall—not in class. According to Principal Jennifer Watts, "This is not the first time we have [asked] Zach and others not to speak Spanish at school." Because Zach's suspension created a stir in newspapers and on radio shows, the school rescinded the suspension.

Zach's father, Lorenzo Rubio, who has lived in Kansas City for 25 years, fought the suspension, citing U.S. immigration law. "You can't just walk in and become a citizen, he said. They make you take this government test. I studied for that test, and I learned that, in America, they can't punish you unless you violate a written policy." The Endeavor Alternative school didn't have a written policy prohibiting the use of Spanish. While the suspension was rescinded, the legal implications are not. Zach's family has hired a lawyer to represent them in a civil rights violation lawsuit. Rubio said, "I'm mainly doing this for other Mexican families, where the legal status is kind of shaky and they are afraid to speak up. Punished for speaking Spanish? Somebody has to stand up and say: This is wrong." Absolutely, Mr. Rubio.





### A Novel Site

Kathryn Mundell-Bligh, *Bloomington Junior HS*

Internet websites are one of the fastest and most varied ways of supplementing your classroom materials. I no longer have to keep files of worksheets and other handouts stuffed into my overflowing cabinets. I also don't have to remember where I put a particular worksheet (do you know how many folders I have that are all entitled "grammar exercises"?). While much of that is due to my own crazy filing system, it is so much easier to pull down through my bookmarked favorites on the computer to find what I am looking for. If a computer lab is available, I don't even have to print anything out, since many of the materials can be done online by the students. I love teaching in the age of technology!

When I was asked to write a review of one of my favorite websites, it threw me into a bit of a quandary. Which one should I choose? I have sites I like to use for grammar practice, different sites for vocabulary development, and still others for help in students' content-area classes. Since I am the only ESL teacher in our junior high's small program, I teach all grades (6-8) and all levels of proficiency, as is true for many of us. It's easy to find materials for my beginning learners. I have lots of resources, internet or otherwise, for them to use. The most difficult group to find materials for is our advanced, transitional students. I have begun a "novels" class for them, concentrating on reading and writing skills, with vocabulary and grammar work coming from the context of the novels we are reading. In choosing novels for this group of students last summer, I tried to pick books that were the same as many of the books their age peers were reading, but I taught them with whatever additional support my ELLs needed. One of those supports, for my teaching at least, is having access to a video of the novel being taught whenever possible. I think that watching sections of the book being performed can really help students understand a novel.

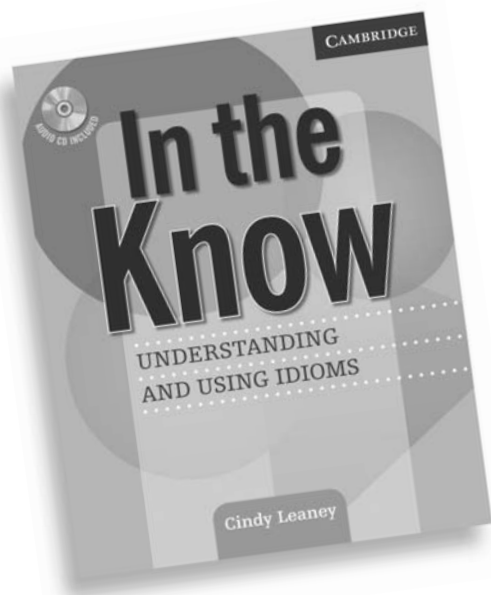
In preparing for this class last summer, I accidentally came across what has become my current favorite website. It is not an ESL site, but has lots of tools to help me teach this particular class. The site is <http://www.walden.com/web/teach/home>, the home site for Walden Media. The company's website states that each project "begins with compelling source material, like a

book that kids, their parents, teachers, and community leaders already love and admire." So far, they have produced *Holes*, *I am David*, *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and their most successful venture to date, *The Chronicles of Narnia; The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe*. They are currently working on *Hoot*, which will be out in April of this year, *Charlotte's Web*, and *How to Eat Fried Worms*. Several other children's/young adult classics are in development (*Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Giver*).

So, other than the fact that this company is producing quality movies for children/young adults, what makes it such a great site? The site includes educators' guides for the movies that have been in theaters. The guides are well written (in particular, the guide for *Holes*) and provide both background material and ready-to-use handouts. There are materials for teachers to use for our own background when teaching these novels. I was pleased to find good links to additional sources for each book as well. Some of the novels include additional video links. When we read *Narnia*, we were able to watch how the snow sets were created and how the different creatures were developed through computer graphics (created by the same company that did the *Lord of the Rings* series).

Armed with the materials I had gathered from the website, we have worked our way through *Holes*, which stays extremely close to the novel, probably since the author, Louis Sachar, wrote the screenplay as well. We then moved on to *I Am David*, which became a good exercise in comparison/contrast since the book and movie are significantly different from each other. In November/December, my class read the *Narnia* story, since it was going to be out in theaters. I chose this book also because I had read it in college and loved it. We finished the book on December 8th, and then celebrated by going to the movie on opening night, December 9th.

For those of you teaching at the upper elementary or middle school levels, this website has novels appropriate for your students' age and could be read easily by upper intermediate or advanced levels. My classes have enjoyed reading these and commenting on the video sections we have watched. I think you would find this source as useful as I do.



## Not in the Loop? Get *In the Know*.

### The last word in idioms...

- Over 800 idioms that have been researched in the *Cambridge International Corpus* for their frequency, meaning, and use
- A large variety of presentation and exercise types that makes learning idioms fun and memorable
- An audio CD that contains recordings of the presentation section of each unit
- A dictionary section at the back of the book that gives definitions and examples of every idiom in the book
- Supplementary Activities and Teacher's Notes available on the Teacher Support Web site at:

[www.cambridge.org/us/esl/itk/teacher](http://www.cambridge.org/us/esl/itk/teacher)

For more information, please contact your local representative or visit [www.cambridge.org/us/esl/itk](http://www.cambridge.org/us/esl/itk)

**Ellen Zlotnick**

877-888-4079

[ezlotnick@cambridge.org](mailto:ezlotnick@cambridge.org)

### The Professional Planner

|             |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3-4   | <b>Illinois TESOL-BE Annual Convention</b><br>Holiday Inn Select, Naperville, IL<br>For more information visit: <a href="http://www.itbe.org">www.itbe.org</a>               |
| March 15-18 | <b>TESOL Convention and Exhibit (TESOL 2006)</b><br>Tampa, FLA<br>For more information visit: <a href="http://www.tesol.org">www.tesol.org</a>                               |
| March 19-21 | <b>National Conference on Family Literacy</b><br>Galt House Hotel & Suites, Louisville, KY<br>For more information visit: <a href="http://www.famlit.org">www.famlit.org</a> |
| April 15    | <b>Illinois-TESOL Executive Board Meeting</b><br>University of Illinois Extension Campus, Wheaton, IL                                                                        |
| May 24-25   | <b>Illinois Family Literacy Conference</b><br>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL<br>For more information visit: <a href="http://www.ilrdc.org">www.ilrdc.org</a>            |

If you need information on the above dates, please visit website at [itbe.org](http://itbe.org)

# Call for Nominations

## Illinois TESOL•BE Executive Board

*Network With Your Peers, Represent Your Geographic and Teaching Areas, Participate in Planning Professional Development Activities, Work for Changes in the Educational System!*

### Nominate a Colleague or Yourself!

We are looking for nominations for the following positions:

#### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Serves as the President Elect of the Association from June 2006 to June 2007 and presides at all official occasions when the President is absent

Acts as recorder at all board meetings and maintains the official documents of Illinois TESOL•BE as First Vice President

Serves as President of Illinois TESOL•BE from June 2007 to June 2008

Serves as Past President, and ITBE liaison to TESOL, from June 2008 to June 2009

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Elected to a three-year term, from June 2006 to June 2009

Serve as members or chairs of the active committees of Illinois TESOL•BE

Participate in the business and activities of Illinois TESOL•BE

Support the officers and other members of the Board by regularly attending Board meetings

Please fill out the form below and mail by March 15, 2006

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Contact Information (address, phone, and email): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Your Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination For: (Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Member-At-Large

Nominee's Contact Information (address, phone, and email): \_\_\_\_\_

This person would make a good candidate because \_\_\_\_\_

#### Send to:

ITBE Nominations Chair  
PMB 232  
8926 N. Greenwood  
Niles, IL 60714-5763

EMAIL [nominations@itbe.org](mailto:nominations@itbe.org)

A nomination form is also available on the Illinois TESOL•BE web site – [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)



**Illinois Teachers of English to  
Speakers of Other  
Languages • Bilingual Education**

PMB 232  
8926 N. Greenwood  
Niles, IL 60714-5163

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Normal, Illinois  
Permit No. 1

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW     RENEWAL    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name(s) of Employer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check if change of:     Name     Address

Check if you DO NOT want your name published in our state directory:

### 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Regular    \$35.00

Student \*    \$20.00

Joint \*\*    \$60.00

### 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Regular    \$60.00

ITBE memberships run the calendar year  
from the month you join. e.g. May 2004-2005

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Received: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of:     IEA/NEA     IFT/AFT     NABE     IACEA     TESOL

I work primarily in:     Adult Education     Elementary Education     Secondary Education     Higher Education

I am interested in working on the following committee(s):

- |                                      |                                     |                                                |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convention  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits and Advertising        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards      | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations           | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time Issues                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity  | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology            | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Events |

I would like to receive the ITBE newsletter by (check one) :     mail     e-mail

Make checks payable to Illinois TESOLBE

Mail your check and this form to: Executive Secretary, Illinois TESOLBE, PMB 232, 8926 North Greenwood Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-5163  
Illinois TESOL-BE will assess a fee of \$50 on all returned checks. Purchase orders cannot be accepted. For credit card payments, please use  
our online registration at [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org).

\* Student membership applications must be accompanied by verification of full-time enrollment (e.g., current semester registration).

\* Family members residing at the same address may apply at the joint membership rate.

Membership in Illinois TESOLBE is separate from membership in TESOL.