

# ITBE Newsletter

www.itbe.org

Winter 2007  
Vol. 34 No.4

## *Bringing the Best Out of Students in Their Writing!*

**Michelle M. Naumann**

*Elgin Community College*

(The following article is a condensed version of the author's presentation at the 2006 ITBE Conference.)

"The ESL/EFL writing class is perhaps best seen as a workshop for students to learn to produce academic essays through mastering techniques for getting started and generating ideas..., drafting papers which they will anticipate revising, and learning to utilize feedback provided by the teacher and other students in the class to improve the writing assignment at hand." (Kroll 223)

Many teachers do not enjoy teaching writing because they feel intimidated, unsure about how to teach it, or uninterested. However, writing classes can be wonderful to teach, both for the students and for the instructor. Writing structure is fairly easy to teach, and students usually come up with fascinating content, which they enjoy sharing.

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### **THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITING**

It is imperative that students understand the importance of good writing skills and how useful writing will be in the "real world." The students' "intrinsic motivation" for learning how to write should be drawn out early on in the semester (McKeachie 106). Also, it is important to emphasize the rationale or importance of individual writing assignments.

Early in the semester, you may want to have students brainstorm how they will use writing in the future. For example, following are some occupational uses of writing: correspondence (e.g. letters, e-mail, memoranda, etc.), reports, published essays or articles, and notes for presentations. In addition, there are several academic uses: correspondence, note-taking, assessment, journals, essay exams, essays, and lab reports. Two personal uses of writing are journals and correspondence.

### **WRITING ASSIGNMENT PROMPTS**

Giving students choices for writing prompts helps them become vested and have ownership in the writing process. You should consider if you want all of the prompts to specify the same genre. The following are some guidelines for preparing writing assignments from Barbara Kroll, "Considerations for Teaching an ESL/EFL Writing Course":

1.) A writing assignment should be presented with its context clearly delineated such that the student understands the reasons for the assignment.

2.) The content of the task/topic should be accessible to the writers and allow for multiple approaches.

3.) The language of the prompt or task and the instructions it is embedded in should be unambiguous, comprehensible, and transparent.

4.) The task should be focused enough to allow for completion in the time or length constraints given and should further students' knowledge of classroom content and skills.

5.) The rhetorical specifications (cues) should provide a clear direction of likely shape and format of the finished assignment, including appropriate references to an anticipated audience.

6.) The evaluation criteria should be identified so that students will know in advance how their output will be judged. (226)

### **PEER REVIEW**

Peer review may be something that many instructors do not enjoy. If not well planned, it may be more harmful than helpful. Teachers will find that students are usually hesitant about giving specific feedback. Students need to be directed regarding what to look for in a piece of writing. When done well, peer review gives students an opportunity to share and feel proud of their heritage and rich family traditions or exciting experiences. In addition, students usually enjoy helping one another. Peer review questions should focus mainly on content and organization, not grammar and

*(cont. on page 5)*

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:marsantell@aol.com).

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# Message From The President / Board News

*Kasia Stadnik - Illinois State University*



**Kasia Stadnik**  
2006-2007 President

**A**s I write this message, we are approaching the end of the calendar year and beginning to make some plans for 2007. It is usually this time in a year when we reflect on the events we witnessed and participated in during the previous year and decide on resolutions that we believe will make the next year that much more productive, happy, and satisfying. Though many of such plans relate to our personal lives, there usually are also things we try to change/improve that relate to our professional lives. Allow me to share with you a wonderful way you can do it in 2007 without having to feel you are on your own in taking steps to make your professional life that much more fulfilling and balanced—contact your Special Interest Group (SIG) leader through ITBE's webpage ([www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)) and let her know about your interests, hopes, concerns, and needs, AND/OR log into the members log-in area on the same website and click on Message Boards to find your interest group and initiate or participate in an online discussion. Imagine how much information, advice, and support you can receive if you contact ITBE members who, like you, are interested in the same

professional issues; who may share the exact same experiences and concerns; who may be able to give you great tips and share wonderful strategies for dealing with what your job involves. You can do all of this without having to leave your office or home, and, yet, you would be communicating with a very large group of true peers!

This is just one way ITBE, the professional organization that exists just so that YOU can feel you have real professional support, can truly be YOUR organization. You may already be benefiting from being an ITBE member by being able to attend the biggest annual event, the Annual ITBE Convention, and perhaps the workshops, but the purpose behind creating this organization was so much more profound—it aimed to give all of us, teachers of ESL and Bilingual students, a real community and a powerful body that can take care of our professional needs the way no other support group can.

My best wishes to you for a wonderful  
Happy New Year.

Kasia Stadnik  
President 2006-2007



## **Highlights from the Executive Board meeting on November 17, 2006:**

- The Board discussed the date and location of the Spring workshop
- The Board discussed updating the ITBE web site. More information is needed before a decision can be made.
- The Convention and Planning Committee will be holding a meeting at the convention site, the Holiday Inn, in Naperville.

- The Board voted to support the two new position statements from TESOL which have been posted on the ITBE website for membership viewing.

## **Highlights from the Convention and Planning Committees meeting on December 16, 2006:**

- The Convention Committee met with the Holiday Inn liaison person to ask questions and discuss arrangements for the convention.
- Maja Teref, Technology chair, gave a presentation on the member log-in area of the ITBE web site. She also offered comparisons of the features of other websites with those of ITBE's, as a preliminary discussion for making changes to the ITBE website





\*\*\*\* Special offer to TESOL members \*\*\*\*  
**\$15 tickets to Remy Bumpo's thinkTank!**

Remy Bumpo Theatre Company proudly announces the launch of Remy Bumpo's thinkTank, an annual theatrical exploration of an issue vital to Chicagoans. This year thinkTank explores immigration. The headlining event is the world premiere production of "An Immigrant Class", a new stage adaptation of Chicagoan Jeff Libman's ethnographic book *An Immigrant Class: Oral Histories from Chicago's Newest Immigrants*. Tickets to An Immigrant Class include nightly post-show discussions featuring speakers from the community representing various viewpoints on the topic of immigration. The project also features several free events, including performances by Silk Road Theatre Project, Rasaka Theatre Company, the Children's Museum of Immigration, and Teatro Vista. Remy Bumpo's thinkTank runs Mar. 22 – Apr. 15 at Victory Gardens Greenhouse Theater. Visit [www.remybumpo.org](http://www.remybumpo.org) for more info. For tickets, call the Victory Gardens Greenhouse box office at 773-871-3000 and mention TESOL to receive \$5 off the regular \$20 ticket price.



## TESOL UPDATE



The Affiliate Leaders' Council seeks volunteer facilitators to lead breakout sessions at the 2007 Affiliate Leaders' Workshop. This leadership development and networking workshop will be held at the 2007 TESOL convention in Seattle, Washington. The workshop theme is "Affiliate Leaders in a Changing World," with sessions on Tuesday, March 20th, 2007, from 2:30-5:30pm. Concurrent breakout topics include:

1. Marketing affiliates and membership recruitment
2. Interacting and collaborating between NS and NNS leaders within and across organizations
3. Engaging affiliate leaders in advocacy activities
4. Affiliate newsletter for changing times (how to make it relevant)

5. Strategies and challenges in accessing funding for professional development and further education in other countries.

The CALL Interest Section of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is pleased to offer the opportunity to participate in the 2007 Electronic Village Online (EVO). This is a professional development project and virtual extension of the Electronic Village at the TESOL 2007 Convention in Seattle, WA. The intended audience for this project includes both TESOL 2007 participants and those who can participate only virtually.

You do not need to be a TESOL member to participate in a free, six-week, wholly online session of the EVO, Jan 15 -Feb 25, 2007. Please visit the EVO Announcement Web page for more information: <http://evo07sessions.pbwiki.com>

Submitted by Yasmin Ranney, Past President Illinois TESOL-BE 2005-06; TESOL Affiliate, 2006-07



(cont. from page 1)

mechanics. Information questions are better than yes/no questions in this context.

Teachers can assist students with creating their own peer review questions, or teachers themselves can write the questions. Also, students may write specific questions that they would like answered for their own papers. Peer reviewers may need to be taught to always find something specific that they like before being critical. They may need to be instructed in polite language to use when giving feedback. Here are some phrases to use preceding critical feedback:

- You might try....
- You should probably work on....
- You may want to....

### TEACHER FEEDBACK

It is essential that teachers give feedback. In addition, it is important to compliment or encourage more than you criticize. According to a study by Dana Ferris, many students tended to remember positive comments by their teachers on their papers verbatim while a few students who reported not receiving positive comments were becoming bitter and unmotivated (46). Teachers should explain their method of correction and let students know if they do not intend to correct every error (Bowen 265). Following is a variety of teacher correction methods.

#### Written Feedback

- 1.) Correcting all of the students' mistakes: Not effective (they don't learn)
- 2.) Correcting most of the students' mistakes
- 3.) Underlining mistakes
- 4.) Writing an editing symbol above each mistake, e.g. "WC" for an error in word choice
- 5.) Commenting in the margins how many and/or which mistakes were made in each line
- 6.) Commenting after each paragraph how many and/or which mistakes were made in each paragraph
- 7.) Commenting at the end of the essay how many or which mistakes were made
- 8.) Complimenting and criticizing at the end of the essay on the following and/or other topics:
  - a. content
  - b. structure
  - c. serious or repeated grammatical or mechanical errors (e.g., verb inconsistency or lack of articles)

#### Oral Feedback

- 1.) Conferencing about a specific paper
- 2.) Complimenting and criticizing orally on a cassette tape, which students submit with their papers, on the following and/or other topics:

- a. content
- b. structure
- c. serious or repeated grammatical or mechanical errors

### EDITING

Teachers should provide students the resources to learn outside of class. It is a good idea to introduce students to the writing center, library, and writing websites. "Our real goal is to gradually wean our students away from us, providing them with strategies and tools for their continued growth as writers and for the successful fulfillment of future writing tasks they might face once they have completed their last writing course with us" (Kroll 230).

### GRADING

Making sure students understand your grading standards is important. If you grade holistically, provide students with sample graded essays or grade an early draft which may be rewritten for a better grade. Also, you may want to give the students a list of criteria for an "A" paper. If you grade analytically, provide your students a grading rubric.

Teaching writing can be a rewarding experience. The students may really open up and excel in a venue that had previously only instilled in them fear and doubt. Writing is merely another form of communication. Many students will learn to enjoy writing, and, who knows, you may even have some brilliant writers in your class who will want to publish some of their work.

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**Michelle M. Naumann** is an ESL instructor at Elgin Community College.

# ITBE's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention explores the theme of Learning Today for Tomorrow

Wondering what's new in the world of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education? The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual ITBE Convention will pique your curiosity with morning and afternoon plenary sessions on both days, March 9 & 10. There will be plenty of exciting presentations and workshops covering a range of topics as well. And don't forget to check out the publishers' exhibits with all the latest materials for teachers at every level. A delicious lunch buffet is included both days, so mark your calendars now for March 9 and 10! Check out our website for the preliminary schedule and registration information: [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org).

## The speakers on Friday, March 9, will include:



**Dr. MaryAnn Christison**  
**University of Utah**  
**Professor of Linguistics**

Speaking about what strategies English Language teachers can use based on recent advances in neuroscience and what we have learned about cognitive functioning and language acquisition.



**Dr. Al Gini**  
**Loyola University**  
**Professor of Business Ethics**

Co-founder and associate editor of *Business Ethics Quarterly*, writer and speaker on National Public Radio's Chicago affiliate, *WBEZ-FM*, Dr. Gini will speak about "Work and the Immigrant Experience." His books include *My Job My Self: Work and the Creation of the Modern Individual*.

## On Saturday we have the pleasure of hearing:



**John Segota**  
**TESOL,**  
**Washington, D.C.**

John Segota, Advocacy and Communications Manager at TESOL in Washington, will bring us an update on legislation and issues from Washington. John's responsibilities at TESOL include government relations, media communications, and management of TESOL's advocacy activities.



**MaryAnn Cunningham Florez**  
**Arlington Education and Employment Program (REEP)**

MaryAnn Florez, currently the Lead ESL Specialist for the Arlington Education and Employment Program (REEP) in Arlington, VA, has over 15 years' experience in teaching and coordinating in adult ESL programs. She has presented teacher training workshops across the country, published a variety of articles, and consults with Pearson Education on ESL textbooks.

**Come join us on March 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville. Hope to see you there!!**

Betsy Kubota, ITBE Convention Chair

# Illinois TESOL • BE 33rd Annual State Convention March 9-10, 2007, Naperville, Illinois

## PLENARY SPEAKERS



### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

**MaryAnn Christison**  
MaryAnn Christison, a professor in the Linguistics Department at the University of Utah, will review a few basics of brain anatomy that are essential for English language teaching

professionals and introduce strategies for brain-based learning that are derived from neuroimaging research. Christison is the author of over 75 published and refereed articles in journals on language teaching and research and 16 books, including *Look Who's Talking*, *Purple Cows and Potato Chips*, *Community Spirit*, *Drawing Out*, *A Handbook for Language Program Administrators*, and *Multiple Intelligences and Language Learning*. She was President of TESOL in 1997-98. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The International Research Foundation for English Language Education.

### Al Gini

Al Gini, a professor of Business Ethics in the School of Business Administration at Loyola University Chicago, will give a presentation on "Work and the Immigrant Experience." He is co-founder and associate editor of *Business Ethics Quarterly*, the *Journal of the Society for Business Ethics*. He can be regularly heard on National Public Radio's Chicago affiliate, WBEZ-FM. His books include *My Job My Self*, *Work and the Creation of The Modern Individual*, *The Importance of Being Lazy*, *In Praise of Play, Leisure and Vacations*, and he has written and produced two plays. His most recent book is entitled, *Why It's Hard to Be Good*.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

**John Segota**

John Segota, serving as TESOL's Advocacy and Communications Manager, will bring an update from Washington regarding legislation which could be impacted by the recent elections.

His responsibilities include government relations, media communications, and management of TESOL's advocacy activities. He is TESOL's liaison to organizations such as the National Coalition for Literacy and the Joint National Committee for Languages and is staff liaison to TESOL's Standards Committee and the Sociopolitical Concerns Committee.

### MaryAnn Cunningham Florez

MaryAnn, the Lead ESL Specialist for the Arlington Education and Employment Program (REEP) in Arlington, VA, has experience in program management, curriculum development and teacher training in adult ESL programs. She has published articles, research-to-practice briefs, and created materials for the Lifepoints series from New Readers Press. She currently consults with Pearson Education on ESL texts for adult English language populations. Her areas of interest include identity and change for immigrants, working with literacy and beginning level language learners, and reflective practices for teachers.



## CPDU CREDIT and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT:

Convention participants may arrange to earn Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU) for attending the convention. Adult educators can earn up to six hours of Professional Development as now required by the Illinois Community College Board.

## 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 Ed, 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 15, 2007. Please mention the ITBE Convention to receive these rates.

## LOCATION:

The Holiday Inn Select is conveniently located just off I-88 at Naperville Road in Naperville, 35 miles west of Chicago. There is ample free parking as well as free hotel shuttles from the Metra station in Naperville. Naperville's quaint downtown offers a wide array of dining and shopping.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### 3. REGISTRATION FEES

Check the appropriate box.

#### EARLY Registration

(Postmarked or posted online through February 5)

Friday and Saturday

☐ Member \$105 ☐ Non-Member \$150  
☐ Student \$70 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$100

Friday Only

☐ Member \$75 ☐ Non-Member \$120  
☐ Student \$60 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$90

Saturday Only

☐ Member \$75 ☐ Non-Member \$120  
☐ Student \$60 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$90

#### REGULAR Registration

(Postmarked or posted online Feb. 6 - Feb. 28)

After February 28 register on-site only.

Friday and Saturday

☐ Member \$130 ☐ Non-Member \$175  
☐ Student \$85 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$115

Friday Only

☐ Member \$125 ☐ Non-Member \$170  
☐ Student \$75 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$105

Saturday Only

☐ Member \$125 ☐ Non-Member \$170  
☐ Student \$75 ☐ Student\* Non-Member \$105

\* Must provide proof of full-time student status

Buffet lunch included on both Friday and Saturday.

### TO REGISTER ONLINE

(Credit card only)

Visit our website at [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)

### TO REGISTER BY MAIL

(Check only)

Send this form and payment to:

Russell Clark  
English Language Academy  
DePaul University  
25 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1701  
Chicago, IL 60604-2217

ALL EARLY REGISTRATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED or POSTED ONLINE BY FEB. 5, 2007.

Early registration materials postmarked OR posted online 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, visit our website at [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org). E-mail questions to [convention@itbe.org](mailto:convention@itbe.org) or leave a message at 312/409-4770.

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

3. Early Registration Fee (if postmarked by February 5, 2007) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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-transferable. Illinois TESOL • BE will assess a fee of \$50.00 on all returned checks.

## DRAWING!

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 February 5!



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# Member Snapshot

**Name:** Arlene de la Paz-Kane

**Currently working as:** I am employed by Moraine Valley Community College as coordinator of the ASHE Program, which is a student support service supported by a state of Illinois HECA grant. ASHE, which stands for "Access and Success in Higher Education," endeavors to assist English-limited learners in the community with higher education planning beginning with English skill writing and reading classes appropriate for their proficiency level and personal schedule needs. In this role, I work closely with advising and counseling departments and the ESL department in the "intake" and navigation process for these students.



**Years as ITBE member:** I joined the ITBE organization this year and became the new SIG chair for Higher Education for 2006-2007.

**Years in education:** I have worked in education as a full-time and substitute elementary and high school teacher since 1975 until my employment with Moraine Valley College, which began in 2001. I have taught in bilingual elementary programs and have worked largely in Hispanic communities.

**A memorable experience:** Memorable experiences are those that are formed from the many expressions of appreciation that I receive from the ESL students on this campus who have participated in the "reading book club" and "conversation class" activities that I sponsor and direct. I had not experienced such effort and enjoyment of learning with the elementary children that I had previously taught as I have with these adult learners, and it has been delightful. My fondest memories, however, have been of individual students, those that I first encountered at a very limited English proficiency stage, and have advised through their

completion of a career or transfer program. Their achievements have brought me the same joy as have the accomplishments of my own children, and I am humbled and honored to have shared in their educational growth.

**A regrettable professional experience:** Indeed, there have been regrettable professional experiences, primarily having to do with traditions and priorities of an institution that do not always carry the interest of the English-limited learner students that are under my "tutelage."

**Professional passions:** My professional passions remain with teaching and advising the ELL population. Ideally, I would like a college counseling/faculty position where I could do both, but have yet to find or be offered one. I also have an interest in working with migrant children in a state-supported summer education program. My personal responsibilities to immediate and extended family members, however, are just as important and I am dedicated to the welfare of my husband of seven years, three young adult sons, and aging parents, with the same sincerity that I have for my professional life.

## Guess Who???

Some of you (I hope not too many) may have noticed that the name of the person featured in the Member Snapshot in the fall issue was left out. I would really like to say that it was intentional because **Russell Clark** is so well known in our profession or that it was intentional just to see how many of you could guess who it was. Unfortunately, those are excuses I can't make; it was simply an oversight on my part! I apologize sincerely to Russell Clark for my carelessness and I thank him for being so gracious and good-humored about it when he found out.

Irene Brosnahan  
Editor





## Elizabeth Minicz

Associate Professor, Harper College

Dear Readers:

I'm back. Well, actually I never left, but I was hoping one of you would decide to take over this column. So far that hasn't happened, but hope springs eternal so they say. Maybe next issue.

Sincerely, Elizabeth

### Question: Where's the Money?

Oscar Avila, in the December 13, 2006, *Chicago Tribune*, reported that a policy panel and a task force of nine state agencies appointed by Governor Blagojevich released recommendations. The task force endorsed establishing welcoming centers for new immigrants, and the policy panel suggested that the state should provide more funding for adult ESL classes and dual-language programs for elementary students such as the ones offered in Schaumburg and other school districts...

Grace Hou, assistant secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, admitted that the state's budget shortfalls might make it difficult to fund welcoming centers. Juan Salgado, president of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, said the state should assist newcomers by funding English classes, government services, and job skills. Hou agreed with Salgado, but wondered where will the money come from? According to Salgado, "Like any asset, you can invest in the immigrant population and it has the potential of gaining more return. Or you don't invest and it deteriorates."

Learning English is an asset according to researchers. Immigrants who speak English will

earn at least 50 percent more than those who don't, wrote Avila, author of the story.

Illinois is one of 11 states that have specific offices that provide assistance to immigrants and refugees. About 850,000 immigrants have moved to Illinois since 1995, and 35,000 new immigrants are expected each year. Let's turn all those newcomers into assets. Invest in people, not pork.

### Answer: Here's a Little

The Chicago Community Trust is offering \$1.5 million in grants for improving services to new arrivals in the region according to Robert Channick in a December 29, 2006, article in the *Chicago Tribune*. Fifty-five communities, neighborhood groups, and organizations are competing for the money, but only 10 projects will be funded, each receiving \$150,000 over a three-year period. Most of the 55 competitors are from Chicago suburbs.

Ngoan Le, a member of the Chicago Community trust foundation, said, "The regular pattern of immigrants coming to the city first has changed. More and more immigrants are coming directly to suburban communities." Joshua Hoyt, director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, concurred. He added that "Many suburbs are struggling to absorb the new waves of immigrants."

So how do the competitors plan to use the grant money? The Schaumburg Business Association and its partner, the Village of Schaumburg, would research the needs of Indian businesses and develop programs to make them grow. Mount Prospect would improve or develop affordable housing. Until then, Schaumburg and Mt. Prospect will just have to wait until May to find out if they are among the 10 winners. So little money, so much need.

### Question: Re the Ohio Core Curriculum: What Are They Thinking? Answer: They're Not

Last year I reported on the shenanigans of some members of the Oak Lawn High School Board who were proposing dual graduation requirements. Saner heads prevailed and the proposal of watered-down graduation requirements for those students not immediately intending to go to college was dropped. Now our neighbors in Ohio are toying with creating a two-tiered education system.

According to Scott Stephens in an article in the December 15, 2006, edition of *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, “Completion of the Ohio Core Curriculum would be a prerequisite for getting into Ohio State University and most other four-year, state-funded universities.” Students who do not complete the curriculum could only be admitted to Youngstown State University, Shawnee State University, and Central State University. Those three institutions already serve a high proportion of Ohio’s poor and minority students. So which three state schools in Illinois would not admit students who did not take four years of English and math and three years of laboratory-based science?

Randy Hoover, an education professor at Youngstown State, said, “It creates the washed and the unwashed.” I wonder if Governor Bob Taft, who drafted the Core Curriculum Plan, is aware of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown vs. The Board of Education* in the 1950s. Of course, the business community in Ohio supports Taft’s plan, as does the Ohio Academy of Science. Lynn Elfner, the Academy’s CEO, said, “To be sure, there are costs to implement the Ohio Core. But if viewed broadly, these are really investments in human capital—the essential ingredient for today’s competitive world economy.”

I don’t know if the Ohio House will actually approve the bill to establish a two-tiered system, but I think it behooves us all to be aware of what is going on across the nation. Does anyone remember Ted Sanders?

### **A Real Service for Newcomers— And Everyone Else!**

Have you ever been stymied by the language in official government regulations? Are you frustrated when students bring you letters or documents to read and interpret and you can’t? According to Thomas Haller, executive director of the non-profit Center for Plain Language in Washington, D.C., Washington state is the first to adopt “plain talk” principles. Eighteen months ago, Governor Chris Gregoire ordered all state agencies to stop using acronyms, jargon, and legalese. Rachel La Corte of the Associated Press wrote about Washington’s

efforts to comply with the governor’s directive in the December 17, 2006, edition of the *Chicago Tribune*.

La Corte reported that so far more than 2,000 state employees have been instructed how to write letters, announcements, and documents in everyday language. Janet Shimabukuro, manager of taxpayer services in the Government Management Accountability and Performance System program, said, “Plain talk isn’t only rewriting. It’s rethinking your approach and really personalizing your message to the audience and the reader.” (Gee, I always thought the purpose of legalese was to obfuscate or to prove that the writer is smart and the reader isn’t.) So, if people understand what the government wants them to do, they will probably do it. Amazing.

Here’s an example of old and new versions of a form from Washington state’s Department of Licensing.

#### **Before:**

If you do not wish to purchase 12 month gross weight at the time of renewal, please contact your license agent to determine the number of months you wish to purchase. If you are not sure that purchasing 12 months is a good choice for you, please discuss the options with your license agent before purchasing your tabs.

#### **After:**

To license for less than 12 months, contact a vehicle licensing office to determine the amount due.

My suggestion is that Governor Blagojevich contact Governor Gregoire immediately so that Illinois can be the second state to adopt “plain talk.” I am on-board, and I hope you are too.

# 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 for 2007-2008!

We are looking for nominations for the following positions:

#### VICE PRESIDENT

- ❖ Serves as the President Elect of the Association from June 2007 to June 2008 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 2008 to June 2009
- ❖ Serves as Past President, and ITBE liaison to TESOL, from June 2009 to June 2010

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- ❖ Elected to a three-year term, from June 2007 to June 2010
- ❖ 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, 2007 or visit our website and download form at [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)

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

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

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

Nomination for which position: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### Send Completed Form To:

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

E-mail: [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 TESOL•BE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
ESL STUDENT WRITING CONTEST  
RULES & REGULATIONS  
2006-2007**

**ELIGIBILITY-** Contestant must be a student who is a full-time student enrolled in grades 6-12 in the state of Illinois, a non-native speaker of English, enrolled in a TBE/TPI program, and the sponsoring teacher must be a current member of Illinois TESOL•BE.

**FORM-** Essays are to be 500-1000 words (2 to 3 typed pages in English, Font: Times New Roman Size 12, double spaced and neat). Entries must be submitted with a complete cover sheet (enclosed). Cover sheet must include the student's name, home country, name of the sponsoring teacher, name of school, school address, and school phone number. There should be no identifying information on any pages of the essay. This includes any mention of the contestant's name or school.

**CONDITIONS-** Failure to abide by any of these rules and conditions will result in the disqualification of the student's essay from the competition.

- ◆ Each student may submit only one entry.
- ◆ All essays become the property of Illinois TESOL•BE.
- ◆ All essays must be the ORIGINAL MATERIAL OF THE AUTHOR.
- ◆ The essays must be based on prior knowledge, i.e. this is not a research essay.
- ◆ No teacher editing.
- ◆ No computer editing will be allowed except for spell check, i.e. no grammar check.

**IF A STUDENT HAS PLAGIARIZED ANY PART OF THE ESSAY, IT WILL RESULT  
IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.**

**TOPIC-** Discuss aspects of your culture that you want to share with others, such as holidays, differences in customs, school, culture-shock experiences, other experiences, etc.

**JUDGING-** Entries will be judged based upon content, organization, vocabulary, language use and mechanics. Criteria for judging will be creativity, writing style, and adherence to form, rules, and conditions.

**PRIZES-** Monetary prizes (\$150 First Place, \$100 Second Place, \$75 Third Place), certificates of merit, and ITBE ESL Student Writing Contest T-shirts will be presented to first, second, and third place winners in each category (grades 6-8/ grades 9-12). Sponsoring teachers of the winners will receive a one-year complimentary membership to Illinois TESOL•BE added to their current membership and a letter of recognition will be sent to their principals. In addition, the winners will be invited to read their essays at the ESL Writing Contest Awards Ceremony at the Illinois TESOL/BE Annual State Convention. The winners and their sponsoring teachers will be invited as our guests for lunch also at the Illinois TESOL•BE Annual State Convention.

**DEADLINE- ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 9, 2007.**

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:**

Illinois TESOL•BE ESL Student Writing Contest  
Kasia Stadnik  
English Language Institute  
Illinois State University  
Campus Box 6123  
Normal, IL 61790-6123

**ALL SPONSORING TEACHERS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE RESULTS OF THE ILLINOIS TESOL•BE  
WRITING CONTEST. ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION.**

# ILLINOIS TESOL•BE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ESL STUDENT WRITING CONTEST 2006 - 2007

## ESSAY COVER SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT)

**NAME OF STUDENT** \_\_\_\_\_

**GENDER:** \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
Male Female

**HOME COUNTRY** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST LANGUAGE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORING TEACHER** \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME OF SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORING TEACHER'S EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

(Best place to reach sponsoring teacher)

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_ 6-8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9-12

**MAIL ESSAYS TO:** ILLINOIS TESOL•BE ESL STUDENT WRITING CONTEST  
Kasia Stadnik  
English Language Institute  
Illinois State University  
Campus Box 6123  
Normal, IL 61790-6123

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 TESOL•BE

Mail your check and this form to: Executive Secretary, Illinois TESOL•BE, 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 TESOL•BE is separate from membership in TESOL.**

## The Professional Planner

**February 10**

**Illinois TESOL-BE Executive Board Meeting  
Illinois State University or ISU Foundation Chicago Office**

**March 4-6**

**National Conference on Family Literacy  
Orlando, FL  
For more information visit: [www.famlit.org](http://www.famlit.org)**

**March 9-10**

**Illinois TESOL-BE Annual Convention  
Holiday Inn Select, Naperville, IL  
For more information visit: [www.itbe.org](http://www.itbe.org)**

**March 21-24**

**TESOL Convention and Exhibit (TESOL 2007)  
Seattle Trade and Convention Center  
Seattle, Washington  
For more information visit: [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)**

**April 21 (tentative)**

**Illinois TESOL-BE Spring Workshop; Executive Board Meeting  
Main East High School  
Park Ridge, IL**

**May 19**

**Illinois TESOL-BE Executive Board Meeting  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Chicago, IL**

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



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

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

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

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

Georgetown University's Center for Intercultural Education and Development announces that the English Language (EL) Fellow Program is currently accepting applications for the Academic Year 2007-2008 Fellowships. The EL Fellow Program promotes English language learning around the world, and fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. The EL Fellow Program places highly qualified teachers with Master's degrees in TEFL/TESL and Applied Linguistics in all regions of the world.

**For more information please contact:**

Nancy Stephani, Email: [stephani@fvtc.edu](mailto:stephani@fvtc.edu), (920) 735-4844 or  
Rose Zoesch, Email: [zoesch@fvtc.edu](mailto:zoesch@fvtc.edu) (920) 735-4728 or  
[elf@georgetown.edu](mailto:elf@georgetown.edu) (202) 687-2068