

TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages



WELCOME

Read our past issues:

[Issue 7](#)

[Issue 8](#)

[Issue 9](#)

Greetings, and welcome to the latest edition of the Pepperdine TESOL Newsletter, capturing the essence of the Fall season. Time seems to have flown by since we welcomed new students to our picturesque Malibu campus (check out the photos below). Now, in the blink of an eye, winter is upon us, and our students are diligently immersed in their final projects, papers, and presentations.

Crafting this newsletter has been a delightful journey, and we are thrilled to bring you a compilation of noteworthy events, diverse perspectives, and joyous celebrations. The Pepperdine TESOL community made its mark at various education-related conferences this semester, with active participation in the California TESOL (CATESOL) State Conference, California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE) Conference, National Council of Teachers of English Conference in Ohio, World Educational Research Association in Singapore, and the Online Learning and Consortium Accelerate Conference in Washington, DC (details on the "Community Shoutouts" and "CATESOL" pages below).

In addition to these highlights, we've infused some fun elements into this newsletter. Discover podcast recommendations from our TESOL faculty and staff, delve into an insightful interview with current student Maryanne Gracielle Lee, sharing her experiences at the CATESOL State Conference, and enjoy snapshots captured throughout the semester.

Last but certainly not least, we are excited to round out this semester with a joint research symposium at Pepperdine that features teacher candidates from our TESOL program and MAT program! We look forward to this event to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our students. Wishing you a festive and joyous Christmas season ahead!

With gratitude,
[Kevin Wong](#), Ph.D.
TESOL Chair

Life @ Pepperdine



*30 August 2023
New Student Orientation*

*Excited and all set to greet our
new students at the orientation*



*Welcoming our TESOL family at
the stunning Malibu campus for
our New Student Orientation!*



*Building bonds and spreading joy
through community activities and
a friendly competition!*



Who can build the tallest structure?



Learning about each other in Heroes Garden



Dr. Ashtari explaining the rule for our bonding game!



If you were a superhero, what would your super power be?

Friendship discovered!



go Waves!



Pepperdine President Gash's inspiring welcome speech at the 'Your Home, My Home' International Student Rally!



GSEP International Student Gathering! Embracing diversity, fostering unity, and creating a global family right here.



Dr. Weina Chen and two TESOL alumni, now PhD students, presenting at the WERA conference in Singapore!



Singapore comes alive at night!



This year, we are grateful for the TESOL family



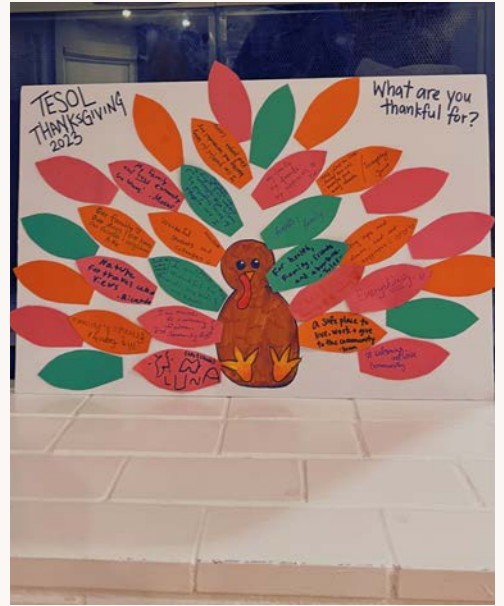
*Embracing cultural richness in our TESOL community through a feast of diverse flavors!
Our food tells stories from around the world.*



Where to start?!



A healthy rendition of the Thanksgiving turkey...



Gratitude check! What fills your heart with gratitude?



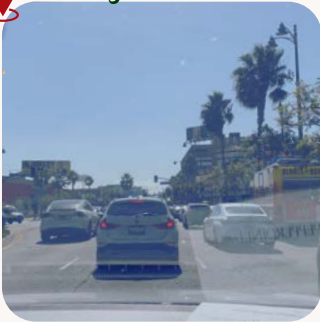
We are all part of the "TESOL family," with faculty, staff, students, and alumni represented here



CATESOL
 STATE CONFERENCE
**BREAKING
 NEW
 GROUND**
 2023 October 26-28
 COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA

Conference Plog (picture-log)
 Join Feidana Yalikus (TESOL 22') on this conference adventure!

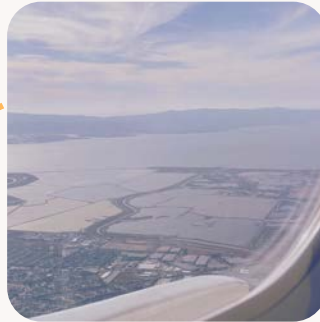
 Los Angeles



*En route to the airport!
 Will we make it on time?*



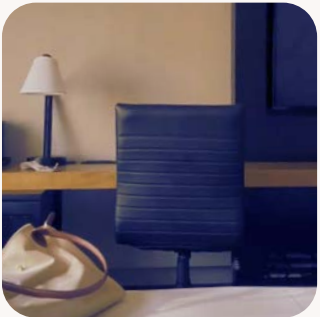
*Boarded the plane and
 managed to doze off in
 no time!*



*Taking in the view from
 above as we prepare to
 land*



*Plot twist #1: Unveiling
 the surprise—my suitcase
 is on the struggle bus!*



*Reality check: Not feeling
 the hotel nostalgia as
 much as I did as a kid!*



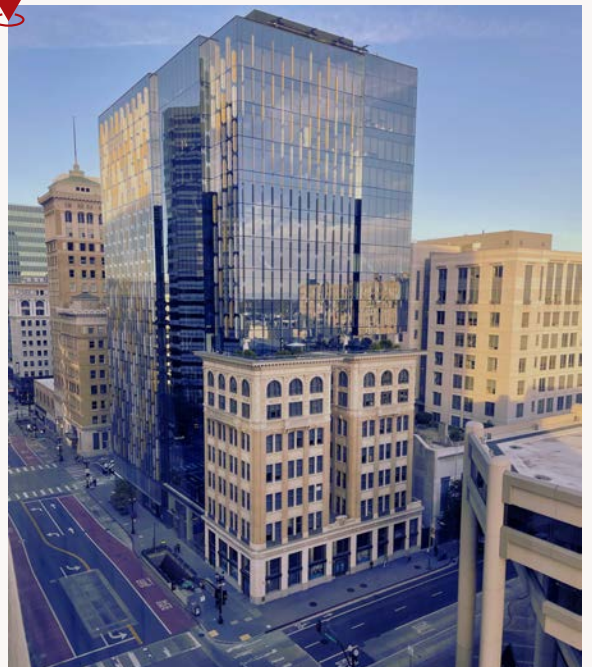
*Planning out my
 conference itinerary is
 key for a successful
 conference experience!*



Practice! Practice! Practice!

READY?

 Oakland



*Hello, Oakland! Loved the modern
 vibes from the hotel window.*

Starting the day right with a light breakfast courtesy of the conference!



Discovered an intriguing bilingual book booth!



Hello, CATESOL!

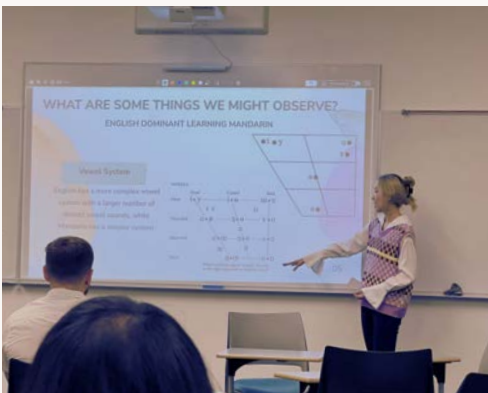


Attended the Plenary Speaker session "Prejudicial Barriers to Successful TESOL Education" by Dr. John Baugh and it was beyond inspiring!



Of course, swung by the Pepperdine TESOL booth to say hi!

Transitioning from attendee to presenter! Bursting with pride for our Pepperdine alumni!

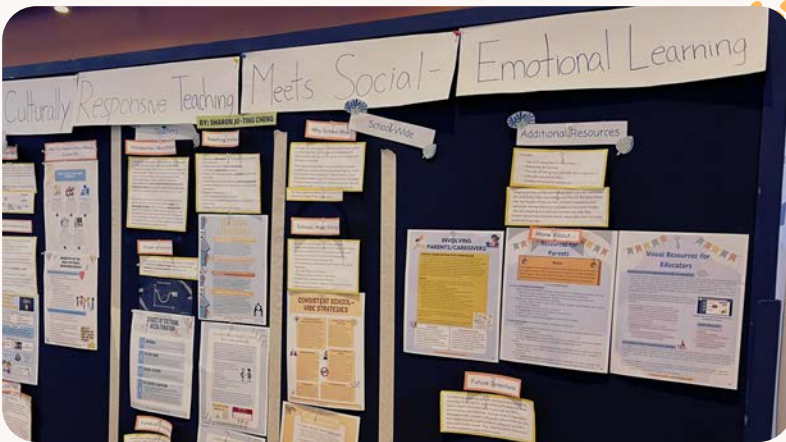




Dr. Wong taking the stage, meticulously detailing the Pepperdine TESOL program at CATESOL!



Life outside the conference: Taking a leisurely stroll through the city streets; The quickest way to get to know its heartbeat and charm!



A blast at the graduate school poster session! It's amazing to see fellow students showcasing their passion and dedication.



What's more relaxing than unwinding with dinner and conversation after a tiring day, especially with the Pepperdine TESOL family? #ThaiFood



Oakland's proximity to San Francisco calls for a must-visit to the iconic Golden Gate Bridge!



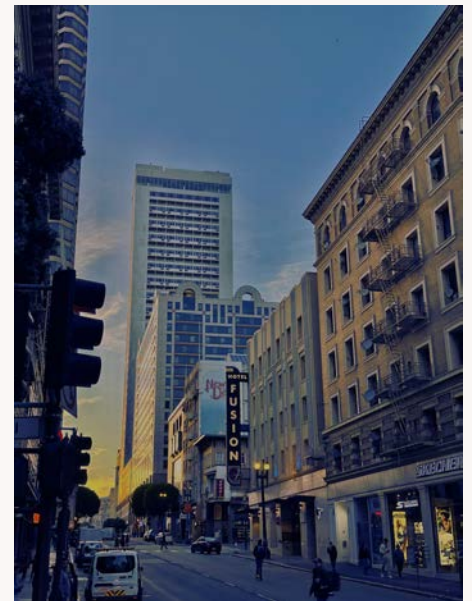
San Francisco - a Chinese food lover's dream! Refueling with some delicious dim sum.



When we say community, we mean it! The closeness and bond we share go beyond words.



Dr. Wong, Ziyang (TESOL '23), and Feidana (TESOL '22) took a quick selfie before saying goodbye! The joy of reuniting and the promise of future connections.



Saying goodbye with the warmth of the sunset and the stunning street view! Until we meet again, CATESOL!

Student Perspective



Adding to the collage of experiences, our incredible TESOL student, Maryann Gracielle Lee, offers valuable insights and reflections on her participation in the NCTE conference.

My MA in TESOL cohort at Pepperdine University was given the opportunity to attend the CATESOL 2023 State conference in Alameda, California. This year's theme was *Breaking New Ground*, which focuses on different topics valuable to English language teachers and students. I participated in a few fantastic sessions that will assist with my TESOL journey.

What was a memorable session that you attended? Why?

One of my favorite Pedagogy sessions was “Empowering Language Classrooms: Learner’s Stories as a Curriculum in Action” by Professor Glen Ryan Alejandro. This session stood out the most because it reminded me of one of the lessons we learned in Dr. Chen's class at Pepperdine. The speaker shared how he uses his students' own stories to teach about Grammar. For their homework, the professor will give students the opportunity to write their own stories. Professor Alejandro will pick a story that he can use as an example to show the class for language learning. He will always make sure to ask permission from his students before sharing the story in class. Although this might be a little complicated, I admire this approach because the students are more engaged if the story is relatable. This is something that I might use in my future ESL/EFL classroom.

What is something that surprised you about attending the conference?

The CATESOL State conference exceeded my expectations in so many ways. I was amazed by the diversity of the members of the organization. It was inspiring to see all the passionate TESOL professionals share their expertise, research, and knowledge with the attendees.

What were the key takeaways for you after the conference?

My key takeaways from this conference are the sessions I attended related to Technology (AI), Motivational Pedagogy, and the importance of English Language Teachers' well-being.

How has this conference shaped the way you think about TESOL education?

The CATESOL and Asia TEFL (in South Korea) conferences helped shape my mindset about TESOL education. I am grateful for what I am currently learning from my outstanding professors at Pepperdine, but learning from other passionate educators is always beneficial. I believe to be an effective teacher, we must have a growth mindset. The world is changing in many ways, and a positive mindset open to new ideas may help a teacher to teach more effectively.

What advice would you give to someone interested in attending such a conference?

Go for it! The CATESOL State conference is indeed an excellent avenue for continuous professional development. It is a great way for TESOL students and professionals to build connections, join a Community of Practice, and learn new teaching ideas from other educators.



14 December 2023

GSEP Teacher Candidates Research Symposium



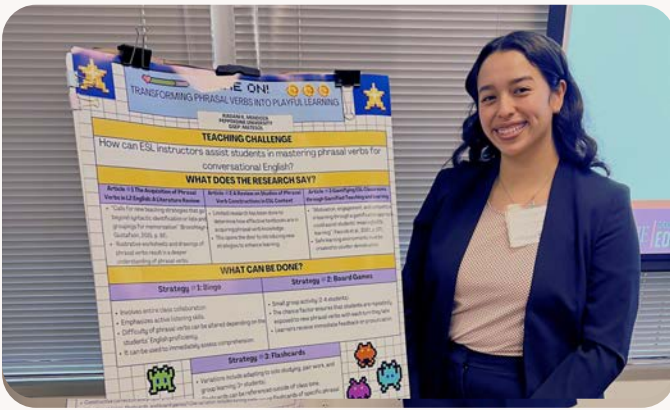
Dr. Anthony Collatos, Associate Dean of Pepperdine University GSEP, set the stage for an enlightening collaborative event with MA in TESOL and MA in Teaching candidates!



Dr. Wong, extended a warm welcome to all attendees in person and online, sharing heartfelt wishes for a successful and enriching event.



Prof. Kevin Van Houten took the stage, providing a thorough introduction of TESOL students' research posters, welcoming everyone to engage in thoughtful question and answer.



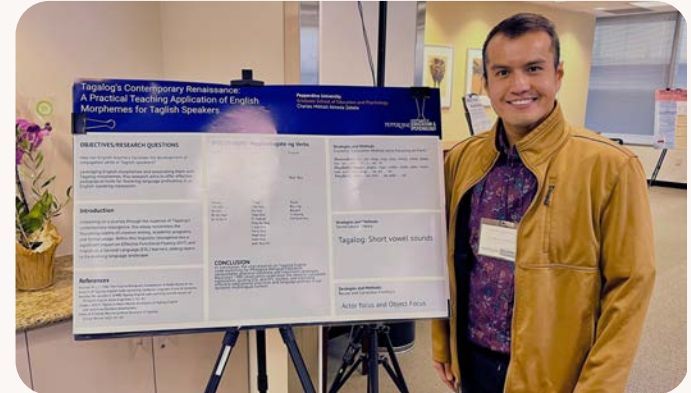
Ms. Xiadani Mendoza presents "Game on! Transforming Phrasal Verbs into Playful Learning"



Ms. Paige Harris presents "Sounds of Success: Mastering Interdental Fricatives in ESL Learners"



Ms. Xinnan Qiu presents "How can educators help students develop strong pronunciation through phonetic awareness to succeed on the TOEFL?"



Mr. Charles Zabala presents "Tagalog's Contemporary Renaissance: A Practical Teaching Application of English Morphemes for Taglish Speakers"



Ms. Huiting Huang presents "Reduce the Affective Filter in Language Learning"



Ms. Maryann Lee presents "Navigating Syntactic Crossroads: English vs Korean Verb Placement"



Mr. Seamus Morrison presents "That's Dope! Slang as a Way to Understand Language Change and Variety"



Ms. Yuqi Wang presents "What time is it?: How can ESL instructors help ELLs improve their use of signal words connected with verb tenses?"



Mr. Rodolfo S. Vásquez presents “Hooked on Fónicos! Coaching Spanish-Speaking ELLs on English Language Fricatives & Diphthongs”



A notable highlight of this event was our integration of technology, enabling participation for those unable to be physically present. We strive to live out principles of access and inclusion!



Intermission! Time for dinner before the MA in Teaching presentations!



welcome

Dr. Reyna García Ramos delivered remarks and extended good wishes to the MAT students for their capstone presentations.



The MAT students delivered exceptional presentations, shining a spotlight on crucial topics related to opportunity gaps, mental health resources, and the implications of teaching in a post pandemic era.



Well done, Waves! #PepperdineTESOL

Exciting news!

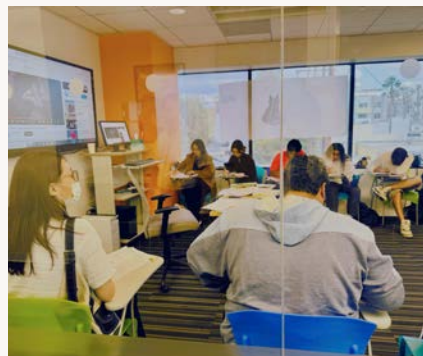
We are pleased to announce that, beginning this past September, our students had the invaluable opportunity to gain additional observation experiences through partnerships with **EC Los Angeles** and **East Los Angeles College**. We extend our sincere gratitude to our esteemed partners for their unwavering support, enriching the educational journey for our students.



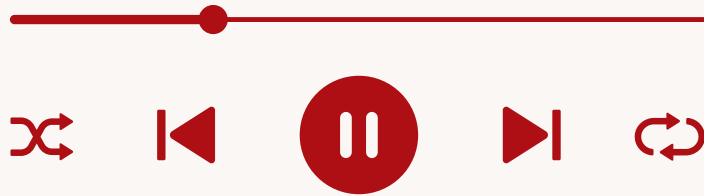
EC LOS ANGELES



EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE



Winter Break Unwind: TESOL Podcast Picks!



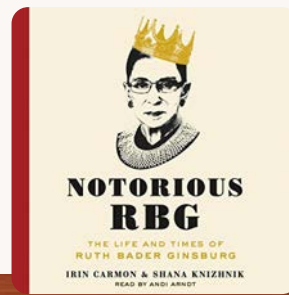
AS WE HEAD INTO THE WINTER BREAK, REMEMBER TO CARVE OUT TIME FOR YOURSELF TO UNWIND! THIS COULD INVOLVE LISTENING TO PODCASTS FOR PLEASURE. HERE ARE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR TESOL COMMUNITY.



Dr. Kevin Wong



Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp



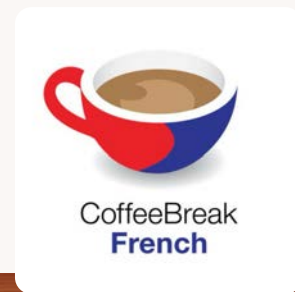
Professor Yi Lu



Ernesto Santiago Elizondo



Dr. Nooshan Ashtari



Professor Jacobo Coronel



Moises Olavarrieta



Feidana Yalikul



Community Shoutouts



Shoutout to our amazing and growing Pepperdine TESOL community! Celebrating the accomplishments and noteworthy achievements of our members this fall.



Teaching with Technology in the Post-Pandemic Digital Age: Technological Normalisation and AI-Induced Disruptions.
[Read more here.](#)

Authors: Dr. Ben Moorhouse; [Dr. Kevin Wong](#); Dr. Li Li

Leveraging Flip, a Video Discussion Platform, to Support the Needs of International ESL Pre-Service Teachers

Authors: [Dr. Weina Chen](#); [Dr. Kevin Wong](#)

Practical Technological Tools for Teaching and Connecting with Adolescent English Learners in the Post-Pandemic Age

Author: [Professor Jacobo Coronel](#)

Book Review:

The Folklorist in the Marketplace: Conversations at the Crossroads of Vernacular Culture and Economics by Willow G. Mullins, Puja Batra-Wells

[Read more here](#)

Author: Charles Mikhail Almeda Zabala (TESOL '24)



JSTOR

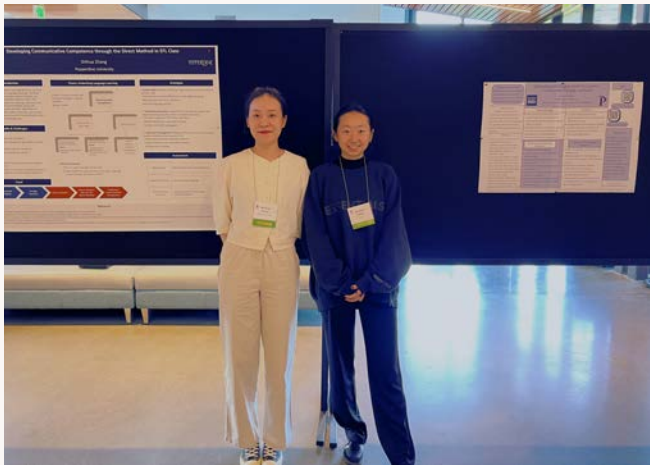
[CATESOL State Conference 2023](#)



Translanguaging with Mandarin-English bilinguals to promote metalinguistic awareness

Presenters:

- [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty)
- Feidana Yalikus (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '22)
- Peiyao Wang (MAT student, MATESOL '23)
- Guoran Zhang (MAT student, MATESOL '23)
- Jingyi Zhou (MATESOL '22)



Developing Communicative Competence through the Direct Method in EFL Class

Presenter: Shihua Zhang (MATESOL '23)

Motivating and Engaging Adult ESL Learners: A Humanizing Pedagogy Approach

Presenter: Guoran Zhang (MATESOL '23)

Integrate AI into English Education to Enhance Students' Self-Directed Learning

Presenter: Ziyao Guo (MATESOL '23)



Strategies to cultivate belonging in F2F and online language classrooms

Presenters:

- *Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty)*
- *Harream Purdie, H*
- *Linda Lee (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff)*

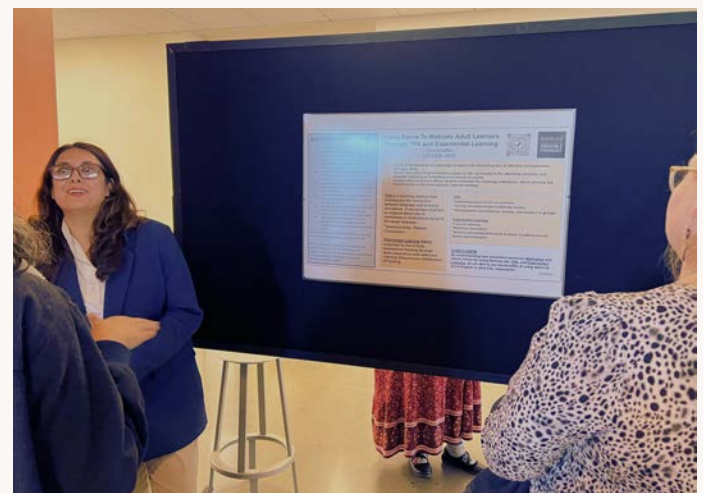
Assumption, awareness, action: Promoting critical reflection with digital tools

Presenters:

- *Linda Lee (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff)*
- *Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty)*

Using Dance to Motivate Adult ESL Learners through TPR and Experiential Learning

Presenter: Gina Ghaffari (MATESOL '23)



World Education Research Association (WERA-ERAS) International Conference 2023 in Singapore



Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Doctoral Education in Global Leadership and Change

Presenters:

- Dr. Weina Chen (faculty)
- Dr. Samaa Haniya (faculty)

Strengthening the Community: Uncovering Practices that Influence International Students' Sense of Belonging

Presenters:

- Jiangfeng Li (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '17)
- Xintian Ji (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '18)
- Dr. Weina Chen (faculty)



California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE) Conference



Engaging Sixth-Grade Mandarin Learners and Pepperdine Teacher Candidates in a Mutually Empowering Afterschool Program

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (faculty); Dr. Weina Chen (faculty); Dr. Kevin Wong (faculty)



The Experiences of Spanish-speaking Latina Immigrant Mother When Participating in the Individualized Education Plan for Their Children with Disabilities

Presenter:

- Dr. Reyna Garcia Ramos (faculty)
- Dr. Veronica Ferrufino (alumni)

2023 Online Learning and Consortium (OLC) Accelerate Conference



Envision a new approach to collaborative Instructional Designer and Faculty Relationship

Presenters:

- Elias Saade (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff)
- Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (faculty)
- Linda Lee (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff)



🔌 Hot Off the Press

In the book entitled “Developing Translanguaging Repertoires in Critical Teacher Education,” Ryan W. Pontier (Florida International University) and Zhongfeng Tian (Rutgers University) published a chapter entitled “If you want to be taken seriously, you have to speak like a white person: TESOL graduate students’ grappling with translanguaging-as-social justice stance.”

In examining TESOL graduate students' perceptions of integrating multiple languages (translanguaging) to promote equity in teaching and learning (social justice), this study revealed three major obstacles:

- Students were challenged to balance home language practices with classroom expectations and felt compelled to adhere to monolingual pedagogy.
- Students also struggled with the concept of multilingualism and despite recognizing the advantages of flexible bilingualism, felt pressured to adhere to established language norms.
- While recognizing that translanguaging is a natural skill for bilinguals, applying the concept in teaching practice is challenging, possibly due to entrenched attitudes influenced by white-centric linguistic ideologies among educators.

This study emphasizes the need for teacher educators to support teachers in overcoming these barriers and promoting multilingualism in teaching and learning to promote equity.

To read the full article that includes more details, [click here](#).





Guoran Zhang
MATESOL '23

Language Support

Implement language support strategies such as using bilingual materials, providing translated instructions or key vocabulary, and using gestures or visuals to reinforce understanding.



Flexible Language Use

Allow students to express themselves using the language(s) they are most comfortable with. Encourage them to use their entire linguistic repertoire to communicate ideas, ask questions, or share experiences.



Teaching Tips

for building a
culturally responsive
classroom

Cultural diversity

Connect learning materials and topics to students' cultural backgrounds and experiences. Incorporate diverse literature, stories, and examples that reflect the students' linguistic and cultural diversity.



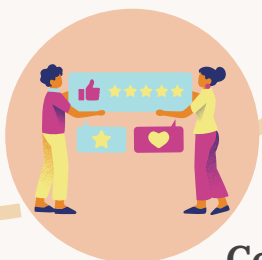
Differentiate Instruction

Recognize that students learn at different paces and in various ways. Differentiate instruction by providing varied materials, assignments, or tasks to accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and interests. Different options same standards.



Constructive Feedback

Promptly provide specific and constructive feedback for students. Highlight their strengths and areas for improvement, and provide guidance on how they can enhance their learning.



Alumni Profile



TESOL ALUMNI 20'

Esmirna Brito

Blessings! I am grateful to be stepping into my vocation of teaching as an **ESL adjunct instructor at Pasadena City College**.

The opportunity came upon completion of an internship through LACCD's Project Match program and alumni connection. I have also participated as a mental health facilitator through the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) in the last year. I also volunteer for faith groups with young adults and youth confirmation through the Diocese of Orange.

The vision I hold for the multitude of roles I step into is to bridge the connections in order to serve in the need and change for the prosperity of our communities. In order to teach, we must learn!

How has the MA in TESOL supported you in your career trajectory?

The program has developed a gratitude beyond measure! The connection I had prayed for in entering the program was to belong to a likeminded cohort and grow.

Now as an alumni, I have been able to cultivate all the lessons, projects, conferences and most vital the understanding of the TESOL role in our communities. **I developed an awareness of bias' that will be encountered as we navigate through the journey of professional and personal growth.** The confidence in stepping into change and persevering beyond our initial limitations had to be challenged and evoked. The exemplary support of our professors throughout the program provided and instilled the possibility beyond classroom instruction.

As I develop my role as an instructor, **I constantly refer to the guidance we received and how I am able to transpose it into my own teaching.** Language learning includes social and emotional understanding for student learning to occur beyond the classroom. **The opportunities presented through the program have propelled greater understanding and openness to serving.**

Upcoming Event

PEPPERDINE | GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY

2024 K-12 Career Conference

Don't miss this highly engaging opportunity to:

- Enjoy a networking lunch with students, alumni, faculty, and staff across Pepperdine's four campuses.
- Gain the inside scoop from K-12 administrators during an exclusive panel presentation.
- Participate in roundtable discussions with K-12 representatives, and learn about their unique school settings and hiring processes.

GSEP Career Services

310-568-5666 | gsep.careerservices@pepperdine.edu

DETAILS

Thursday, March 14
10:00am-2:30pm PDT
West LA Campus

Click or Scan to Register



Co-hosted by GSEP Career Services and Pepperdine's Teacher Preparation Program

Teaching Opportunities for Pepperdine TESOL Graduates



AEC – American English College

AEC, a prominent Intensive English Program with locations in Rowland Heights and Monterey Park, is actively seeking ESL professionals, with a special interest in Pepperdine TESOL graduates.

- Position: ESL Teacher
- Location: Rowland Heights or Monterey Park
- Requirements: Current or recent TESOL graduates, 1-2 years of ESL or EFL experience preferred
- Pay: Starting at \$23/hour, with additional training and practicum opportunities

This is not just a job; it's a chance to gain valuable classroom experience, even for newcomers to the field. Opportunities for observation, practicum completion, and potential long-term employment await!

To apply, send your resume to: nate@aec.edu and monica@aec.edu. For inquiries, contact Nate at +1 (941) 274-8369. ☎ Don't miss out on these exciting prospects!

Santa Ana College

- Position: Part-time and Substitute Teachers in Noncredit English as a Second Language
- Responsibilities:
 - Teach assigned classes
 - Maintain accurate records of student enrollment, attendance, and progress
 - Assist in maintaining course outlines
 - Participate in department, division, and institutional committees and activities
 - Teach a variety of ESL courses/levels
- Desirable Qualifications:
 - Experience in teaching diverse student backgrounds
 - Knowledge of and experience with student learning outcomes and assessment
- Salary Range: Lecture Hourly Rate \$59.37 – \$63.95 (Effective August 2023)





LAVC – Los Angeles Valley College

Lilit Davoyan, noncredit ESL faculty at Los Angeles Valley College, is seeking adjunct Noncredit ESL instructors. If interested, apply to the district pool of candidates: [\[Link\]](#).

Current Job Opportunities

Below is a list of job opportunities curated for our TESOL alumni. This list is representative of jobs that TESOL graduates can apply for and is not meant to be exhaustive. For ongoing TESOL updates and job opportunities, please join our [Pepperdine TESOL LinkedIn Group](#).

Job Title	Location	Full/Part Time	Application Deadline	Source
Education Recruitment Consultant	Hybrid remote	Full-Time	Until Filled	Scoot Education
Education Liaison	Lennox, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	South Bay Workforce Investment Board Inc.
Education Specialist	Pasadena, CA	Part-Time	Until Filled	Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
PT Faculty	Los Angeles, CA	Part-Time	Full-Time/ Part-Time	Loyola Marymount University
Regional Director of Education	Van Nuys, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	US Colleges
Adjunct Instructor - English as a Second Language	Santa Monica, CA	Part-Time	Until Filled	Santa Monica College
英文编辑	Xiamen, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	初构品牌
英文标注	Wuhan, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	出门问问
Student Awards Officer	Burnaby, Canada	Full-Time	Until Filled	Simon Fraser University

Take the Next Step

For more information, watch our TESOL Information Session below:



Take the Next Step

Reach out to us to learn more about Pepperdine's MA in Learning English of Other Languages (TESOL) Program

Get In Touch

Fill out the Request Information form to learn more and get in contact with an Enrollment Officer.

[REQUEST INFORMATION](#)

Attend an Info Session

Experience an In-depth overview and meet program leaders.

[SEE THE SCHEDULE](#)

Start Your Application

Submit the application form early to meet scholarship and enrollment deadline. It takes less than 15 minutes.

[APPLY NOW](#)

