

TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

PEPPERDINE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION &
PSYCHOLOGY



WELCOME

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The end of the 2021-2022 academic year has come and I must pause to say,
“You did it! We made it!”

We celebrated the culmination of 11 full months of study at the end of July with our Masters in TESOL candidates’ (now alum!) Capstone Presentations and celebratory luncheon. Professors, staff, family members, and clinical partners alike were beaming with pride by the presentations. Each candidate delivered a stunning, research-informed, practitioner-oriented presentation on topics that were cutting-edge and reflective of their personal interests in TESOL and the mark they will leave in the field (see pictures in collage below). The luncheon was heartfelt as we exchanged words of praise and encouragement, reminisced over a nostalgic year-end slideshow (see below), and took pictures to commemorate this achievement. Two weeks later, we saw everyone again - now relaxed and graduated - at Dockweiler State Beach for a truly “Californian” beach bonfire (pictures below). It was the perfect way to celebrate (once again!) a year well done - because let’s be honest, our graduates deserved multiple celebrations!

Now as our graduates enter the workforce and faculty/staff gear up for the new academic year, I wanted to share a quote that has personally challenged me as I continue to work on rest and rejuvenation.

“It takes courage to say yes to rest and play in a culture where exhaustion is seen as a status symbol.” - Brené Brown

May we all step into September recharged and ready to make an impact in the field of TESOL education and beyond!

And as a final word - to our graduates - I wish you the heartiest congratulations!

With gratitude,
Kevin Wong, Ph.D.
kevin.wong@pepperdine.edu
TESOL Chair

LIFE AT PEPPERDINE

CAPSTONE PRESENTATION & LUNCHEON



Dr. Wong welcomes everyone to the TESOL Capstone Event



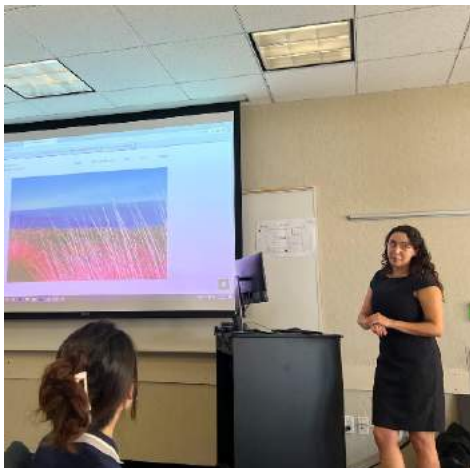
Ms. Liliana Perez presents, "Promoting an Active Learning Experience for English Learners".



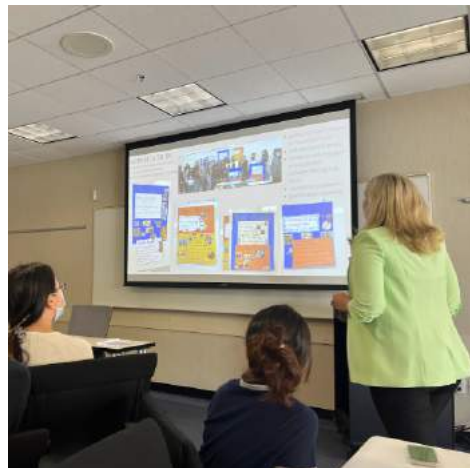
Ms. Feidana Yalikun presents, "Teaching Sociolinguistic Skills to Support Students in Improving Language Fluency and Communicative Competence".



Mr. Baker Liang presents, "Practicing English Language Skills through Gamification Tools in the Classroom".



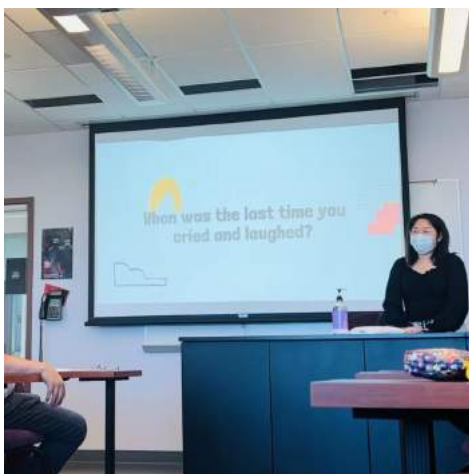
Ms. Alexis Hopwood presents, "Maximizing Engagement in Second Language Learning: Effective Implementation of Social Constructivism".



Ms. Zoya Medov presents, "A 3-Step Guidance in Creating an Engaging Classroom for Adult Learners".



Ms. Teresa Jimenez presents, "Supporting Spanish Speaking English Learners by Reducing Classroom Anxiety".



Ms. Xinti Yang presents, "Balancing Grammar-Translation Method & Communicative Language Teaching in Chinese K-12 Education".



Ms. Yuehan Hu presents, "Teaching English by Montessori Language Arts Approach."



Dr. Chen thanked the partners for their support of student placements.



Grateful to clinical partners who provide our TESOL students with hands-on experiences!



Posing with the Pacific Ocean in the backdrop.



A touching message from a graduate.



We graduated!



The joy is overwhelming!

LIFE AT PEPPERDINE

SHARING FROM RECENT ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS



Pursuing a master's degree for me is arduous, fulfilling, and bittersweet. It is the best decision I have ever made and one of the most memorable experiences in my life. This program deepened my understanding of TESOL with thorough explorations in language acquisition, sociolinguistics, language assessment, curriculum and program design, various pedagogical approaches and applications, and more. Meanwhile, we were able to improve our teaching skills through the process of putting theories and concepts into practice in multiple mini-lessons in class and clinical sites. This program also pushed me to grow emotionally, intelligently, and socially. I am genuinely grateful to all my professors and cohort for the entire year for their dedication, support, and understanding, which brought me to the end of this wonderful journey.

Fang Xiong/Sophia
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022

I want to thank all my professors and classmates for supporting me throughout the program. We were a unique cohort, and I am lucky to have been part of it. TESOL is an intensive program, and it challenged me in so many ways that I grew as a person. Without the support from everyone, it would have been impossible. I am looking forward to using all the tools and knowledge I gained in the program and making a difference in students' lives. Once again, thank you, and good luck to everyone in your new endeavors.

Teresa Jimenez
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022



To my classmates and professors, thank you for the continuous support and the beginning of long-lasting friendships. It was a rollercoaster of emotions, and through it all, I learned to believe in myself again. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to have walked alongside me on this journey. The tears we have shed and the tears yet to come will continue to make us stronger. I am excited to see our next destinations and the impact we will make in this world. May we once again cross paths. Congratulations to us all. We did it! Go Waves!!

Liliana Perez
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022





PI will always be grateful to our amazing professors for guiding us in our professional careers as educators. With their support and grace, our cohort has transformed from eager students to professional educators. This past year at Pepperdine has passed far too quickly, but will always stand out as one of the best years of my life. I cannot wait to see the waves of change these Pepperdine Waves are about to make!

Alexis Hopwood
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022

As an international student, I am very fortunate to be able to study at Pepperdine University GSEP. I have to say that even though this was my first year in the United States, I never felt like I couldn't fit in. Every professor and fellow student was supportive and helpful in every way possible. GSEP provides a diverse, safe and comfortable environment where I made many friends and quickly felt like I belonged. Most importantly, I was able to get support and help with whatever I needed. Every faculty and staff member at the school is very helpful in finding solutions to our problems.

Xinti Yang
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022



Reflecting on the learning journey in the TESOL program, I am proud of being an alumnus of Pepperdine University and genuinely grateful to all professors who gave me the knowledge, served as role models, and led me to be a passionate and confident educator. Actually, when I first came to the States, I was really scared of not being able to achieve the goals I had had in my mind. But my classmates and the excellent faculty members have made this journey much more manageable. I wish to keep the teaching philosophy inspired by professors to believe in every student's potential, pay close attention to every student's needs, and always teach with the best preparation in the future.

Guangyihui Hou
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022





I want to say I love Pepperdine, love all my classmates, and love all my professors. In the past year, I have seen the most beautiful ocean view, met the best professors, was selected by the best conference, and was so fortunate and proud to be part of an amazing community. At Pepperdine, with the help of my professors and precious clinical experiences, I transitioned from a student to a qualified teacher. I believe that no matter what career path I choose in my future, the experience at Pepperdine will give me the courage to face challenges in my life.

Yuehan Hu
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022

Best Cohort, Best Professors, Best Program!
I still remember the orientation day when I entered school with excitement and uneasiness. I was eager to acquire knowledge, share experiences and meet friends; at the same time, I was afraid I wouldn't fit in the group. It turned out that worries were superfluous. Enthusiastic professors, cheerful peers, and friendly chats soon gave me a sense of belonging and security. What has continually impressed me about the program is its inclusion. The professors are not only brilliant scholars but also outstanding educators who care deeply about their students. The classmates are not only active learners but also reliable partners who accompany me to grow and progress. Thanks for the constant love and support. So, what am I going to do with a degree in TESOL? I will use what I've learned to inspire and help more English learners.

Siyu Zhang
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022



The years have gone by in a hurry. When I look back on this year, the best word to describe it is "harvest." I am very grateful to my classmates, who always give me support and help with the most sincere heart, and to my professors, who convey passionate and professional attitudes that I admire. Special thanks to Dr. Wong, who is undoubtedly the best mentor and who tirelessly inspired me in any way possible. Thanks also to Dr. Chen, a role model in life, who was like a bright sun that warmed me, guided, and helped me. The poet Lu You inscribed: 古人学问无遗力, 少壮工夫老始成。纸上得来终觉浅, 绝知此事要躬行。 May we all be more determined in our thinking, not hollow; more erudite in our reading, not fickle; more fruitful in our living, not groveling.

Feidana Yalikun
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022





Dear TESOL Graduates,

When we first met at the New Student Orientation that early morning in September, I asked you to think about the impact you wanted to make with this degree. Throughout the Fall and Spring semesters when I had you in my classes, I also repeatedly asked this question (although perhaps in different ways). The truth is the impact we want to make constantly shifts and changes as we gain more experiences, opportunities, knowledge, and even setbacks.

My hope is that you will continually reflect on the impact you want to make; that you will take time to recognize the impact you are currently making; and that you will continue to dream about how you might leverage this degree and your passions to impact the world in a way that is uniquely you.

Proud is an understatement as I think about the individual journeys that you have been on; and grateful is a word I hold dear as I think about the privilege it has been to be part of your stories.

Blessings,

Dr. Kevin Wong
TESOL Faculty & Program Chair

I am so grateful for my TESOL experience, which is not possible to put in a few words. Dr. Wright's class helped me to master ethical strategies that empowered me in my professional and personal life. Professor Van Houten's passion for the subject made me enjoy developing creative language assessments that measure students' success and at the same time, do not put stress on students. Professor Coronel taught me excellence and what superior lessons are. Dr. Chen is a technology guru, she taught me how to use digital tools in an ESL classroom. I enjoyed every lesson from Dr. Wong, he was the chain who connected all of us, students, and faculty. The professors' professionalism, empathy, and care during the course work went beyond the traditional student-teacher relationship.

My Pepperdine experience has prepared me for the career that I wanted to pursue: to teach in higher education. Due to the support of my wonderful professors, I am proud to announce that in such a short time, I have been accepted as a faculty member of the ESL Division at Glendale Community College. Thank you so much for being encouraging and doing everything to keep me motivated and supported throughout the program. This course made me a better educator and person, and I will remember and follow every detail throughout my professional and personal life.

Zoya Medov
TESOL Graduate, Class of 2022



Dear TESOL Graduates,

I am so extremely proud of each of you! You made it to the finish line! Thank you for the opportunity to learn alongside you all as we engaged in meaningful dialogues in class together. The values that each of you possess and the courage and passion you all have for making things better will surely enable you to make a difference in the lives of others. Continue to give life the best of you!

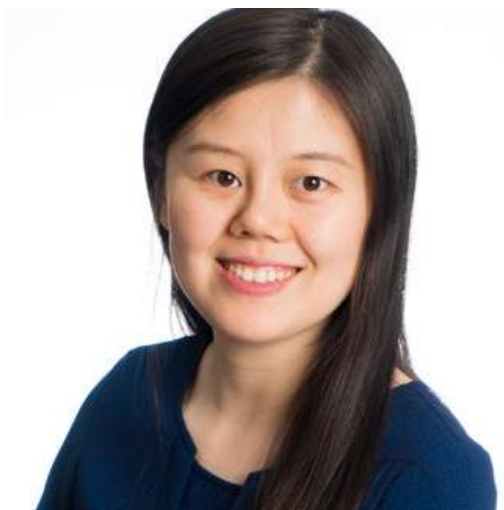
Dr. Maria Wright
TESOL Faculty
Director of Talent Management - GSEP



Dear TESOL Graduates,

Congratulations!!! You have worked extremely hard and achieved this very well-deserved master degree! You did it! I cannot wait to hear back from you with your wonderful future news. I pray that God will continue to protect you and bless you with your next chapters. Please keep in touch!

Dr. Weina Li Chen
TESOL Faculty



Dear TESOL Graduates,

What an honor and a privilege it was to watch each and every one of you grow and succeed during this academic year. Congratulations, you did it! I am so proud of the hard work and dedication you have put into this academic achievement and I wish you so much success in your future endeavors. Please know you have a forever family here at GSEP and we look forward to staying in touch!

Mahsa Zojaji
TESOL Associate Program Director

Hot off the Press



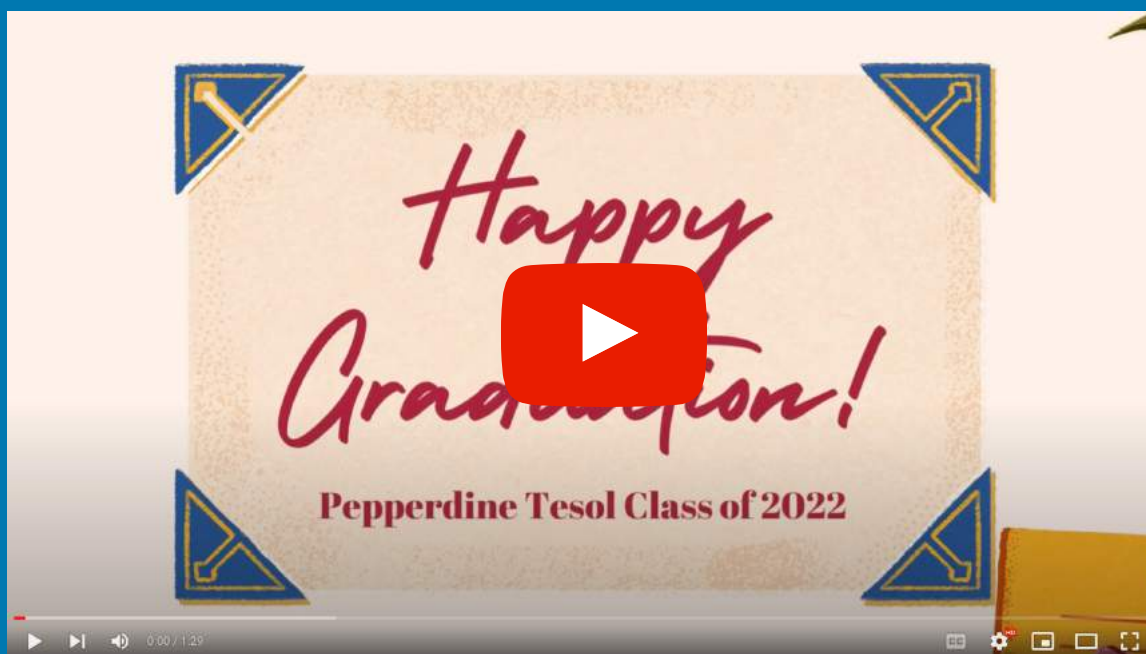
In a previous issue of *TESOL Quarterly*, Špela Mežek (Stockholm University), Lisa McGrath (Sheffield Hallam University), Raffaella Negretti (Chalmers University of Technology), and Jessica Berggren (Stockholm University) published an article entitled, "Scaffolding L2 Academic Reading and Self-Regulation Through Task and Feedback."

Researchers approached the study to understand whether classroom-based reading strategy training produces effective, self-regulated reading behaviors when students engage in authentic academic reading in learning environments. To accomplish this, researchers observed 75 student blog posts and 63 teacher responses over a 5-week period to examine the effects of instructional scaffolding combined with teacher feedback. They concluded that task prompts and feedback had a self-regulatory and facilitative role on students.

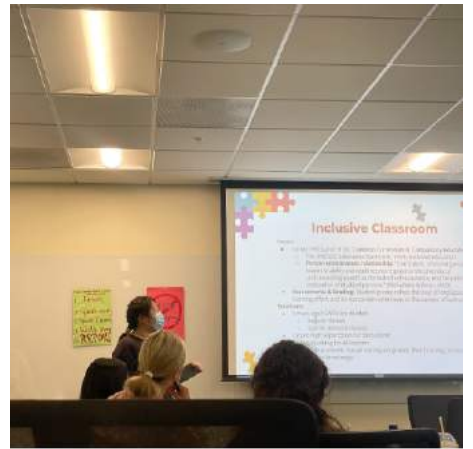
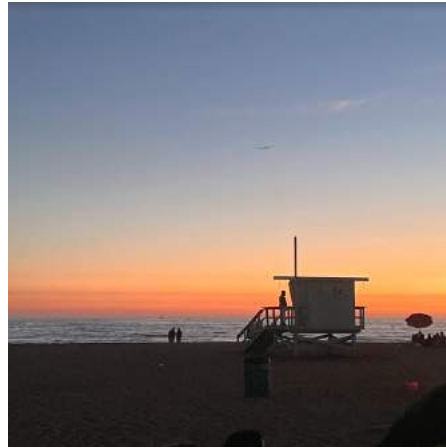
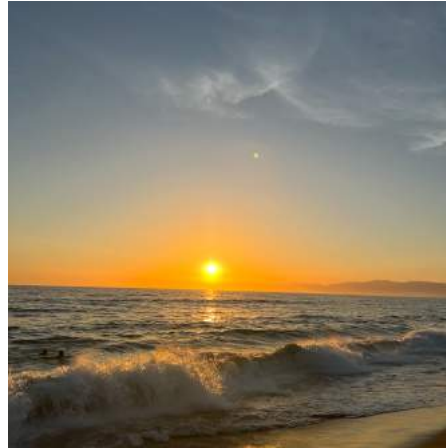
[Click here](#) to read the full article.

A Year to Remember

Click on the video below to watch TESOL Class of '22's academic journey!



OUR FINAL DAYS TOGETHER



CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The following jobs are not exhaustive and represent the types of jobs currently available for our TESOL students and graduates.

| Job Title | Location | Full/Part Time | Application Deadline | Source |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| Administrative Associate (Chinese Speaking) | Alhambra, CA | Full-Time | Urgently hiring | HG Plus Consulting Inc. |
| Bilingual House Remodeling Manager - Chinese and English | El Monte, CA | Full-Time | Until Filled | HLRB Investments |
| Logistics Coordinator | Los Angeles, CA | Part-Time | Until Filled | Nouhaus, Inc. |
| Policy Specialist | Los Angeles, CA | Full-Time | Until Filled | TikTok |
| Chinese Linguist Screener | Los Angeles, CA | Full-Time | Until Filled | Leidos |
| Part-Time Instructors | Compton, CA | Part-Time | Until Filled | Compton Community College District |
| 初中英语编辑 | Beijing, China | Full-Time | Until Filled | 仁爱教育 |
| 英文专员 | Shanghai, China | Full-Time | Until Filled | 明滨 |
| Freelance English Editor for Research Journals | Remote, Canada | Part-Time | Until Filled | MDPI AG |
| Elementary English Teacher | Costa Mesa, CA | Full-time | Until Filled | Pacific Academy |

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 Teaching English to Speakers 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 deadlines. It takes less than 15 minutes.

[APPLY NOW](#)

