TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

WELCOME

""Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going." – Rita Mae Brown

Greetings to all our students, faculty, alumni, and friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 13th issue of our TESOL program newsletter. Rita Mae Brown's words resonate deeply with our mission at Pepperdine University—to empower educators and learners through language as a bridge to cultural understanding and personal growth. Language is not just a tool for communication; it is a medium for connection, transformation, and discovery. As TESOL educators, we embrace the responsibility of guiding others along this meaningful journey.

In this issue, we are excited to share updates and stories from our vibrant community. From our participation at the annual CATESOL State Conference in November to celebrating our alumni, Ana Guzman (TESOL '21), receiving an award at this conference, these moments highlight the dedication, passion, and creativity that define our program. You'll also read about Yixiu Li (TESOL '23) who is currently a fifth-grade teacher in a Mandarin dual language public school in Los Angeles, as well as valuable teaching insights on what to do and not do in a language classroom.

The fall semester has been rich with opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. Highlights include our Thanksgiving dinner with current students and alumni, as well as a look ahead at our upcoming TESOL Fall Research Symposium at the West LA campus. Together, these efforts underscore our commitment to advancing multilingual education and fostering global citizenship. Thank you for being part of our TESOL community. Your ongoing engagement and support help us create a lasting impact—one word, one lesson, and one connection at a time.

With gratitude,
Kevin Wong, Ph.D.
TESOL Chair

READ OUR PAST ISSUES:

ISSUE 8
ISSUE 9
ISSUE 10
ISSUE 11
ISSUE 12

EDITED BY FEIDANA YALIKUN

LIFE @ PEPPERDINE

Warm welcome to our new cohort of TESOL educators from our leaders, Drs Kevin Wong and Anthony Collatos

From cozy indoor sessions to vibrant outdoor adventures, we've got it all!

What paths will our future TESOL educators take?

Communication sparks collaboration, and collaboration builds connection

The Malibu Drescher Campus: the perfect backdrop for the start of the next chapter.

TESOL alumna Ana Guzman shines on stage at CATESOL, showcasing her brilliance and dedication!

Joining forces at CATESOL—connections made, ideas shared, and fun had by all!

Diverse voices, shared stories, and unforgettable memories at the GSEP International Student Gathering.

Recent graduate, Paige Harris (TESOL '23), takes the stage at CATESOL—cheers to her amazing work!

Sharing laughter, gratitude, and pumpkin pie—what a close-knit Friendsgiving crew!

Food represented from multiple cultures and nations, representing the tapestry of our TESOL community.

Thanksgiving with the Wongs! A day in the year when laughter and smiles light up the room—our favorite tradition!

*A feast of cultures,
a celebration of unity*

PEPPERDINE
TESOL
THANKSGIVING
2024

*How can you miss dessert?
It's the grand finale of any feast!*

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving finds its true meaning when we come together as one

SITE VISITS

Our students had an amazing chance to learn and grow through structured observations at _EC Los Angeles_ and _Oaks Christian Middle School_. We're incredibly grateful to our wonderful partners for their ongoing support and belief in the power of education. Your support makes all the difference!

EC Los Angeles

Oaks Christian Middle School

2024 CATESOL CONFERENCE

Empowering Vo(((•)))ces

Bridging Communities through Civic Learning and Digital Literacies

CATESOL
CATESOL.ORG

Attending conferences is a cherished tradition at Pepperdine TESOL. Each year, we celebrate the growth of our community—where some are honored, some achieve breakthroughs, some embark on journeys of learning and discovery, and many enjoy heartfelt reunions that strengthen our bonds.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Chao Wu, a current TESOL student, offers heartfelt reflections from the CATESOL conference.

What was a memorable session that you attended? Why?

A memorable session that I attended was "AI in Second Language Education: Grabbing the Bull by the Horns" by Mark Warschauer. The development of science and technology and its innovative application in Second Language teaching have had a huge impact on the teachers and learners. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly important in the field of second language learning as it provides an effective way to personalize and automate the learning process. For example, ChatGPT and other similar AI tools make language learning easier. On the one hand, we can use AI to check grammar, it speeds up the process of finishing the assignments. On the other hand, we should be wary of AI. According to the session, professor Warschauer showed a good example for the participants. He once asked ChatGPT to write a brief bio of Mark Warschauer, ChatGPT wrote some experience correctly, however, ChatGPT wrote some incorrect information about Warschauer. In such a case, we should look critically at the benefits and weaknesses of AI. As educators, we should take the good and discard the bad of AI.

What is something that surprised you about attending the conference?

Attending the conference, I saw a statue of Confucius. Confucius was a famous educator in ancient China. It reminds me to remember "Learn to be a teacher, behavior demonstration".

What were the key takeaways for you after the conference?

The key takeaways for me after the conference were from Michael Berman, he works for Pro Lingua Learning. He sent us some cards for learning grammar. I realized that learning grammar can be lively if we use corpus-based and active approaches.

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

The CATESOL State conference brought together excellent professors and experienced teachers to share their thoughts and experiences, which was insightful and useful. For example, in the workshop of Kevin Wong and Ana Guzman, through two hands-on activities of advanced technology tools, educators could develop texts and scenarios that can be used in our classrooms, in turn enhancing digital literacy and instructional practices. Teaching needs innovation. The conference provides a wonderful platform to keep pace with the times. I will seek out professional development opportunities to stay informed about advancements in AI technology and its implications for language education.

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

Go to the CATESOL State conference, you deserve to be here.

TEACHING TIPS *by Larry Ferlazzo*

Do's and Don'ts for Teaching English-Language Learners

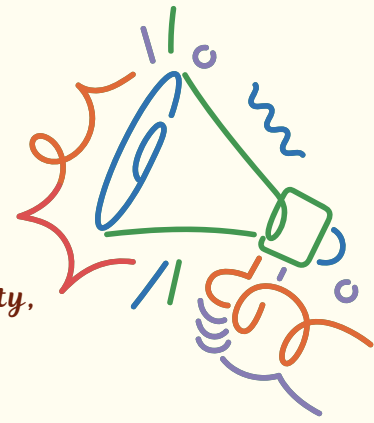|	DO	DON'T
Modeling	Demonstrate new skills or activities step-by-step. Share your thought processes aloud and provide examples of good work from both teachers and students. This builds confidence and motivation as students see how to approach and complete tasks successfully.	Rely solely on verbal instructions without showing students how to perform the task.
Rate of Speech and Wait Time	Speak slowly and clearly, and give students time to process and respond. Allow a pause after asking questions to help students, especially ELLs, formulate their thoughts.	Speak too quickly or repeat instructions louder if a student didn't understand. Instead, rephrase or simplify your explanation.
Use of Non-Linguistic Cues	Incorporate visuals, gestures, sketches, and tone changes to make language and content more accessible. Use visual aids to reinforce key concepts.	Depend solely on verbal lectures or textbooks as teaching tools.
Giving Instructions	Provide both verbal and written instructions. Write step-by-step directions on the board for easy reference.	Expect students to follow instructions that haven't been clearly explained or displayed.
Check for Understanding	Use strategies like thumbs up/thumbs down or Post-it notes to assess understanding regularly. Emphasize that it's okay not to understand, encouraging honest feedback.	Ask vague questions like "Are there any questions?" or rely on nonverbal cues like nodding or smiling, which can be misleading.
Encourage Development of Home Language	Promote literacy in students' home language (L1) to support their second language (L2) development. Recognize the value of skills that transfer between languages.	Prohibit students from using their native language, as this creates a negative and unwelcoming environment.

View Full Post

ALUMNI PROFILE

My name is Yixiu Li. I am a fifth-grade Mandarin immersion teacher at Broadway Elementary in Los Angeles, LAUSD. I specialize in using bilingual resources in MI program like Better Immersion, Level Learning, and Meizhou Chinese, along with diagnostic tools such as iChinese Reader and Go Chinese. My teaching is guided by world language standards, including ACTFL and Common Core, to develop students' language proficiency and cultural literacy.

I hold a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Master of TESOL from Pepperdine University, as well as a Master of Law (LLM) from USC, providing a unique perspective on language acquisition and educational policies. I have completed the requirements for Mandarin Bilingual Authorization and am awaiting the issuance of my BCLAD credential. My background equips me to foster meaningful language learning in immersive classroom settings while supporting students' academic and personal growth.

HOW HAS THE MA IN TESOL SUPPORTED YOU IN YOUR CAREER TRAJECTORY?

My MA in TESOL has been instrumental in shaping my career as a Mandarin immersion teacher by deepening my understanding of language acquisition theories and best practices for teaching English learners. It equipped me with strategies to scaffold instruction, differentiate learning, and support students with diverse linguistic backgrounds. The program emphasized cultural responsiveness, which has enhanced my ability to create an inclusive classroom that values students' heritage languages and cultures. Additionally, the TESOL training has strengthened my assessment skills, enabling me to track language development effectively and tailor instruction to meet the needs of both native and non-native speakers.

COMMUNITY SHOUTOUTS

A big shoutout to our incredible Pepperdine TESOL community, shaping the future of language education! This fall, we're thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members—making waves and leaving their mark!

AWARDS

Outstanding Emerging Teacher Educator Award, California Council on Teacher Education

Awardee:
Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)

2024 Ron Lee Technology Award, CATESOL Education Foundation

Awardee:
Ana Guzman (Ed.D student, MATESOL '21)

PUBLICATION

Beyond Lau: Envisioning Humanizing and Culturally Sustaining Workspaces for Teachers in Dual-Language Bilingual Education Schools

Authors:
Helen Chan Hill (Ed.D '23) & Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)

(Re)negotiating Asian and Asian American Identities in Solidarity as Language Teacher Educators: An AsianCrit Discourse Analysis

Authors:
Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty); Minhye Son; Wenyang Sun; Jongyeon Joy Ee; Samantha Harris; Jungmin Kwon; Khánh Lê; Zhongfeng Tian

Principal Agency Fifty Years After the Lau Decision: Building and Sustaining Bilingual Education Programs for Asian Languages

Authors:
Zhongfeng Tian & Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)

CATESOL 2024 - CATESOL STATE CONFERENCE

Personal Narratives with Technology

Presenter:
Ana Guzman (Ed.D student, MATESOL '21)

Enhancing the TESOL Student Experience Through LMS Considerations

Presenters:
Harream Purdie (Staff)
Yi (Lucy) Lu (Ph.D, '24, Faculty & Staff)

Prompt Engineering with AI for Material Development in Language Teaching

Presenters:
Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)
Dr. Xuanyi (Amber) Chen (Ed.D '24)
Ana Guzman (Ed.D student, MATESOL '21)
Xiadani Mendoza (MATESOL '24, Staff)

The Lighter Side of Language Learning: Utilizing Humor in Adult ESL/EFL Classroom

Presenter:
Paige Harris (MATESOL '24)

Video Games: Bridging Digital and Linguistic Communities in SLA

Presenters:
Tianshi Hao (Ed.D Student)
Dr. Nooshan Ashtari (Faculty)

Using Padlet as a Digital Tool for Oral Presentations in Noncredit ESL

Presenter:
Kristle Domondon (MATESOL '20)

RECENT GRADUATE SHOUTOUTS

Charles Zavala
Bilingual and ESL Tutor in Collin County School District, Texas

Maryann Gracielle Lee
Team Leader at Footsteps Missions in South Korea

Paige Harris
Instructor in the Intensive English Program at Santa Monica College

Rudy Vasquez
Instructor at Los Angeles City College (LACC) and Los Angeles Mission College in Spring 2025

Seamus Morrison
Instructor at English First International Language Campus in Santa Barbara
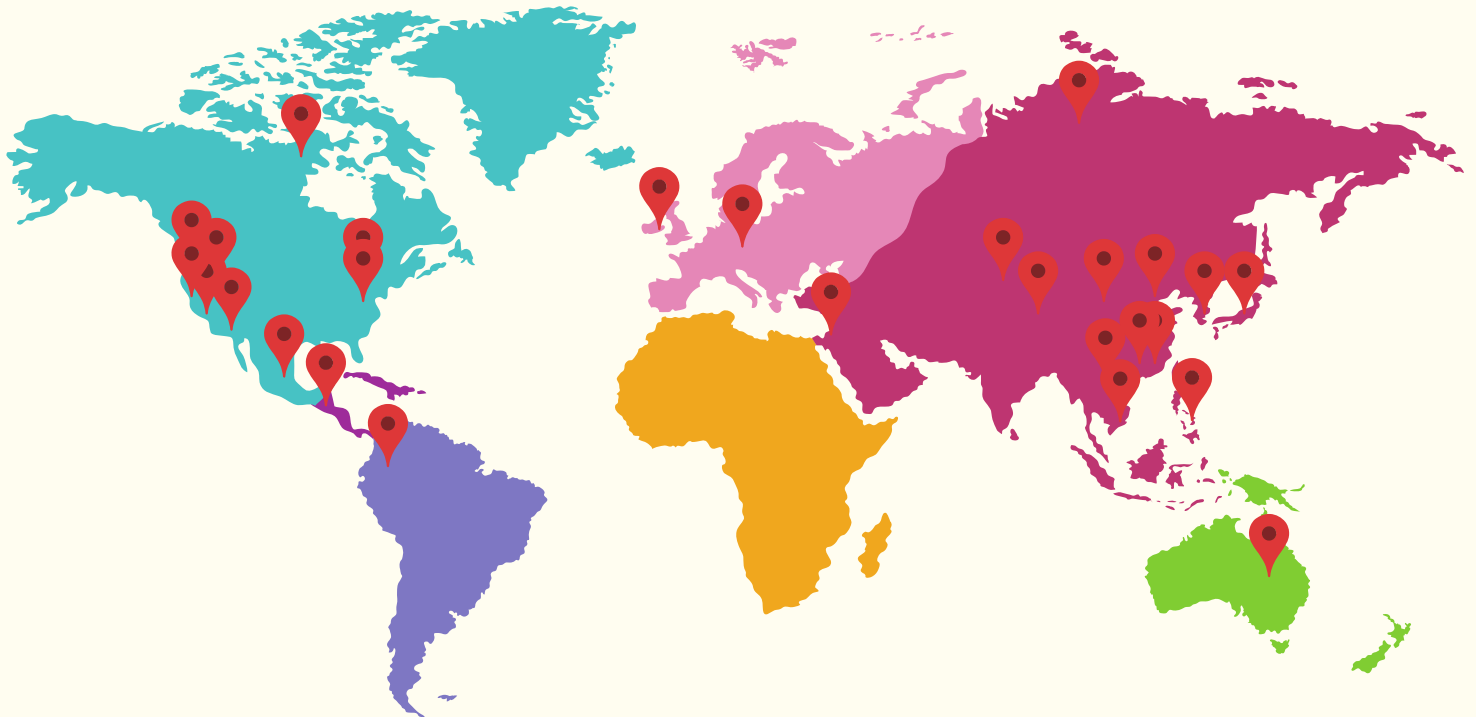

Xiadani Mendoza
Instructional Designer at GSEP and EdD student

Xinan Qiu
Instructor at Ni Hao Chinese Learning Center

FROM CLASSROOMS TO GLOBAL STAGES
OUR TESOL GRADUATES ARE MAKING AN IMPACT WORLDWIDE

Bonjour

Xin chào

привет

こんにちは

Hello

Hallo

你好

Hola

مرحبًا

안녕하세요

Salom

Every year, our TESOL students join us with hearts full of passion for teaching. When their journey here ends, they take their dreams and newfound knowledge to every corner of the world, determined to inspire and empower learners everywhere.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

In a recent issue of *Journal of Second Language Writing*, Mark Warschauer, Waverly Tseng, Soobin Yim, Thomas Webster, Sharin Jacob, Qian Du, and Tamara Tate published an article entitled "The Affordances and Contradictions of AI-Generated Text for Writers of English as a Second or Foreign Language."

This article examines the benefits and challenges of AI tools like ChatGPT for ESL/EFL learners. AI can enhance writing by improving grammar, clarity, and style, but it raises issues like plagiarism, unequal access, and overreliance.

The authors highlight three key contradictions: (1) Imitation Contradiction—AI helps mimic "native-like" English but risks plagiarism accusations; (2) Rich Get Richer Contradiction—students with better access to AI benefit more, widening inequality; (3) With or Without Contradiction—using AI effectively requires strong writing skills, but premature reliance can hinder learning.

To address these, the authors propose a five-step AI Literacy Framework:
1. Understand AI's capabilities and biases.
2. Access tools for tasks like summarizing or drafting.
3. Prompt effectively to generate useful content.
4. Corroborate AI outputs for accuracy.
5. Incorporate AI ethically and transparently.

This article emphasizes teaching students to use AI as a complement to their skills, preparing them for academic and professional contexts where these tools are integral.

To read the full article that includes more details and tangible examples, <u>click here</u>.

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
School and College Counselor	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	PUC Schools
Administrative Assistant, Product Discovery & Promotion	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	Netflix
Special Agent: Linguist Background	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Instructors - English as a Second Language (ESL)	Compton, CA	Part-Time	Until Filled	Compton Community College District
Spanish Interpreter/Translator	Los Angeles, CA	Part-time, Contract, Freelance	Until Filled	Karaman Language Solutions
Language & Culture Specialist II	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	Children's Hospital Los Angeles
英语编辑	Shanghai, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	上海立轩文化传播
Tiktok英文带货主播	Shanghai, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	妃鱼
Remote English Evaluator	Vancouver, Canada	Full-Time	Until Filled	Outlier Ai

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