

TIRF TODAY

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Promoting research and effective practices in English language education for the global knowledge economy in the 21st century

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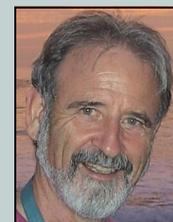
Fitzpatrick and O'Dowd to Co-Author TIRF Report

The TIRF Board of Trustees is pleased to announce it will commission a report tentatively entitled, *English at Work: Case Studies of English Language Training for the 21st Century Workforce*. The paper will be co-authored by Anthony Fitzpatrick and Robert O'Dowd.

Anthony Fitzpatrick has been involved in language teaching for more than forty years, in particular in England, Sweden, and Germany. He has taught in all sectors of education (primary, upper- and lower-secondary, university, adult, continuing, and vocational education) and has a long history of teacher training.

As former Head of Foreign Language Projects at the German Institute for Adult Education, Fitzpatrick was responsible for the development of curricula and language examinations (including Vocationally Oriented Language Learning) offered in seven European languages as well as Japanese.

When Fitzpatrick was the Director of the ICC - The International Language Network, he coordinated the work of over forty member organizations involved in language teaching in various sectors of education in sixteen European countries. Since the launch of the education programmes of the European Commission in 1989 (LINGUA; SOCRATES, LEONARDO, etc.), he has been involved in over twenty EC-funded projects, chiefly as project coordinator. He has also initiated and coordinated four major projects at the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz, Austria since its founding in 1995. His current interests include the use of new media in vocationally oriented language learning.



Anthony Fitzpatrick



Robert O'Dowd

Robert O'Dowd teaches EFL and Applied Linguistics at the University of León, Spain, and is also the University's Secretary for International Training. He has conducted teacher training in the English Department at the University of Essen in Germany and at The Applied Language Centre, University College Dublin, Ireland, where he also taught ESP courses. He has been a member of the Executive Committees of EUROCALL (European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning) and IALIC (International Association of Language and Intercultural Communication).

O'Dowd has a PhD from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany in the area of online foreign language education. His book, *Telecollaboration and the Development of Intercultural Communicative Competence*, was published in 2006 by Langenscheidt. With Fitzpatrick, he edited *E-VOLLution 2010: Exploring Cutting Edge Applications of Networked Technologies in Vocationally Oriented Language Learning*. In 2005, along with Paige Ware, he was the recipient of a Priority Research Grant from TIRF.

Donors Augment the Russell N. Campbell Fund

This year, as a part of TIRF's annual appeal, donors who are somehow connected with UCLA turned out in droves to honor our colleague, Russell N. Campbell, who died in 2003. Russ was one of TIRF's founders, and was the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Each year, the highest rated Doctoral Dissertation Grant proposal is awarded in his honor with a scholarship of US \$5,000.

Friends, family, former students, and colleagues of Russ made contributions and encouraged others to contribute as well. As a result, over US \$6,000 was raised for the Campbell Fund, ensuring its continuity for another year.

If there is someone you would like to honor with a donation to TIRF, please send a check drawn on a US bank to the address on this newsletter, or go to <http://www.tirfonline.org/donate/> to make a credit card contribution. If the online system will not allow you to designate an honoree, please send an email to info@tirfonline.org and we will make sure that the donation is credited as you wish.

Bailey Honored with the Heinle Cengage Outstanding Achievement Award



Kathi Bailey Poses with TIRF Trustees, Dennis Hogan (left) and David Nunan (right)

At the recent TESOL Convention in New Orleans, TIRF President, Kathi Bailey, was honored with the Heinle Cengage Outstanding Achievement Award. This award is given annually to Heinle Cengage authors who have made a distinctive contribution to English language education – through authoring, teaching, research, and otherwise helping the field, in terms of reach, scope, and impact.

According to Heinle President, Dennis Hogan, previous recipients of this honor were Earl Stevick, Diane Larsen-Freeman, Donald Freeman, Rebecca Oxford, David Nunan, Neil Anderson, Anna Uhl Chamot, Marianne Celce-Murcia, Paul Nation, Lydia Stack, Mary Lou McCloskey, Barbara Foley, and Sandra Elbaum.

Commenting on receiving the award, Bailey said, "I was totally surprised by this wonderful award, and I am deeply honored to be included in this list of notable people in our field. I also appreciate David Nunan keeping the 'roast' relatively mild!"

TIRF Presentations: 2011 TESOL & LTRC



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Mailing Address:

177 Webster St., # 220
Monterey, CA 93940 USA

Email Address:

info@tirfonline.org

Visit TIRF online at
www.tirfonline.org



Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

For back issues of TIRF Today, please visit <http://www.tirfonline.org/about-us/newsletters/>.

TIRF at 2011 TESOL Convention

At the 2011 TESOL Convention held in New Orleans, several TIRF Board members participated in a panel presentation entitled, "Regional Perspectives on English: Current Status and Future Trends." The panelists addressed the current status of English and predicted future trends in various parts of Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. Issues included promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the global knowledge economy.

At this time, you may visit TIRF's SlideShare channel to view the Power Point presentations the Board members gave. You can find TIRF on SlideShare by following this link: <http://www.slideshare.net/tirfonline>. Additionally, slidecasts (audio and Power Point) will soon be available at the link above.

News from TIRF's Research Advisory Committee

Accepting External Reviewer Applications

TIRF's Research Advisory Committee is seeking reviewers for its 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Grants competition. Selected reviewers will be asked to read approximately 3-4 proposals and review them using TIRF's rating system. Every effort is made to match reviewers to their areas of expertise.

If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please go to <http://www.tirfonline.org/research-grants/> and click "Apply to Become an External Reviewer." As an applicant, you must ensure that your areas of expertise cover the topics included in TIRF's research priorities.

After you have completed your application, please click on the link above and select "Application Submission Area." From there, you will be able to follow the necessary steps to upload your application to TIRF's website.

TIRF at 2011 LTRC in Ann Arbor, Michigan

TIRF Board members Michael Milanovic, Mary Ann Christison, and Kathi Bailey will be in Ann Arbor, Michigan to kick off the summer when they present at the 33rd Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC). Their symposium is entitled, "Workforce Language Assessment in the 21st Century Knowledge Economy: A Quality Management Perspective." In this symposium, the panelists will look at assessment practices – both those that are used and those that are needed – in the context of the 21st century knowledge economy. TIRF's presentation will be held on June 25, 2011 from 3:25-5:25pm. More information will be available on TIRF's website soon.

2011 DDG Competition Continues

Since 2002, TIRF has supported students completing their doctoral research on topics related to the Foundation's priorities:

- Bilingualism/plurilingualism in business and industry
- Language assessment
- Language teacher education
- Optimal uses of technology in the delivery of English language instruction
- Students' age and effective English language education in schools

TIRF is now accepting applications for the 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Grant (DDG) competition. The deadline for proposals is May 16, 2011. For more information, please visit <http://www.tirfonline.org/research-grants/doctoral-dissertation-grants/>.

TESOL Conference in Qatar: Putting Research Into Practice

The TESOL association is hosting an international conference on "Putting Research Into Practice," to be held in Doha, Qatar, and online, October 1-3, 2011. The conference will address both the benefits and the limitations of research-informed practice in English language teaching and learning. Plenary presentations, invited colloquia, and online discussion forums will focus on three themes: (1) understanding the "good language learner;" (2) bridging the gap between goals and results; and (3) facilitating and supporting ongoing professional development

The conference organizers welcome diverse approaches to researching English language learning and teaching, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches; action and classroom-based research; narrative inquiry; and approaches based on critical theory, meta-analyses, and replication studies. Proposals for on-site presentations are due May 1, 2011. To submit, go to the conference web site, <http://www.tesol.org/researchintopractice>.

Report from the Chair — The Month of March

March evokes different responses from different people. If you are a college basketball fan in the US, it is the time for "March Madness" – a tournament that begins with sixty-eight outstanding teams and finally winds down to two. It is said, in terms of weather, that if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb. In Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, the "Ides of March" (the 15th of the month) was a deadly time for Caesar. But the poet, Emily Dickinson, wrote, "March is the month of expectations," and I am inclined to agree with her.

For the TIRF Board members, March is the time of our (northern hemisphere) spring Board meeting, which we hold the day before the TESOL Convention begins, so that we can capitalize on the large number of Board members who typically attend that conference. The agenda

for this month's Board meeting was very busy, and I want to share with you some of the highlights.

First, as you can see from our lead story, the Board selected Tony Fitzpatrick and Robert O'Dowd as the authors of our next commissioned report. We are actively soliciting the case reports about English language training programs for the workforce, which they will analyze. If you are interested in contributing a case report, please visit <http://www.tirfonline.org/english-in-the-workforce/call-for-proposals/> for more information.

Also, Dennis Hogan completed his term as Treasurer of TIRF and was acknowledged for his many years of service in this role. Donna Christian will be taking his place. I am grateful to both Dennis and Donna for their willingness to carry out this important function in support

of the Foundation.

Finally, the Board members spent some time talking about TIRF's future and the various important directions the Foundation could take. We will still offer Doctoral Dissertation Grants, but we also hope to expand the Foundation's role in the dissemination of research findings and their implications. We want to continue but go beyond the conversations about research we normally have with other academics. Specifically, we hope to reach out to people concerned with English language in the workforce (business, industry, and the professions) with the forthcoming report. In this regard, March is indeed "the month of expectations."

Kathi Bailey