

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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Where Are They Now?

Our donors sometimes ask us what has become of the people whose research was funded by contributions to TIRF. In this issue of *TIRF Today*, we are going to bring you up to date on the activities of four grantees.



Lucie Moussu

Dr. Lucie Moussu completed her PhD at Purdue University in 2006. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. She is also the Director of the university's Centre for Writers and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education. In the Centre for Writers, she hires, trains, evaluates, and supervises 30 to 35 graduate and undergraduate "tutors," who help university students, staff, and faculty members with their writing. She makes time to cook, sing in a choir, play the viola, and "walk along the gorgeous (and often frozen) Saskatchewan river."

Dr. Kara McBride completed her doctorate at the University of Arizona in 2007. She now teaches at St. Louis University in Missouri in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, where she coordinates the Spanish graduate program. She also teaches monthly in-service seminars for TAs in all languages, mentors some of the students who spend their first semester as "TAs-to-be," and regularly runs workshops for the ESL program. Dr. McBride has recently published [an article based on her TIRF-funded research](#) in *Computer Assisted Language Learning*. She will soon be teaching a graduate course called "Spanish Learning Texts: Tradition, Authenticity and Virtuality," about how technology has changed what can be defined as a text, what it means to publish, and what that can mean for language teachers. She has recently collected data in Cordoba, Argentina and Hermosillo, Mexico on native Spanish speakers' perceptions of Spanish as a foreign language.



Kara McBride



Junko Hondo

Dr. Junko Hondo finished her doctorate at Lancaster University in the UK in 2009. She currently teaches MA and PhD students at the University of Pennsylvania in the Graduate School of Education, Language and Literacy in Education Division. She is conducting research on elementary school students and late bilinguals in Japan, among other locations. Dr. Hondo writes, "Community service has been very important in my life. Currently, I benefit from volunteering with brain-injured children, disabled seniors, and homeless adults. I recently initiated a book drive for Mongolian orphanages. Additional interests include advocating for wild animals and playing a traditional Japanese musical instrument, the koto."

Dr. Sang-Ki Lee completed his PhD at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2008. He is now an assistant professor of English Education at Korea National University of Education, in Chungbuk, Korea. His responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and advising masters and doctoral students. He is currently teaching Introduction to English Linguistics, English Discourse and Pragmatics, and Studies in Research Methodology in English Education. His research interests include the roles of writing feedback in the development of students' writing skills. Dr. Lee is an active volunteer for the Korea Association of Secondary English Education, the English Teachers Association in Korea, the Korea Association of Teachers of English, the Applied Linguistics Association of Korea, the Linguistics Society of Korea, and the Korea Association of Primary English Education. He serves as the Research Officer for the Korea English Education Society.



Sang-Ki Lee

For more information about the research these young scholars and others have completed with the support of their TIRF Doctoral Dissertation Grants, please [click here](#).

Doctoral Dissertation Grant Deadline Quickly Approaching

May 16 – just a few weeks from now – is the deadline for Doctoral Dissertation Grant applications for the 2011 competition. Students who have been advanced to candidacy in legitimate PhD or EdD programs are invited to submit proposals for TIRF's Doctoral Dissertation Grants (DDGs) for support of up to US \$5,000. (By "advanced to candidacy," we mean that the students have completed any required coursework and have had their doctoral research proposals approved by their faculty committee.) Applicants need NOT be US citizens or TESOL members.

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit a proposal which is clearly related to TIRF's research priorities. For 2011, these priorities are (1) bilingualism/plurilingualism in business and industry, (2) language assessment, (3) language teacher education, (4) optimal uses of technology in the delivery of English language instruction, and (5) students' age and effective English language education in schools. A letter of support from the candidate's doctoral supervisor is also required. For more information, [click here](#).



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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

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TIRF Board Member Honored as Outstanding Educator



Dr. MaryAnn Christison

Dr. MaryAnn Christison, a member of the TIRF Board of Trustees, was recently awarded the Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) Student Choice Teaching Award. The students give this award to faculty members who have made a significant impact on their college experience.

Dr. Edward Rubin, Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the university, stated that Dr. Christison is “a model teacher; her concern for her students is manifest, and praise for her contribution to their success is well-deserved.” In a note to Dr. Christison, he said, “Thanks from our entire community for being a beacon of light that brings welcome attention to us, for your tireless efforts on behalf of our students, and for all that you do to make our community a place where students thrive.”

PhD Research Awards

With its commitment to helping young researchers, TIRF would like to raise awareness of awards doctoral students may pursue when completing their dissertations. The following five awards are some of the highest honors a doctoral student can receive for completing his/her dissertation. Click on any of the links below to learn more.

- [CMLR Best Graduate Student Paper Award](#)
- [The ACTFL-MLJ Emma Marie Birkmaier Award for Doctoral Dissertation Research in Foreign Language Education](#)
- [Christopher Brumfit PhD/EdD Thesis Award 2011](#)
- [Jacqueline Ross TOEFL® Dissertation Award](#)
- [The IRA Outstanding Dissertation Award](#)



TIRF would like to extend thanks to Dr. Muhammad M. Abdel Latif, a 2008 recipient of the Sheikh Nahyan Fellowship, for his help in compiling this award list.

Ethics Training for Human Subjects Research Available Online

Researchers in applied linguistics are often required to show that their proposed research projects will not harm (whether psychologically, socially, or physically) any human subjects who may be involved in their studies. Many universities have Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) that examine research proposals to make sure that due care has been taken to protect the rights and health of human beings involved in such studies as research subjects.

If you have questions about this issue, there is a useful resource that can help you understand concerns about research on human subjects. The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) offer a free online training program about "Protecting Human Research Participants."

The program consists of seven modules, which can be completed in increments, but you must complete an entire module before exiting the program, or your work will not be properly saved. There are quizzes after four of the modules. If you do poorly on a quiz, you can retake it.

When you complete the seven modules and pass the required quizzes, you can print a certificate showing that you successfully completed the course. Although the course is more directly related to medical and psychological research than to applied linguistics investigations, much of it is applicable to studies in our field, and the historical overview of research with human subjects is quite interesting.

Report from the Chair — The ‘Cruellest’ Month

In 1922, T. S. Elliot wrote, “The Waste Land,” in which he called April “the cruellest month.” (Yes, he did use two L’s.) For many people around the world, April 2011 has indeed seemed cruel for many. Parts of the Middle East and Africa were torn by war and civil unrest. Japan – still reeling from the March earthquake – experienced another 7.4 earthquake and continued to deal with the radioactivity from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Earthquakes also affected Fiji, Tonga, Chile, Mexico, Greece, and India. The southern part of the US

was wracked by deadly tornadoes. Hail storms killed and injured people in south China, and Canada, Indonesia, the Philippines, Ecuador, Namibia, Thailand, and Malaysia were hit by floods.

Against this backdrop of international distress, it seems strange to say that April has been very kind to TIRF. We have been able to implement policies for infrastructure improvement voted on by the Board at our March meeting. The [TIRF panel presentation](#) from the 2011 TESOL Convention in New Or-

leans has been posted to SlideShare, and almost 10,000 people visited TIRF’s website. The visitors included people from every state in the US, almost every country in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania, and approximately a third of the countries in Africa. We also entered into discussions with a potential donor for a new research initiative, which we will tell you more about in May’s newsletter. In the meantime, wherever you may be in the world, I hope that May will be a kinder month for all.

Kathleen Bailey