

TIRF TODAY

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Promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century

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Year-end Greetings & Wishes from TIRF's Board of Trustees

Editor's note: Members of TIRF's Board of Trustees wish all our readers a cheerful holiday season and a peaceful new year. For information on TIRF's all-volunteer Board, past and present, please [click here](#).



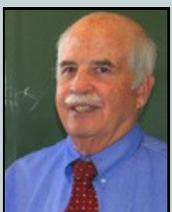
Richard Boyum: As we complete another circle around the sun and mark the coming of another new year, it's a good opportunity to look both back and forward. As for looking back - for me a true highlight of 2012 was joining the TIRF Board of Trustees. Through my long association with TESOL I've been following TIRF since its inception and am absolutely thrilled to begin a more formal association with the Foundation. Looking ahead to 2013, I see TIRFs continued support for ELT research worldwide and look forward to helping open doors for researchers through TIRF opportunities.

Mitch Legutke: I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of TIRF's friends season's greetings. I hope that 2013 will be an exciting and successful year. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the 2013 TESOL convention.



Marti Estell: As the liaison for the U.S. State Department to the TIRF Board of Trustees, I look forward to strengthening our collaboration in the New Year. In my role as Director of the Office of English Language Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, I have the pleasure of supporting direct student teaching, academic exchanges, teacher-training, and curriculum development projects which foster mutual understanding and build bridges between cultures around the world. I have no doubt that our global outreach efforts to schools, universities, and Ministries of Education are enhanced by the expertise that TIRF brings to the table. May the New Year bring us many new opportunities to work together to strengthen English language education around the globe! Peace and joy to all from Foggy Bottom!

Jun Liu: Wishing TIRF supporters the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of love during the holiday season and always. Season's greetings and happy New Year.



Dick Tucker: I'd like to thank all of TIRF's donors for providing us with the funding needed to pursue the aggregation and dissemination of information around several of the key questions that are central to language education planners and policy makers. Your gifts enable us to continue to provide support for doctoral dissertation research. I had the good fortune to travel to Kigali, Rwanda in August to spend some time at Carnegie

Mellon University's new campus. There I was able to see firsthand the impact of the precipitous change from French to English as the official language in 2009, and the implications that this monumental change posed for K-16 education with a paucity of materials, trained teachers, etc. In situations such as these, the work that TIRF supports and the results that it compiles and shares with the world are invaluable to planners and to educators. We continue to benefit from your support.



Yehia El-Ezabi: With the passage of every year, as we pause to take stock, we thank God for blessing us with the will and strength to serve worthy causes, and to meet the many challenges of life. Looking forward to a new year, I sincerely wish my colleagues and friends of TIRF a happy and prosperous 2013, full of achievements and dreams realized.

Michael Carrier: Season's greetings to the TIRF community from grey skies in London. It has been a dynamic year for TIRF with the launch of the new *English at Work* report, greater visibility of TIRF online and at conferences, and the first (and very popular) [TIRF presentation in London](#) by our globe-trotting President, hosted by Cambridge ESOL and British Council. For me, it has been a busy but exciting year and I wish the same for all colleagues for the New Year.



Antonietta Celani: The end of another academic year is in sight. It is a time of year when life becomes very busy and often difficult, but in the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to wish TIRF's stakeholders all the best not just at the Christmas season, but also in the future. I'm very proud of my present status as Trustee Emerita and will do my best to reciprocate the honor in all possible ways with my service on the Board. I wish you all a very happy festive season.

David Nunan: I would like to take this opportunity to wish colleagues and friends of TIRF season's greetings. I am looking forward to both the TIRF presentation at the TESOL Convention next March and the TIRF panel presentation at the IATEFL Conference in April. I trust that 2013 will be a good year for you both personally and professionally.



Ana Sylvia Ramirez: I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and success for the upcoming year. Years are cycles that end, which prompt learning, growth, and a deeper appreciation for life. May the New Year bring a renewed spirit, an ever-growing love for our profession, and a continued desire to change people's lives.

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**Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF**

“Lower Mekong Initiative” Delegates Visit TIRF

During a recent visit to the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), ten English language educators from Southeast Asia attended a presentation about TIRF. The visitors were from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The program was sponsored by the US State Departments’ Office of International Visitors in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The trip was part of the International Visitor Leadership Program and its purpose was to promote the teaching of English for specific purposes. The group visited the Washington, DC area, including Georgetown University. Next they went to Minneapolis and a meeting at the University of Minnesota, including CARLA, followed by a stop in Kansas City, Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center. The group finished the trip in San Francisco, including a visit to San Francisco State University.

Pictured from left to right below in the front row are Ha Thai Pham (Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam), Lily Aung (Yangon Technical University, Burma), Kathi Bailey (TIRF & MIIS), May Than Htun (Mandalay Technological University, Burma), Vanida Luangthepxayavong (Public Works and Transport Training Center, Laos), and Pattamawan Jimarkon (King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology, Thailand).

In the back row from left to right, Ni Thi Tran (Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam), Ryan Damerow (TIRF), Thanousone Boualapha (Public Works and Transport Training Center, Laos), Sopha Dok (National Defense University, Cambodia), Vannarath Te (Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia), and Singhanat Nornian (Mahidol University, Thailand).



These educators are all concerned with curriculum development and language teaching for people in the workforce – an issue which dovetails perfectly with TIRF’s current focus on the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century. The specific project they are involved with is the “Lower Mekong Initiative: Teaching Specialized and Technical English.” For a video about this project, please [click here](#).

TIRF’s Website Resources Updated

Journals Section Updated

English Language Teaching World Online: Voices from the Classroom (ELTWO) is a free, refereed e-journal published by the [Centre for English Language Communication, National University of Singapore](#). It aims to provide a forum for ELT and English language communication skills practitioners to discuss issues concerning teaching methodologies and techniques, curriculum and syllabus design, testing and assessment, materials development, and other areas of interest in the ESL/EFL and English language communication skills classroom. It also aims to provide a platform for these practitioners to share and exchange innovative classroom teaching ideas that maximize the potential of print, audio-visual, and web resources.

ELTWO has various sections, from the more research-based “Features” section and the classroom-focused

Award & Conference Opportunities

Pearson Issues Call for Research Proposals 2013

Pearson has released a call for applications for researchers in the fields of language testing and assessment to participate in their 2013 external research program. Research funding is offered to faculty members or qualified freelance researchers (maximum award is £10,000), doctoral students (maximum award is £2,000), and master’s students (maximum award is £1,000).

Pearson encourages researchers to address the following research areas: second language testing/assessment, second language learning/acquisition, second language teaching, and corpus linguistics. Additionally, there are several particular research topics that Pearson is interested in funding. Those priorities can be found on the Pearson website by clicking [here](#).

The last date for receipt of all application materials is February 28, 2013. To apply for a grant, please [click here](#).

Report from the Chair — Every December

As another year comes to a close, I ask myself (as I do every December) where the time has gone and what I’ve accomplished for good in the world this past year. Once again, I can honestly say that volunteering with TIRF has been one of the most rewarding parts of 2012. On a daily basis I hear from grant recipients as well as from students and scholars around the world who have benefited

from TIRF’s initiatives. I hope this newsletter conveys to you the enthusiasm with which the other Trustees and I view the opportunities to serve the language teaching profession by volunteering our time to TIRF.

TIRF’s work is sustained through the generosity of individuals and organizations. I hope you can help us by making a contribution to TIRF by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check drawn

“Innovations” section to “Media Review,” “ELT Lives,” and “ELT Court.” The editorial team welcomes submissions for any of these sections. Additional information about the journal can be found on its website by clicking [here](#). For further information, please write to eltwo@nus.edu.sg.

References Section Updated

We are pleased to announce the availability of four new [reference lists on TIRF’s website](#). These include one on questionnaires and surveys in language research, another on bilingual and immersion education, one on qualitative research methods, and another on handheld mobile devices in language learning and teaching. We are grateful to Camilla Vasquez, J. D. Brown, Michael Carrier, and Sarah Springer for contributing their bibliographic resources to TIRF’s collection. In addition to these new reference lists, several others have been updated over the past few months.

2013 ACTFL Convention

The 2013 Annual Convention and World Languages Expo of the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages \(ACTFL\)](#) will be held Friday, November 22, 2013 through Sunday, November 24, 2013 in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the convention is “New Spaces, New Realities: Learning Any Time, Any Place.” The ACTFL Convention features more than 600 educational sessions covering the whole spectrum of the foreign language profession. The entire selection of sessions is designed to provide attendees with an exciting array of educational opportunities to further their knowledge and help them be better teachers or administrators.

ACTFL is now welcoming individuals to submit proposals for consideration. The deadline is Wednesday, January 9, 2013. No submissions will be accepted after this date. Please [click here](#) to submit a proposal.

on a US bank to “TIRF” at the address on this newsletter. If you would like to read the Foundation’s year-end report, please [click here](#). Let me add my best wishes to those of my Board colleagues. May this holiday season, and every December, bring you peace and happiness.

Kathi Bailey