

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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Recapping TIRF's 2015 Fall Board Meeting Activities

TIRF's Board of Trustees meets twice each year—once in the fall and once in the spring time the day the annual TESOL Convention begins. The Trustees convened for their fall meeting earlier this month in Washington, DC at the offices of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). Many thanks to our colleagues at CAL for their support of TIRF in this way. The meeting was well attended and involved a number of interesting agenda topics. This piece will provide updates on TIRF's work and the direction we're heading over the next six months.

The Foundation continues to work with Routledge on the co-published series with TIRF regarding "[Global Research on Teaching and Learning English](#)." The third volume was compiled on the topic of language teacher education and is expected to be published in April 2016. TIRF Trustees Jodi Crandall and MaryAnn Christison edited this book, which is dedicated to our colleague and former Trustee, the late Ed Anthony. We continue to greatly appreciate this partnership with Routledge, and believe that our collective efforts are helping to disseminate research on a range of important topics in our field.

Another notable Board meeting topic was news shared from Trustee MaryAnn Christison regarding the next installment of TIRF's research regarding online language teacher education. More details about this study, including links to participate in the surveys being used for the research, can be found in the newsletter piece just below.

Trustees Kathi Bailey and Dick Tucker shared information about the Foundation's [James E. Alatis Prize for Research on Language Policy and Planning in Educational Contexts](#). The prize was established to recognize the important contributions of TIRF Trustee Emerita Dr. James Alatis, who

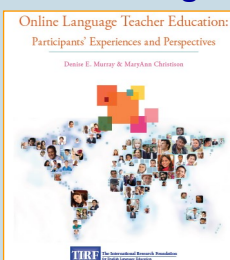
passed away earlier this year. TIRF has received a number of nominations since announcing the prize several months ago. The first prize will be announced early next year and formally awarded at TIRF's presentation during the 2016 TESOL Convention in Baltimore. The deadline for nominations is November 16, 2015.

Lastly, TIRF's Development Committee provided a useful update to Trustees. The Committee, whose work is focused on improving TIRF's programmatic positioning and fiscal situation, has recommended ways in which TIRF can improve upon the Foundation's fundraising efforts. Through taking a more comprehensive look at TIRF's current and potential supporters and by creating targeted campaigns for specific purposes, we hope to improve our financial position to create a stronger impact on our field. The Development Committee also emphasized the need to continue to [remind our supporters of AmazonSmile](#), a source of revenue that has great potential to grow over time through taking advantage of our supporters' everyday purchases on Amazon.

The road ahead involves exciting times for the Foundation and our constituencies. There are many projects and initiatives we intend to work on over the next six months which promise to contribute to our mission's focus on influencing the broader landscape of language education. Please write to info@tirfonline.org with any questions you may have.

We would like to remind our supporters that TIRF's Board members travel to meetings at their own expense. The Foundation does not reimburse Trustees for costs, including flight tickets, hotel expenses, or incidentals. Board members' support of the Foundation in this way is greatly appreciated and helps to keep our expenses to a minimum.

Announcing TIRF's Follow-up Study on OLTE



We are pleased to announce that TIRF is moving forward with a follow-up study to its first publication on online language teacher education (OLTE). [The first study](#) was authored by Dr. Denise Murray, Professor Emerita at Macquarie University. Dr. Murray will be co-authoring this next paper, tentatively

entitled "Online Language Teacher Education: Participants' Experiences and Perspectives," with TIRF Trustee MaryAnn Christison, in order to further explore issues related to OLTE. We remain appreciative of Anaheim University for their support of TIRF's work and publications related to OLTE.

The authors of this study are kindly requesting your help in participating in the study. Additionally, if you have colleagues who may be able to assist us, we would be ever grateful if you would share this news-

letter piece with them. Particularly, the authors' request for participation is found just below and can be copied and shared with your colleagues.

If you have taken or taught an OLTE course, please participate in our research project. The purpose of this research study is to investigate the experiences and perceptions of students and instructors in OLTE courses and programs. The survey takes between 15 to 30 minutes to complete, depending on how much information you wish to give us. You can take the survey all at once or answer a few questions and come back to the survey later. If you are willing to take a short survey, please click on one of the URLs below. You will be taken to the consent form and the link to the survey you have selected. Clicking on the links below indicate consent to participate. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

[Click here for the students' survey.](#)
[Click here for the instructors' survey.](#)

TIRF's Alatis Prize Competition is Now Open



The Nomination Deadline is November 16, 2015.

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**Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF**

"Do good. Do it daily. Do it now."

Editor's note: In this piece, TIRF Trustee Richard Boyum encourages readers to support the Foundation via AmazonSmile.

I once saw a sign at a girl's school in northern India. It said, "Do good. Do it daily. Do it now." Here's a chance to do good now.

Go to Smile.Amazon.com and when prompted to choose a charity, type in "The International Research Foundation for English Language Education". After you select TIRF as your charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to the Foundation. You will be helping us provide research grants, resources, and publications to our stakeholders around the world.

Many of our grant recipients report that without TIRF support for their research projects, they would not have been able to complete their degrees. English is the lingua franca of our increasingly global world. Research on English language teaching and

The British Council's New-look Website

The British Council's website, "[Teaching English](#)," recently unveiled its new-look design, which is now fully responsive and developed specifically for mobile use as well as desktop and tablet use. In addition to added features and design components, the Council has updated the resources it makes available to its constituencies. There are new tools available to help teachers of children and teens, as well as resources for teachers of adults.

Chair's Report — The Unexpected Surprise of Brussel Sprout Tea

CAL CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

As you can see from the lead story in this issue of *TIRF Today*, we have just finished our fall Board of Trustees meeting. To begin this Chair's Report, I want to formally thank Dr. Terry Wiley, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) in Washington, DC. Dr. Wiley very kindly provided the space for our Board meeting free of charge, and the wonderful CAL staff members helped to facilitate the meeting (e.g., with AV support and logistics).

This Board meeting seemed to sneak up on me, at the same time I was struggling to start the new semester. For reasons that are not entirely clear to me, the beginning of this semester has been the most challenging I've had since I first started teaching at MIIS in the early 1980s. Plus—let's face it—I hate to fly. So the prospect of a long cross-country flight, when I felt so stressed by school and less than fully prepared for the meeting, was daunting—even upsetting. And, of course, on the day I had to travel, my flight out of Monterey was delayed, so I missed my connection and had to rebook my flights. I ended up spending four hours at Los Angeles International Airport, finally arriving in Washington at 2:30am the next day instead of 11:30pm the night before. All in all, this experience was a recipe for distraction and even grumpiness on my part.

But then a small miracle happened. Everything went well. Thanks largely to the efforts of Ryan Damerow, TIRF's wonderful Executive Assistant, everything we needed for the Board meeting was beautifully prepared. Furthermore, the day before the Board meeting the preliminary discussions with the Executive Committee (Donna Christian, David Nunan, and Lorraine de Matos) were productive and cordial.

The Board meeting itself was very rewarding for me (and I hope for the rest of the Trustees, too). We

learning can result in disadvantaged students getting better instruction and gaining a skill that opens up job possibilities and increases upward mobility.

It is worth pointing out that the 0.5% gift to TIRF comes from Amazon, not you. There is no increase in your purchase price. Your regular Amazon account functions as normal.

Of course, if you would like to contribute in a more direct and more substantial, tax-deductible way, [please visit our "Donate" page](#). Any size gift will help us meet our fundraising goals.

Here's a chance to do a little good. Won't you do it now?



The site also provides [useful information for teacher development](#). These materials are aimed at researchers, practitioners, and administrators. There are a number of publications available to download for free. The types of publications available include research papers and resource papers, as well as books and resource packs. These tools are also free to download.



made progress on a number of projects that are underway and began discussing new initiatives as well. Although I went into this meeting exhausted and stressed, I came out of it exhilarated and refreshed. It is indeed a joy to work with such talented, positive, forward-looking volunteers.

This experience reminded me of something that happened in the summer of 1984, when I worked with pre-service English teachers in Poland. My trainees were college seniors who were just about to undertake their student teaching in secondary schools. Poland was still under Soviet domination at the time, and creature comforts were in short supply. There were no paper towels or toilet paper in the dormitory restrooms. Meals in the cafeteria were sparse and boring. At lunch on the first day, I could deal with the boiled cabbage and watery mashed carrots, but the only available beverage appeared to be decomposing yellow-green brussel sprouts immersed in liquid and rotting at the bottom of a plastic cup. I carried my tray to the table, determined not to look like a finicky American capitalist. I tried the cabbage (bland) and the carrots (salty), but for most of the meal I could not bring myself to drink the brussel sprout tea. Finally, my throat gummy with sticky carrots and pasty cabbage, my need for liquid forced me to take a sip of the insipid luke-warm beverage.

Not brussel sprouts! Golden-green plums. A delicious, refreshing, lightly scented summer drink made from plums. What a wonderful surprise!

And so, as I reflect on the recent TIRF Board meeting, I am reminded that often negative expectations of events do *not* come to pass. What we first perceive as disintegrating brussel sprouts may turn out to be golden-green summer plums.

Kathi Bailey