

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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The Wizard of Oz: A TESOL Tale



The TESOL International Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and it is doing so in style. TESOL has been organizing "A Wizard of Oz: A TESOL Tale", what will be a musical celebration, to mark its half-century of contributions to the field of language education. The following text has been adapted from TESOL's announcements.

In this musical romp through TESOL's fifty years of history, some TESOL "Ozzites" completely forsake their professional dignity (if they had any to begin with) as they whimsically explore the history of TESOL and our profession. The cast includes four TESOL past presidents, TESOL Board members, and well-known authors.

Will Dorothy get 50 years of memory restored after a Kansas tornado hurls her from 1966 (when TESOL began) into 2016? Will the cowardly MATE-SOL student find the courage to complete his de-

gree program and roar through a successful job interview? Will the straight-laced community college teacher have the heart to lubricate all that tin, loosen up, and quit worrying about tenure and health benefits? Will the hang-loose, straw-filled, warm and fuzzy veteran teacher have the brain to write that world-acclaimed TESOL textbook? Will Glinda really prove to be a good witch—and not a wicked one—in helping Dorothy recover from her half a century of trauma? And is Professor Marvel a huckster, a wizard, or just a good old TESOL professor, if a bit absent-minded, helping all the characters to fulfill their searches? Find out in Baltimore!

You can catch the act on Thursday, April 7th from 9:00 to 10:00am. The event will be held in the Baltimore Convention Center Ballroom. And in case we can interest you further, two TIRF Trustees are part of the performance. MaryAnn Christison will be playing the role of Glinda (The Good Witch) and Jun Liu will be the Tin Woodman. The rest of the lineup features Dorothy Zemach as Dorothy, H. Douglas Brown as Professor Marvel, Joe McVeigh as the Scarecrow, and Mark Algren as the Cowardly Lion, and Larry Zwier will be the guitar accompanist.

Congratulations to the "50 at 50" & "Up and Coming" Leaders

This year, the [TESOL International Association](#) is celebrating its [50th anniversary](#), and as part of the festivities, a committee was established to identify fifty people who had made significant contributions to the language education profession in the past fifty years. There were over 130 nominees, and we are pleased to announce that many of the fifty honorees selected have a connection to TIRF!

Among the ["50 at 50"](#) are five current [TIRF Trustees](#): Kathi Bailey, MaryAnn Christison, Jodi Crandall, Jun Liu, and David Nunan. Former TIRF Board members selected are Neil Anderson, Donald Freeman, Jack Richards, and the late Jim Alatis.

Also notable on the "50 at 50" list are TIRF authors Denise Murray and Keith Folse, as well as TIRF grant recipient Anne Burns. Many others on the "50 at 50" list have supported TIRF by reviewing

proposals and/or donating to the Foundation.

Another happy outcome of TESOL's 50th anniversary was the naming of

30 "Up-and-Coming" leaders. One of those honorees is Dr. Ali Fuad Selvi, who was selected in 2011 as the recipient of a TIRF Doctoral Dissertation Grant. His study was entitled ["A Quest to Prepare English Language Teachers in Diverse Teaching Settings."](#) As is the case with the "50 at 50" list, several of the 30 "Up and Coming" leaders have supported TIRF with donations or external reviewer work. Congratulations to all the honorees!

TIRF's DDG Application Deadline Quickly Approaching

This year, TIRF is running its fifteenth competition for its [Doctoral Dissertation Grants \(DDG\) program](#). Although the deadline for our call for proposals is rapidly approaching, there is still time to apply. Applicants have until Wednesday, April 20th at 11:59pm Pacific Time to submit their applications to the Foundation.

As has been our tradition in years past, individuals who meet our eligibility requirements may apply for an award in the amount of up to US \$5,000. Applicants' studies must relate to at least one of [TIRF's research priorities](#). In late 2015, TIRF's Research Advisory Committee, approved a new research priority on English as a Medium of Instruction. Two others were revised at that time—Digital Technology in Language Education and Plurilin-

gualism in Business, Industry, the Professions, and Educational Contexts.

Since 2002, TIRF has awarded 75 grants to individuals from 20 countries. There is a map and timeline of our grantees who have been awarded grants from the Foundation over the years. To view this updated map, please [click here](#).

We are forever grateful to Cambridge English Language Assessment and the British Council for their continued support of our DDG program. Their efforts are invaluable as we work together to further the field of English language education.

To download the DDG call for proposals, please [click here](#). For further information, please write to info@tirfonline.org.



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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

New TIRF-Routledge Volume Now Available!

We are pleased to announce that the third book in the TIRF-Routledge [Global Research on Teaching and Learning English](#) series has now been published. The volume, [Teacher Education and Professional Development in TESOL: Global Perspectives](#), is edited by two TIRF Trustees, Jodi Crandall and MaryAnn Christison.

The following offers a description of the volume (adapted from Routledge's website): At the forefront of research on English language teacher education and professional development, this volume presents new empirical research situated in different contexts around the world. The chapters are organized around three themes: teacher identity in ESL/EFL teacher education and professional development programs, second language teacher education programs for diverse contexts, and professional development for diverse contexts.

Asked to comment on the volume, Dr. Crandall said, "It was a great pleasure co-editing this volume with MaryAnn Christison and the wonderful authors of this collection, many of whom were TIRF DDG awardees. When you read their chapters, and those by other noted researchers who focus on TESOL teacher education and professional development, I think you'll agree that ours is an exciting field! The scope of the entries, the many countries in which these scholars reside and/or in which they conducted their research, provide a sense of the growth and diversity of our field, with a special focus on issues of teacher identity, teacher education and professional development in their diverse contexts, and English as a medium of instruction in countries in which English is not the major or official language. MaryAnn and I dedicated this volume to Edward Anthony, a founding member of TIRF and a language

CELA Supports Collaboration and Innovation in New Publications

Editor's note: In this piece, Dr. Evelina D. Galaczi, Principal Research Manager at Cambridge English, shares information about Cambridge's "Studies in Language Testing" series.

The Research and Thought Leadership Group at Cambridge English Language Assessment (CELA) is guided by a mission to support and disseminate collaboration in research, which often results in innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to the assessment of English. It does so through several funded programmes, including the TIRF [DDG programme](#), which has supported doctoral students since 2002 in completing their research on topics related to TIRF's research priorities.

The outcomes of the Cambridge English research collaboration programmes and projects are often disseminated to the wider second language learning and assessment professional community as books in the *Studies in Language Testing* (SiLT) series. These volumes are published jointly by Cambridge English Language Assessment and Cambridge University Press.

Four new titles will appear in print in 2016, starting with *Second Language Assessment and Mixed Methods Research* (SiLT 43), edited by Aleidine J. Moeller, John W. Creswell, and Nick Saville, and due in print in April 2016. This book is the culmination of a collaboration between two institutions – the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Cambridge English, and two disciplines – second language assessment and mixed-methods research. The volume provides theoretical insights and practical guidance on the use of mixed-methods research, gives simple and clear advice on the essential components for conduct-

ing and publishing mixed-methods research, and includes case studies from language assessment which demonstrate how such research can be rigorously and systematically applied in specific contexts.

teacher educator and scholar. We think he would be proud to be further recognized with this volume."

Dr. Christison also commented on the volume. She noted, "TIRF's Research Priorities have always reflected concerns about teacher education and professional development. However, these concerns have changed and evolved over time. In 2002, TIRF's research priority related to teacher education reflected an interest in promoting research on native speaker and non-native speaker effectiveness; however, it soon became apparent from the research proposals that we received that the concerns in the field were much broader. In 2010, we adopted the current research priority on [Language Teacher Education](#) and there was an overwhelming response to the new priority among DDG applicants. It has been such a pleasure to co-edit this volume with my colleague, Jodi Crandall, and to see these young scholars move from applicant to DDG award winner and to published author. There is no doubt in my mind that readers will enjoy this volume and find it useful, both in terms of the historical perspectives on the development of the field that it offers, but also for the new research that has been made available."

We are grateful to the editors, the authors, and our colleagues at Routledge for their excellent work in producing this volume on teacher education and professional development. All royalties from this volume will go to TIRF.

There are three other titles expected to be published in the series during 2016. The first is *Language Assessment for Multilingualism* (SiLT 44), edited by Coreen Docherty and Fiona Barker. This volume is a collection of papers from the ALTE 2014 Conference exploring the role of multilingualism in social, educational, and practical contexts. The second title due out this year is *Learning Oriented Assessment* (SiLT 45) by Neil Jones and Nick Saville. This publication presents a systemic approach to integrating learning and assessment, and explores the complementarity of formal and classroom assessment. The third volume for release this year is *Advancing the Field of Language Assessment* (SiLT 46), edited by Mary Ann Christison and Nick Saville. This volume brings together a set of eleven research papers on English language assessment produced by TIRF DDG recipients.

More information about new titles in the *Studies in Language Testing* series will be included in future TIRF newsletters. The full list of titles can be found at www.cambridgeenglish.org/silt.

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Chair's Report—Skip the Anxiety, Do Not Procrastinate!

According to Dictionary.com, the word *procrastinate* comes to us from a Latin verb, *procrastinare*, meaning "to put off until tomorrow" (*cras* being *tomorrow*). This word is on my mind because this afternoon I have an appointment to get some help with preparing my annual US taxes and I am not ready. I've had this appointment for over a month. I've had time to get prepared. I've had the paperwork – all the receipts and the documentation required to do this onerous task – and I haven't done it. Now, of

course, I'm in a bit of a panic.

Why do people procrastinate? Apparently there are many reasons, but the result is "a seemingly endless cycle of anxiety, avoidance, and shame," according to Dr. Pamela Weigartz, [writing in Psychology Today](#). I'm not to the "shame" state yet, but I am experiencing anxiety due to having avoided the task.

So if you are a doctoral candidate and have been thinking about submitting an application for a Doctoral Dissertation Grant, don't procrastinate!

The deadline is only about two and a half weeks away. We are inviting proposals from candidates on a range of studies, and would be thrilled to review your application. Please see the story on page one of this newsletter about TIRF's DDG competition for more information.

Now, I'd better quit procrastinating and get back to my calculator and receipts. My tax deadline is looming!

Kathi Bailey

