



President's Message from Vikki Cecchetto



Quick Facts:

- has a Ph.D. in Linguistics
- just retired after teaching Linguistics & Italian for 35 years at McMaster
- is interested in second-language acquisition, teaching methodologies for second-language acquisition, sociolinguistics and language loss in immigrants
- makes a "wicked" vodka sauce for pasta!

This week, it will be Spring, a new season, a new beginning. It's also a new beginning for your TESL H-W Executive Committee which took over on January 1st and will be working with you and for you for the next two years.

My name is Vikki Cecchetto, and I'm your new President. Although I don't know many of you yet, I am hoping to meet with many of you at the events we have planned in the coming year, starting with our Spring Conference on April 21st, so mark your calendars!

It is an honour for me to be working with a wonderful Executive Committee: they are an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and committed group, and together we will strive to keep you all up to date and engaged in the important aspects and innovations of the TESL world. A young and media savvy group of them have already started to update the online presence of TESL H-W. If you haven't done so, please check out our website and Facebook page.

Your input is important to us since it will help us to plan interesting events that meet your needs.

I invite you to let us know how we are doing and what you would like to see TESL H-W do in the future. Please let us know if you have

any questions or concerns that you want us to address with the whole membership.

You can send us a message by email, snail mail, a post on the TESL H-W Affiliate Facebook page, or talk to us at events, and we will work on putting your suggestions into practice. For instance, we will soon need your input with respect to the planning of our Annual General Meeting and Dinner: the Olympia on Barton is undergoing renovations so we cannot meet there. Do you have any suggestions for the venue and the type of event to have? Do we still want a dinner and speaker or something else? Please let us know!

That's all for now except to say that I am looking forward to the next two years of working with the Executive Committee and you at TESL H-W!

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Teacher Feature: Kim Henrie

By Ed Cowan, ESL Instructor and Freelance Journalist

"Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching, and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning."

Paulo Freire

This quotation may sum up Kim Henrie's teaching philosophy. She's a 13 year veteran in the ESL field with a M.Ed. in Teaching, Learning, and Development. Kim's background stretches from her work volunteering with victims of torture with Wesley Urban Ministries to the LINC program. Also, she has studied German and Russian in university including a year abroad in Germany. Here are some of her insights into teaching

that she shared over a coffee at Starbucks.

Tell me about your style in the classroom.

"It is learner-centred, but with every group it is different. I try to put the students' experiences at the centre and to build on their needs and wants. I'm not only using a communicative teaching style as I feel the classroom at times requires more dynamic or task-based work."

How do students/other teachers describe you?

"Crazy. [laughs] My students often say that I am patient, but it always surprises me as I don't see myself as patient. I listen and try to find out about them".

When do you know a student has developed in their language studies?

"What the funders want is one aspect, but what I am looking for is that they can do what they want, like going to the store and getting the coffee exactly the way they want it or getting into that course."

What advice do you have for new teachers or experienced teachers?

"One has to give a lot, especially of your own time. Be aware of when you are getting burnt out or pressured and get help from your colleagues to get you through. Be aware that you can often find yourself being a social worker, among other things, and not just a teacher."

Teacher's Toolbox

ABC Items Game

Contributed by: Brett Basbaum, LINC Instructor

Levels: LINC 1+ (adaptable for literacy levels)

Skills: speaking, listening, reading, writing

Materials: one piece of paper per group

This is a favourite activity from my bag of tricks. It is fun, works in a multilevel group, is zero prep and photocopier free! It is also really, really simple. I have used this activity in several LINC classes and with jetlagged international students on their first day of classes in Canada.

Instructions: Students are divided into groups of six to ten. Students are then given the challenge to place one item for each letter of the alphabet on the table. So, for example, one student has an apple in her lunch, it comes out and gets placed on the table for A. Everyone has a book, so book is the item for B. C could be coin, camera, cell phone etc, etc. One student in each group should record a list of items (or, better still, this duty could be shared).

 Teacher's notes: How you run the activity will depend on the nature of your group. It could be a timed race or competition or you could just take up lists together, with each group sharing what item

they have for each letter.

In a multilevel group, even the lowest level students can contribute to their team's success simply by pulling items out of their bags and purses. It gets especially fun around the difficult letters. I am a supporter of cheating, providing it employs a creative use of language e.g. yellow pencil for Y! I once even had a pregnant student pull out an ultrasound picture for U.



SPOTlight on



Collège Boréal offers the LINC Program “English in the Workplace” for students in Levels 1 to 6 with continuous intake in a friendly, francophone atmosphere. Level 1 students benefit from a separate class to solidify their knowledge in the English language. Collège Boréal has begun to integrate the Judy Thompson method which emphasizes the difference between written English and spoken English. Classes are held five days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A Francophone childminding centre on site provides our LINC students with a secure place for their children (from 6 months to 60 months) while they are in class. Bus tickets are available (conditions apply).

OSLT training in Health Care and Business is offered in Spring and Fall.

FSL is a 15-week program, available in the evening, to help English-speaking persons develop their skills to communicate effectively in French in a work and a social environment.

Collège Boréal is located at 120 King Street West (King & Bay), Plaza Level. To reach the following persons, please dial 905-544-9824.

Contacts: Claudette Mikelsons, Regional Manager, ext. 7306 claudette.mikelsons@collegeboreal.ca

Lorraine Hamilton, LINC Project Manager, ext. 7308 lorraine.hamilton@collegeboreal.ca

Sekoura Koumad, FSL, ext. 7304 sekoura.koumad@collegeboreal.ca

<http://www.collegeboreal.ca/>

Hamilton Service Providers



The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board – Community and Continuing Education delivers language training and skills development for LINC and ESL students from convenient locations at:

- Parkway Learning Centre, 140 Centennial Pkwy N.
- Red Hill Learning Centre, 300 Albright Rd
- Mountain Learning Centre, 565 Sanatorium Rd
- City Learning Centre, 77 James St N, 3rd Level
- King William Learning Centre, 225 King William St, 3rd floor
- Hamilton Jewish Social Services 30 King Street East, 1st floor, Dundas

<http://schools.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/esl/>

ESL/LINC literacy through level 6 is offered, with childminding available at many locations. Parkway Learning Centre and McMaster University have evening classes, without childminding services. Jewish Social Services has multi-level classes for seniors.

In a dynamic, engaging environment CCE offers a fully integrated language learning program. All classes offer level appropriate opportunities where learners receive relevant information to aid in their settlement.

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) is offered to all CCE students. Podcasts bring authentic listening activities to the classroom. All classrooms have Smart Boards and wireless internet access.

Instructors bring in a variety of guest speakers. Learners have the opportunity to get first hand, accurate information in a non-threatening environment. Students are able to practice their listening skills and the vocabulary they have been learning in real world context.



The next newsletter will be published in Fall 2012.

- *Submit an article!*
- *Write about a great activity for the Teacher's Toolbox!*
- *Share your teaching perspective in the Teacher Feature!*

Contact us at :
teslhamilton@yahoo.ca

FYI

Just a reminder...
the **LINC Assessment Centre** is now located at the YMCA Immigrant Settlement Services at 25 Main Street West, Suite 105.
Phone: 905-526-8452



Join us for the 6th Annual
LINC/TESL Spring Conference
Peace & Diversity through ESL

Saturday, April 21st, 2012
7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hamilton Convention Centre

Publishers display
Networking opportunities
Community partner displays
Hot breakfast and refreshments
Cultural vendors with beautiful crafts

Registration forms are available at
www.teslhw.org
Registration deadline is March 30

This conference was made possible
through funding from:




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