

# TexTESOL III Newsletter

TEXAS TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

1103 WEST 24TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

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Happy 2000!

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## **From the President**

**By Alex Baez, Southwest Texas State University**

Dear TexTESOL III Members: I GOT ALL CHOKED UP when TexTESOL III President Susan Murphy "turned the gavel over" to me at the 1999 TexTESOL III Fall Conference, Saturday, Sept. 25, 1999 at St. Edward's University (see Rebecca Herman's article about our 1999 Fall Conference in this newsletter). I realized then that I was losing a terrific TexTESOL III boss, colleague, and partner. But our friendship will continue, and Susan

plans to take on several TexTESOL III tasks in the coming year, such as helping us plan for the 23rd Annual TexTESOL State Conference in 2001! Those of us on the old Board send you, Susan, a big THANK YOU for being such a wonderful leader. You helped us accomplish so much during the last 18 months and we wish you the best of luck in your always-exciting endeavors! I am very excited about our shiny new TexTESOL III Board (and please see below for how to contact our board members): REBECCA HERMAN, our new First Vice President, is a busy ESL teacher at both Del Valle ISD and Austin Community College. Rebecca has been our newsletter editor since 1998, and I know you have all enjoyed her easy-to-read and informative newsletters. Rebecca has a math and music background, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia, and earned a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education from the University of Texas at Austin. Rebecca brings to the Board outstanding ideas and first-rate organizational skills. JOHN DUKE continues to serve as Second Vice President, a post he has served in since 1998. John has a background in Russian and Slavic languages. He spent six years teaching and studying in Russia. In St. Petersburg, he served as director of the U.S. Information Agency English Teacher Education Program and was an Assistant Professor at St. Petersburg State University. You all know John's bright smile behind the registration table at our conferences!

MARY LOU PRICE is our new Secretary. Mary Lou has previously served on the Board as Advocacy Representative since 1998. Mary Lou has taught college-level French, has lived in the Philippines and in France, and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. She has taught in ESL Services at the University of Texas at Austin since 1992, where she enjoys teaching grammar, reading, and test preparation. Mary Lou continues to bring boundless energy and good ideas to the Board. TERESA BAKER is our new Treasurer, and we welcome her as a newcomer to the TexTESOL III Board! Teresa earned an MA in TESL from the University of Illinois and has subsequently taught courses and designed materials

in grammar, oral skills, TOEFL preparation, reading, writing, and English through current events. She also presented at TESOL International in 1998 and 1999, and co-authored an article for TESOL Journal in 1997. Teresa is currently the Assistant Coordinator of ESL Services at the University of Texas at Austin. Welcome aboard, Teresa!

JOHN MADDEN, our new Webmaster, is also new to the TexTESOL III Board. He teaches in the AEP, ELP, and test preparation programs in the International Program at the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught ESL, Spanish, and English in the Texas public schools and worked as a reporter and photographer. John served in the Peace Corps in Kenya, where he taught ESL and learned Swahili. He holds degrees in English and Journalism from the University of Illinois, and an MA in Foreign Language Education (TESOL) from the University of Texas at Austin, where he is now a doctoral student. John brings a wealth of computer and Internet experience to the Board. Welcome, John!

JOHN SCHMIDT continues to serve on the Board as TESOL Liaison Officer. John is known as "the godfather of TexTESOL III" because he co-founded and has been continuously active in our organization for 20 years. He has served as President and First Vice-President of TexTESOL III. John earned a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in Foreign Language Education. John teaches ESL, ESP (Business English), and American Culture at the Texas Intensive English Program here in Austin. John has also been involved with TESOL International, MexTESOL and TESOL Russia. He brings to the Board a wealth of information about TexTESOL III's history, as well as about the TESOL International organization. An invaluable Board member of TexTESOL III!

FRANK CRONIN continues to serve as Delegate-at-Large for TexTESOL III. Frank teaches ESL, Developmental Writing, and Study Skills at Austin Community College. A native of Pennsylvania, Frank has lived in Texas for 25 years. His MA in ESL comes from the University of Texas, Austin, built upon a BS in Linguistics, also from the University of Texas. He has a wonderful son, Jonathan, 16, who is an avid fan of jazz music. Frank brings to the Board a strong commitment to his profession and wonderful

ideas. CHARLOTTE GILMAN is a new Delegate-at-Large and was a Past TexTESOL III President. She received an MA in Foreign Language Education from the University of Texas at Austin. At the Texas Intensive English Program since 1969, Charlotte has served as an instructor, a supervisor, and an assistant coordinator. She has also taught and trained teachers in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Morocco, Azerbaijan, and Mexico. She presents regularly at local, state, and international TESOL conferences and wrote *On Stage with English: Spotlighting Two-Word Verbs* (ALTA). GREG THOMPSON, a new Delegate-at-Large of the TexTESOL III Board, has taught ESL since 1983 in adult, workplace, and refugee programs. He has trained ESL tutors since 1992, has written a computerized ESL record-keeping program, and has produced eight films on English grammar for ESL At Home With English, the popular ESL television show, has been seen in Austin for the past 11 years. Greg holds a BA degree in history and mathematics and an MA in linguistics. He has lived in Germany, Egypt, India, and Viet Nam. Currently teaching at Austin Community College, Greg was TexTESOL III's "1999 Teacher of the Year in Adult Education," and was honored by the organization at its 1999 Spring Awards Brunch: "TexTESOL III Celebrates Teaching Excellence," held in April at the Doubletree Hotel. Welcome aboard, Greg!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REBECCA HERMAN will continue this post until January, 2000, when Alice Chu takes over. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE who is interested in becoming the TexTESOL III Advocacy Representative, please contact President Alex B#ez, or send your nomination to the Board at our mailing address. The Advocacy Representative duties include gathering and distributing information about laws and regulations affecting ESL teachers and students, acting as liaison with the TESOL Advocacy and Government Relations Coordinator, and planning action on behalf of advocacy-related issues. HERE'S A LITTLE BACKGROUND about me, President Alex B#ez. I have a background in publishing, journalism, advertising and public relations. I lived in New York City for 17 years; ten of those years I worked for UNICEF at the United Nations. I

hold an MA degree in ESL from the Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I have taught ESL in the Austin area for the Texas Intensive English Program, Austin Community College, and Even Start; I currently teach ESL in the International Program at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. I am also a teacher trainer for Texas A&M University-Kingsville. I am honored to serve as President of TexTESOL III, and I am honored to work with a Board of such distinguished ESL professionals.

BY THE WAY, we welcome visitors to our monthly Board meetings. Board participation is fun, tasty (free snacks!), and interesting. You'll meet lots of interesting people and learn more about our membership, our sponsoring publishers, our presenters, and TESOLers from around the world. Become involved in how you would like to see our organization evolve, who should be invited to speak at our events, and where to recruit more participants like yourself! You will be where the ESL Action IS! Meetings take place at the Texas Intensive English Program building (Dexter Hall, 1103 West 24th St., Austin, TX 78705) on Monday evenings, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. See our website for the exact dates:

<http://www.textesol.org/region3/>

Looking forward to seeing you!

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**1999-2000 TexTESOL III Board**

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## **1999 TexTESOL III Regional Conference Highlights**

**By Rebecca Herman, Del Valle ISD, Austin**

The highlight of our Fall 1999 regional conference was, of course, our scintillating plenary speaker Jean Zukowski-Faust, from Northern Arizona University. Jean honored us with an afternoon workshop, as well. Here are some highlights of her presentations. In her plenary address, "Adding Sparkle to One's Repertoire," Jean Zukowski-Faust explained her principles of Positive Directioning(. These principles involve attending to the subtleties of language choice and body language, and to the perhaps unintended effects of our communication. The goal, naturally, is to examine our style of communication to focus both on clarity and on developing a conscience about the emotional effect we have on others (language learners, in this case). These are some of her principles that were presented at our conference:

- You cannot not communicate.
- Body language carries meaning.
- Learning comes out of confusion.
- Speaking is directional information.
- A mind has different levels of awareness.
- A communicative act can be multi-level.
- People think in metaphors.
- The mind accepts stimuli and tries to make sense of them.
- It takes longer for the mind to process negatives and passive voice.

Jean emphasized that we should phrase our speech in positive, constructive ways that "seed" the likelihood of obtaining a positive outcome. For example, instead of saying "Buy a

lottery ticket! You can't lose!," say "Buy a lottery ticket! You might win!" Develop a sense of the effect our words have on others through "positive directioning." Teachers are influencing human beings and shaping personalities in the target language. Students will develop a personality in the target culture by adopting our language choice and body language. We are not simply conveying information but instilling personalities. Take care! In her afternoon workshop, Jean Zukowski-Faust presented a variety of ways to "Keep On Talking!" One paired conversation activity used techniques for keeping a conversation going, naturally to provide more practice for learners. For example, one scenario says:

Learner: Mom, can we move? Mom: \_\_\_\_\_ a. No, of course not. We live here and work here. b. You think we should leave?

Clearly, choice b. ("You think we should leave?") would keep the conversation going better than the other choice.

Another technique Jean recommended was using riddles to motivate students to attend to their language choice. Answers need not be predetermined. For example, "A man comes to town on Friday, stays three days to complete his business, and then leaves on Friday. Explain." The explanation is open to interpretation. In summary, Dr. Zukowski-Faust urges teachers to become aware of the immense responsibility we have to instill a personality that

is good, not merely to teach language that may be used for ill. Furthermore, since teachers already extract elements of good teaching from a variety of methods, we should not hesitate to openly preserve whatever we feel works. Avoid deadly traditions that kill the joy of learning. In the current teaching emphasis toward process, not product, Jean recasts teachers as "deliverers" of good values, careful thinking, and peace-oriented personalities.

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## **A Poem for TexTESOL III**

**By Jean Zukowski-Faust, Northern Arizona University**

*Written specifically for the occasion of the TexTESOL III 1999 Fall Conference*

There are some teachers in Texas of TESL Who teach bilingual, intensive, and VESL, They use techniques old and new Plain, outrageous, tried, and true They're courageous, for they fear no redressal. These heroes are Texas ESL Teachers As such they're exceedingly far-reachers They use "I'll say, you repeat! Y'all just stay in your seat!" In a Rebirth of professional features. They teach exciting always creative curriculum. A garden of choices methodological to pick from. Backward build-up or role-play In a noisy or Silent Way, These teachers never wallow in the humdrum. They teach speaking and listening as the oral skills They teach the simple, the challenging, the no-frills They eschew all malformed selectics, Texans are informed eclectics! With repertoires, high standards, and strong wills. If they could teach grammar with limericks, they'd use 'em, If they could teach new words

with crosswords, they'd abuse 'em. But one thing is for certain. When they bring down the curtain, the students have learned, for their teachers enthuse 'em. Some of their methods might seem somewhat outlandish. They dance, they sing, and realia they brandish. But they use what they use with the knowledge. They're entitled, for they've all been to college. What might seem strange to some is quite simply... outlandish.

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## **Hot Links**

### **Texas Education Agency Web Site**

**By Mary Lou Price, The University of Texas at Austin**

Did you know that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) web site has a wealth of information available to educators and the general public? The TEA web site is:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us> .

Here are highlights of some of the material available on this web site along with direct links to the information. An update on the most recent proposed changes to the State Board of Education rules concerning the assessment of Limited English Proficient students:

<http://www.tcbee.org/legal.htm>

Information on curriculum:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/tea/curric.html>

Information on TEKS:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Information on TAAS, end-of-course exams, and other testing issues:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/index.html>

Educators' Guides to TEKS-Based Assessment:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/guides/educator/>

Downloadable copies of released TAAS tests from 1997-1999:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/release.htm>

State laws and State Board of Education regulations regarding public education:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/tea/law.html>

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## **Two Excellent ESL Web Sites**

**By Mary Lou Price, The University of Texas at Austin**

There are many excellent ESL web sites these days. These two are particularly useful. Both have many useful activities for students of all levels as well as links to other useful sites. Check them out yourselves or just pass on the locations to your students, who will undoubtedly return to them over and over.1. Karin's ESL PartyLand:

<http://www.eslpartyland.com>

2. The English Zone:

<http://www.English-Zone.com>

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## **Conference Kudos**

**By Susan Murphy, Past President of TexTESOL III**

**The University of Texas at Austin**

Based on the written evaluations and oral feedback regarding TexTESOL III's "Focus on the

Future" Fall Conference of September 25, the majority of conference participants gave the event a "two thumbs up." Here are a few of the comments.

- ) Best conference so far
- ) The catering was divine
- ) Excellent
- ) Please do this again
- ) Well-prepared speakers
- ) Zukowski-Faust was wonderful
- ) Lunch was fabuloso
- ) Wonderfully organized
- ) Presentations were as good (or better) as those at the national conference

We also received thoughtful suggestions to make future conferences even better. Some suggested that we set aside more time in the schedule to visit the exhibitors' hall and have more exhibitors. A few commented that more precise directions to the Ragsdale Center would have been useful. Even though some participants liked conferences starting at 10:00 a.m., others wanted the event to start even earlier. One suggestion was to make the conference last more than one day. Have more featured speakers and fewer concurrent sessions was another comment. Sending out pre-registration confirmations was another suggestion passed along to us. Several participants wanted to have more sessions related to K-12 teaching. We on the TexTESOL III Board would have loved nothing better! The fact is that there simply weren't many presentation proposals geared to public school teachers. As

part of the Proposal Committee for the 1997 State Conference held in Austin, I remember a similar situation where there were relatively few papers submitted by K-12 teachers or administrators. As a result, we received some written feedback concerning the lack of presentations related toward K-12 teaching. I'm mentioning this cause-and-effect situation for two reasons. First, I don't want TextESOL members feeling that the Board has made a deliberate decision to not include presentations for K-12 teachers. Most importantly, we on the Board want to encourage public school teachers and administrators to share their expertise with their fellow and future K-12 educators. If you've never presented before but you have some hands-on, tried-and-true teaching techniques, find another teacher or two and put together a team presentation; presenting in pairs can be more fun and less work than doing it "solo," especially for the first time. Your colleagues will surely appreciate your efforts, skill, and especially your handouts!

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## **Teaching Techniques**

### **One Activity With Little Pieces of Paper**

**By Mary Lou Price, The University of Texas at Austin**

Categorizing with Stickies at the Board (Grammar; Vocabulary; Reading)

Large stickies (e.g., Post-It Notes<sup>®</sup>) can be used to help students to categorize items.

They're especially useful for grammar classes, but they can be used to categorize just about anything. In this activity, all of the students come up to the board and work as a group to arrange and rearrange items according to pre-set categories. This gets students moving and working as a group.**Method:**

1. Put each word or expression to be categorized on a large sticky.
2. Write the category headings on the blackboard.
3. Distribute the stickies, one per student, and have the students all come up at the same time and put their sticky under the appropriate category.
4. Have the students stay at the board and make any changes that they want to make to the placement their classmates have made by moving stickies around.
5. Discuss the categorization as a group and make corrections by moving the stickies around.

**Example:**

Classifying time expressions:Categories to write on the board:

- Used primarily with the present perfect
- Used primarily with the simple past
- Depends on the context

Sample expressions to put on the stickies (and the answer key):

- Yesterday; ago; last week (simple past)
- So far; lately; since I arrived (present perfect)
- Today; this week; recently (depends on the context)

Adapted from the TexTESOL III Fall 1999 Conference presentation "15 Activities With Little Pieces of Paper," presented by Beverly Ingram, Letha McIntire, Mary Lou Price, and Carolyn Thompson.

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## Calendar

**Dec. 27-30, 1999.** Modern Language Association of America (MLA). Annual conference, Chicago, Illinois. Contact MLA, 10 Astor Place, New York, New York 10003-6981. Fax 212-477-9863. E-mail: [convention@mla.org](mailto:convention@mla.org)

**March 11-14, 2000.** American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL). AAAL 2000 Annual Convention, "Crossing Boundaries," Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Contact AAAL, PO Box 21686, Eagan, Minnesota 55512-0686. Tel. 612-953-0805. Fax 612-4331-8404. E-mail: [aaaloffice@aaal.org](mailto:aaaloffice@aaal.org)

Web: <http://www.aaal.org/>

**March 14-18, 2000.** Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Annual conference (including pre- and post-convention institutes, and publisher and software exhibition), "Navigating the New Millennium," Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Contact TESOL, 700 South Washington Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Tel. 703-836-0774. Fax 703-836-7864. E-mail: [conv@tesol.edu](mailto:conv@tesol.edu)

Web: <http://www.wwww.tesol.org/>

**November 2-4, 2001.** TexTESOL State Conference: "2001: An ESL Odyssey." 23rd Annual TexTESOL State Conference; Doubletree Hotel (IH-35), Austin, Texas, USA. Contact: TexTESOL III, 1103 W. 24th St., Austin, TX 78705. Web: <http://www.textesol.org/region3/>

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## **Call for Contributions**

If you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor, Rebecca Herman, at [Rherman@del-valle.k12.tx.us](mailto:Rherman@del-valle.k12.tx.us).

Please send your contributions by e-mail as a text-only document of up to 500 words. If this is not possible, you may send a hard copy to the TexTESOL III office:

Newsletter Editor TexTESOL III, Dexter Hall 1103 West 24th Street, Austin, TX 78705

You may contribute to any section, including book reviews, research, teaching tips,

literature reviews, job announcements, and the calendar. If you would like to volunteer to read books and review them for our newsletter, please contact the editor at the above e-mail address. Our newsletter is published at least four times a year.

If you would like to volunteer to read books and review them for our newsletter, please contact the editor at the above e-mail address. If you would like to contribute a book that you think should be reviewed for publication, you may donate (not loan) a book to be reviewed to the above mailing address, along with your recommendation that it be reviewed for this newsletter.

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## **TexTESOL III Membership Form**

(Print this form out and mail it with your dues to the address below.)

Name:

Phone and/or Fax nos.:

Street address:

(city, state, zip code)

Affiliation:

E-Mail address:

Please tell us what you would like to see TexTESOL III do for you! Suggestions are always welcome!

Annual membership dues:

Regular \$12 \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ Joint \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to TexTESOL III Membership and mail with registration form to:

TexTESOL III, 1103 West 24th Street, Austin, TX 78705

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*Dexter Hall*

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