

# NEWS IN TESOL

May 2008

A TESOL Newsletter of Cornerstone University



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## Upcoming Events

- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 with featured speaker Dr. Cheri Pierson of Wheaton College
- TESOL Lecture with Dr. William Acton of Trinity Western University on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008

## Welcome from Dr. Michael Pasquale

*This edition of the Cornerstone University TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) newsletter highlights the commitment of the Cornerstone TESOL program to live out the motto of our institution, which is to exhibit academic excellence with Christian commitment! This has been displayed through our excellent students, faculty, courses and establishment of the Henry Osborn Award in Applied Linguistics and TESOL. This issue focuses on some key faculty and students that have demonstrated academic quality with Christian commitment, along with introducing an exciting new program being established at Oxford University.*



Dr. Michael Pasquale  
Director of the M.A. in TESOL Program

## CORNERSTONE ESTABLISHES TESOL PROGRAM AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Cornerstone University is currently establishing a TESOL program in conjunction with Oxford University in England. The Cornerstone Oxford TESOL Program will be a six-week summer program at Oxford University. Students from Cornerstone will be associate members of an Oxford University college and have all the rights and privileges of Oxford students such as dining in the hall, access to the world famous Bodleian Library and participation in club sports and



The buildings of New College, Oxford (founded 1379) where Cornerstone students will study this summer.

activities. Cornerstone students will have tutorials with Oxford professors and seminars led by Cornerstone faculty. What makes this program unique is that there will also be a deliberate ministry component. Cornerstone students will be teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Oxford International students. This high-quality academic ESL tutoring with students will also include tours together to famous English landmarks such as Stonehenge or Stratford. Working with local evangelical churches will be key so that the ESL students will be able to integrate into these churches once Cornerstone students return home after the six week session. Dr. Michael Pasquale, TESOL program director at Cornerstone visited Oxford in February and plans to accompany the first group of students this summer. He comments that, "What excites me about this program is that it has a great academic component and an equally great ministry component. This is what can make this program unique for Cornerstone."

## ANNUAL ESL CONFERENCE SEES RECORD NUMBERS

More than 100 participants attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference held in the Gainey Conference Center at Cornerstone University. Attendees gained valuable information on ESL methods and materials to take back to their classrooms. The main speaker for the morning session was Dr. Dave Livermore, executive director of the Global Learning Center at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and the author of *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence* (Baker, 2006). He spoke about "Teaching ESL with Cultural Intelligence." The afternoon workshop session on "Using the Oxford Picture Dictionary in ESL classes" was led by Kathy Krokhar, ESL specialist with Oxford University Press. Each participant was given a copy of the picture dictionary and a grammar activities book. There were also breakout sessions on Church-based ESL, led by Leslie Eubank, and on Teaching Migrant ESL, by Bernadette Fox of Ferris State University.

This annual conference has been growing in popularity as more churches develop ESL ministry programs in their local churches.



Dave Livermore and Kathy Krokhar were featured speakers at the recent ESL conference at Cornerstone.



Participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference heard from multiple leaders in the field.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: GENA BENNETT



**Name:** Gena Bennett, Instructor, M.A. TESOL Program

**Education:** B.A. in English from Arkansas Tech University, M.A. in applied linguistics/TESOL from Georgia State University, doctoral program in English at the University of Birmingham (UK)

**Interesting Facts:**

- She is a proud Navy spouse.
- She is mother to 18 month old Braden.
- She is the chair of the Christian Educators in TESOL caucus for 2007-2008, the reviews editor of the Higher Education Interest Section newsletter, serves on the TESOL advisory group to the Board Standing Committee on membership, and will become an incoming co-chair for the Materials Writers Interest Section this spring.
- Gena Bennett is also the author of *Teaching a Lexis-Based Academic Writing Course* (University of Michigan Press, 2006).

**Thoughts on TESOL and Cornerstone TESOL Program:** "One of my most enjoyable experiences to date has been writing and teaching the LIN 557 Action Research Course online at Cornerstone. Working with like-minded, intelligent individuals who share my passion for the Lord and for ESL is extremely rewarding. From this experience, I believe I've determined that graduate teaching is where I'd like to invest myself in this profession; thank you, Cornerstone!"

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Cornerstone University is very excited about the academic work that our students were involved in recently. Gillian Ferwerda (CU '09) and Amber Pearson (CU '08) presented a paper on *Chicano English as Linguistic Reconstruction* with Dr. Michael Pasquale at the Michigan TESOL conference held at Eastern Michigan University in October 2007. Their paper was subsequently accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the MITESOL Conference 2007. Pearson and Ferwerda are continuing to research this topic with Dr. Pasquale and are preparing a second article on Chicano English called *Voicing Their Identity: Linguistic Reconstruction in Chicano English*.

Graduate students Danielle DeLuca (MA '09) and Ayanna Cooper (MA '09) presented papers at the international TESOL convention in New York City. DeLuca's paper is on *Investment and Identity Change in Brazilian ELLs*. Cooper's paper was one of only six selected for a panel with other doctoral students. Her topic is on *Teacher Efficacy of Elementary ESOL Teachers*.



Gillian Ferwerda, Amber Pearson and Dr. Michael Pasquale presented a paper at the 2007 MITESOL Conference.

## WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE COMING FROM



### United States

Florida (1)  
 Georgia (1)  
 Illinois (2)  
 Michigan (29)  
 New York (1)  
 Ohio (1)  
 Pennsylvania (1)  
 Washington (2)

### South Korea (2)

**Mexico (1)**  
**Dominican Republic (1)**  
**Bolivia (1)**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- The Fall TESOL Lecture will feature Dr. William Acton on Thursday Oct. 16, 2008. Dr. Acton is graduate dean and director of the M.A. TESOL Program at Trinity Western University. The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in the Gainey Conference Center at Cornerstone University.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference will be held on Saturday April 4, 2009 with featured speaker Dr. Cheri Pierson of Wheaton College). For details, visit [www.cornerstone.edu/academics/tesl/esl\\_conf](http://www.cornerstone.edu/academics/tesl/esl_conf) for details.
- We are pleased to announce our 2009 Fall TESOL lecture speaker will be Dr. Suresh Canagarajah of Penn State University. Dr. Canagarajah holds the Kirby Professorship in language learning at Penn State University and is currently the editor of TESOL Quarterly. More details to come!
- Cornerstone University will start another group of students in the Master of Arts in TESOL program July 21, 2008. For more information, visit [pgs.cornerstone.edu/tesol](http://pgs.cornerstone.edu/tesol).

## NEWS & NOTES

**Dr. Michael Pasquale**, TESOL program director, conducted teacher training seminars in Brazil in March. He participated in a panel discussion at the North American Christian Foreign Language Association (NACFLA) annual conference at Calvin College on *“Addressing the Topics of Power and Prejudice in the Classroom.”* He also presented a paper at the TESOL convention in New York City in April on *“The Interface of Language and Faith in “Christian” Bilingualism.”* This summer he is scheduled to speak about the *“Folk Linguistics of Language Learning and Teaching”* with Dennis Preston of Oklahoma State University at the International Applied Linguistics Congress in Essen, Germany.

**Phillip Collins** (CU '05) is teaching English in Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.

**Jillian Kishpaugh** (CU '07) is teaching ESL for the Grandville, Mich., public school system.

**Sarah VanderLinden** (CU '08) has accepted a position teaching English at the Highlands International School of La Paz, Bolivia.

## CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you! If you have any updates or news to share, please call:  
**(616) 222-1503**

If you are interested in finding out more about our M.A. in TESOL program, contact Carla Hardy:  
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**Find us online at [pgs.cornerstone.edu/tesol](http://pgs.cornerstone.edu/tesol).**