

# NEWS IN TESOL

June 2009

A TESOL Newsletter of Cornerstone University



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## Upcoming Event

The Fall TESOL Lecture will be held on Monday, Oct. 5 with Dr. Suresh Canagarajah of Penn State University. Dr. Canagarajah, the current editor of TESOL Quarterly, holds the Kirby Professorship in Language Learning at PSU. He will be honored by Cornerstone University with the Henry Osborn Award in Applied Linguistics and TESOL.



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

## Welcome from Dr. Michael Pasquale

Welcome to our spring edition of the Cornerstone University TESOL newsletter! We are rejoicing in a great year in which we saw many blessings. Our Spring ESL conference had its largest attendance ever with more than 150 attendees. We were also blessed with a great commencement ceremony where our 2009 graduating class was honored. Great things are happening at Cornerstone and we are excited to share the news with you!

## ESL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE SETS RECORD

On April 4, Cornerstone University hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference with a large increase in attendance this year. According to conference organizer, Dr. Michael Pasquale, "We were planning for a slightly smaller group, but were amazed by the overwhelming response to this conference."

Dr. Cheri Pierson, associate professor of TESOL at Wheaton College, addressed "Invitation to Interaction," which was also the topic of her well-received conference workshops. The purpose of the ESL Ministry Conference is to provide ESL teachers tools necessary to effectively teach English in churches or community centers for outreach. The next ESL Ministry Conference will be held Saturday, April 17, 2010. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Joseph Stowell, Cornerstone University President. Next year's conference will feature a new format that includes specialized tracks with workshops specifically for those in professional, church-based and missions contexts. Stay tuned for more information!



ESL Conference attendees

## TESOL FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: KAREN ASENAVAGE



**Title:** Instructor, TESOL program

**Education:** B.A. in biology and chemistry from Messiah College; M.A. in TESOL from Ball State University; she also holds secondary teaching certificates in biology and chemistry, and all-grade ESL.

**Interesting Facts:**

- Since 2006, Karen has been the coordinator of distributed learning at English Language Programs at Penn State University where she develops and teaches online and related distributed learning courses. She also helps with special programs such as the U.S. Department of State Summer Institute for English Language Educators from South Africa.
- Her professional affiliations include: past president of TESOL Arabia, service on executive boards of INTESOL and Penn TESOL East, past member of the Association for Supervision Curriculum and Development (ASCD) and the Pennsylvania Distributed Learning Association (PADLA).
- Prior to earning her M.A. in TESOL, she ran several entrepreneurial ventures and taught as a paraprofessional in the natural sciences department at Messiah College.
- Internationally, from 1994 to 2000, Karen was an instructor and a coordinator for English for Specific Purposes at the United Arab Emirates University. She is currently an IELTS examiner for Drexel University and has been an English language specialist on behalf of the U.S. State Department in South Africa and Bahrain.
- This summer she will coordinate the Fulbright Fellows Pre-Academic Program at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Areas of interest: curriculum development, brain-based research, educational technology and leadership development.
- Her published works focus on the impact of Christian ESL teachers overseas and has written a chapter, "A Survey of Christian English Language Teachers in Countries that Restrict Missionary Activity" in a forthcoming book entitled *Christian Educators and Critical Practitioners in Dialogue: Ethical Dilemmas in English Language Teaching* published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.
- Karen and her husband, Arun, enjoy bird watching along the Atlantic coast, wilderness canoeing in the Minnesota boundary waters and using their gifts of hospitality and service when hosting a myriad of international guests at their home in the Philadelphia suburbs.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO 2009 TESOL GRADUATES

On May 9, 2009, Cornerstone University hosted its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement. TESOL graduates earned degrees ranging from associate to master of arts. One TESOL student stood out among the 400 plus undergraduates. Gillian Ferwerda earned her associate of arts in TESOL and also a bachelor's degree in English. A "First Honors Graduate," the equivalent of valedictorian, Gillian also received Cornerstone's President's Award from Dr. Joseph Stowell, president of Cornerstone University. This honor is given to the top student academically who has also served and ministered.

"Commencement day is always a balance between happiness and sadness. We are happy to see years of hard work pay off with students earning their degrees. But we are also sad to see them leave. We will miss all of our graduates," said Pasquale.



Pictured (L-R): Professor Judy Keller, Katy Beebe, DeAnna Olson, Jessica Arnold and Dr. Michael Pasquale at graduation.

## WHERE DOES A TESOL DEGREE/EDUCATION LEAD?

### 2008 Graduates (14 total)

- K-12 teachers in US (in ESL, Spanish) – 6
- K-12 in overseas schools (e.g., international school, MK school, etc.) – 3
- ESL teachers/trainers for missionary organizations (one based in Mexico, two in USA) – 3
- ESL instructor in US Community College (Ohio) – 1
- Applying for CC positions, currently volunteering in community ESL program – 1

### 2009 Graduates (8 total)

- K-12 teachers in US (in ESL, Spanish) – 5
- University instructor (in Brazil) – 1
- ESL teacher on mission field (in Bolivia) – 1
- Missionary candidate to use ESL on mission field – 1



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ESL Ministry Conference will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, with featured speaker Dr. Joseph Stowell, president of Cornerstone University.

For more details, visit: [www.cornerstone.edu/academics/tesl/esl\\_conf](http://www.cornerstone.edu/academics/tesl/esl_conf).

## NEWS & NOTES

**Dr. Michael Pasquale** presented a paper on "Virtual Worlds and Identity Formation in the ESOL Classroom" in March at the 2009 TESOL Convention in Denver, Colorado.

May 25 -June 29, he will lead a group of eight Cornerstone students to Oxford University to participate in the Oxford Cornerstone English Program. Students will take courses at Oxford while teaching ESL to international students. Dr. Michael Stevens, professor of English at Cornerstone, will join Dr. Pasquale to teach the course "C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien on Language."

**Gillian Ferwerda (CU '09)** was honored with the 2009 President's Award at Cornerstone's commencement. She will be working for Women at Risk International, a non-profit agency based in Grand Rapids, Mich., dedicated to the protection of women. Her work will be funded by a research grant to investigate the extent of human trafficking in the U.S.

## 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).**