

A message from the President

Dear Chilean TESOLers or better dear TESOLers in Chile,

This has been a good year, many interesting things have happened, we had a Symposium on Assessment for Learning, which was an opportunity used by the English Opens Doors people to introduce us to Progress Maps, a document to help teachers identify where their students are in their learning process and therefore use more effective teaching strategies. We were also able to hold two seminars with the participation of distinguished experts from the US and the UK, Dr. Numa Markee from the University of Illinois and Dr. Amos Paran from the University of London. The topics were challenging and illuminating: Innovation and Change in the ITT (Initial Teacher Training) Curriculum, Classroom Research and Critical Thinking and Reading. We expect to continue offering these symposia and seminars to support teachers in their classroom practices and in their own continuous development.

We have received full and substantial support from the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of Australia and from the English Opens Doors Program at Mineduc. We are very grateful because it means many more teachers from Santiago and the regions will be able to take advantage of our academic events to improve their teaching and language skills. There will be special offers of free membership and free fees to conferences, more invitations to foreign experts, more possibilities for the regions, etc.

We are opening a huge door for interested teachers and students who accept the invitation to work with us. The English networks have been cordially invited to join TESOLChile, each one of them has a designated delegate to actively participate. We will incorporate their suggestions, ideas, questions, contributions (in terms of articles, interviews, information, posters, portfolios, projects, action research, activities that work, etc.) in the agenda of our Board sessions, and in our Newsletters.

With your Conference folder you will receive TESOLChile Newsletter N°4. It is not easy to try to publish two or three letters a year. That is why we think that with your contributions we should have enough interesting material to commit ourselves to come up with three issues per year.

And finally, I hope you do enjoy this conference at Universidad La Serena. It has taken a bunch of very committed people in Santiago and in La Serena working extremely hard to put this event together. The present members of the Board extend a warm invitation to the TESOLChile community to offer your help and work with us during this coming year. You will be rewarded with thanks from many grateful teachers.

Mary Jane Abrahams

President

TESOL CHILE

October 2007