



SAN DIEGO CATESOL



CATESOL San Diego Chapter Newsletter

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From the Chapter Coordinator

Dealing with Culturally Insensitive Language in the ESL Classroom

by Saladin Davies

Working with students from culturally diverse backgrounds (both in the macro and micro sense), it is not uncommon for ESL professionals to hear students make statements that could be considered culturally insensitive. The reference here is not to discourse or pragmatic *faux pas*, but rather statements that could be categorized as racist, sexist, homophobic, ageist, anti-Islamic, and so on. Hence the question that naturally arises is how can ESL professionals deal with culturally insensitive statements made by students without creating a hostile learning environment.

First and foremost, teachers must ensure that classrooms are safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for all students regardless of sex, race, gender, sexual orientation, and cultural background. Specifically, students should feel that they can respectfully share their thoughts, ideas, beliefs, and opinions without fear of being censored or judged negatively by their teachers.



Learning and sharing ideas during the Chapter Professional Development Workshop at SDCE Educational Cultural Complex on October 4th, 2014

Second, teachers need to resist the impulse to react negatively when hearing culturally biased remarks. While a knee jerk reaction to a racist or sexist comment might be acceptable outside of the classroom, it does not preserve or support the ideals of a safe, welcoming, and inclusive classroom environment. An appropriate response might be to ask the student why he or she made the statement and why they think the way they do. Furthermore, this event should be viewed as a “teachable moment,” where the teacher, acting as facilitator, shifts the focus from the student who made the initial statement to the larger issue it raises. And as students share their views, experiences, and stories, the teacher-facilitator is taking notes and asking probing questions that are intended to help students see different sides of the issue.

Even though the above described is a great way to address an issue on the spot, teachers must also consider having a long-term plan for addressing culturally insensitive language in the classroom. With that in mind, teachers must think strategically about the development of cross-cultural and multicultural competencies in their students. In other words, teachers need to regularly engage their students in planned activities that are designed to deepen their awareness of cross-cultural and multicultural issues. A simple but effective practice is to devote at least one lesson per week to explore issues of diversity and multiculturalism.

If you need ideas for multicultural and cross-cultural activities for your classroom to get started, please check out Paul Gorski’s Critical Multicultural Pavilion website:

www.edchange.org/multicultural/

Sal is a teacher educator and ESL instructor at Alliant International University.

CATESOL SAN DIEGO CHAPTER: WHERE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN

CATESOL San Diego Chapter

The California School of Education at Alliant International University: 30 Years of Excellence in TESOL Education

by Erica Nogueira

Alliant International University's programs in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) offer current and aspiring TESOL professionals the opportunity to become global leaders in our increasingly connected world.

Alliant's TESOL faculty are committed both to the professional development of their students and to advancing the field of TESOL through their professional endeavors. In today's globalized world, the need for dedicated TESOL professionals is growing. There is nothing more vital to thriving in a new society than to be able to speak the language, and Alliant is proud to lend a helping hand in ensuring that everyone — no matter their background or circumstance — has a voice.

TESOL Programs at Alliant

TESOL Graduate Degree Programs

- ◆ Master of Arts in Education (M.A.E.) in TESOL
 - San Diego, California
 - Online
- ◆ Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in TESOL
 - San Diego, California

TESOL Certificate Programs

- ◆ Graduate Certificate in TESOL
 - San Diego, California
 - Online
- ◆ California Teachers of English Language (CTEL) Certificate - Crosscultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) Authorization
 - Online

Alliant's TESOL programs provide a truly international community of language educators. Their strong reputation of over 30 years of excellence in TESOL education can open multiple avenues for successful careers in language teaching and administration both domestically and internationally. The small seminar classes focusing on professional best practices and applied scholarly research provide a balance of TESOL methodology, linguistics, and education curriculum for both experienced and prospective ESL and EFL educators.

Erica is Director of Marketing at Alliant International University



Exclusive Alliant Enrollment Benefits for CATESOL Members !!!

Alliant is a CATESOL partner and is pleased to offer CATESOL members professional development opportunities. Through this unique partnership, CATESOL members can further their education with Preferred Pricing and an Application Fee Waiver when enrolling as a new, full-time student in any Alliant degree program. Email Johnna Sangster at Johnna.Sangster@Alliant.edu or call her at 858-635-4633 and explore www.alliant.edu to learn more!

Join the Chapter

There are **many reasons** to get involved in the local CATESOL chapter:

- ◆ Develop professionally
- ◆ Boost your resume
- ◆ Network, network, network

There are also **many ways** to get involved:

- ◆ Come to our monthly meetings or social events
- ◆ Volunteer at chapter-organized workshops
- ◆ Write an article for publication in our Newsletter
- ◆ Sign up for our mailing list

Or better yet ...

- ◆ Become a **chapter liaison** for your school

To learn more, visit us at catesolsandiego.weebly.com

CATESOL San Diego Chapter

Meet the Organizers of the 2017 CATESOL San Diego Regional Conference

ESL @ Palomar College: Start Here; Go Anywhere

by **Lawrence Lawson**

Palomar College's central campus is located in San Marcos, California, but students take courses at sites such as Fallbrook, Camp Pendleton, Ramona, and Mt. Carmel High School (and, soon, in Rancho Bernardo). Opening its doors in 1946 to the first 100 students, Palomar College today is one of the largest community college districts in California (by area and enrollment). Approximately 24,000 full-time and part-time students call Palomar home. Palomar College's mission is to "provide an engaging teaching and learning environment for students of diverse origins, experiences, needs, abilities, and goals." Palomar College has been in the midst of a growth spurt over the past decade as seen in the state-of-the-art Nursing, Humanities, Multi-Disciplinary, Natural Sciences, and Planetarium facilities that have been filling in the campus since voters approved an Educational Facilities Improvement Measure in 2006.

The English as a Second Language Department has been flourishing at Palomar College since 1967. The department began by offering once-a-week English classes in Pauma, Escondido, Vista, and Fallbrook. Since then, the ESL Department has steadily grown and now offers ESL classes in Fallbrook, San Marcos, Escondido, and Ramona, among other sites. The Palomar College ESL Department houses

vibrant credit and noncredit pathways that include multi-skill classes, academic reading and writing courses, pronunciation courses, grammar courses, accelerated ESL courses, citizenship classes, INEA courses, career track courses, and computer classes. We serve approximately 2,000 noncredit students and 550 credit students each semester.

The ESL Department, housed within the Languages and Literature Division (alongside Reading, English, and World Languages), is a small yet growing department. We have approximately 60 superb part-time instructors and seven (also superb) full-timers. We were lucky enough to hire a new full-time colleague in Spring 2016, and we are currently hiring another full-timer to begin teaching in Fall 2017. Our professional interests range from strengthening noncredit support to pronunciation to acceleration in ESL. Our instructors have given presentations on TESOL-related issues across the country, written textbooks for publishers such as Oxford University Press, developed new curriculum to help support students' educational journeys, and helped mentor new practitioners in the field.

The Palomar College ESL Program is honored to host the 2017 CATESOL San Diego Regional Conference. We are excited to have you at the conference!

Lawrence is Associate Professor of ESL at Palomar College and 2017 CATESOL San Diego Regional Conference Co-Chair

Call for Contributions

If you have a story, opinion, strategy, or website related to teaching ESL which you would like to share, please send it for consideration by the editors to catesolsd@gmail.com. For ideas, feel free to look at the past issues of our newsletter archived on our website: at

catesolsandiego.weebly.com



CATESOL San Diego Chapter



STUDENTS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

Diana Ortega

from Colombia

interviewed by

Robb Hill

*Southern States University,
Fashion Valley Campus*

*Can you describe your
first day in the U.S.?*

My first day was very exciting. I remember that I arrived around 3:00 PM. My brother was waiting for me at the airport. That night we had a special dinner to celebrate my

arrival. It was not a long day to be the first day but just because the hour I arrived. The next day I went to the university and then at night we had a meeting with all my family in San Marcos.

Tell us about your experience living in San Diego.

My experience living here has been very productive, gratifying and full of new experiences. It has been probably one of the best choices I could ever take in my life. New opportunities, new friends, new environment, new culture. Everything has been like a mix of emotions. I only can feel acknowledgements. My gratitude with these experiences is huge. Only good vibes is what I feel and new goals for my future are coming.

What English school do you go to? Tell us about it.

I have been studying at SSU (Southern States University) since February 2016. I started taking High Intermediate classes and 6 months later I started with the advance level. Having finished this, my plan is going to take TOEFL classes and after this I would be ready to do the MBA that I want to do. My goal is to finish my MBA in 2018.

What are your future plans?

As I mentioned before, my future plan is to do an MBA. After this, when I will get my major my plan is to go back to Colombia and continue with my future purposes.

What part of English is the most challenging for students from your Colombia?

Actually the challenge is very general. We need to learn grammar, so we can write, speak and understand what people say. Probably, if we are learning English the most difficult part is to go out and try to talk with the people. At the first time we feel a little bit uncomfortable and lack of confidence with ourselves, even if we understand what the people is talking, there is something inside of us that makes us feel like we cannot talk at all. But is simple, everything is time. Learning every day and talking with the people is the best way to learn English or any kind of language.

Your favorite song/poem/book/movie?

Song: Depeche Mode, Enjoy the Silence

Poem: Pablo Neruda, If You Forget Me

Book: The Life of Pi

Movie: Life Is Beautiful

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Chapter Coordinator: Saladin Davies
Past Chapter Coordinator: Holly Bell
Treasurer: Aldamay Rüdüsühli
Assistant Treasurer: Tyler Young
Secretary: Soo Min Lee
Assistant Secretary: Amelia Joaquim
Website Manager: Magdalena Kwiatkowski
Facebook Coordinator: Kevin Staff
Newsletter Editors: M. Kwiatkowski & Robb Hill

You don't need to be a CATESOL member
to come to a chapter meeting.
Come and see what we are all about!
Pizza and drinks are always on the house.

CATESOL San Diego Chapter

Featuring **Soo Min Lee**

Chapter Secretary

Soo Min is a native of Seoul, Korea. She holds bachelor's degrees in Geography Education and Physical Therapy. In 2008, Soo Min came to San Diego after working as a physical therapist for several years. She originally enrolled in a language school downtown and then attended Mesa College. She is currently in the doctoral TESOL program at Alliant International University after receiving her master's in TESOL there. As an international speaker of English, she has great empathy for international students learning English.

Soo Min has been an active member of CATESOL San Diego Chapter since February 2016. She serves as the chapter secretary and volunteers at chapter events. Additionally, she has presented at various TESOL-related conferences. Soo Min states that "being a member of the local chapter is a great way to network, share teaching ideas, and learn new techniques." Her research interests involve L2 reading & writing, corrective feedback, second language acquisition, and identity of international TESOL professionals. When not doing research or reading, Soo Min enjoys petting cats, drinking tea, and watching movies.



CATESOL 2017 Annual Conference

The World Is the Classroom

October 19-22, 2017
Santa Clara, CA



CATESOL

Favorite Classroom Techniques

Bob Thomas presents

Disappearing Words

Adapted from Zero Prep for Beginners by Pollard, Hess & Herron

A great activity for reinforcing lesson vocabulary that can be done in 10 minutes:

1. Write the vocabulary list from lesson on the board. Point to words and do rote repetitions several times.
2. Then silently point to words and have the students pronounce. Do this several times going faster each time.
3. Point to a word, say it, have the class repeat, and then erase it. Have the class say it again.
4. Go through the list again erasing another word after saying and having the class repeat it. Continue doing the list, pointing to blank spaces and remaining words, and having the class repeat all. Eventually all words will be memorized.
5. Have 3 classmates come to the board and write the words back into spaces as students call them out.

CATESOL San Diego Chapter

The Chapter: Where Great Things Happen

2016 Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange Party and Much More ...



Each year, the Chapter organizes professional development workshops, as well as two annual social events: the Holiday Party in December and the Summer Social during the summer months. We also invite speakers to give short presentations during our regular monthly meetings. These are a great source of updated information in the field and an opportunity to practice public speaking before an amicable audience.

Social events are always fun. Last December, Chapter Coordinator Sal Davies hosted our traditional Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange Party at the gorgeous Solterra Clubhouse in Scripps Ranch. The party brought together old and new members, local as well as those coming from the far ends of the region. Kristi, the Elementary Level Chair, kept her promise and came all the way from Inland Empire, in spite of the eight-hour drive to San Francisco the next day!

Among the greatest accomplishments, however, we count the recent wedding of our Chapter Secretary Soo Min and Newsletter Co-Editor Robb Hill!. Yes, it is true — Soo Min and Robb met at a chapter meeting!



*Congratulations,
Soo Min and Robb!!!*