

SAN DIEGO CATESOL

CATESOL San Diego Chapter Newsletter

April 2014

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From the Editors

So Many Choices, So Little Time!

Organized by the CATESOL San Diego Chapter, this year's conference in San Diego will be an unusual hybrid between a regional and a chapter event. Keep your hopes high, though! The keynote speaker will be none other than Dr. Keith Folse, the ESL guru and author of over 50 books on teaching writing, grammar, and vocabulary. He is going to ponder the question of which grammar points should be taught for a great writing class. But that is not all. In an effort to bring more K-12 educators to CATESOL and address the inescapable, yet by no means obvious, topic of how Common Core State Standards translate into ESL practice, the organizers have invited the San Diego County Office of Education WRITE Institute for a workshop on the transitioning of long-term English learners from high school to college writing demands. There will also be peer-selected presentations on other language skills and issues and a Chapter-sponsored panel of local program directors discussing effective job strategies. There will also be a large poster session and publishers' exhibit. Indeed, so many choices, so little time!

The conference will take place on April 12th at the beautiful new facilities of the Rady School of Management at the University of California, San Diego campus. The school was featured on the cover of *Almanac Architecture & Design 2010* and has views overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Salk Institute, and the Torrey Pines Gliderport. The view and the ocean breeze alone are worth the trip!

One might wonder how a chapter can organize such a spectacular event. In truth, we wonder as well. The CATESOL San Diego Chapter was founded only two and a half years ago. Since then, we have presented four professional development workshops, which have attracted the total of over 300 people. We have held five social



UCSD Rady School of Management

It is not necessary to be a CATESOL member to attend the chapter meetings.

Perspective

by Maria Allen

Have you noticed how the use of cell phone cameras has changed the perspectives used in capturing moments in time? New views, angles, compositions, and focal points have exploded with the ubiquity of the cell phone camera, and these perspectives make photographs more insightful! Similarly, being an active member of a professional organization like our CATESOL San Diego chapter gives me a more insightful perspective of the field of ESL.

As an adjunct instructor, I divide my time among different schools and respective obligations, and I am often challenged to bring each class into crisp focus. In addition, I am left with insufficient time to reflect on my profession or my field. However, my involvement with the chapter grounds me, helps me understand how the different programs fit together, and adds perspective.

I remember a time when I was taking a reading certificate class at UCSD. My classmates were teachers of many grades, from kindergarten to college. To find consistency in all the practices of teaching reading at the different levels was incredibly reassuring and showed me that there is a wider perspective to what each one of us does. As a famous photographer once said, it's not the object, but how light hits that object. Likewise, it's not the classes I sprint to teach every day, but how those classes fit in the bigger picture – perspective!

Maria teaches ESL
at USD, CSUSM
& SDCE.



CATESOL San Diego Chapter

STUDENTS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE



Adriana Teodoro from Mexico

*recently recognized by the city
of Escondido as volunteer of
the year for education*

*Interviewed by
Allison Pickering,
Escondido Adult School*

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

I came here in November 2008. My first day. . . I arrived at approximately 2 AM. I stayed at my

friend's house in Valley Center. I woke up the next day and went to have breakfast at IHOP. Then we took a brief sight-seeing trip around the area. We went to Oceanside and walked along the boardwalk. I used to live in Mexico City. Mexico City is a big, dirty city with a lot of traffic, too many people, and businesses on the street. What I saw here was clean in comparison to Mexico. In the city we don't have many green areas like here. You don't find a coyote or other wild animals in front of your house or apartment in Mexico. To see an animal other than a dog you have to go to the zoo.

Tell us about your experience living in San Diego.

Living in San Diego has been a good opportunity for me and my family because we have been able to learn things we couldn't in Mexico, like a new language. Both my daughters are speaking both languages. My oldest daughter is also leaning French in high school. They are the reason I decided to move here. I have met not only people from American culture. I am able to get to know many cultures like Asian, European, African, Middle Eastern. You can find native people from those areas here. Now I have an opportunity to help my teacher and I am more involved in the community. I never thought I would be able to do that when I first came here; and I like to do that.

What English school do you go to?

The only school I have been attending is Escondido Adult School. It is a great school for foreign students because this school helps us learn not only English, but other things like

banking, and transportation. Also If you want to get your GED, high school diploma, or job training, you can do that. As a volunteer here, I have been able to see how important the school is not just for foreign students, but for native born residents as well. I started with Jill Moran (level intermediate low) and now I am in advanced ESL. The teachers are very good; they are patient; they find the correct way to teach us, and they are helpful in everything.

What are your future plans?

Now my goal is to be focused on my daughters' education. One is almost finished with high school. I want to send her to the university and then it will be the younger one's turn. When they are in university, I will have enough time to invest in myself. I may study something. I am an accountant in my country. I am afraid it will be difficult to translate my degree here. I am a little old and getting older. I want to study something in administration, maybe in the medical field, like front office MA. I would also like to have my own business preparing taxes, but that means having the capital. So I am not sure. I have two options.

Which part of English is the most challenging for students from Mexico?

I think it is speaking. The pronunciation is difficult because we pronounce the letters another way. I was not able to speak with any English speakers because I couldn't understand anything. I didn't understand a simple conversation. For example, when I went shopping at the mall, I didn't understand the clerks. I didn't speak any English at all.

Your favorite song, poem, and novel?

My favorite book is from a Latin writer, Isabel Allende. *City of the Beasts* is part of a trilogy which includes *Forest of the Pygmies*, and *Kingdom of the Gold-*

Chapter Coordinator: Magda Kwiatkowski
Assistant Chapter Coordinator: Maria Allan
Secretary: Daniel Heckmyer
Assistant Secretary: Scott Ferry
Treasurer: Holly Bell
Assistant Treasurer: Jonathan Tarbox
Facebook Coordinator: Daniel Heckmyer

CATESOL San Diego Chapter

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events and regular monthly meetings. We publish a Newsletter where CATESOL members and non-members write about their current research or teaching experience, present their students, and share their thoughts. We have regular presentations at our monthly meetings, with topics ranging from *How to Incorporate a Volunteer Program into an ESL Program* (presented last month, awe-inspiring ideas by Daniel Heckmyer) to *Tibetan Bowl Healing for Teachers* (one of the many areas of expertise of our first and Past Chapter Coordinator, Erika Marie Rose). Admittedly, San Diego is a beautiful place and has a large local immigrant and student population. Is this the secret of the vibrant growth of the Chapter? We prefer to think the secret is our enthusiasm, not just the weather. But one can never be sure in San Diego.

Magda Kwiatkowski
Reprinted from CATESOL News

Welcome

Bob Thomas

our new
Chapter Liaison
Harborside Elementary School in
Chula Vista



Bob Thomas teaches ESL at Harborside Elementary School in Chula Vista. He has an offsite assignment through Chula Vista Adult School. He previously taught Spanish

and has now been teaching ESL for three years.

He volunteered as a school rep for the chapter because he genuinely enjoys the CATESOL conferences and wants to help get the word out. He says: "They're a great place to network with some super nice people that are all a lot like me! I also learn lots of things that I can take right back to my classroom and implement. Overall, it's an organization I'm proud to be a part of!"

Join the CATESOL San Diego Chapter

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

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

Or better yet ...

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

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

This job is fun and would require as little or as much of your time as you are willing to give us. You would represent your school at chapter events, inform your colleagues of professional and social activities organized by CATESOL and the chapter, and/or simply help us distribute meeting announcements and event flyers.

visit us at catesolsandiego.weebly.com | email us at catesolsd@gmail.com



CATESOL SAN DIEGO CHAPTER PRESENTS
2014 SAN DIEGO
MINI REGIONAL CONFERENCE
CATESOL.ORG/SDREGIONAL

SO MANY CHOICES, SO LITTLE TIME

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2014

UCSD RADY SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
9500 GILMAN DRIVE
LA JOLLA, CA 92093

8:00 – 9:00	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST PUBLISHERS' FORUM & POSTER SESSION
9:00 – 9:45	SESSION 1
10:00 – 10:45	SESSION 2
11:00 – 12:30	DR. KEITH FOLSE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

WHICH GRAMMAR POINTS SHOULD WE TEACH FOR A GREAT WRITING CLASS?

SPONSORED BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CENGAGE LEARNING

12:30 – 1:00	PUBLISHERS' FORUM & POSTER SESSION
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WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE CATESOL SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Getting a Job in ESL: Qualifications, Procedures, and Openings

Gretchen Bitterlin, San Diego Continuing Education
Daniel Heckmyer, EC San Diego (IEP)
Chuck Passentino, Grossmont College
Allison Pickering, Escondido Adult School
Barbara Base, San Diego State University ALI

A panel of school representatives will describe the credentialing requirements, qualifications, procedures for getting hired, and future openings for a variety of ESL programs in San Diego. Information on salaries and benefits will also be shared. Handouts from each school will include the above information and contact information
2014 San Diego Mini Regional Conference.