

SAN DIEGO CATESOL

CATESOL San Diego Chapter Newsletter

October 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2

From the Editors

Many Ways to Connect

Welcome to the second issue of the Chapter Newsletter! In addition to information about past and upcoming events, you will find here teaching tips and career advice from two teachers and an interview with an ESL student from Saudi Arabia. We hope you enjoy the articles, and if you have a comment to share or would like to submit an article for publication in an upcoming issue, drop us a line at catesolsd@gmail.com.

With the excitement of the upcoming Annual Conference, the summer is almost forgotten. Nevertheless, we had a great summer social barbeque, potluck, and pool party, even if Seattle-like weather prevented pool-lovers from jumping into the pool. Chapter social events and meetings are a great opportunity to meet colleagues or find a friend in someone you only knew as a colleague. Look at the pictures in this issue to meet chapter members and friends, including chapter youngest member, Daniel's daughter Harmony.

There are also other ways to connect with us. On October 25th, during the CATESOL Annual Conference, we are going to present a workshop on how to start, develop, and maintain a chapter. Come to hear us share the experience we have collected from day one, and share your own suggestions. Better yet, sign up to be a Chapter liaison for your school. This job is fun and will take very little of your time. To learn more about the workshop or the chapter liaison position, read page 3. To find out the date of our next monthly meeting held at the **USD English Language Academy at 5394 Linda Vista Road, San Diego**, email us at catesolsd@gmail.com.

Daniel Heckmyer & Magda Kwiatkowski



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

Let TED Talk to You

By Maria Allan

You have probably heard of TED.com, a website of talks about "ideas worth spreading," but have you thought of using it in your classroom? The amount and variety of talks can be daunting, but I like the quality of the input and the length of the talks, so I have found ways to use it.

To get around the challenge of finding talks appropriate for my High Intermediate IEP students, I often ask them to find a talk that they like. It is great listening/critical thinking practice for them, and after they turn in their selections, I screen them and always find some to use in the class.

Our class conversations usually digress from the talk to other subjects. Students are exposed to academic language and I use the talks to teach how to understand the topic and the main idea of a spoken text, as well as the text structure of the talk. I also use them to teach note taking skills, which are essential for my IEP students.

TED is friendly ... it allows you to see subtitles and the whole transcript. You can repeat a segment by highlighting the words in the transcript. You can also find lists of other people's favorite talks, lists on certain topics, or create your own list. My favorite talks are: Lisa Bu's "How Books Can Open Your Mind", Julian Treasure's "5 Ways to Listen Better", and Amy Purdy's "Living Beyond Limits". It has worked for me and I invite you to make friends with TED!

Maria teaches ESL at
USD, CSUSM and Palomar
College



CATESOL San Diego Chapter

STUDENTS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

Srhan Almuwallad from Saudi Arabia

interviewed by Daniel Heckmyer



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

It was in Washington, almost a year and a half ago. The first American I spoke to was at a coffee shop. I asked him for directions to a hotel and he walked me halfway to my hotel. I was surprised and excited.

Tell us about your experience living in San Diego.

I lived with a host family during my first week. They were very nice, but I wanted to live alone so that I could experience more, especially the night life. Living in San Diego has helped me a lot, especially socializing with people by attending events at my school such as the weekly basketball with Americans.

What English school do you go to?

I go to EC San Diego, which is next to La Jolla Cove. The staff is very friendly and the teachers are really serious about the lessons. I started in the General English program, then took the Cambridge FCE course followed by Cambridge CAE. I am now in the TOEFL Core class. I enjoyed Cambridge CAE the most because it was the most challenging.

What are your future plans?

I am planning to apply to a master's program. I am considering the different programs in San Diego. I would like to get my MA TESOL degree and pursue a job teaching English in Saudi Arabia.

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

I would say vocabulary and grammar because Saudi students generally do not read much. I think for most Saudi students, whatever kind of difficulty they find with general language skills, even in Arabic, this is because they do not read enough. They are really good at speaking, but their grammar structures are wrong because they often translate in their heads directly from Arabic. If they read more, they would be able to make better structured sentences.

Your favorite song, poem, and novel?

Bob Marley, Redemption Song by Bob Marley, Sailing To Byzantium by William Butler Yeats, and Robinson Caruso by Daniel Defoe

Word to the Wise

By Lucy Cafiero

Have you been thinking about changing careers and come across an ad that states you can see the world while teaching English? "It's easy," the ad says. "Certification is only 120 hours away." You write a check for \$1,200 and you're on your way. You sit in class for 60 hours, do 60 hours of online work, write a 700-word essay on what it takes to teach English to foreign students, take a final exam, observe an experienced TESOL teacher in a classroom for six hours, and you get your certificate. Congratulations! You are a teacher of TESOL. All you need now is a foreign country school that will hire you, right? Well, if only it were that easy! Getting experience as a novice teacher is proving to be very difficult and most countries will not hire you unless you have at least one year of experience. So how do you get over that hurdle?

The solution: Observe more than your required six hours in a classroom and ask the instructor to allow you some teaching time. Ask for feedback and a letter of recommendation. Talk to other TESOL teachers and join the TESOL organization in your area. Volunteer at local schools teaching ELLs (English Language Learners). And read, learn, and practice as much as you can because the 120 hours will get you a teaching certificate, but it will not get you the job of your dreams.

Lucy is finishing her bachelor's degree in Applied Linguistics at Ashford University



Chapter Coordinator: Erika Rose
Assistant Chapter Coordinator : Magda Kwiatkowski
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Treasurer: Maria Allan
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Website Manager: Erika Rose
Newsletter Editors: Daniel Heckmyer & Magda Kwiatkowski



2013 CATESOL Annual Conference
Town and Country Resort Hotel
San Diego, California

2013 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 24
12:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Friday, October 25
7:00 am – 8:15 pm

Saturday, October 26
7:00 am – 10:00

Sunday, October 27
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Welcome to the 44th Annual CATESOL Conference

On behalf of the 2013 Conference Planning Committee, we would like to extend an enthusiastic welcome to the 44th Annual CATESOL Conference, October 24-27, in beautiful San Diego at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center. The Town and Country is located in the heart of San Diego and offers elegant accommodations with three swimming pools, a whirlpool, and an adjacent 27-hole champion golf course. There are several restaurants and lively lounges on the grounds, and it is minutes from the vibrant nightlife in downtown San Diego and The Gaslamp Quarter. There is convenient access to the World Famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Seaport Village, Old Town, Tijuana, and fabulous beaches and parks, all with mild year-round temperatures.

Our theme, "Riding the Waves of Success," represents the challenges and achievements our educators and students collectively face at all levels. This theme will be central in a full program of pre-conference institutes, multiple plenaries, featured speakers, level and interest group workshops, poster sessions, an electronic village, and general sessions for every level of ESL. Please join us as we learn from and interact with our colleagues in our professional organization.

Stay at the beautiful Town and Country Resort Hotel for the low, single-occupancy rate of \$159 per night and enjoy every moment of the conference, from the opening plenary and hosted reception on Thursday evening, to the Presidential Luncheon and escorted dinners on Friday, to the Saturday Night Sizzle and to the Sunday Workshops.

Stay tuned to the conference website for continued updates on the academic program and special events:

<http://catesol.org/annualconference/>

Whether you are a teacher, administrator, researcher, or graduate student, there will be many workshops to help you "grow" in the profession.

Colleen Bixler and Gary Sosa, Conference Co-Chairs

Marty Furch and Kristi Reyes, Program Chairs

Mark and Mariko Poupard, Site Chairs





Come to the CATESOL San Diego Chapter workshop
at CATESOL Annual Conference, San Diego 2013



Idea to Action: Starting, Developing and Maintaining a CATESOL Chapter

A CATESOL chapter is a great place to grow professionally, share teaching insights and experiences through workshops and other events, and develop a network of social and professional contacts. Is there a chapter in your area? If not, come to this session and hear what it takes to start and maintain a CATESOL chapter from the founding members of CATESOL youngest offspring.

Friday 5:00 – 5:45, ROYAL PALM SALON ONE

WE ARE ON THE WEB !!!

'Like' us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/catesolsandiego>

or check out our blog at:

<http://catesolsandiego.weebly.com>

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 to Newsletter editors at

catesolsd@gmail.com

Become a School Liaison to CATESOL San Diego Chapter

Name: _____

Email: _____

School Affiliation: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____

Please email this information to catesolsd@gmail.com or bring this card to our table at the CATESOL Annual Conference.

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