



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

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what is happening  
with you!**

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# UMBC TESOL

## Program Newsletter

SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

### MD TESOL UMBC Graduate Conference

Did you know that 15% of the U.S. population is learning disabled? Did you know there is a “three prong approach” to teaching ELL students? Did you know that Cornell Notes can be used as a capture sheet strategy for ELL learners? Well, if you didn’t attend the TESOL Spring Conference on UMBC’s campus this past Saturday, you really missed out on some phenomenal speakers and innovative teaching strategies.

As a teacher new to the ESOL profession, I am interested in all

aspects of methods that will assist my middle school and adult education population. The sessions I attended were centered around the Common Core Curriculum State Standards (CCSS). First was Ms. DeStefano and Mr. Yazan’s field research with elementary teachers struggling to collaborate to support their students. Second was Scaffolding the CCSS by using multidimensional teaching texts and lessons. Lastly, I attended a session on understanding and recognizing learning disabilities

that may be observed with our adult ELL students.

As I continue my ESOL studies, the information learned and recorded today will be used immediately to better improve my classroom teaching. Although we are still in the season of winter, the plentiful breakfast and the meeting of fellow colleagues, was truly a heartwarming experience. Hope to see you at the next TESOL event!

**-Harriet Hamlin, TESOL  
Certificate**



### Spring 2014 Graduates !

The following ESOL/Bilingual students have applied to graduate from their MA program or complete their certificate program this spring.

Warmest wishes and the best of luck in your future endeavors!

Please keep in touch with us as we greatly enjoying hearing from our graduates!

**MA TESOL Graduates:**

- Sean Astrakhan
- Mary Beth Bryant
- Mary Gallagher
- Lori Giblin
- Elizabeth Greif
- Sae Lon (Sharon) Lee
- Sarah Marble
- Alexandra Phillips
- José Rama-Lopez
- Jessica Sadler

**TESOL Certificate Graduates:**

- Lauren Bostic
- Margaret Colleluori
- Daisy Lopez-Duke
- Stephanie Eldridge
- Eva Piera Escriba
- Ruth Gomez-Layola
- Amy Leatherman
- Youn Hee Lee
- Maria Mizutani
- Vanessa Nakoski
- Denise Pohlhaus
- Kristin Sweedler
- Emily Vallejo
- Arideng Wang

# An Experience in Ecuador



**Photo: Larry Wilt**  
At a jazz concert in Guayaquil, Ecuador

I enjoyed a month-long internship in January 2014 at the Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano (CEN) de Guayaquil. Who wouldn't enjoy January in a place of perpetual summer? And, besides that, the motivated, well-educated students and the welcoming atmosphere of CEN are ideal for helping a beginning teacher to gain experience and confidence. The curriculum is well designed, as we should expect since they used UMBC faculty Ron Schwartz and John Nelson as consultants for it. There are plenty of things to do when not working: CEN hosts cultural events; the beach is two

hours from Guayaquil; and the city of Guayaquil full of entertainment. If you go, CEN can help find accommodations; if you want to learn some Span-

ish, ask them to place you with a family that does not speak English.

**-Larry Wilt, 2013 Certificate**



**Photo: Teacher and student speaking tactics for the ESL Classroom in Guayaquil, Ecuador— taken by Larry Wilt.**

*“The program appears to be sustaining its strong reputation in the ESOL field, both locally and internationally, while enjoying a healthy enrollment.”*

**Photo: ESOL Club Members getting ready to go ice skating in Baltimore.**

## The History and State of the ESOL Program

I thought that this second edition of the ESOL/Bilingual News might be a good opportunity to write a brief article on the ESOL Program itself. The program was first established by Ron Schwartz in 1979. He directed the program until he retired in 2004. Throughout its 34 year history, it has enjoyed a good reputation in



the ESOL field and enjoyed a healthy enrollment of largely Master's Degree students. In the 1990s when the Maryland State Department of Education decided to have ESOL Certification, the state requirements were largely patterned after UMBC's program ESOL MA requirements. The Resource Center for Language and Culture (RCLC) was also established in the 1990's and its collection grew steadily through the early years of this century. Our Post-Baccalaureate ESOL Certificate came into being in 2005. This is also when the program began development of the online courses that it currently offers. While it is possible to earn our ESOL MA degree completely with online courses, we are continuing to develop online courses to meet the need. The program offered the first cohort program with

Baltimore County Public Schools in 2006. Our ESOL club began in 2010, and has been active ever since.

Currently, the program has 126 students. 60, or roughly half of these are MA students. Most of these students are studying the regular MA option, but some are choosing the Certification option, and a few are writing theses. 28 more are Certificate students; 13 are non-degree students; and 25 are cohort students. 28 students are taking classes exclusively online, while most of the other students take a combination of online and face-to-face classes. The program appears to be sustaining its strong reputation in the ESOL field, both locally and internationally, while enjoying a healthy enrollment.

**-Dr. John Nelson, PhD**

# Thoughts from Current Students

Greetings TESOL community,

My name is Sean Astrakhan I am in the final semester of the MA TESOL program. It has always been my aspiration to travel abroad as part of my career and thanks to this Masters program, I can begin this year! Dr. Nelson and Mary Tabaa have been wonderful mentors and have provided soulful insights on planning my career path. I can't

thank them enough. I know this sounds like flattery (which it is because we all need recommendations) but in all sincerity I appreciate the time they've invested in us beyond working hours to make sure we're all successful.

My personal life primarily consists of baking, reading and spending time with friends and family. I am a proud father

of two ferns, and on weekends, I babysit my friend's babysitter because she is not effective. He offers to pay me but I like doing things for free, especially helping others with writing. If you ever need assistance in the writing process, I am the Writing Advisor for the GSA and would love to help you free of charge!

-Sean Astrakhan, MA TESOL

## Alumni Updates

### Doaa Rashed 2008 MA TESOL

Known as one of a few superwomen around UMBC's Education Department, Doaa works as an ESL teacher for the ELI, an adjunct instructor for the ESOL/Bilingual Program, is president of the GSA, president of MD TESOL and a doctoral candidate in the Language, Literacy & Culture, PhD Program at UMBC. Her dissertation topic is "The Factors Influencing the Professional Identity of ESL Teachers in Higher Education." Furthermore, she has a number of professional presentations under her belt on ESL and E-Learning/Teaching. Additionally, Doaa has published articles such as *Technology Integration in ESL Learning and Instruction: Adult ESL learners* (2010) and

*Poetry in the ESL classroom: Teaching stress and intonation* (2007).

### Tymofey Wowk 2012 MA TESOL

Since graduation, Tymofey has been teaching at both Montgomery College and UMBC. He has presented at both MD TESOL and WATESOL in addition to co-authoring *Making English Grammar Meaningful and Useful* with Dr. Nelson. At the moment, Tymofey is working towards his PhD in Language, Literacy and Culture at UMBC.

### Yeji Yoon 2012 MA TESOL

Current students and alumni both will recognize Yeji as a full-time faculty research assistant for the Office of Field

Experiences and Clinical Practice in the UMBC Education Department in addition to her role as second vice president of MD TESOL. She will be the conference chair for the MD TESOL 2014 Annual Fall Conference.

### Jordanna Spencer Ailor 2009 MA TESOL

Currently working in ESOL at the high school level in Baltimore City, Jordanna teaches at a school with 220 ESOL students, 80 of whom are newcomers! Outside of the classroom, Jordanna has continued her studies at John Hopkins in the area of Gifted Education where she has researched within the field of gifted ELLs and has coined the acronym "RLA" Rapid Language Acquisition.

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# MD TESOL Announcement for Graduate Students

MD TESOL is looking for a graduate student to join the board as a chair or co-chair of the Graduate Student Interest Section. This is a great opportunity to meet movers and shakers in the Maryland TESOL community and to become involved in a host of professional development opportunities offered through the organization. The Graduate

Student IS Chair is a voting board member of MD TESOL and takes part in important decision making such as determining the key note speaker of the fall MD TESOL conference. The co-chair's main duty is to organize the graduate student mini-conference, which takes place in the beginning of March. If you are interested in joining MD TESOL

in this capacity, please contact [egrey2@umbc.edu](mailto:egrey2@umbc.edu).



MARYLAND  
TESOL

# Alumni Updates Continued

## **Karen Dellinger 2011 MA TESOL**

Karen works for Howard County Public Schools at the secondary level and is teaching three sheltered ESOL classes for beginners and low-intermediate levels. In mainstream classes she also assists high-intermediate and advanced ESOL students. She has co-presented in the past on helping ESOL students succeed at the school and county level.

## **Diane Dunlap 2013 MA TESOL**

A recent graduate, Diane is already an adjunct professor in the American English Language Program at Montgomery College. She is also a substitute instructor at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School where she previously taught Business English Writing and Speaking.

## **Sandra Lee 2010 Certificate**

Since 2011, Sandra has been working full-time at Howard Community College. She teaches courses in college

composition, first year experience and literature. In 2013 she began to mentor advanced writing and grammar instructors and serves as a coordinator for first year experience programs. In addition to her work, Sandra presented with Marie Bergbauer on Incorporating Grammar in Writing to HCC ESL faculty and on Raising Audience Awareness Through Blogging at TYCA 2013.



**KUDOS!**

## **KUDOS to TAZEEN KHALID!**

### **A Teacher of Promise**

We are happy to congratulate Tazeen Khalid on being selected as a Teacher of Promise by the Maryland State Department of Education in April 2013! Well done, Tazeen!

Tazeen teaches 3rd and 5th grade in Howard County and is a 2012 MA TESOL graduate.



**KUDOS!**

## **KUDOS to LAUREN RAUBAUGH!**

### **A Fulbright English Teaching Assistant**

We are happy to congratulate Lauren Raubaugh on receiving her Fulbright ETA assignment in Indonesia.

Lauren is currently teaching in China and is a 2013 graduate of both the MA TESOL and certificate programs.



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