

TIRF TODAY

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Promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century

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TIRF at the 2013 IATEFL Conference

Earlier this month, English language teaching professionals from around the world gathered in Liverpool, England for the 47th IATEFL Conference. TIRF Trustee Jun Liu was one of the plenary speakers for this exciting convention. Details of his presentation, entitled "ELT Tomorrow," can be found by [clicking here](#).



Jun Liu

Four other TIRF Trustees participated in a panel presentation entitled "English for the 21st-century Workforce: Challenges and Solutions." The session was attended by 170 IATEFL conference-goers.



David Nunan

David Nunan led off with a discussion of curriculum and professional development issues. He was followed by Mike Milanovic,

who talked about challenges and solutions in assessment. Then Michael Carrier discussed uses of technology, and Kathi Bailey closed the session by describing three "macro challenges" in research and the steps TIRF is taking to address those challenges.



Mike Milanovic

We would like to point out that TIRF Trustees travel to conferences at no expense to the Foundation. We appreciate their dedication to TIRF through their service as volunteers on the Board, and for covering their own costs to represent TIRF internationally at conferences like IATEFL. By doing so, the Board members help TIRF maximize the impact of donors' gifts on the programs it offers.



Michael Carrier

Free Research Reports and Online Resources

There are many free reports and resources available online for teachers, graduate students, teacher educators, and researchers in our field. Below, we highlight just three of them.

First, Cambridge English Language Assessment produces *Research Notes*, a quarterly publication reporting on matters relating to research, test development, and validation. This journal can be accessed by [clicking here](#). The first issue appeared in March 2000.

Second, the Universidad de la Sabana in Colombia publishes *The Latin American Journal of Content and Language Integrated Learning* (LACLIL), which is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. [Click here](#) to read the April 2013 issue.

Finally, the *Canadian Modern Language Review* and the Canadian Association of Second Language

teachers have collaborated on a project called *Linking Second Language Research and Practices*. According to an announcement from the University of Toronto Press, this publication is intended to make "L2 research more accessible and relevant to language educators." It includes papers on [content-based instruction](#), [pre-learning vocabulary](#), [scaffolding](#) in an 8th-grade French class, [literacy practices](#) in second-grade French immersion classes, the [Accelerative Integrated Method](#) (AIM) for eighth-grade learners of French, and [a literacy-based approach to teaching science](#) in late immersion classes.

If you know of other free resources for language teaching professionals and applied linguistics researchers, please contact info@tirfonline.org and we will try to publicize that information in *TIRF Today* as space permits.

DDG Program: Application Deadline & Grantees' Recent Graduation

The deadline for applying to TIRF's annual Doctoral Dissertation Grants (DDG) program is quickly approaching. All applications must be received by Friday, May 17, 2013.

Since 2002, TIRF has supported students completing their doctoral research on topics related to our research priorities ([click here](#) and scroll down for TIRF's research priorities). DDGs are provided in the amount of up to US \$5,000 per awardee. Applicants must meet a number of [eligibility requirements](#) to be considered for funding. The DDG call

for proposals can be downloaded from TIRF's website by [clicking here](#). Completed applications may be uploaded to TIRF's website by [clicking here](#).

We are pleased to announce that several TIRF grantees have recently finished their dissertations and graduated from their doctoral programs. In particular, we would like to congratulate Dr. Soodeh Eghtesad, Dr. Kristen Lindahl, Dr. Laila Rumsey, and Dr. Patsy Vinogradov for passing this important milestone in their careers. We wish them every success in the future.

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

TIRF Board Endorses Two International Policy Statements



Joe Lo Bianco

Editor's note: In this piece, Trustee Joe Lo Bianco reports on TIRF's endorsement of two important international language policy statements.

As part of TIRF's role to encourage language policies which promote best practices in English teaching and research around the world, the Board of Trustees monitors developments that have the potential to shape the future of language education. In light of this goal, TIRF Board members recently voted to endorse both the [Juba Conference Statement](#) and the [Lahore Declaration](#) on Language Sciences in the Developing World.

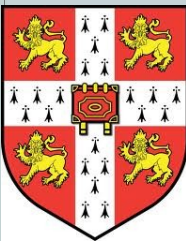
The Lahore Declaration calls for the use of language research "that both forwards our understanding of how language works and functions in society and of how these understandings of language can be used ethically and appropriately to create better societies." The full Juba Conference document is a series of statements about language in education. It can be found on pages seven and eight of [Multilingual Education in Africa](#). This book can be downloaded for free from

the British Council's website by [clicking here](#).

TIRF considers these statements to represent important milestones promoting equitable and excellent language education in diverse contexts. We encourage affiliate and partner organizations to promote public awareness and endorsement of the important principles these statements contain. These two documents should stimulate discussion about principles of international education, as well as donor-recipient relations in international aid and professional collaboration, in both teaching and research endeavours. We would like to stress that TIRF is concerned only with the language education principles contained in the two statements, and does not necessarily agree with all the specific details or wording.

TIRF is committed to fostering an international dialogue among non-governmental organizations and public officials in relation to the role of English in national education systems and as a global auxiliary language. We encourage professional associations to provide time in their meetings for discussion of the Lahore Declaration and the Juba Conference Statement, with the intent of encouraging debate about the principles and practices these statements promote.

Major Cambridge Gift Supports TIRF's Work



We are pleased to announce that TIRF has received a major gift of \$25,000 from Cambridge University Press and the Cambridge English Language Assessment unit of Cambridge University. In helping to make this donation, Michael Peluse, the Managing Director of ELT and the

Americas for Cambridge University Press, said, "We are proud to contribute to the Foundation, whose mission aligns very much to our own."

The Cambridge gift is used primarily to support TIRF's Doctoral Dissertation Grants program. We are grateful to Mr. Peluse, Mike Milanovic, Christine Nuttall, and the entire Cambridge group for their ongoing contributions to TIRF.

Report from the Chair — So Many Ways to Help!

As the Chairman of TIRF's Board of Trustees, it's part of my job to seek support for the Foundation. Of course, I want to encourage you to donate to TIRF, but there are also many other ways to promote [TIRF's mission](#). Here are just some of the ways that people have helped TIRF in addition to making monetary donations.

The staff of [English Career](#) magazine in Taiwan has translated two of [TIRF's commissioned reports into Mandarin](#) and published them. Our colleagues in the Translation and Interpretation MA Program here at the Monterey Institute of International Studies have also helped with translation of TIRF documents.

A TIRF supporter had an airline ticket voucher that he could not use by its expiration date. He gave the voucher to the Foundation and as a result we were able to save \$300 on staff travel. Oth-

ers have donated frequent flyer miles for the same purpose.

Several organizations have helped TIRF with printing jobs. The home institution of one Board member printed copies of TIRF's bookmarks, which we give out at conference presentations for teachers. One publisher has supplied TIRF's letterhead. Another produced the executive summary of a commissioned paper. Yet another printed a special executive summary designed for businesspersons.

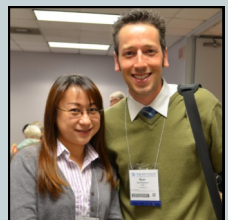
If these are not the sorts of things you could do, here are other options. Do you work with an organization whose goals are related to TIRF's? If so, could you add a link to TIRF's website on the website of that organization?

Do you have students or colleagues who would benefit from knowing about TIRF's resources? Please refer them to the ["Resources" section](#) of our

website. There they will find reference lists on 115 topics of current interest, information about journals and organizations in our field, access to training

about protecting human subjects in research, information about grants and fellowships, and an annotated bibliography on language classroom research, teacher research, and research methodology.

There are so many ways to help! Please won't you join in and contribute to TIRF in some way?



Wallis Chen, Editor-in-Chief of English Career, and Ryan Damerow, TIRF's Executive Assistant