

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's 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Grants Competition Results

TIRF's 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Grants (DDG) competition is now complete. We are pleased to report that there was a wide range of applications submitted by a very diverse group of individuals from around the world. The Foundation is now in its twelfth year of offering its annual DDG competition. On the recommendation of TIRF's Research Advisory Committee, we have selected six awardees this year.

Each year, TIRF solicits applications from doctoral candidates completing studies in alignment with TIRF's research priorities. You can learn more about the Foundation's DDG program, including information on our research priorities, by [clicking here](#).

In honor of one of TIRF's founding Trustees, the late Russell N. Campbell, we recognize the highest ranked proposal in his name. This year's Russell N. Campbell DDG awardee is **Kimberly Woo**, who is completing her PhD at New York University. The title of her study is "[Oral Social Language in the English Language Proficiency Assessment of Young ELLs](#)." She is a doctoral candidate in the Multilingual Multicultural Studies Program in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Her doctoral study focuses on the assessment of English language learners' use of oral English for social interaction in the early elementary grades, both in the classroom and on standardized language proficiency tests.

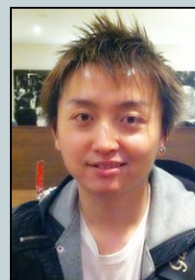


Information on TIRF's five other awardees and their studies is provided below.

Katie Bernstein is a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California at Berkeley and a former preschool teacher. Her study is entitled "[Learning English as an L2 in PreK: Socialization, Acquisition, and Identity](#)." Katie studies the language and literacy practices of prekindergarten students, especially those who are learning English as an L2 in school. Her dissertation research explores the relationship between classroom context, student identity, and L2 learning over a year in a PreK context.



Nick Zhiwei Bi is a PhD candidate in Education at the University of Sydney, Australia. His study is entitled "[Structural Equation Models of the Impact of Cognitive and Meta-cognitive Lexico-grammatical Strategic Processing on EFL Students' Lexico-grammatical Test Performances Over Time: A Multitrait-multimethod Approach](#)." He is part of the teaching staff for masters programs (TESOL/Applied Linguistics) at Sydney University and Macquarie University.



Nick's doctoral dissertation examines the nature of strategic competence through EFL test-takers' use of learner, trait, and state strategic processing and their influences on test-takers' lexico-grammatical test performance over time.

Alannah Fitzgerald is a doctoral student at Concordia University in Canada. Her dissertation is entitled "[Prising Open English for Academic Purposes](#)." She is an open education practitioner and researcher working with the Open Educational Resources Research Hub at the UK Open University for bridging English Language Education and Open Education. Her doctoral thesis investigates the design, development, and evaluation of flexible open language resources for uses in informal online learning and in traditional face-to-face classroom-based learning.



Jaehun Park has taught English in Korea, Mongolia, and the US, and is currently a PhD candidate at Indiana University, where he teaches ESL/EFL teacher education courses. His dissertation is entitled "[Korean University Professors' Knowledge Base and Professional Development Needs for English-medium Instruction](#)." His scholarly interests include language teacher education, content-based instruction, and online education. At Indiana University, he coordinates the EFL/ESL Professional Development Program (EPDE) and the Peace Corps Masters International Program.



Bedrettin Yazan is a doctoral candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership at the University of Maryland. His dissertation is entitled "[How Preservice ESOL Teacher-learners Construct their Teacher Identities: Case Studies from an MATESOL Program](#)." He aims to explore the ways that ESOL teacher-learners construct their teacher identities during their coursework and internship experiences in an intensive MATESOL program at a large research university in the mid-Atlantic US.



Congratulations to all our 2013 DDG recipients! We extend our sincere gratitude to Cambridge University Press and Cambridge English for their long-term support of our DDG program. We are also thankful for the gifts from the many Russell N. Campbell donors, who help fund the award given in our founding Trustee's name. Finally, we would like to recognize the support of the many external reviewers who assisted us with this year's DDG adjudication — we truly value your expertise.

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**Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF**

TIRF Elects Dr. James E. Alatis as Trustee Emeritus

The TIRF Board has honored **Dr. James E. Alatis** by electing him to the role of Trustee Emeritus. Jim was a member of the original Association Advancement Committee of the TESOL association, which explored the possibility of establishing a foundation in our field. He has been a continuing member of the TIRF Board since the Foundation was incorporated. We are honored to recognize Jim's many lifelong accomplishments in this way.

Jim is best known academically for his work in language planning and policy. He was the Dean of the School of Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, as well as a Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and Modern Greek there and Senior Advisor to the Dean of Georgetown College for International Language Programs and Research. From 1966 to 1987, he served as the first Executive Director of TESOL.

Jim and his wife, Penny, were also among the founding members of TESOL. In fact, Penny's official membership number is 1 and Jim's is 2. Following in the tradition of honoring great athletes, the TESOL association recently retired their membership numbers on their jerseys, as shown in the photo above. The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to Jim and Penny for their important contributions in establishing and supporting TIRF.



From left to right, Penny Alatis, Anthony Alatis (son of Penny and Jim), Jim Alatis, and Kathi Bailey

Updates from TIRF's 2013 September Board Meeting

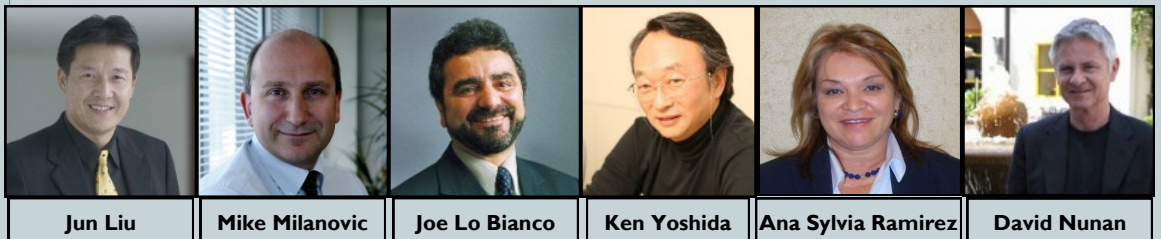
The TIRF Trustees held their semi-annual meeting at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC on September 20, 2013. Topics under discussion included our new research project on mobile language learning, how we can use social media to advance the Foundation's mission, and influencing language planning and policy with research results. We also discussed possible future events to be hosted by TIRF to engage a range of stakeholders in a variety of places, while keeping event costs to a minimum.

In addition, the Board reelected the following Trustees: Joe Lo Bianco, Ana Sylvia Ramirez, Jun Liu, David Nunan, Mike Milanovic, and Ken Yoshida. David Nunan and Lorraine de Matos will each serve another year-long term as members of the Executive Committee. Donna Christian was reelected as Secretary-Treasurer and

Kathi Bailey will continue to serve as President of the Foundation and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Joe LoBianco and John Knagg joined the meeting via Skype from Melbourne and London, respectively. In a discussion led by Dick Tucker, they contributed their ideas about how TIRF can influence language planning and policy.

The Board gratefully acknowledges the hospitality of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL). We were able to use their conference room free of charge. We appreciate the in-kind donation of meeting space, which allows us to continue to operate on a lean budget. Terry Wiley, CAL's Director said, "We are happy to host the TIRF Board here at CAL, especially since TIRF's goals parallel our own."



Chair's Report — Six Degrees of Separation

"Six degrees of separation" is the idea that any two people are connected in a maximum of six steps by making "friend-of-a-friend" statements. I was recently reminded what a small world it is, especially in our profession.

My colleague Leslie Eliason was a professor here at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). She died suddenly after a brief struggle with cancer. An award for teaching excellence at MIIS has been funded in Leslie's honor by Karen Leshner via the [Intrepid Foundation](#). It is administered by Nick Gregorio of the [Community Foundation for Monterey County](#). This year, I was fortunate to receive that award. In connection with that honor, I had a powerful experience about six degrees of separation.

My friend Joyce Kling used to teach English at MIIS. She married a Danish man named Kim Soren. They moved to Denmark, where Joyce started her PhD under the guidance

of Birgit Henricksen at the University of Copenhagen. Birgit introduced me to Anne Holden, the chair of Joyce's oral defense examining committee, on which I served as the external examiner. Birgit and Anne took me out to dinner before the oral defense. That evening, Anne asked me, "Kathi, did you know Leslie Eliason?"

It turns out that Anne had been Leslie's Danish teacher when she first went to Denmark as a 16-year-old exchange student. They had been friends ever since. Over the decades and over the miles, invisible links had been forged: Kathi, Joyce, Kim, Birgit, Anne, and Leslie. Six degrees of separation.

This experience reminded me that we are all connected, and often with fewer degrees of separation than we may imagine. Before starting her doctorate studies, Kimberly Woo, our 2013 Russell N. Campbell DDG awardee, did not know she would be connected to Russ and to TIRF. But through knowing her advi-

sor, Dr. Lorena Llosa (Russ's former student), she was connected to him. Little did Ms. Woo know that one day she would receive a grant in his name. The more we all can do to support TIRF, the more connected we will be. You may not know exactly who is impacted by your support, but over time the wonderful connections will become clear.



From left to right, Nick Gregorio, Kathi Bailey, and Karen Leshner

Kathi Bailey