

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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Results from 2015 DDG Applicants Survey

Editor's note: Applications from TIRF's 2015 DDG competition have been reviewed. We are now working on determining the awardees and will make our final selections in the next few weeks. While we are focused on our DDG awards for 2015, in this piece, we wished to share information about a survey we conducted of the 2015 DDG applicants.

TIRF's 2015 Doctoral Dissertation Grants (DDG) competition produced more than 80 applications from doctoral-level students around the globe. Though the total number of applications received this year was slightly down from last year, the 80+ applications represent the second largest applicant pool we have seen since the inception of the DDG program.

As we continue to see growth in the [DDG program](#), which will result in \$40,000 being awarded this year, we are taking steps to improve the scalability of the program to ensure its effectiveness, longevity, and manageability, given TIRF's limited resources. To help accomplish these goals, we decided to survey our applicants. In total, we received 65 responses to the survey. Here we will share some of the more notable information which resulted from the survey.

One area we wished to improve upon is growing a better understanding of where our applicants are coming from and in which regions of the world we need to improve our dissemination efforts. This year, applicants reported they were originally from Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Dari, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, and Yemen. Based on this list of countries, it appears our network is broadening; however, we still desire to reach out to potential applicants in more places around the globe.

A second question asked of applicants was where their doctoral universities are located. The data show that 6% of respondents' universities are

located in Africa; 26% in Asia; 24% in Europe; almost 2% in Latin America/The Caribbean; 32% in North America; and 9% in Oceania. While we wish to continue to grow the total number of applicants for future years' DDG competitions, we especially desire to see increases in the number of applications we receive from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Oceania. The survey was created in such a way that respondents could share more specifically where in those regions listed above their programs are located. Equipped with this information, we will be able to target particular areas to help grow the visibility of the DDG program, in hopes that doctoral candidates everywhere are aware of our grant opportunities.

In terms of how applicants came to know about the Foundation's DDG program, many respondents shared with us that TIRF's website and partners' announcements (e.g., Cambridge English Language Assessment, British Council, TESOL International Association, etc.) are useful in promoting the program. However, most respondents first heard about the grant program from a professor or colleague. This sort of word-of-mouth marketing is invaluable and motivates us to encourage our readers to please continue to share information with colleagues and students about our DDG program.

Three remaining questions were asked of respondents. One regarded the development of application resources that were used for the first time in the 2015 competition, a second was about challenges individuals faced in preparing their applications, and the third requested further feedback to help improve the DDG program. Most respondents found the application form and video-based resources to be helpful, and some individuals provided useful feedback to improve upon these tools. The open-ended responses to the other two questions will help us improve upon the call-for-proposals, the program timeline, communication with applicants, and dissemination of information about the program, among other areas.

We appreciate the willingness of the DDG applicants to participate in the survey. The information we collected will truly help improve the DDG program, and hopefully increase the number of quality applications we receive in future years.

New Teachers' Resources Available on TIRF's Website

We often highlight the various resources available on the Foundation's website in *TIRF Today*. Over the years, we have developed a range of useful tools for individuals in our profession to use in their academic endeavors. As of this month, we are happy to share that we have developed a list of new resources, which are intended to be both practical and accessible for language educators.

There are links to several different types of resources in the "[Teachers' Resources](#)" section of

TIRF's website. These categories include speaking & pronunciation, technology, rubric-building tools, language assessment guidelines, and recommended book lists.

It is our intention to continue to build this list in the months ahead. We would like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Anita Krishnan, who helped to develop this section of TIRF's website.



The James E. Alatis Prize for Research in Language Planning and Policy

Editor's note: This piece was originally run in the March 2015 issue of TIRF Today. It is being featured again this month to help further promote TIRF's Alatis Prize competition.

Back in March 2015, we shared with our readers information about [the passing of Trustee Emeritus, Dr. James "Jim" Alatis](#). As was stated at that time, TIRF's Trustees desired to find a way to honor the impact Jim had on our field. TIRF Trustees unanimously approved earlier this year a motion to establish the James E. Alatis Prize for Research in Language Planning and Policy in Educational Contexts. Though some of the details are still being determined, the following points provide the rationale behind establishing the prize in Jim's name.

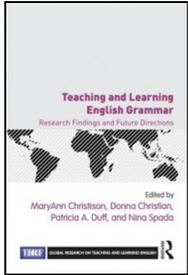
The fourth point of [TIRF's mission statement](#) says that the Foundation will "influence the formation and implementation of appropriate language education policies, recognizing the importance of indigenous languages and cultures worldwide, and of English as an international language." Given the particular interest Jim had in language planning and policy, and remembering his many contributions to the Foundation since its inception, it is fitting that TIRF establishes the James E. Alatis Prize for Re-

search in Language Planning and Policy in Educational Contexts.

The prize will be awarded annually to an outstanding article or chapter written about language planning and/or policy. Along with the recognition, it will bestow a prize of US \$500 to the winner, beginning in 2016. The initial commitment will be for five years of funding dedicated to awarding this prize.

Here is some further information about the Alatis Prize. First, the articles/chapters submitted for consideration may focus on policy and planning issues related to various languages. Second, the articles/chapters submitted must be published in English. Third, the first prize will be awarded in 2016, and papers to be considered for that first competition will have been published in 2014 or 2015. For the next several years of the competition, it is anticipated that articles/chapters published over the previous two years will be eligible for nomination. Lastly, the public presentation of the first Alatis Prize will take place at the 2016 TESOL Convention.

The deadline for nominations is November 16, 2015. For further information, please [click here](#).



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**Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF**

Chair's Report — A Pebble in a Pond

There is [a poem by James W. Foley](#) that I like, which is about influence. It begins with this stanza:

Drop a pebble in the water:
just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples
Circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the center,
flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling
where the end is going to be.

This past week the TIRF Board received word of the passing of Dr. Ed Anthony, one of our founding fathers. In fact, Ed was a member of the Association Advancement Committee, which Joy Reid established when she was the TESOL President in 1994-1996. That committee consisted of senior scholars and volunteer leaders in our profession and in TESOL: Jim Alatis, Russ Campbell, Jodi Crandall, Rick Jenks, Joan Morley, Dick Tucker, and Ed. They worked consistently for several years to try to build a funding base for a foundation that would support research in our field. In June of 1998, the TESOL Board of Directors voted to provide the seed money for what would eventually become TIRF. The members of that committee – including Ed -- served as the first members of the new foundation's Board of Trustees.

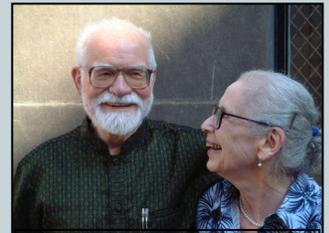
I remember Ed Anthony as an intelligent, gentle, whimsical man -- and smiling -- always smiling. He was fluent in both Spanish and Thai. He worked for many years at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was the founding chairperson of both the Linguistics Department and the English Language Institute. Ed was a great colleague who influenced many people, including some of TIRF's Board members. In sharing memories with one another recently, several TIRF Trustees commented on how they remembered Ed best. MaryAnn Christison said, "I remember how impressed I was with his kindness and openness. He welcomed me as if I were family.... I felt immediately comfortable. He was truly remarkable in every sense of the word." Jodi Crandall added, "Ed was one of the kindest and funniest men I ever knew. He had an impish sense of humor, but he was also a very dedicated applied linguist." Dick Tucker said, "Ed was a won-

derful scholar, teacher and human being. He played a very important role on the Association Advancement Committee.... His days in Pakistan, China and Thailand informed his teaching and informed his view of the world and its peoples. He was a true 'giant' who will be sorely missed." To read more about Ed Anthony's life, [please click here](#).

As I reflect on Ed's life and his many contributions to TIRF in the early days, I wonder if he could have imagined back then what would come of his work. When he first agreed to Joy's request that he serve on the Association Advancement Committee, could he have known how TIRF would grow?

For example, as you can see from the lead story in this issue of *TIRF Today*, in 2014 and 2015 we have had more applicants for Doctoral Dissertation Grants than ever before. In addition, our series contract Routledge is new. Research is currently underway for TIRF's most recent commissioned paper, and nominations are now being submitted for the James E. Alatis Prize for the best article on language planning and policy in the context of language education. Without Ed's dedication to our field and to TIRF, it's possible that none of these activities may have happened.

While we mourn Ed Anthony's passing, we also celebrate his vision, humor, and energy. TIRF as we know it today is just one result of his influence -- one of the ripples resulting from his amazing life. I suppose in some ways we all live our lives tossing pebbles into ponds, perhaps never to know in our own lifetimes how the pond, the river, even the sea itself may be changed by our influence.



**Edward and Ann Anthony,
Married for Nearly 69 years**

Kathi Bailey