

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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Season's Greetings from TIRF's Trustees

With the new year just around the corner, we asked TIRF's Trustees to share their thoughts and wishes with our readers. Here's what they had to say.

David Nunan: "One of the great rewards of being a member of the TIRF Board is to work with a group of peers who are passionate about our mission to develop new knowledge about language learning and teaching and to apply that knowledge to the solutions of language problems around the world. This year, a visitor to one of our Board meetings said, with some surprise, 'You people actually seem to like each other!' Generating the resources to further our mission is a constant obstacle, and I'd like to thank all of you who helped us through the challenges of 2015 in many different ways."

Dick Tucker: "I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the generous donors who provide TIRF with the funding needed to pursue the aggregation and dissemination of information around several of the key questions that are central to language education planners and policy makers. And I am also sincerely appreciative of the fact that your gifts enable us to continue to provide critical support for doctoral dissertation research—support that has led to important research findings and has also led to the training of a new generation of scholars who are already making substantial contributions to the field of language education."

Donna Christian: "Warm greetings to everyone in the TIRF community! Thanks to all of our supporters who have contributed knowledge, time, effort, and funds in the past year to help TIRF advance the field of English language education. We're excited to be awarding the first James E. Alatis Prize in 2016 and look forward to continuing the other important activities in TIRF's portfolio with your support. We wish you the very best in the new year."

Jodi Crandall: "As the year is ending, I want to take this opportunity to thank our generous supporters who make all that TIRF offers possible, especially the doctoral dissertation grants which have enabled young scholars from around the world to receive financial support to complete their doctoral degrees. Your generosity also enables TIRF to develop and disseminate important information related to language education and language policy. Thank you again, and best wishes in the coming year."

Joe Lo Bianco: "As another eventful and successful year for TIRF draws to a close I am delighted to offer good wishes and thanks to all associated with TIRF. Our organization aims to improve, deepen, widen, and comprehend better English language education today, which for millions of learners, very young to very mature, represents a significant part of their general education, access to knowledge, skills, contacts, and opportunities. We are committed to multilingual and pluralistic communication, within which English plays a unique role. Language issues are implicated in many conflicts around the globe, so I hope we can soon see a better language-informed world in which direct and frank communication is marshalled more effectively to serve the cause of peace, human rights, security, and mutual exchange across cultures."

Jun Liu: "Over the past year, TIRF has had an incredible ride because of the dedication of TIRF's Board and its leadership, the generous donations from those who believe in TIRF, and the engagement of our future leaders and professionals in the field. I am gratified to serve on the Board and wish that the light of life may burn bright in your hearts this holiday season."

Lorraine de Matos: "During the holiday season more

than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible through donations. And in this spirit, simply but sincerely, we thank you and wish you all the best for the holiday season and new year. From Brazil, Boas Festas!"

Michael Carrier: "I want to wish all TIRF friends and partners the very best celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah and the holidays, and hope that they will have peace, prosperity and happiness in the new year. Above all, I wish for safety for everyone—we live in a dangerous world. I will spend the holidays in Ukraine, 50 miles from the frontline of Russia's war on Europe, which brings home to me how important it is for us to work together to end this and similar conflicts in Turkey and Syria, so everyone can live in peace and harmony with their neighbours. I believe we can and should use the resources of our language education profession to work for a multilingual, multicultural world where conflict can be reduced through better intercultural awareness, sensitivity, and understanding – and language learning and teaching can help achieve that."

Mitch Legutke: "Dear TIRF friends and supporters: At the end of an extremely challenging year for many people struck by war, repression, and poverty, we hope very much for change in 2016. TIRF's commitment to the key role of language in fostering understanding may contribute to finding creative and lasting solutions for some of the multiple social and political issues we encounter. Therefore, your support is of great value to us. Thank you very much and best wishes for a happy and more peaceful New Year 2016."

Richard Boyum: "Seasons Greetings TIRFers!! A warm wish for a healthy and prosperous New Year and a big 'Thank You' for all your support to TIRF this past year. Know that with each donation, and mention of TIRF, you are changing the lives of colleagues and students 'round the world."

Spiros Papageorgiou: "To the generous TIRF supporters, warm wishes for a peaceful, prosperous and happy 2016."

Yehia El-Ezabi: "To our dear TIRF friends and supporters: As we approach the end of 2015, and look forward to a new year which we hope will bring more peace, understanding, and cooperation worldwide, I would like to share with you a thought about the goals of our research foundation. As you know, and with your support, TIRF is dedicated to enhancing the role of language in the advancement of knowledge and understanding, with particular emphasis on English as an international language. Thus, every form of support for this worthy cause is a significant contribution to a better world. We value your interest in realizing this goal. Best wishes for a happy and productive 2016."

On behalf of all of TIRF's Trustees, we would like to wish you the very best for a peaceful, harmonious, healthy, and prosperous new year!



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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

TIRF Releases 2016 DDG Call for Proposals

Editor's note: TIRF's DDG program started in 2002, and since that date, we have made awards to 75 grantees from 20 countries. Each year, the highest rated DDG proposal is awarded in the name of the late Dr. Russell N. Campbell, who was one of TIRF's founding Trustees.

TIRF has recently released its 2016 [Doctoral Dissertation Grants \(DDG\) call for proposals](#) on its website. The Foundation's DDG program is designed to provide awards for doctoral students nearing the completion of their studies.



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Part of the University of Cambridge

TIRF Trustees Endorse Guidelines for Communicating Rights to NNEs

TIRF's Board of Trustees recently voted to endorse the "Guidelines for Communicating Rights to Non-Native Speakers of English in Australia, England and Wales, and the USA"

The primary aim of the Guidelines document is to inform police, lawyers, and judicial officers about linguistic issues which impact non-native speakers of English in police interviews, particularly in the communication of rights, such as the right to silence and the right to a lawyer. The recommendations address the wording of the rights – including the need for standardized statements in languages other than English – and the communication of the rights, including informing suspects about access to an interpreter, and the consideration of whether or not a non-native speaker of English has understood the rights.

The document was authored by the Communication of Rights Group, which comprises 21 linguists, psychologists, lawyers, and interpreters who have research and/or professional experience and expertise with this issue. The members reside in three common law countries which are officially monolingual and whose policies and procedures in this area have many shared features: Australia, England and Wales, and the USA.

It is the Group's hope that the Guidelines will be

TIRF Tidbits: TIRF Tackles Twitter & A Musical Appeal

TIRF Launches Twitter Page

As part of its social media strategy, TIRF launched its Twitter page earlier this month. The Foundation aims to improve its online presence in the months to come by engaging Twitter users with TIRF news.

TIRF has been experiencing an increase in its Facebook fans over the past several months. With TIRF now on Twitter, we hope that more people will learn about TIRF's programs and activities.

We would greatly appreciate your support by following us on Twitter. [Click here](#) to view our page.

Chair's Report—The Classroom Store



I have a friend named Chris Churilla, who is a fifth-grade teacher. He has a tradition in his classes of printing classroom cash, and the students earn cash by doing things well, responsibly, on time, etc. They lose cash for infractions. For instance, if one child interrupts another, the interrupter must give the speaker some cash. This kind of activity contributes to Chris's classroom management, but it also teaches the pupils in non-threatening ways that there are consequences for their actions. Every few months, Chris runs a little

store, in which the children can "buy" things with their classroom cash. In making their purchases, the students take turns, do addition and subtraction, and make choices.

This month, I decided to support Chris's store by clearing out my closets and giving him my unused trinkets and Christmas ornaments. What amazing things I found, tucked away in boxes: little souvenirs from teacher training jobs and conference trips to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Scotland, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the UAE,

There are two types of DDGs offered by TIRF in 2016. The first is our long-standing TIRF DDG that is supported by Cambridge English Language Assessment and many of our individual donors. The other type is the TIRF-British Council DDG, which is aimed at promoting research to better meet the needs of language education in developing nations.

DDGs are awarded for up to US \$5,000 per proposal. The deadline for receipt of complete proposals is Wednesday, April 20, 2016. For more information, please visit us online or write to info@tirfonline.org.



widely endorsed by scholarly and professional organizations whose members engage in research or professional practice that includes communication with non-native speakers of English in police interviews.

According to Dr. Aneta Pavlenko, Co-convenor of the Communication of Rights group (with Professor Diana Eades), an endorsement from TIRF is very important for the group's dissemination and awareness-raising efforts because it signals support from the international community of researchers dedicated to the study of English language education and the learning of English as a second language. "We hope that our recommendations, grounded in scholarly research and practical experience, will contribute to a better understanding of difficulties for non-native speakers of English in police interviews, and result in moves to better protect the rights of these suspects and afford them equal treatment in the law," said Dr. Pavlenko.

For background information about this context, please see Dr. Pavlenko's 2008 *TESOL Quarterly* article (Volume 42, Number 1), "I'm Very Not About the Law Part': Nonnative Speakers of English and the Miranda Warnings."

If you would like to access a PDF of these Guidelines, please [click here](#). There is no restriction on copying or distributing the Guidelines.

Serenade for Supporters

Our musical team of supporters, including Mr. Tim Marquette and Ms. Anita Krishnan, parodied several seasonal songs to produce another holiday greeting for our newsletter readers, donors, and various audiences.

Click on the image to the right to watch the video from "Your Friendly Neighborhood Songsters." We hope you enjoy this festive serenade!



Uruguay, and various parts of the US. I kept a few mementos for myself, but I thoroughly enjoyed giving away my former treasures. Each one represented a sweet memory, but giving them away was also a source of joy and satisfaction. This experience was a powerful reminder that in many instances, it really is more blessed to give than to receive. Thank you, Chris, for re-teaching me this important lesson!

Let me join my TIRF colleagues in wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous new year, no matter what tradition of giving you celebrate.

Kathi Bailey