

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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Oh, the Places TIRFers Go!

The month of April has been an exceptionally busy time for many individuals and organizations in our field. Some of the most notable annual conventions for language education took place this month, for example, those offered by the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, the National Council of Teachers of English (their Conference on College Composition and Communication), the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), and the TESOL International Association. In this piece, we share news from TIRFers at the TESOL and AAAL conferences.



The 2016 TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo was held April 5-8 in Baltimore Maryland. During the convention, approximately 75 attendees (pictured above) joined TIRF Trustee Joe Lo Bianco, from the University of Melbourne, for his talk on "Teacher Voices, English, and Multilingualism: Building Peace through Language Planning." Once again this year, we were able to offer coffee and tea to our attendees because of the wonderful support of Trustee Lorraine de Matos and her team at Cultura Inglesa in São Paulo, Brazil.



Dr. Shondel Nero (right) with Trustee Donna Christian

Just before Dr. Lo Bianco's talk began, we presented our first ever TIRF James E. Alatis Prize for Research on Language Policy and Planning in Educational Contexts to Dr. Shondel Nero, Associate Professor at New York University. (For the backstory on this topic, please [click here](#).) Dr. Nero was very happy to be presented with a plaque recognizing her prize.

Two other Trustees were in the limelight during the TESOL Convention, but for very different and fun reasons! In [last month's newsletter](#), we shared news of "The Wizard of Oz: A TESOL Tale," an event hosted by TESOL to showcase its 50-year history. Joining in this whimsical celebration were Trustees MaryAnn Christison and Jun Liu (picture right), who played the roles of Glinda and the Tin Woodman, respectively. Both did an excellent job in helping to celebrate TESOL's 50th anniversary!



As you can see, the TESOL Convention was not just a busy and productive time for these TIRF supporters, but also an enjoyable and pleasurable experience! Our 'TIRFers On the Go' did not stop there, as many of our supporters were active in Orlando for the AAAL Convention.

Though we have not shared a great deal of news on the following topic in past issues of *TIRF Today*, one of the many professional hats TIRF President Kathi Bailey wears is that of AAAL leadership. Two years ago, Dr. Bailey agreed to join AAAL as its Second Vice President, and over the last year, she has been its First Vice President, which means she was responsible for planning the 2016 AAAL Convention. At the end of the 2016 conference, Dr. Bailey was sworn in as the President of AAAL.

TIRF Trustee Donna Christian and the Foundation's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Ryan Damerow, were also active during the 2016 AAAL Convention. Dr. Christian organized a panel titled "[Research Funding Opportunities Beyond Your Home Institution](#)," and Mr. Damerow contributed to the talk by highlighting TIRF's programs and resources. The panel also included Fiona Barker, Cambridge English Language Assessment; Martha Bigelow, ACTFL/NFLTA/MLJ; Ikkyu Choi, Educational Testing Service; and Sarah Sahr, TESOL.

Two of the plenary presentations at the AAAL Conference featured talks by two TIRF Trustees. Dr. Mitch Legutke gave a talk on "Teachers Matter: Revisiting the Territory and Charting the Future of Foreign Language Teacher Education." And Dr. Joe Lo Bianco gave a talk titled "Ethnic Separatism, Social Conflict and Violence: The Role of Deliberative Language Planning in Conflict Zones." Both talks were well attended and generated a great deal of discussion throughout the conference.

The AAAL Convention also included a multitude of presentations given by TIRF grantees. Here is a list of our grantees who presented at the AAAL Convention: [Mansoor Al-Surmi](#) (2010 Sheikh Nahayan Fellow); [Jin Bi](#) (2015 DDG Recipient); [Sarah Braden](#) (2014 DDG Recipient); [Virak Chan](#) (2015 DDG Recipient); [Farahnaz Faez](#) (2005 DDG Recipient); [Kristen di Gennaro](#) (2009 DDG Recipient); [Ofra Inbar](#) (2003 Priority Research Grant Recipient); [Jookyoung Jung](#) (2015 DDG Recipient); [Derya Kulavuz-Onal](#) (2012 DDG Recipient); [Jaehan Park](#) (2013 DDG Recipient); [Muhammad Qureshi](#) (2014 DDG Recipient); [Joyce Kling Soren](#) (2012 DDG Recipient); [Bal Sharma](#) (2014 DDG Recipient); [Nic Subtirelu](#) (2014 DDG Recipient); [Melanie van den Hoven](#) (2010 Sheikh Nahayan Fellow); and [Xu Yueting](#) (2015 DDG Recipient). Some photos of these TIRFers are just below.



Trustee MaryAnn Christison with Dr. Sarah Braden



Dr. Kristen di Gennaro (right) and Dr. Monika Ekiert at AAAL



Mr. Virak Chan and Trustee Donna Christian



Mr. Ryan Damerow, Dr. Polina Vinogradova, and Trustee Kathi Bailey



Ms. Melanie van den Hoven, Dr. Ofra Inbar, Dr. Joyce Kling Soren, Dr. Jaehan Park, and Mr. Christopher Stillwell



Trustee Kathi Bailey, Ms. Xu Yueting, and Mr. Ryan Damerow

We hope that you will agree that TIRF and its many supporters are making a real difference in language education around the globe through their research and presentations. We look forward to future conferences in our field, as they not only provide us with important professional development opportunities, but also because such events are wonderful chances for us to enjoy the wonderful people and activities that help make our field so exciting.

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

TIRF Spring Board of Trustees Meeting Recap

Each spring, TIRF's Trustees gather at the start of the TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo to participate in the Foundation's biannual Board meeting. Thus this year's spring meeting was held in Baltimore, Maryland earlier this month. Because TIRF has continued to grow its position in our field, as demonstrated by the expansion of our programs and traffic to our website, our meeting dealt with a myriad of interesting issues. This piece will report some of the highlights from the meeting.

First, we are pleased to announce that several TIRF Trustees were re-elected to continue their service as members of the Board of the Foundation. These Trustees were Michael Carrier, Jodi Crandall, and G. Richard Tucker. When elected, TIRF Trustees agree to serving on the Board for a three-year term.

A second topical area Trustees addressed was that of TIRF's ongoing need to raise additional revenue to support its mission. The

Foundation continues to find ways to conduct its annual operations in very cost-efficient ways; however, as mentioned above, with the expansion of our programs and activities, TIRF's administrative and programmatic costs continue to rise as well. While we welcome this growth, Trustees discussed ways in which TIRF's fundraising and publication activities must help the Foundation generate greater revenue to offset some of its costs.



From left to right: Trustees Spiros Papageorgiou, Nick Saville, MaryAnn Christison, and Mitch Legutke

the prize as one of its programs, with the first prize made during the TESOL Convention (see the piece on page one of this newsletter for further information). For the 2016 Alatis Prize competition, TIRF's Trustees decided that we will no longer accept self-nominations of articles/chapters. Further, an individual who nominates an article/chapter will need to state why the article/chapter is appropriate for receiving the Alatis Prize. Further information about TIRF's 2016 Alatis Prize competition will be released later this year.

Yet another topic included in our spring Board

Chair's Report—Forging Partnerships Through TIRF & AAAL

As noted in the front-page story, at the end of the AAAL Conference this month, I became the volunteer President of that organization. Why, you may ask, would anyone want to be President of both TIRF and AAAL??

According to [its website](#), AAAL is "a professional society of scholars from the U.S., Canada, and over 50 other countries worldwide. Members use a wide variety of theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches to address a broad range of language-related issues that affect

individuals and society. The [mission of AAAL](#) is to facilitate the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and understanding regarding these language-related issues in order to improve the lives of individuals and conditions in society." Thus, the goals of AAAL closely parallel [those of TIRF](#).

I firmly believe that we can solve some of the world's most pressing problems through improved communication skills and intercultural understanding. The professional associations—such

meeting agenda was that of our future publication activities. Most recently, [the third volume](#) in the TIRF-Routledge series on "[Global Research on Teaching and Learning English](#)" was released. According to Naomi Silverman, Publisher for Routledge, this volume was a popular title at both the TESOL Convention in Baltimore and the AAAL Convention in Orlando. Currently, we are working on the fourth volume in the series, which focuses on the use of digital technology in language education. Lastly, TIRF is continuing its efforts to investigate issues in online language teacher education—a report which we expect to publish early next year.

A large portion of our meeting focused on how the efforts of our various committees can help to advance TIRF's agenda. TIRF's work is currently carried out through the efforts of our long-standing Research Advisory Committee and Executive Committee, as well as by our ad hoc Development Committee and Publications Committee. For example, our Research Advisory Committee is currently dealing with the 2016 Doctoral Dissertation Grants competition, but will soon be auditing TIRF's past activities to determine what more can be done with the body of work that has already been produced, so that we can appeal to a broader audience. Our Publications Committee is considering future topics we would like to investigate through commissioned research, while keeping in mind specific organizations and/or companies who may want to sponsor such a report. The Foundation's Development Committee members remain committed to identifying new sources of revenue. We are constantly searching for individual and corporate donors who may be willing to support our cause.

We would like to thank our colleagues at the TESOL International Association for supporting TIRF through offering us space to hold our meeting. Such support results in TIRF's ability to save thousands of dollars, so that we may continue to dedicate funding to our programs.

It is our hope you will see that TIRF and its Trustees are ever committed to our field through finding new and creative ways to make an impact in language education. We are very grateful for the efforts of our all-volunteer Board members, who are not reimbursed for their travel expenses to participate in Board meetings. Without their expertise, commitment, and support, the Foundation would not be making the difference it is today.



From left to right: Trustees Donna Christian, Joe Lo Bianco, and Jodi Crandall

as AAAL, TESOL, and IATEFL—support the work of teachers, researchers, graduate students, and other language professionals, largely through their conferences, publications, and other professional development opportunities.

In the year ahead, I hope to forge partnerships among some of the major organizations in our field, like TIRF and AAAL, which will result in benefits for the profession at large.

Kathi Bailey