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.

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 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.

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.

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.
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. Others 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 booklets, which we gave 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?