

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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Major Conferences to be Held in Toronto: TIRF Trustees to Participate

Next month, Toronto, Canada will host three major conventions in the field of language education. These conferences include those offered by the [TESOL International Association](#), the [American Association for Applied Linguistics](#) (AAAL), and the [International Language Testing Association](#) (ILTA). With these three major conferences running contiguously, there will be an abundance of important professional development opportunities in Toronto.

ILTA's conference is known as the Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC). It will be held from March 16-20, 2015 at the Eaton Chelsea Hotel. This year marks the 37th LTRC event, which is being co-organized with [The Canadian Association of Language Assessment/L'association canadienne pour l'évaluation des langues](#). This year's LTRC theme is "From Language Testing to Language Assessment: Connecting Teaching, Learning, and Assessment." LTRC is an excellent place to discuss language assessment and testing issues. For more information about LTRC 2015, [click here](#).

AAAL's annual conference follows immediately after ILTA's event and will be held at the Fairmont Royal York hotel. The dates of the conference are March 21-24, 2015, and its theme is "Identité(s)." This conference is being organized in conjunction with the [Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics](#). According to the

TIRF Trustee David Nunan to Receive Prestigious Award



We are pleased to share that [TIRF Trustee David Nunan](#) will be receiving the [James E. Alatis Award for Service to TESOL](#) next month during the TESOL Convention. According to the TESOL International Association's website, the purpose of the award is "to acknowledge outstanding and extended service by TESOL members at international, regional, and local levels." The award, which was originally established in 1987, honors James E. Alatis, TIRF Trustee Emeritus, for his long-term commitment to TESOL as its first Executive Director.

TIRF's Panel Presentation at 2015 TESOL Convention

With the 2015 TESOL convention just around the corner, we would be thrilled for you to join us in Toronto! TIRF has a strong history of supporting TESOL conventions in past years, and once again the Foundation will have a presence at this year's convention.

TIRF will be hosting a panel presentation at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. It is entitled, "Building Bridges in Language Planning, Teacher Development, Research, and Assessment." The

conference website, the AAAL conference "has a reputation as a comprehensive and stimulating conference including in-depth colloquia and paper sessions, topical and thought-provoking plenary presentations, excellent book exhibits, and plentiful opportunities for networking." For more information, please [click here](#).

The annual TESOL convention will be held from March 25-28, 2015, and will be hosted at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This year's conference, themed "Crossing Borders, Building Bridges," will attract about 6,000 people from around the globe. The annual TESOL convention is one of the largest conferences for language educators in the world, and as such it offers a range of professional development and networking opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).

We asked our Board members to share with us whether they will be presenting at LTRC, AAAL, and/or TESOL. It turns out that Jodi Crandall, Jun Liu, and David Nunan will be particularly busy during their time in Toronto. In case you are interested in meeting with these Trustees, or if you wish to learn more about their work beyond their volunteer service to the Foundation, we have posted selected presentation information to our website. [Click here](#) to see what some of our Trustees will be doing next month in Toronto.

In addition to being a TIRF board member, David is the director of the David Nunan TESOL Institute at Anaheim University, and he is President Emeritus of Anaheim University. He served as the President of the TESOL International Association from 1999 to 2000, and has been recognized with numerous awards throughout his illustrious career. David is an extremely accomplished teacher, author, and researcher, and has devoted his professional lifetime to the field of language education.

Please join us in congratulating David on this important milestone!

panel will be held from 9:00 to 10:30am on Thursday, March 26, 2015 in Room 206B of the Convention Centre. This year's panelists include Kathi Bailey, MaryAnn Christison, Andy Curtis, Kerri Hannan, John Knagg, and Nick Saville.

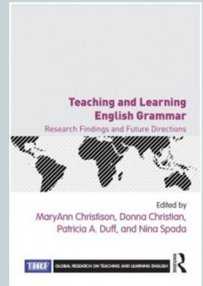
There will be time during the presentation to meet and connect with TIRF's Trustees in attendance there. We hope that you will accept our invitation and join us for light refreshments during our presentation. See you in Toronto!



Second Volume in TIRF-Routledge Series to be Released in March

In March 2015, TIRF and Routledge will re-release *Teaching and Learning English Grammar*, the second volume in the series, "Global Research on Teaching and Learning English," which is co-published by TIRF and Routledge. This volume is co-edited by TIRF Trustees MaryAnn Christison (University of Utah) and Donna Christian (Center for Applied Linguistics), former TIRF Trustee Patricia Duff (University of British Columbia), and long-time TIRF supporter, Nina Spada (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education).

A search chapter addresses issues that motivated the research, the context of the research, data collection and analysis, findings and discussion, and implications for practice, policy, and future research. The TIRF-sponsored research was made possible by a generous gift from Betty Azar. This book honors her contributions to the field and recognizes her generosity in collaborating with TIRF to support research on English grammar.



TIRF's DDG program makes awards of up to \$5,000 annually. The competition deadline is April 22, 2015.

[Click here for details.](#)

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An important contribution to the emerging body of research-based knowledge about English grammar, this volume presents empirical studies along with syntheses and overviews of previous and ongoing work on the teaching and learning of grammar for students of English as a second or foreign language. It explores a variety of approaches, including form-focused instruction, content and language integration, corpus-based lexicogrammatical approaches, and social perspectives on grammar instruction.

Nine chapter authors are TIRF Priority Research Grant or Doctoral Dissertation Grant awardees, and four overview chapters are written by well-known experts in English language education. Each re-

TIRF's Reference Lists Surpass 150 Individual Topics!

In 2010, we began compiling reference lists on various topics of interest to language teachers and researchers. Since then, we have seen the number of topics expand considerably, and at the time of this writing we are happy to announce the number of reference lists has grown to more than 150 individual topics. This area of our website generates a great deal of traffic. These resources are free to download and share.

Just this month, several new reference lists have been added to our website. The new topics covered include creativity in language learning and teaching, linguistic landscape, idioms, and memory, as well

as the use of drama and theatre techniques in language teaching and learning.

Many other reference lists have been updated. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to this resource over the last several years, and would like to recognize here those individuals who have added to this initiative most recently: Robert Broom, Sean Dulmaine, Francis Hult, Anita Krishnan, Tim Marquette, and Danny McCarthy.

If you would like to contribute a new reference list or add citations to an existing list, please write to info@tirfonline.org and use current APA format.

Chair's Report — Connections, Collaboration, and Community

The three conferences described on page one of this newsletter provide a wonderful opportunity to connect – in so many ways, with so many people and ideas. Socially speaking, for those of us who are rather senior in the profession, the conferences provide opportunities to reunite with old friends and former students and colleagues. For more junior participants, they offer opportunities to network and to meet the scholars whose work has influenced their studies.

According to an online dictionary, *to connect* means to join, link, or fasten together; to unite or bind. For people connected with and through TIRF, the conference events give us a chance to meet with individuals who are tremendously important to us, but whom we sometimes only know through email correspondence. I am referring to our grant recipients, our proposal reviewers, and our do-

nors. The conferences are also venues at which those individuals can meet both the TIRF Trustees and one another face-to-face.



Melanie van den Hoven

I have a wonderful example to share with you that symbolizes the kind of connections TIRF promotes. At the AAAL Conference, Sheikh Nahayan Fellow [Melanie van den Hoven](#) will meet TIRF DDG recipients [Joyce Kling](#) and [Jaehan Park](#), and they will meet one another for the first time. Why do I say this meeting is symbolic?

Because Joyce, Jaehan, and Melanie all investigated (as part of their doctoral research) the issue of English as a medium of instruction – Joyce in Denmark, Jaehan in Korea, and



Jaehan Park

Melanie in the United Arab Emirates. At this year's AAAL Conference, they will lead a roundtable discussion together on Monday, March 23rd at 9:10am. Their topic is

the "Challenges and Implications of English-medium Instruction."

This kind of international cross-fertilization is one of the benefits of creating a community like TIRF. Through their research and collaboration, Joyce, Melanie, and Jaehan, along with other scholars in Toronto, are helping to further our understanding of key international issues in language learning, teaching, and assessment. My heartfelt thanks go out to the donors who have made these connections possible.



Joyce Kling Soren

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

Kathi Bailey