

# NileTESOL

## Newsletter



## A Tumultuous Year

2011 was a tumultuous year for NileTESOL, indeed the entire Middle East, through the advent of the Arab Spring. As the new year began, NileTESOL in association with AUC/SCE was in the midst of preparations for its 15th annual conference. However, as the Arab Spring blossomed into a full revolution, it became evident that our 2011 conference entitled, *Bridging the Gap: Reconciling Theory and Practice* could not be held and thus was cancelled.

NileTESOL, however, rebounded successfully from what the Board of Directors considered only a temporary setback, by organizing and holding professional development sessions throughout the year. The year's successes continued with the official launching of the NileTESOL website while interest in joining NileTESOL increased to where we are now close to having 1000 members.

TESOL International continued its strong support of our affiliate status. In full consideration of the events that caused the cancellation of our 2011 conference, TESOL agreed to fund,

once again, a plenary speaker for our 2012 *"Language Education in the 21st Century: Challenges & Opportunities"* conference. We were also very pleased that a NileTESOL member was accepted to present at TESOL's Best of the Affiliates sessions at TESOL 2012.

Our Board of Directors remains our strongest resource at NileTESOL. Members of the Board generously volunteer their time and efforts to ensure that NileTESOL reaches out to its members through various programs. Our professional development sessions, facilitated by board members, have been carried out in venue space provided by Amideast and the American University in Cairo. Our creative and innovative website has been developed and maintained by board members. AUC / SCE facilitates our grants and scholarship programs with monies donated by the US Embassy RELO's office. Faculty and NileTESOL members at AUC / English Language Institute work with the School of Continuing Education staff to plan and facilitate the challenging task of running our annual conference. This newsletter is a

volunteer effort as is the job of our Executive Director. NileTESOL's Board of Directors attends monthly meetings (sometimes more than monthly!) and work hard to provide the guidance needed to develop this fledgling TESOL affiliate.

As current president, I welcome more of our diversified membership to join the Board and become involved in NileTESOL. We believe that "TESOL affiliates have the opportunity to improve language teaching by fostering the exchange of ideas, resources, information, newsletters, and reflective experiences through online discussions, partnerships, conferences, and workshops." (<http://www.tesol.org>)

We invite prospective members to join NileTESOL and help to make a difference "for all those individuals who are actively involved in the development of the teaching of English and in teaching content in English in Egypt and globally." (NileTESOL Constitution)

Kathleen Saville  
President NileTESOL 2011-12



## To Chair or not to Chair a Conference...

Why would anyone volunteer to chair a conference? I have often asked many people, myself included. It is a pleasure and a privilege. Obviously, you work as part of a group of dedicated professionals. On a larger scale, you network with peers at other institutions and interact with the Board of Directors. The three integral parts of a conference are: the venue, the attendees, and the program. They are interdependent, and without any one component, the two others would not succeed. Can we begin to dream of hosting a conference without a suitable place for it? Can we put together an excellent program without attendees? Can we have a venue and a huge crowd but without a program? Otherwise, why would anyone come?

Planning and attention to the minutest details are essential qualities, as failing to plan early on is planning to fail. Assuming responsibility for every detail is impossible and here comes sheer madness. There is only one possible solution which is not to fall into the trap of micromanagement and instead rely on group efforts with clearly defined tasks.

What some do forget is the fact that developing a theme is hard work. It gives guidance to presenters so it needs to be clear and focused, yet wide enough to include a wide range of topics. The call for proposals, the invited speakers, the dates, and the venue are all inter-related factors which directly emerge from your main question: What do you want to accomplish? Is it enhancing the profession, is it member benefit, is it networking opportunities, or is it all of the above?

Conference evaluations or feedback will come at a later stage as suggestions or areas for improvement for the following year mainly for use by the in-coming chair. Obviously, consistency from one year to the other is a safe approach, but if you are like me and decide to be innovative, then you should remember that you will never be able to please everybody, so try hard not to take conference evaluations personally. Smile and be positive.

Rania Jabr  
Chair, NileTESOL 2012



## RELO Services to Teachers and Learners of English

The Regional English Language Office (RELO) in the American Embassy in Cairo sponsors a variety of programs and services that aim at the enhancement of English language for specific purposes as well as the advancement of the English language teaching profession.

### English for Specific Purposes:

The RELO runs various English language programs for special groups. First, English for Imams is a two-year program in Alexandria, Tanta and Cairo, offering general English and English for Religious Purposes to imams and female Islamic scholars who wish to engage in interfaith dialogue. RELO also supports an English for Young Media Professionals program in Alexandria. A very recent program is the RELO-sponsored American Legal English course for judges at the Egyptian Court of Cassation in Cairo.

RELO Egypt takes special pride in the **English Language Resource Center (ELRC)** at Al Azhar University. The mission of the ELRC is to help Al Azhar university teachers to communicate, work and engage with people of other faiths in English. The program also provides on-the-job professional development for young Egyptian English teachers, who work side by side with four American teachers. The ELRC started in September 2007. One hundred and twenty students have graduated since then and there

are 80 students currently enrolled. Five of the Egyptian teachers have traveled to the States on U.S. government exchange programs. Ten of the graduates visited America this summer on a special exchange program entitled *Muslims in American – Community, Democracy and Political Participation*.

### English Access Microscholarship Program:

English language teachers who dream of positively taking part in the creation of enlightened future generations are invited to join our group of Access teachers who teach 14- to 18-year-olds from disadvantaged sectors. The English Access Program provides a foundation of English language skills to talented, underserved teens through after-school classes and intensive summer sessions. The program is implemented by AUC and AMIDEAST in twelve governorates in Egypt, and in 85 other counties in the world.

**Teacher Development:** RELO offers a variety of teacher development opportunities. First, the *English Language Fellow Program (ELF)* sends U.S. educators in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on ten-month fellowships, to teach in universities. There are four Fellows currently teaching at the Al Azhar ELRC. There is also the *English Language Specialist Program (ELSpec)* which recruits U.S. academics in the field of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Applied

Linguistics. These two programs provide Egyptian teachers with opportunities to exchange educational expertise with their American counterparts either through daily contact through the ELF program or during the intensive workshops offered through the EL Specialist program.

An integral part of the RELO mission is to make opportunities for professional advancement available and accessible to teachers of English in Egypt. As part of its support for the NileTESOL association of English teachers in Egypt, RELO offers NileTESOL members travel grants to international conferences in America and the region, grants for teacher training FELT certificates from the English Studies Division, School of Continuing Education of the American University in Cairo, and online TESOL Core Certificate scholarships.

**Online Programs & Resources:** In addition, RELO online programs for teacher development make it possible for our teachers to pursue their goals for professional advancement from anywhere in Egypt. The *E-Teacher scholarship program* offers graduate level classes to English teaching

professionals outside of the United States in affiliation with prestigious universities in the U.S. *Webinars* are a series of five online, 90-minute, theme-based webinars. *Webinar* students actively participate in the online sessions by chatting, doing polls, or writing questions.

RELO Egypt continues to provide professional guidance to country officials and teachers on English language teaching methodology and best practices by offering a range of resources and materials that support high-quality English language instruction. In addition to the online version of the *Forum* magazine where one can read articles from issues dating back to 1993, the electronic journals *Language and Civil Society* and *Language and Life Sciences* offer ready-to-use lesson plans and are suitable for students at the intermediate level. Teachers can choose from 80 titles produced by the U.S. Department of State's Office of English Language Programs after surveying the online Publications Catalogue. Orders are made through the RELO office.

You can have access to the world of RELO Egypt at [americanenglish.state.gov](http://americanenglish.state.gov)

**NileTESOL** NileTESOL is a professional association for all those individuals who are actively involved in the development of the teaching of English and in teaching content in English in Egypt and globally. NileTESOL operates as a part of the English Studies Division of the School of Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo through a Board of Directors from the EFL community in Egypt. Members of the Board serve as volunteers on a rotating basis.



**NileTESOL 2012**  
NileTESOL Conference 2012 "Language Education in the 21st Century: Challenges & Opportunities"

Learn more about NileTESOL Conference 2012 and find out what the agenda has!



**PD Events**  
NileTESOL members who are interested in attending international conferences and PD events can apply for NileTESOL grants offered by the American University.

Learn about NileTESOL Scholarships and PD Events



**Membership**  
Membership in NileTESOL is open to all individuals who are actively engaged in the development of the teaching of English and in teaching content in English. Membership is free to qualified applicants.

Learn about Membership and Apply Online



**Newsletter**  
The NileTESOL Newsletter aims at providing members with a forum for exchanging professional views and news. Learn about Subscription and Email Contact.

Learn about Newsletter and Apply Online

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## The NileTESOL Website

By Amira Salama

NileTESOL BOD seeks every chance to communicate with English language teachers and professionals in the ELT community. Therefore, the NileTESOL BOD has launched a website for NileTESOL with the purpose of publishing the activities of the organization and communicating with the English language teaching community in Egypt and around the world.

NileTESOL website was first launched in March 2011. Since then, it has been operative and continuously updated. The website has four main tabs: Conferences, PD events, Membership, and Newsletters.

From the conferences page, visitors can access the conference page to submit papers to the upcoming conference, as NileTESOL invites all professionals, NileTESOL members and non-members, in the ELT community to present at the NileTESOL annual.

From the PD tab, website visitors can learn about NileTESOL professional development (PD) events and opportunities available to NileTESOL members.

From the membership tab, visitors can get to learn more about NileTESOL membership benefits and apply to join NileTESOL by filling in an online application form. Membership is free.

The website also has other information on NileTESOL constitution, committees, objectives, Board of Directors, a photo gallery for conferences and PD workshops. There is a lot to explore on the NileTESOL website. So, I invite you to take a 5 minute tour of the website and discover more about NileTESOL. ([www.nileTESOL.org](http://www.nileTESOL.org))

## NileTESOL

Homepage  
**HOME**

Who are we?  
**ABOUT**

Our photo gallery  
**GALLERY**

Useful  
**LINKS**

Get in touch  
**CONTACT US**



[www.Niletesol.org](http://www.Niletesol.org)

## Congratulations!

NileTESOL is very proud to announce that Dr. Deena Boraie, Associate Dean for Instructional Affairs, School of Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo has been elected as TESOL president for 2012 - 2013. Dr. Boraie's association with TESOL, Egypt TESOL and NileTESOL has been long and rich.

The annual TESOL convention has been her main overseas professional development activity for the last 20 years. She has attended every single TESOL convention since 1990 until 2010 and she has presented in all conventions except for 2004 when she was completing her PhD dissertation. She has presented papers, workshops and three Pre-Convention Institutes (in 1998, 1999 and 2000).

Dr. Boraie was elected as a TESOL Board Director for three years from 2007 – 2010 and served as the Board liaison for the Affiliate Leadership Council (ALC) for 3 years.

In 2003, she was the recipient of the TESOL Leadership Mentoring Award while also completing the Leadership Development Certificate Program.

She served on the Awards Standing Committee for 3 years, coordinated the TESL/TEFL Travel Grant, and served on the Standards Committee for one year.

On the local level, Dr. Boraie is a founding member of NileTESOL which is a TESOL affiliate and a member of the Board of Directors. She was NileTESOL's President-Elect until her election as TESOL President-Elect which was announced on January 12, 2012.

She was also a founding member of EypTesol which was a TESOL affiliate and served as Vice President from May 1998 until December 2005. In addition to serving on the EypTesol Board as Vice President, she also served as Chair of the Convention Committee from 1998 until 2003 and led the team that organized the first three international EypTESOL conventions: 1999, 2000 and 2002 (no conference was held in 2001).

Please join NileTESOL's BOD in congratulating Dr. Boraie whose election, as the first ever Egyptian president of TESOL, is a sign of the great respect that the TESOL community has for her abilities to lead and inspire fellow professionals in our field. Alpha mabruk, Dr. Deena!



## NileTESOL Mission

NileTESOL is a professional association for all those individuals who are actively involved in the development of the teaching of English and in teaching content in English in Egypt and globally. NileTESOL is funded and supported by The American University in Cairo's School of Continuing Education (SCE).

The objectives of the association are to:

- provide a professional forum for discussing and debating issues related to the teaching and learning of English and in English.
- provide opportunities for professional development to the members of the association and the profession at-large keeping them up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.
- encourage the development of research relevant to teaching / learning of English and in English.
- offer opportunities for networking among members of the association and other professionals.
- provide opportunities for professional service and leadership development within the ELT community.
- contribute to the continuous improvement of standards of teaching of English and teaching in English.

## Membership Information


Membership in NileTESOL is open to all individuals who are actively engaged in the development of the teaching of English and in teaching content in English. Membership is free to qualified applicants. Candidates may apply for membership by completing an online application form.

The Membership Committee will review all applications and confer membership. For new applicants, Associate membership will be conferred as valid for two years. After two years of Associate status, membership will be reviewed and revised in terms of active involvement. Active involvement includes, but is not limited to, attendance at PD events and conferences, submission of proposals and articles, presentations at conferences, serving on a NileTESOL or other conference organizing committee or an editorial board, and other professional activities). After review by the Membership Committee, an Associate Member may become an Active Member of NileTESOL. Only Members defined in such terms have full voting rights.

### Membership Benefits

NileTESOL membership benefits are designed to facilitate and foster leadership skills among dedicated EFL/ELT practitioners. Benefits include the following:

1. Voting privileges in the Nile TESOL's annual election of Board Members
2. Access to NileTESOL Seminars, workshops and presentations
3. Surveys related to Professional development
4. Advance notice of Nile TESOL events
5. Access to travel grants to attend the AUC/Nile TESOL Skills Conference



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO School of CONTINUING EDUCATION

AUC New Cairo

NileTESOL/AUC Conference XVI  
January 31, 2012

"Language Education in the 21st Century:  
Challenges & Opportunities"

NileTESOL is the International TESOL Affiliate in Egypt  
[www.niletesol.org](http://www.niletesol.org)

Conference website  
<http://Conf.aucegypt.edu/NileTESOL2012>

For further information contact:  
E-MAIL: [skillsconf@aucegypt.edu](mailto:skillsconf@aucegypt.edu)  
TEL NO: (202) 2797.6871  
(Attention: NileTESOL Committee, ESD)

## Call for Submissions

The *NileTESOL Newsletter* aims at providing members with a forum for exchanging professional views and news. We invite articles (500-800 words), announcements, reviews of books, videos, software, reports on on-going research, and practical classroom ideas.

Please send your submissions to the Editor at the following email:

[niletesol@aucegypt.edu](mailto:niletesol@aucegypt.edu)

### NileTESOL Board Members & Officers 2011-2012

President: Kathleen Saville, Department of Rhetoric and Composition, The American University in Cairo

President-Elect: Jonah Moos, ELI, The American University in Cairo

Executive Director: Magda Hayek, SCE, The American University in Cairo

Conference Chair: Rania Jabr, English Language Institute, The American University in Cairo

Incoming Chair: Mariam Osman, English Language Institute, The American University in Cairo

Ahmed Gabr, Nile Egyptian Schools, Education Development Fund

Amira Salama, English Language Resource Center, Al Azhar University

Fadeel Faid, Ministry of Education, Fayoum

Helena Simas, Amideast

Mai Magdy, Knowledge Valley British International School

Nadia Toubia, School of Continuing Education, The American University in Cairo

Neil Winston, The British Council

Ola Hafez, School of Continuing Education, The American University in Cairo

Robert Lindsey, Regional English Language Office, The American Embassy in Cairo