



WESTCLIFF
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College of Education

Spring 2018

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TESOL Convention



(Pictured from left to right: Dr. Julie Ciancio, Donna Brinton- program advisory council member, Tasha Bleistein- program advisory council member, Jennifer Hirashiki, Thomas Tischler (alumni and professor))

In March, Dr. Ciancio and Professor Hirashiki attended the TESOL Convention in Chicago, IL. During the pre-convention, they conducted a presentation during the Department of State's 5th Technology in English event. The sessions throughout this event explored a question posed by the White House in 2015, "How can the Department of State do more to connect like-minded TESOL and EdTech professionals from academia, the US Government, and the private sector to work together on shared goals?" After Dr. Ciancio and Professor Hirashiki's presentation, they collectively worked together with other event participants to develop a (openly-licensed) position paper that detailed the values and selection of best practices for the creation of OERs that are designed with repurposing in mind.

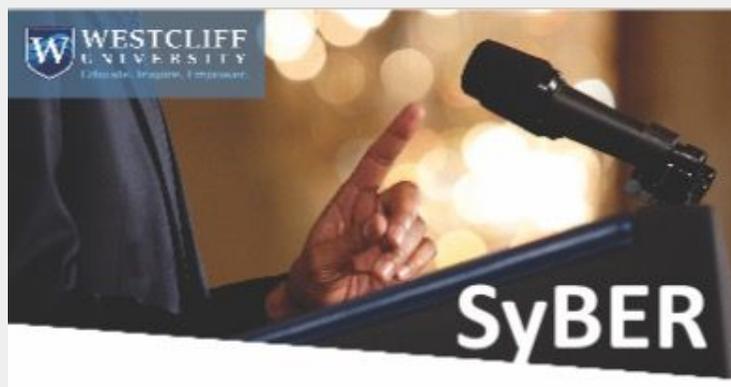
Over the past year, Dr. Ciancio and Professor Hirashiki have been collaborating with a group formed at a previous technology in English event to write an Open Educational Resource paper. At this year's event, they shared their work, their experience, and potential future possibilities based on their findings.

In addition to the pre-conference event, the TESOL Convention held various informative sessions and offered the space for faculty members from Westcliff University to grow and learn together. Some of our own Westcliff University faculty members were in attendance, including one of our alum-turned-professor, Thomas Tischler. A Westcliff coffee hour was held with two of our program advisory council members (see picture above).

Dr. Ciancio and Professor Hirashiki were excited that many other proposals from Westcliff University faculty were accepted for the conference. Dr. Ciancio presented with Dr. Lynne Diaz-Rico on Innovative Formative Assessments that Enhance Dispositions and Motivations. Professor Hirashiki presented with PAC member, Tasha Bleistein, on Innovations for Online Discussion Boards for Teacher Education. Both presentations were very well attended.

Other Events & Information

SyBER! Deadline for submissions is May 25th. The event will be held on June 28, from 6-9pm. See more information at <https://sites.google.com/westcliff.edu/syber> Take this opportunity to submit a paper to present!



Did you know that JSTOR has a free version? You can Create a free [MyJSTOR](#) account and read up to 3 articles every 2 weeks with Register & Read. Look for the “Read Online Free” button above the article.

Be sure to check out the Google calendar for [professional development](#) opportunities!

The [CATESOL 2018 Annual Conference](#) Committee is now accepting proposals! The conference dates are December 6-9, 2018 in Anaheim, California.

Speaking of **CATESOL**, student [memberships](#) are now \$25/year, including: publications, access to job banks, twice-monthly e-Bulletins, e-Discussion group membership, and discounts on CATESOL events.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? [Original Volunteers](#) offers low cost supervised programs for students in education, health, IT, conservation, and construction in developing countries worldwide. Founded in 2006 in the UK, Original Volunteers broke into the market, offering affordable volunteering opportunities abroad for students on small budgets who want to experience a new culture and environment first hand.

School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA) is looking for volunteers. The founder of the school, Shabana Baij-Rashikh, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2018 TESOL Convention in Chicago, IL. She spoke about her life as a girl in Afghanistan after 9/11, her underground education, and her passion for the development of girls’ education in Afghanistan. The school is currently looking for female volunteers to work as online ESL tutors to teach young girls in Afghanistan one hour per week via Zoom. [SOLA](#)

Looking for opportunities to teach online? [VIP Kids](#) provides an international learning experience for children in China between the ages of 4-12. Headquartered in Beijing, the company offers fully immersive one-on-one English language instruction provided entirely online. The curriculum is based on the U.S. Common Core State Standards and uses a flipped-classroom approach to foster creativity and critical thinking skills.

Preston Hoppers, one of Dr. Ciancio’s previous students, just opened a tutoring service and is looking to hire additional tutors. If any teachers are interested in applying to tutor ESL through Skype (approximately \$20/hour), please inquire by sending a direct email as well as your resume to pbhoppers@gmail.com

Hancock International College is currently seeking educators to join the HIC Private Tutoring Program. This program was designed to directly address the specific needs of individual students, which could range from basic conversation practice to resume creation and interview skills to standardized test preparation. **Minimum Qualifications:** Excellent proficiency in English, B.A. (preferably in a field related to teaching/education) or TESOL Certificate, relevant experience in teaching/training. If interested, please contact the HIC Director of Education, William Arbuthnott, directly through Warbuthnott@hancock.edu



Message from the Dean of Education

March was a very busy month with both our accreditation site visit, as well as the TESOL convention in Chicago! We had a very successful site visit and I want to say a big thank you to all involved. We could not have done it without your dedication to students and the university. We are very optimistic about the results and will hear back from the commission at the end of June. The TESOL Convention was once again a fruitful and beneficial time. Being able to meet with our PAC members and graduates there was a sense of pride for me and for Westcliff University.

We are also looking forward to upcoming and new opportunities and partnerships for our education programs in the international market!

Alumni

Jennifer Wells (2017) “Next month it will be a year since completing my MA at Westcliff University. During that time I was working for Himawari Preschool, where I was an assistant instructor. I taught short English lessons once a week called "Eigo de asobou" or “Let’s have fun with English”. However, being that they were children, the lessons couldn’t be too intense and many were very intimidated by using English. Shortly after I finished the program, I completed the school year at Himawari, moved to New York, and currently work as a Resident Supervisor at Keio Academy. It’s a prestigious boarding school where the majority of the students are Japanese. Thankfully, I’ve recently been offered a second contract for next year. This will provide me with more of an opportunity to possibly teach ESL as well this upcoming year.”

Chinyere Ikoph (2018) “My Master’s program was a great achievement and accomplishment that I am indeed grateful and gratified about. Even though it was drilling, and encompassed every other thing during my two years of study, I can gladly say I was indeed enlightened and enriched with knowledge in my academic life as a TESOL teacher. However, after my program, a vacation was what I needed. I took a family vacation to Piscataway, New Jersey, as I have long wanted to mark this off my list. It was fun and I was able to spend some time in New York. I visited places like the Empire State Building,

Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History. My joy knew no bounds, as I have wanted to visit these places and enjoyed the attractions our great country has to offer." Chinyere took her rest and is currently looking at teacher credentialing programs!

Current Students



Taryn (Tran) Vo is from Vietnam and is currently enrolled in the online MA TESOL program. She has completed four courses thus far. Previously, she earned a Bachelor's Degree from the Banking University in Ho Chi Minh City. She majored in securities marketing before becoming a full-time English as a foreign language (EFL) teacher. She has worked for more than seven years with Inter-school system, one of the biggest language training centers in Vietnam. This center currently consists of ninety-five campuses, including her current school, the Premier Language School. The school is renowned for perfecting students' English abilities. Thanks to her knowledge about banking and finance, she is also teaching Business English. She is energetic, flexible, enthusiastic, punctual, persistent, and focused. Her hobbies are baking (she claims to have a to-die-for marshmallow recipe), making miniatures, and watching motion pictures. She is proud to be a student at Westcliff University and appreciates the opportunity to learn from brilliant, committed, and knowledgeable professors. The well-developed curriculum has challenged her and provided her with an opportunity to continue to develop her teaching practice.

Faculty



This year, two of our College of Education Faculty won WIJAR awards!

WIJAR annually presents three awards to honor individuals who have written outstanding articles. Faculty volunteer to anonymously review eligible articles and determine the winners by evaluating each article against set criteria. The criteria for evaluation includes

quality of the content, contribution to theory and practice, originality, technical competence, and impact on a specific field, as determined by the award theme:

Dr. David C. McKinney Award. This award recognizes outstanding business, management, and/or leadership articles written or co-written by a Westcliff University faculty member or student.

Winner of the Dr. David C. McKinney Award: Professor/DBA Student NIMA SALAMI

Salami, N. (2017) Family businesses and management information systems (MIS): Seven wise steps to become more electronically intelligent. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 1(2).

Frontline Award. This award recognizes outstanding articles which contribute to K-12 or higher education learning environments.

Winner of the Frontline Award: Professor MJ OUTCAULT HILL & ROBERT CALDWELL

Outcault Hill, M., Caldwell, R. (2017) Research in writing instruction and assessment: Current and needed research to improve student writing. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 1(2).

President's Award for the Article of Distinction This award recognizes outstanding articles which appeal to a wide range of WIJAR readers, contribute to the base of knowledge in any discipline, are substantiated by existing or new research rather than just the author's opinion or experience, present information which is intellectually stimulating, challenge existing methods of thought and application, and motivate readers to implement the new information and/or encourage additional research on the subject matter.

Winner of the President's Award for the Article of Distinction: Professor EVELIN SUIJ-OJEDA

Suij-Ojeda, E. (2017). Language awareness and the education of non-native English teachers in South America: TLA concept review and implications. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 1(2).

Professor Sheila Corwin attended the 52nd International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition in Brighton, England April 10-13, 2018. She has been busy teaching one-week courses in Florence, Italy to primary and secondary teachers from all over Europe. Courses include: Flipped Classroom, Classroom Management, Facing Diversity, CLIL, TEFL Refresher, and Project Based Learning. She recently developed and presented a three-hour seminar on "Using Songs, Music Videos, and Lyrics to Complement a Theme or Topic in your Language Learning Classroom" for English language teachers living and teaching in Italy.

Professor Sean Dailey just finished helping organize the 14th Annual Seoul Chapter Conference with [KOTESOL](#) and is now the Seoul Chapter Treasurer in addition to being the membership coordinator.

Professor Aysegul Inceoglu is actively enrolled in MOOCs and is almost finished with an EdX course on Understanding Classroom Interaction.

Presentations & Publications

***Your COE peers have been hard at work!
Here is what they have been up to since February 2018.***

Bleistein, T., & Hirashiki, J. (2018, March). *Innovations for online discussion boards for teacher education*. Presentation at the TESOL 2018 International Convention, Chicago, IL.

Diaz-Rico, L., & Ciancio, J. (2018, March). *Innovative formative assessments that enhance dispositions and motivations*. Presentation at the TESOL 2018 International Convention, Chicago, IL.

Eaton, S. E., Wagner, S., Hirashiki, J., & Ciancio, J. (2018). Understanding and exploring signature pedagogies for TESOL teacher education. *Werklund School of Education Research & Publications*. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/106441>

He, L. (2018). Direct assessment of second language writing: Holistic and analytic scoring. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 2(1), 37- 48.

Hedo, R. (2018). CALL's effectiveness in the process of second language learning. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 2(1), 49-54.

Hirashiki, J. Ciancio, J. Eaton, S.E. & Wagner, S.. (2018, March). *Developing an OER with an International collaborative team*. Presentation at the TESOL 2018 International Convention, Chicago, IL.

Kim, C., & Hirashiki, J. (2018, March). *Modern and relevant: Edpuzzle for everyday educators*. Presentation at the CATESOL LA Regional Conference, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles, CA.

Kim, C. (2018, April). *Modern and relevant: Edpuzzle for everyday educators*. Presentation at the CATESOL San Diego Regional Conference, San Diego, CA.

Outcault-Hill, M., & Caldwell, R. (2018). Improving written communication among English language learners. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 2(1), 63-68.

Suij-Ojeda, E., Diaz-Maggioli, G., Salas, A., Ortiz, E., Arango, M., Scholl, M., Mendoza, G. (2018). *English for hope: towards peace and understanding in Latin America*. Paper presented at the TESOL International Association Convention, Chicago, IL.

Vo, T. (2018). Sociocultural factors in the success of Vietnamese English learners. *Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research*, 2(1), 90-109.

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Have anything to add to the next newsletter? Please send updates to jenniferhirashiki@westcliff.edu

Interested in Submitting an Article?

The Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research (WIJAR) is published biannually by the faculty body of Westcliff University.

The purpose of the university journal is to celebrate the research as well as the scholarly and creative accomplishments of our faculty and students.

Faculty and students in all academic disciplines may submit articles to WIJAR. A call for articles will be sent one month before publication, so dust your research and writing off the shelf, polish it up, and take the next step in your professional development.

If you have questions regarding Westcliff International Journal of Applied Research, please email WJournal@westcliff.edu.