MATSOL Conference, March 17–18, 1978

Plans are well under way for the annual MATSOL conference, to be held March 17 and 18, 1978, at Boston University. Once again, the conference will take place in conjunction with the Massachusetts Association of Bilingual Educators and with the cooperation of the State Department of Transitional Bilingual Education, the Massachusetts Migrant Programs, The National Bilingual-Bicultural Assessment and Dissemination Center, and the Bilingual Program of the U.S. Office of Education.

Already confirmed as speakers are Donald Knapp, president of TESOL, and Paul Angeli, of the TOEFL Program of ETS. As usual, however, our presentations will, in general, come from you, the members of MATSOL, and we urge you to submit proposals for papers, workshops, and demonstrations as soon as possible. In order to make sure that nobody misses a presentation of relevance to their work, we are asking that all proposals employ the following format:

Name; address; affiliation;
Title of presentation; time required (½ hr, 1 hr, 1½ hrs);
Two-paragraph description;
Format: workshop, paper, hands-on demonstration, panel, film;
Materials needed: projector, video-tape

Papers should be sent no later than Feb. 25, to Amy Lezberg, Mass. College of Pharmacy, 179 Longwood Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02115.

In addition to receiving proposals, we are also anxious to receive suggestions for presenters whom you have heard elsewhere or before and who you think would be interesting to the MATSOL membership. Please let us know so we can invite them.

The following committees have already met:

Budget: Raffael de Gruttola, Amy Lezberg,
Ed Korza

Publishers: Caroline Banks, Alice Fastov,
Glynda Bell, Jean Mullen, Jeanette Pollard.

Registration: Bill Biddle, Edgar Sather

A meeting of the paper selection committee (Amy Lezberg, Glynda Bell, Jean Mullen, Caroline Banks, George Draper, Paul Stone) was held on Monday, Jan. 23, at Mass. College of Pharmacy. We can still use volunteers for that committee and for the hospitality and publicity committees. If you are interested and available, please call Amy Lezberg at 734-6700, ext 183.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Maria Fleites, chairperson the MATSOL Nominating Committee, has presented the following nominees for office for 1978–1979:

Vice-President: Caroline Banks
Secretary/Treasurer: Mary K. Dennison
Members-at-large (3): Lisbeth Britz
                           Ed Korza
                           Bryna Kaitz Lieder
                           Bambi Zimmerman

Catherine Tansey
Alice Fastov
Steven J. Molinsky
Margarita Muñiz
Alice Thayer

(Biographies of the candidates appear on pages 3 and 4.)
Fanselow Talks at Fall Get-together

by Cathie Tansey

As teachers we all know how important feedback is. It tells us when to stop and when to continue, when to guide students in one direction and when to prevent them from going in another. Feedback is an essential tool for both the teacher and the student. But have you ever stopped to analyze what feedback is, and how it affects you or your students?

John Fanselow, Associate professor of Language Arts and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, led us in an examination of the source, medium, use and content of feedback at the annual MATSOL fall get-together. We discussed what feedback is, who or what conveys it, and how it is conveyed. The purpose of this examination was to encourage us to be more effective teachers and learners and to urge us to consciously vary and shape the ways we give feedback.

Although teachers and students are the most obvious sources of feedback, Dr. Fanselow pointed out that objects are another common source of feedback. An example of this can be found in a cafeteria in the shape of a spigot on a coffee urn. When the spigot is pressed too hard, coffee splashes on the unwary victim. In this instance it would have been superfluous to tell the victim that he/she had done something foolish because the spigot had a more effective way of presenting this information.

In conveying the message, there are numerous linguistic, non-linguistic and para-linguistic ways of doing so. There are oral or written responses, sounds, facial expressions or tone of voice. As teachers, we should be aware of the forms feedback assumes because students do not always choose the most conventional ways of showing their comprehension. In fact, according to Dr. Fanselow, student feedback to teacher is often non-linguistic, involving a quizzical eye expression or a change in seating position. Furthermore, we should experiment with the different media to see which ones are more effective for particular persons or situations.

Before providing feedback, the teacher should focus on the reason for giving it. Is the purpose of feedback to evaluate a student’s performance, illustrate a problem, stimulate a discussion or merely correct an error? Feedback is flexible enough to be used for any number of reasons.

The last aspect which Dr. Fanselow covered was the message or the content of feedback. We should decide if our message will be positive or negative or simply informational. In addition, we should realize that some students do not need positive or negative feedback because they are their own best monitors. Next, we should be careful that the message is consistent with the means which is used to present it. A sharp rebuke or a high tone of voice may not convey the true message we really want to give the student.

By studying, discussing and experimenting with feedback, we can become more aware of the uses and limitations of this tool. If teachers become more sensitive to the source, means, purpose and content of feedback, we could work towards increased effective communication not only in the classroom, but also outside it.

Guest Editor for this issue of the Newsletter was Cathie Tansey. Those interested in working on the next issue of the Newsletter should attend a working meeting on Monday evening, Feb. 27 at 6 pm at CELOP. For further information, call 739-1800.
Nominees
Vice-President
Caroline Banks is an ESL teacher in the Arlington Public Schools. Prior to that, she worked for several years in modern language textbook editing and teaching French and Italian. She is especially concerned that elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts be well represented in MATSOL and that the link between public schools and institutions of higher education be a strong one. Caroline has been a member-at-large of the 1977-78 Executive Board.

Catherine Tansey began her career in TEFL as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco over seven years ago. While there, she received one of the highest teacher evaluations in the country by the Inspector of English. After Morocco, she returned to the United States to get her MAT in ESL at the School for International Training. In 1973, Cathie became a teacher at the American Language Academy in Newton and has been its director for the past two years. She is a member of TESOL and NAFLSA.

Secretary/Treasurer
Mary K. Dennison is the Director of International Programs at the Northfield Mount Hermon School. She spent four years in the Peace Corps teaching ESL to high school students. She has an A.B. from Marquette University and an MAT in ESL and French from the School for International Training. Her particular area of interest at present is learning to apply Counseling-Learning techniques to ESL. She has been a member of MATSOL for two years.

Alice Fastov is an ESL teacher (K-12) in the Brookline Public Schools and is currently enrolled at the Boston University School of Education working toward an MA in TESOL. Alice has also worked in various capacities with recent immigrants. She has been a MATSOL member since 1972 and MATSOL Job Bank Coordinator since 1975. Her other professional affiliations include TESOL, NEA, BEA, and MTA.

News from the Executive Board
At the Executive Board Meeting on December 14, 1977, the following amendments to the constitution were proposed:
1. Nominees for office must have been members of MATSOL for the year prior to nomination.
2. Nominees should have exhibited some active interest in the organization such as serving on a standing committee or making a presentation at the annual MATSOL conference.

Collier Macmillan Announces the Publication Of:
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Members-at-large (Three to be elected)

Lisbeth Britz is presently the Haitian-French Parent Advisory Committee Coordinator in the Cambridge Bilingual Department. She has worked as an elementary bilingual Haitian-French teacher as well as an ESL assistant teacher. She has an AB in Psychology from the University of Michigan and has done graduate work at Boston State College and Lesley College.

Ed Korza, Title VII Project Director in Cambridge, has worked in bilingual education as an ESL teacher and assistant director in both high school and community college levels. He has an MA in TESOL from Ohio University and is presently enrolled in a doctoral program at U. Mass-Amherst in bilingual-bicultural education. His professional affiliations include TESOL, ACTFL, and MAE. For the past two years he has been the Secretary/Treasurer of MATSOL.

Bryna Katz Lieder is an ESL teacher at Watertown High School. (No resume submitted)

Steven J. Molinsky, Associate Professor in the Boston University School of Education, is director of the MA Program in TESOL as well as of undergraduate programs in Modern Foreign Language Education. He has a BA from Trinity and an MA and PhD in Linguistics from Harvard. He has been a presenter at the 1976 MATSOL Conference and has given workshops at two College Roundtables and the 1977 TESOL Convention.

Margarita Muniz, presently a bilingual consulting teacher for the Boston Public Schools Bilingual Department, worked as an elementary bilingual teacher for five years in Boston. She has a BA from Boston University and is currently enrolled in a Master's degree program in ESL at Boston State College. She has been a MATSOL member since 1973 and is also a member of ACTFL and TESOL. She was a presenter at the MATSOL Spring Conference in 1974.

Alice M. Thayer is an assistant professor of ESL at St. Michael's College in Winooski, VT. From 1969-1973, she was the director of the Japanese Summer Study Program there. She has an MAT in ESL from St. Michael's College. Her professional affiliations include NAFLA, TESOL, ACTFL, and SIETAR. She was a presenter at the 1974 MATSOL Conference and the 1975 College Roundtable.

Bambi Zimmerman is currently working at the middle school and secondary school levels in ESL at the Multi-Community Language Center in Framingham as well as teaching ESL at Lesley College. Bambi has a BA from Jackson College and an M.Ed. from Boston University. She has also done work at the International Teacher Training Institute in London, Boston State College, and Wheelock College. She is a member of TESOL and has served on the MATSOL nominating committee.

Additional nominees may be submitted by petition signed by any ten MATSOL members in good standing. Mail petitions by February 25 to:

Edward Korza, Secretary-Treasurer
41 Longmeadow Drive
Amherst, MA 01002.

TESOL '78

The TESOL '78 program will feature a variety of presentations, including plenary sessions or panels on bilingual education, innovative methodologies, the functional/notional syllabus, and the past, present and future of TESOL. Throughout the five days of the convention, there will be papers, demonstrations, workshops, colloquia, panels, and round-table discussions on a variety of ESL/EFL topics including: adult education, applied linguistics, bilingualism, contrastive studies, culture, curriculum, grammar, the learning laboratory, literature, materials, methods, phonology, psycholinguistics, reading, research, second dialect, sociolinguistics, teacher training, testing, vocabulary/useage, and writing.

There will be special meetings for administrators, for teachers of all levels, for researchers, for members of TESOL's Special Interest Groups, for graduate students to talk informally at breakfast seminars with leaders in the field. In addition, there will be organized job interviews, opportunities to meet authors, and time to see publishers' displays of their latest publications and teaching materials. You will be able to experience language learning by one of several different methods. There will be sessions on successful classroom techniques, and on the latest research in language testing, language acquisition and classroom-centered studies. The National Association of Learning Laboratory Directors (NALLD) will be holding joint meetings with us.

The Convention is also your chance to participate in the governance of the TESOL organization through business sessions of the Affiliate Forum, the Advisory Council, the Legislative Assembly, the nine TESOL Special Interest Groups, and the various standing committees. And through the Organizational Get-Together, you can find out about allied local, national and international organizations.

Important local highlights will include a convention-wide get-acquainted Margarita Reception on the first night, hosted by MEXTESOL and the Instituto Mexicano Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales; a special performance for TESOL of the world-renowned Ballet Folklorico at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, and the TESOL presidential banquet followed by an all-convention dance/biesta. Educational visits to local schools will be available.

More detailed preliminary program information and workshop reservation forms will be distributed to TESOL members later this month. Remember—the deadline for reduced pre-registration fees is February 24.
A List of Periodicals in ESL

1. English Language Teaching Journal
   Subscription Department
   Oxford University Press
   Press Road
   Neasden, London NW 10

2. College Composition and Communication
   National Council of Teachers of English
   1111 Kenyon Road
   Urbana, IL 61801

3. TESOL Quarterly
   James E. Alatis
   School of Language and Linguistics
   Georgetown University
   Washington, D.C. 20057

4. Research in the Teaching of English
   National Council of Teachers of English
   1111 Kenyon Road
   Urbana, IL 61801

5. TESL—Teacher
   Director
   Culture Learning Institute
   East-West Center
   Honolulu, HI 96822

6. The Bridge—A Journal of Cross-Cultural Affairs
   Center for Research and Education
   2010 E. 17th Avenue
   Denver, CO 80206

7. International Journal of Intercultural Relations
   Transaction Periodicals Consortium
   Rutgers the State University
   New Brunswick, NJ 08903

   Department of Language and Literature
   University of Linköping
   Sweden

   Superintendent of Documents
   U.S. Government Printing Office
   Washington, D.C.

10. English for Science and Technology—A Newsletter
    EST Clearinghouse
    Ei-Ad S.A. 100
    Oregon State University
    Corvallis, OR 97330

11. Communicate—Newsletter of Intercultural Education, Training and Research
    Sietar
    Georgetown University
    Washington, D.C. 20057

12. ESL—Video Newsletter
    World English Center
    University of San Francisco
    San Francisco, CA 94117

13. Global Development Studies Memo
    Global Development Studies Institute
    P.O. Box 522
    Main Street
    Madison, NJ 07940

    American Council on Education
    One Dupont Circle
    Washington, D.C. 20036

15. NAFSA Newsletter
    National Association for Foreign Student Affairs
    1860 19th Street, N.W.
    Washington, D.C. 20009

Job Bank

Dear MATSOL Member:

Just a quick note from the Job Bank. After going through my files and contacting all those listed, I find myself without many people to fill jobs that come in to the Job Bank.

If there is any MATSOL member who is looking for a job or has a position to fill, PLEASE contact me in writing.

Alice Fastov
MATSOL Job Bank
515 V.F.W. Parkway
Chelmsford, MA 02167
617-327-3231

Conferences and Meetings


March 16-18. Convention of the Conference on English Education, Minneapolis, MN. For further information, write CEE Convention, NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801.

Massachusetts Association for Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages
Box 291, B.U. Station
Boston, Mass. 02215

Rafael DeGruytto, President
Boston Public Schools
Amy Lezberg, Vice-President
Mass. College of Pharmacy
Ed Korza, Secretary/Treasurer
Cambridge Public Schools
Francine Stieglitz, Editor, Newsletter
Boston University
Susan Herrera, Outgoing President
Paris, France

Members-at-Large
Caroline Banks
Glynda Bell
George de George
George Draper
Marcia Fleties
Edgar Sather

MATSOL NEWSLETTER costs are included in the annual membership dues.