



HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
ATHENS COLLEGE – PSYCHICO COLLEGE

15th Annual TESOL Greece – HAEF event
***Responding to Challenges in the
Language Classroom***



Plenary Speaker: *Lydia Stack*

HAEF Presenters: *Kathryn Dennen; Mary Efthimiou; Craig Garside; Dimi Spyropoulos*

TESOL Presenters: *John Douros; Mark Osborne; Eva Panagiotara;*

February 12th, 2017

10.30 – 14.30

Registration: 10.00 – 10.30

Athens College – Psychico College campus
Stefanou Delta 15, Psychico
Benakeio Building

[Entrance is free to TESOL Greece members](#)

10.00 - 10:30 Registration

10.30 - 10:40 Opening Remarks

10:40 – 11:30 Plenary Speaker

Responding to the Challenge of Academic Conversations in the Classroom

Presenter: Lydia Stack

One of the challenges in the English language classroom is to get students to discuss academic content. To truly make new content their own, students must be able to explain their thinking, clarify ideas, expand or build-on the thoughts of others, paraphrase and summarize what is said. Strategies and activities that show students, even beginners, how to use these discussion skills in English will be modeled.

Lydia Stack, an international English Language Teacher Educator, worked for 25 years as an elementary and secondary ESL teacher. She is currently working on a special project, “Understanding Language”, at Stanford University. She was a Past President of International TESOL. She has received teaching awards and authored a number of books for primary and secondary students learning English.

11:45 – 12:35 1st Session

Meeting the Challenge of Pronunciation Practice (for Greek speakers)

Presenter: Mark Osborne

Teachers often report that dealing with various aspects of English language pronunciation in the classroom is challenging. It is challenging for learners too, but developing their pronunciation is important both for speaking and listening performance. This session will look at some ways that pronunciation work can be approached - with special emphasis on the needs of Greek learners of English. There will be ample opportunity for audience participation in the activities.

Mark Osborne has worked in TESOL as a teacher, examiner, teacher trainer, trainer trainer and materials developer. His TESOL research interests include the use of digital technologies, vocabulary development and teacher education. Currently, he is Graduate Program Coordinator on the blended MA in TESOL at Deree - The American College of Greece.

Mindfulness in the Classroom

Presenters: Mary Efthimiou and Kathryn Dennen

What if... your students were (almost) always ready to learn? What if... they were calm and ready to listen? What if... you had the tools to make this happen? Mindfulness in the Classroom will introduce you to contemplative pedagogy and will provide you with some basic tools to help you bring yourself and your students back “in the moment”, where learning is possible!

Mary Efthymiou has been teaching English for the last 20 years, the last 11 with HAEF. She used to place a lot of focus on technology use in the classroom, creating numerous projects for her students. However, in the last few years, and with education in such a state of constant flux that puts both students and teachers under considerable strain, she started exploring different ways of creating a more stress-free environment for her students and herself. This exploration and her personal experience with meditation led her to Mindfulness; she now wishes to share this practice with as many teachers as possible.

Kathryn Anne Dennen is a Fulbright Fellow at the Hellenic American Educational Foundation (Psychico College Elementary School). She is a recent graduate of Fairfield University’s 5 Year Elementary Teacher Education Program. Her passion for education extends beyond the conventional classroom to incorporate holistic teaching strategies from art to music to dance.

The Challenge of Classroom Management: Empowering Students with Self-Discipline

Presenter: Dimi Spyropoulos

Whether a veteran-teacher or a new teacher, you have certainly had to handle a complainer, an arguer, a chatterer, a tattler, a noise maker, a slacker. The question is how we address such lack of self-control: do we punish the students for their lack of social skills or do we empower them to self-discipline?

In this workshop, we will gain a better understanding of how empowering rather than punishing students is likely to lead to better learning and behavior. We will do so by exploring simple empowering strategies such as flipping the classroom, promoting student engagement, leading dynamic discussions and teaching through technology, all of which encourage self-discipline.

Dimi Spyropoulos was born and raised in Montreal, Canada and holds a Bachelor of Education degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from McGill University, Montreal, Canada where she graduated with distinction.

Dimi has been an English teacher for over 20 years and has worked in language schools in both Canada and Greece. In 2001, she started working at Psychico College Junior and Senior High School where she currently teaches grades 7, 8 and 9.

Besides teaching, she is also very passionate about mentoring. She has been a mentor for the *Student Practice Teaching and Mentor Training Program* of the *National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (UOA)* since 2013.

Being a life-long learner, Dimi has attended many professional development conferences-seminars on the latest trends in education. She is also a member of TESOL Greece and enjoys participating in its various events.

12:35 – 13:20 LUNCH

13:30 – 14:20 2nd Session

E-Portfolios in Language Learning

Presenter: John Douros

Technology is integrated in education nowadays, enhancing language learning and acquisition. Amongst a variety of its applications in the ELT environment is the design of electronic (or digital) portfolios. The speaker will address the *what, why* and *how* of using e-portfolios, providing ways to define them, arguments for and against them as well as examples of schools that have implemented them in their syllabuses. Also, things to consider before starting building them, the necessary steps to take and tasks to do with the learners will be discussed. Finally, the audience will be introduced to platforms where e-portfolios can be hosted along with certain criteria through which they can be evaluated.

John Douros, M.Sc. Management in Education, Aston University, Birmingham, U.K., EFL/ESL Teacher, Language School Owner, British Council Online Tutor.

STEAM Education and its role within TESOL through emphasis upon technology

Presenter: Craig Garside

We can all learn through hands-on experience. Imagine empowering your students with English language skills, using this philosophy and applying it through a fusion of Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics in the TESOL environment. Let's remove traditional limitations and replace them with inquiry, critique, wonder, and innovation! This presentation will focus on what are the individual components of STEAM education, and how emphasis upon technology can be used to provide real life hands-on experiences for learners of the English language.

Craig Garside has over 10 years of language teaching experience and currently teaches English at the Hellenic American Educational Foundation, J.M Karras Kindergarten, Psychico, Athens.

Craig completed his formal studies through both Leeds and Cambridge Universities in the UK. He is also actively involved in the school's technology team, which has set-up a global Skype communication. He also has extensive teaching experience in all age groups up to and including business professionals, thus adding to his diverse ability with the TESOL environment.

Storybird: Digital Storytelling for Young EFL Learners

Presenter: Eva Panagiotara

“Storybird”, which is designed for young learners, gives the opportunity to its users to create their own free stories or poems, selecting from a wide variety of images provided by loads of artists. It breaks the traditional bond of passive EFL teaching and establishes a new era, where every student can freely use his/her imagination towards an incredibly creative “story-world”. Students enjoy the storytelling process, improve their writing skills and are very proud of becoming the authors of their own stories!

Eva Panagiotara holds a B.A in English Language and Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has been working in an English Language Institute for four years and she is a volunteer at the HAU as an assistant in the Kindergarten and as a supervisor of the study group.