

QATAR TESOL NEWS

FORMERLY QTEN

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The QTEN Conference

on April 30th is

dedicated to

Marcia Edwards Hijab.

(See story on page 3.)

QTEN BECAME QATAR TESOL ON APRIL 2, 2005!

QTEN became Qatar TESOL on April 2, 2005 when President Sarah Al-Kuwari signed the Affiliate Agreement with TESOL, Inc. Aisha Al-Kulaifi, the Qatar TESOL Vice-president talks about this experience.

Dear Qatar TESOL Friends,

Both Sarah and I attended the TESOL, Inc. International Convention for the first in San Antonio from March 29th to April 2nd. It was an overwhelming experience. More than 900 papers were presented, often at the same time!

It was a pleasure to wake up every morning and run to the convention center to learn something new. The sweetest experience was hearing people call your name as if they had known you for a long time. We cannot forget the smiles we saw everywhere on peoples' faces as they asked us if San Antonio was



The Qatar TESOL logo

treating us well!

The high point was signing the Affiliate Agreement with TESOL, Inc. Being part of "Big TESOL" has been every members' dream for a long time! We also took part in a panel and spoke on language planning and policy. That was exciting! May God forgive Jane Hoelker who suggested our names for the panel

which included speakers from Thailand and the United States. We did it. It wasn't easy. Yet we think that we will find this experience useful for future events.

So come join us next year in Tampa March 15th-19th!

Sincerely,
Aisha Al-Kulaifi

QATAR TESOL FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 24-25, 2006

Qatar TESOL, newly affiliated to TESOL, Inc, will hold its first international conference on February 24-25, 2006 (Friday and Saturday). The theme for the upcoming conference is "Best Practices in EFL/ESL."

The speakers of international stature will be announced soon. The deadline for submitting proposals is September 15, 2005. A Proceedings for the 2006 conference will also be published. Details will

be posted on the website by the end of May, 2005. Click on the Qatar TESOL website at <www.qatartesol.org> for information.

MARK ALGREN SPEAKS ON DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS

Mark Algren, the Plenary Speaker for the QTEN Conference on April 30th, discusses Blending Digital Literacy Skills in EFL Curricula.

The classic definition of literacy is the ability to read and write. But Dr. Algren questions if those two skills ever truly defined a literate person. He asks his audience to think more broadly and consider the Bedu in the desert who never attended traditional school, but who can read the sands, tracks of men and beasts and the heavens in order to find food and shelter in the environment in which

he lives. The Bedu possesses literacies that the city dweller lacks.

Algren claims that literacies are skills that emerge based on the human need to absorb or exchange information. Our students' ability to communicate effectively in the 21st century depends on digital literacy. As teachers, our goal is no longer to just teach English, but also to enable worldwide communication.

Various and numerous modes of electronic communications supplant much face-to-face or

voice-to-voice interaction. Consequently, we lose visual and aural nuance. As teachers, Algren challenges us to consider what digital literacy we need to incorporate into our curricula.

Dr. Algren is the Director of the Intensive English Program at the American University of Sharjah. He has previously taught and been an administrator at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia—with a total of 12 years in the Kingdom.

"The Bedu possess literacy skills that the city dweller lacks."

—Algren

THE NEXT GENERATION TOEFL —TOEFL iBT

According to ETS, the new TOEFL test "emphasizes integrated skills, and provides better information about test takers' ability to communicate in an academic setting." It is designed to allow institutions to make "better decisions about prospective students' academic

readiness" for the coursework required of them.

The Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) will be delivered via the Internet, allowing ETS to not only capture speech, but also standardize the scoring of responses. The new test will

be introduced worldwide in phases. It makes its first appearance in the US in September, 2005. In October 2005 it will be administered in Canada, France, and Italy, and to the rest of the world in 2006. The computer-based and paper-based versions will continue to be administered until then.

VANCE STEVENS PRESENTS VIRTUAL TALK ON BLOGGING

Vance Stevens of the Petroleum Institute in Abu Dhabi presents a virtual talk on Blogging and its impact on language learning and teacher professional development. Stevens spoke from his computer lab in Abu Dhabi to his audience in the computer lab in Doha.

Stevens explains how it is now possible for students and teachers to create their own

web pages in minutes. With minimal guidance they can extend these web pages into more elaborate web sites.

Stevens demonstrates how to configure blogs to create authentic, interactive, communi-

cative, reflective, creative and motivating learning environments that engage students.



Vance Stevens of the Petroleum Institute in Abu Dhabi.

Stevens has been presenting and publishing on CALL since 1975. He is editor of the "On the Internet" of the TESL-EJ.

DR. DONALD FREEMAN SPEAKS TO QTENAT THE ABP

Dr. Donald Freeman, from SIT (the School for International Training) in Vermont, spoke on March 14th, Monday, to QTEN on *Designing Tasks for Lower-Level Students: Integrating the Four Skills*.

Dr. Freeman discussed the research-based principles for designing listening/speaking and reading/writing tasks for students at lower English levels with examples from his latest series, *ICON*.

Dr. Freeman explained how the research he conducted provided a framework for what makes such tasks work both for the student and for the teacher.

For instance, consistency of format is essential in textbook lesson design. Students should spend classroom time learning the material, not learning how to practice the material.

Donald Freeman is Past Presi-

dent of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). He is a Professor of Second Language Education at SIT and Director of the Center for Teacher Education, Training and Research. Some of his most popular publications are about Action Research in the classroom.

A warm "thank-you" to McGraw-Hill Publishers and Imad Moutaweh, the McGraw-Hill representative, for bringing Donald Freeman to Doha.

TESOL, INC. NEWS: GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP RATES & ONLINE COURSES

TESOL, Inc. now offers two categories of Global Membership at special rates to those residing in certain countries. Qatar is one of the countries. The **Global Individual Membership** is available for \$40.00 per year and the **Global Electronic Membership** for \$25.00. Native-born cur-

rent residents and legal current residents are eligible for both types of Global Membership. The special membership invoice is online at <http://www.tesol.org/globalmembers>.

TESOL, Inc. offers Online Edu-

cation Programs. The "Principles and Practices of Online Teaching" consists of certificate foundation and completion courses and ten courses in general and content-specific topics. Click on the Professional Development heading in the menu for more information.

"Research reveals that consistency of format is essential in textbook lesson design. Students should spend time learning the material, not learning how to practice the material."

—Freeman

MEMORIAM TO MARCIA EDWARDS HIJAB IN THE ABP LIBRARY

Dr. Donald Freeman from SIT (The School for International Training) visited the Memoriam to Marcia Edwards Hijab in the Academic Bridge Program library during his March visit to Doha. Marcia Hijab graduated from SIT with an M.A. in TEFL.

SIT graduates on the ABP staff, (from left to right in the photo with Dr. Freeman) George Matthews, Jane Hoelker, Eireen Matthews and Sherry Ward, showed him the Memoriam and explained that Marcia had started the proc-

ess of forming the Qatar TESOL affiliate. The Affiliate Agreement was signed April 2nd in San Antonio by Qatar TESOL President, Sarah Al-Kuwari.

Marcia arrived in Doha to work at VCUQ. She then taught at the University of Qatar before joining the ABP in 2002 as the Coordinator of the Learning

Resource Center.

Marcia was known for her enthusiasm for sailing and often took colleagues and friends out for a sail with her husband on their boat. She met her husband when she worked in Yemen as a Peace Corps volunteer. Marcia leaves a son and a daughter.



Dr. Donald Freeman (second from left) visits the Memoriam to Marcia Hijab in the ABP Library.

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Qatar TESOL is on the web!
www.qatartestol.org



Teaching Tips

Submissions to the "Teaching Tips" column are accepted for the autumn issue of *Qatar TESOL News*. Write up your QTEN presentation and submit it as a "Teaching Tips" contribution. Send your article to Jane Hoelker by attachment at [<jhoelker@qf.org.qa>](mailto:jhoelker@qf.org.qa).

Qatar TESOL was founded on April 2, 2005 when the Qatar TESOL President, Sarah Al-Kuwari, signed the affiliate agreement with TESOL, Inc. The purpose of Qatar TESOL is to establish a network of teachers, supervisors and researchers who are committed to improving teaching in English as a Foreign or Second Language in Qatar and/or the region.

Executive Council:

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TESOL, INC. CONVENTION REPORT FROM SAN ANTONIO

The 39th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit was held from March 30th to April 2nd at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. The theme was, "A Nexus in Texas." More than 6,000 EFL teachers, educators and administrators from around the globe participated in the convention.

Plenary speakers included Paul Nation, Henry Widdowson, Doug Biber, Kathy Mellor, Juliet V. Garcia, Claudio Sanchez and Juliane House. The program included a variety of events; Concurrent and



The Alamo, a former mission, in front of the Davy Crockett Hotel in San Antonio

Exhibitor Sessions, Interest Section-sponsored Academic Sessions, InterSections, Posters, Energy Breaks, Hot Topics, Discussion Groups, Swap

Shop Pick Up and the Electronic Village.

Interest Section, Affiliate and other organizational meetings were held on March 29th. Check the website if you are interested in becoming active in one of the TESOL, Inc. "Communities."

The 40th Convention will be held from March 15th to 19th in Tampa. The theme is, "Daring to Lead." The Call for Participation is online at the website at [<www.tesol.org>](http://www.tesol.org). The deadline is June 1st, 2005 for most sessions and August 1st for poster and video theater proposals.

