

English In Georgia



November-December
2006
ISSUE NO 55

ETAG is an associate of IATEFL and an affiliate of TESOL

Editorial

Dear readers,

ETAG is as dynamic as ever. In this issue we are highlighting four important projects: pre-service teacher training, pilot course for newly qualified teachers, Business English course development and Cambridge certificate for English teachers. Please see the contents below to find the topic of your interest. I would like to thank all of the contributors, especially Nino Msakharadze, Batumi, Thea Baturishvili, Telavi, Ketii Ghvania, Poti, Diana Japaridze, Gori and Tsisana Tsiskaridze for contributing photos.

Tamuna Mardaleishvili
Editor-in-Chief

Contents

New methodology course for university students.....	1
New Course in Business English.....	1
ETAG Branches make difference.....	2
Pilot course for Newly qualified teachers	3
Cambridge Course for Teachers.....	4

a New Methodology Course for University Students

On September 22-24 Pre-Service trainers training workshop was held in Tbilisi ETAG office. The pre-service project was initiated and funded by ETAG and British Council Georgia and is in full agreement with the educational reform underway in Georgia. The trainers, pre-service methodology course book authors Rusudan Tsitsishvili, Marina Tevzaia, Nino Nijaradze, Maya Darchia and Eka Tkavashvili trained Ilya Chavchavadze state university as well as Telavi, Kutaisi and Batumi



Eka Tkavashvili, ETAG Teacher Trainer monitoring the pair work exercise



Nino Nijaradze, ETAG Teacher Trainer from Kutaisi during the warming-up session

methodology teachers to pilot the course in pedagogical departments. The overall aim of the course is to make students aware of the theories behind the teaching of English as a Foreign Language and prepare them for their first teaching experiences in the classroom. The mid meeting with the trainees are planned to be held in January to give feedback on the course. John Scafidi American Embassy Senior English Language Fellow is doing observation to help finalize the course-book with the comments and suggestions.

British Council and ETAG Support NEW COURSE Development in Business English

MAYA ROGAVA

BELD course coordinator

Work on the Business English course development has already started. Maya Rogava gives us a brief update on where the project is at and when can we expect the live course to begin.

What is BELD?

A 40-hour in-service Business English Language Development (BELD) course for teachers is being developed by a team of four teachers of English. This course is initiated and supported by the British Council Georgia and English Teachers' Association of Georgia.

By integrating the basic principles of communicative language teaching with vital elements of Business Communication training and providing the specialist language knowl-

edge required to teach BE, this course will enable the participants to feel confident and start teaching BE. Apart from this, they will acquire important content knowledge and a range of skills which they can successfully use in General English classroom as well. We offer a Business English learning course. It aims to help teachers overcome the barrier and encourage them to start teaching Business English. It is not a course in teaching methodology, and does not aim to change the way teachers conduct their classes. However, it is hoped that the participants will enjoy the way this course is delivered and, that will in a way influence their classroom teaching. So, the course objective is - to provide practicing EFL teachers with the background knowledge to teach Business English.

Who is BETT for?

The trainees should have at least intermediate level. Business English teaching experience is not required. Applicants will be offered a short test of their English, and will be admitted on the course if they can show they have the required level.

How is BETT organized?

BELD is divided into two 20-contact-hour stages, plus 40 extra hours of work by the participants as home assignments.

What are our short-term plans?

The first pilot training of trainers is planned for the beginning of February 2007. Before that the already designed parts will be trialed in groups of Business English students.

Gamarjoba to ETAG members



JOHN SCAFIDI

English Language Fellow, USA Embassy, Tbilisi

Garmajoba. For those ETAG members I haven't met, allow me to introduce myself. I'm John Scafidi, Georgia's new SELF (Senior English Language Fellow) and I am thrilled to be assigned to this beautiful country. Although I have

been here only a little more than two months, I feel quite at home experiencing first hand the Georgian warmth and hospitality that I only read about while planning my trip here. I've heard so many positive things of Diane Millar, my predecessor, that it is going to be 'a hard act to follow' but I am willing to meet this challenge and contribute to ETAG's contin-

uing success. Georgia is at a very crucial stage in its rich history and English teaching is a vital part of this wonderful and sometimes difficult transition. I applaud all of you for the strides you have achieved and the goals you have set to help your country become an integral part of the twentieth-first century world theater. By the end of this year I will have visited all the ETAG regional offices, given workshops, observed Presett classes and hopefully gotten feedback on how I can help your programs develop. In Tbilisi I am working with fellow ETAG members and the British Council on developing an English for Business Purposes training manual and hopefully in the beginning of 2007 we will be piloting this new program. In 2007, I will again be visiting all the regions and having workshops on Books in the Box or other areas where there is a need. I am looking forward to my travels, meeting all ETAG members and assisting in the enhancement of your programs' continuing development.

ETAG Branches make difference

Batumi

TAMAR MGELADZE *Batumi ETAG Head*

On the 1st of October Batumi ETAG office welcomed 20 teachers from different secondary schools of Batumi to attend the mini-conference "Model lessons for school Teachers" organized by ETAG Batumi trainers. Among special guests were representatives of local Authorities, Ministry of Education, Soros Foundation and a Guest speaker Mrs Dori Nielson, GEDA West Coordinator. The theme of the conference was chosen by ETAG core team and our aim was to demonstrate how to apply the activities of our courses in practice with our own resources, how to use textbooks in an appropriate way and how adapt those activities according to teachers' needs and level of the learners. Our trainers Nelly Kukhaleishvili, Inga Badaliani, Nino Kvantaliani, Tamar Mgeladze together with our colleagues -school teachers Nato Mgeladze and Nino Maisuradze presented three model lessons based on school material, piloting textbooks. The lessons offered by the presenters attended to interests and needs of the participants as well as the guests. Comments and suggestions given in their feedback make us feel confident and satisfied. Batumi ETAG trainers have come all the way to this important event and we're proud and excited as the conference turned out to be a real success, the way to promote our training courses and involve more school teachers in the future, to establish closer contacts with schools and all those private establishments where English is taught. Finally I'd like to take this opportunity and once more again thank all the participants and especially my colleagues who did the greatest job to turn the event a success.

NINO MAISURADZE, *BSU says about the course*: "Teacher trainers made us move away from the traditional teacher-centered

classroom. We were involved in the conference. All of us got enormous help and guidance from the model lessons. We would be grateful and very thankful if such conferences are conducted more frequently.

Telavi - What's new?

✓ Number of our members increased as we have 15 new members and they are from the villages of Kvareli, Lagodekhi, Gurjaani and Akhmeta regions. They come to our meetings with great enthusiasm as they like the workshops very much. Now we're beginning TT courses and they want to participate in them. So, we began our work successfully and we hope the whole year will be very fruitful.

✓ On November 10-11 a Senior English Language Fellow John Scafidi visited Telavi ETAG. On Friday, 10 he attended Presett Project in Methodology and on Saturday John held the workshop - Using four skills during one lesson on the topic "New York City". It was very interesting and impressive. At the end of the lesson John gave different books to different groups of teachers and the teachers created their versions of the Lesson Planning using four skills. Then, a Peace Corps Volunteer, Joseph Coyle, held a workshop: "Using Pictures while Speaking Activities". The workshop was very interesting. We enjoyed the Saturday meeting very much. The teachers planned that they would use the activities at their lessons.

Gori - What's new?

✓ In September and October 9 new members joined ETAG and 9 teachers renewed their membership

✓ On 23 September ETAG Gori branch had its first meeting. Many old and several new members were glad to meet each other to share ideas and experiences again.

✓ In the month of October Gori ETAG had two Saturday meetings. On 7 October 34 ETAG members attended the session New Assessing Criteria. On 21 October Nino Tlashadze conducted a session on FCE Exams.

✓ On 28 October MLLT 2 started for 13 teachers who had already got certificates of MLLT 1.

✓ During this period ETAG Gori branch head met and talked to a lot of beginner teachers who have started teaching at school this year.

✓ Many teachers visit ETAG not only on Saturdays but every day to borrow books, ask for advice and find out the news.

Poti Branch Off and Running

The Poti branch kicked off the new academic year on Sept 8, when Ms. Maka Iobadze, Ms. Keti Ghvania, and the members set goals for the year. At the next September meeting, Ms. Iobadze gave a session on helping the members motivate their students to participate more in class. In October, Poti branch held two regular meetings. At one, Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) Janet Mangus gave the members some dictation. The aim of this session was to help members overcome some of the common pitfalls for non-native speakers. At the other regular meeting in October, PCV Thais-Lyn talked about writing an effective, attention-getting "CV", or resume. Also in October, Poti branch hosted a MELT training. Ms. Neli Kukhaleishvili, a senior trainer, traveled from Batumi to lead this training, which occurred over two weekends. Assisting her were Ms. Iobadze and Ms. Natia Khargelia. The members found this training to be dynamic and most worthwhile.

A Pilot Course for Newly Qualified Teachers

NELLY KUKHALEISHVILI, MARINA CHKHIKVADZE ETAG teacher-trainers

Our participation in the English Language Teachers' Association Summer School organized by the British Council Romania in Sinaia, between 31st July- 5th August, led to the preparation of the training course using materials from the starter pack "Steps to Success" for newly-qualified teachers by Sue Leather. The starter gave us ideas about how to organize the material given in the starter pack, what to include in the training course, how much time to allot to different modules, how to adapt them to our teaching context and how to plan them sequentially.

The training manual for the first ten hours, though tentative, is structured in the following way: **Module A . Classroom skills and competencies**

Unit One. 4 hour course in managing your classroom and your students.

Unit Two. 4 hour course in planning your lessons and your course.

Unit Three. 2 hour course in grammar and vocabulary.

We were anxious to see how it all would work in practice and decided to try out the procedures written for the manual. Piloting of the first ten hours was scheduled for November 4-5, at ETAG Batumi office. It showed that timing was more or less accurate, materials linked well, with a few exceptions, but some parts need revision and to be tried out again. As for the group of newly-

qualified teachers, it consisted of university and school teachers plus fourth year students. Our NQTs had a busy, intensive and emotionally loaded weekend. They took part in microteaching, did their homework, wrote their reflections in diaries and got homework for the second part of the training course which will take place in December. They wrote in their diaries that they were shy and frightened before coming to the sessions, but the sessions helped them to gain confidence, realize the necessity of help in the form of trainings and feel motivated to develop. Piloting was observed by Batumi ETAG teacher-trainers I. Badaliani, T. Kvachadze and T.Mgeladze who helped us with their comments and our acknowledgements go to them.

ETAG branch heads and managers meeting

Traditional Meeting of ETAG branch heads and managers took place in ETAG central office on October 20-21. The meeting passed in a cosy atmosphere as usual and several important issues were discussed alongside.

Firstly, it was noted that a Business course would take a start in branches led by Maya Rogava. The managers were also informed about the starting of TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test) which is a Cambridge Course for Teachers.

It also became clear that Nelly Kukhaleishvili and Marina Chkikvadze would conduct a pilot course for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT) in Batumi. The project is a 20-hour course and is in corporation with Romania, Macedonia and Azerbaijan.



Future Events

ETAG 40 Hour Training Courses

ETAG Tbilisi will hold two 40 hour courses in December. "Language Development for English Language Teachers will be conducted by Mzia Skhulukhia, Lela Abdushelishvili, Nana Kachabava, Maya Kiasashvili, Nona Chavchavadze. "More Learning Less Teaching Course will be conducted by Mzia Chkonia, Vika Kuprashvili, Ketik Purtskvanidze. Both courses will start on December 2. The enrollment deadline is November 22.

Regional ELT Conference in Batumi

In March 2007 ETAG is going to organize a regional ELT conference in Batumi.

Teaching Knowledge Test

Cambridge Test for Teachers will run from November 25 until December 23 at ETAG Tbilisi office 36 Chavchav. Ave. The course will be conducted by Maya Kiasashvili, Rusiko Tsitsishvili and Rusiko Tkemaladze.

For more information on the courses contact ETAG Courses Secretary, Lali Mdinardze at 25 08 56 or by e-mail etag_courses@caucasus.net

Congratulations!

to *Nelly Kukhaleishvili* for being selected to participate in the British Council Seminars to be held in Cambridge on December 10-15. The theme is Associations development. Nelly was one out of three other candidates from different parts of the world who got Hornby Funding for attending the Seminar. Nelly was selected for her huge commitment to ETAG activities and her contribution to the development of the Ajara branch of ETAG!!!

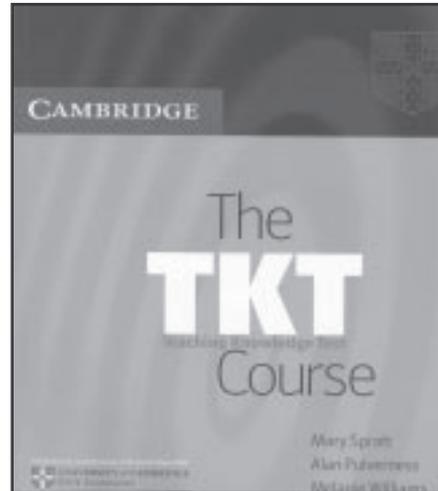
Books in a BOX



ETAG would like to note that US embassy sponsored a project "Books in a Box." Within the framework of the project ELT books were delivered to all ETAG branches.

On 25 November at the ETAG Saturday meeting in Tbilisi John Scafidi and Nino Vazagashvili will run a training according to the project.

Cambridge Course for Teachers



The first team of teachers will be trained from November 26 to December 24 for the TKT exam. The TKT is a Cambridge Test for English Language Teachers. Administered by the British Council the test will take place on January 16 and successful candidates will be awarded Cambridge Certificate for Teaching English.

The preparatory course in TKT is specially designed by ETAG to help teachers get ready for the Test. The trainers are: Maya Kiasashvili, Rusudan Tsitsishvili and Rusudan Tkemaladze. To get enrolled for the second training contact your branch head or manager in February 2007. The Test is administered by the British Council.



Christmas Jokes and Riddles

1. What do elves learn in school?
2. What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
3. What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?
4. Why does Santa have 3 gardens?
5. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
6. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
7. What kind of bird can write?
8. What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?
9. What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?
11. What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?

1. The elf-abet; 2. The Christmas alphabet has no L; 3. Silent Night; 4. So he can hoe hoe hoe; 5. Frosted Flakes; 6. Frostbite; 7. a pen-guin; 8. Claustrophobic; 9. Sandy Claws; 11. Crisp Cringle.

Tamuna Mardaleishvili - Editor-in-chief

Eka Tkavashvili - Assistant Editor

Naniko Gilauri - Assistant Editor

Rusudan Tkemaladze - Editorial advisor

Comments, suggestions and contributions to this publications should be sent at etag_newsletter@yahoo.com, or delivered to your local branch office.

ETAG Central office: Chavchavadze Ave. 36, University 5th building, 2nd floor, r. 8. Tbilisi, Georgia

Office Hours 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tel: 25 08 56 e-mail: etag.tbilisi@caucasus.net

Website: www.etag.ge