

English In Georgia



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ETAG is an associate of IATEFL and an affiliate of TESOL

Conference in Kyiv

□Kyiv was undeniably hospitable, friendly and magnificent□

NANA SHAVISHVILI
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Head

The Third Regional English Teaching Caucasus Conference on Curriculum Development was held in Kyiv, Ukraine on May 14-15, 2007. The Conference was organized by Dr. Lisa Harshbarger, Regional English Language Officer for Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the support of the US Embassies in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Groups of educators, representatives of Armenian English Language Teachers Association, Azerbaijan English Teachers Association and English Teachers Association of Georgia, were kindly invited to the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv. The delegation of Georgia was represented by Miranda Berishvili (Ministry of Education), Marina Chkhikvadze (Ministry of Education), Nelly Kukhaleishvili (Batumi University), Nana Shavishvili (Tbilisi ETAG Head, Georgian-American University), Eka Topuria (Kutaisi University), Marica Sikharulidze (Ministry of Education) and John Scaffidi (English Fellow in Georgia). In Kyiv we were joined by three Abkhaz teachers.

The goal of the Conference was to explore how national curriculums could become compatible with the Common European Framework for Language Learning (CEF) and how training and teaching programs

could be developed to promote coherent, efficient, effective modern language learning for all types of learners.

We were presented with the major goals of CEF, which are set to:

- promote and facilitate cooperation among educational institutions in different countries;
- provide a sound basis for the mutual recognition of language qualifications;

• assist learners, teachers, teacher trainers to stipulate and coordinate their efforts.

We were also presented with practical implications and standards of the CEF in all four skills as well as assessing and implementation strategies.

It was our particular pleasure to have a chance of sharing the Georgian experience in this field with our fellow colleagues. And of course we didn't miss the opportunity to establish new contacts and make friends and prove once again that human factor always works superbly despite all controversies.

Kyiv was undeniably hospitable, friendly and magnificent.

On behalf of all the participants I would like to thank the US Embassy in Georgia for providing financial support to attend the 3rd regional English Teaching Caucasus Conference on Curriculum Development.



Editorial

One more academic year is nearing an end. I was an exceptionally hard one, wasn't it? With the reform process going up and down for some of you. How was it for ETAG? It was full of new projects, activities, events. In this issue you will read about the conference in Kyiv, all the exciting events taking places in ETAG branches throughout Georgia, some interesting tips for practicing teachers and some

The next issue is due in October. We are planning to launch a new feature by focusing on reform process in schools and higher institutions. Please let us know what is your special interest! What worries you about the reform? What would you like to know? Please let us know what are the other issues of interest? Concern? Please let us make the Newsletter work for you! Our contact information is on the back of the Newsletter. I wish you all the most enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Tamuna Mardaleishvili
Editor-in-Chief

ETAG Branches make difference



ETAG Poti Welcomes Back John Scafidi

KETI GVANIA, Poti

In early December of 2006, ETAG Poti branch was pleased to have as guest speaker Senior English Language Fellow Mr. John Scafidi. In early May, John honored us with a return visit to give a two-day workshop on Academic Writing.

19 members attended and actively participated in this training. Members were representative in their enthusiasm. When asked if they found the sessions benefi-

cial, their response was, "very much! Of course!" Current plans contemplate another visit from John, perhaps this Fall.

ETAG Poti wishes to thank John for his dedication to our continuing education, and also for the personal warmth and friendliness we feel from him. We wish him every success in Georgia and in life.

Cooperative learning in our classrooms

NELLY KUKHALEISHVILI, Batumi

Doctor Suzanne Hampton from Montana University conducted a 12 hour voluntary training for school teachers and ETAG trainers at ETAG Batumi Branch which took place in April 14- 21. The topics covered were: Lesson Planning and Cooperative Learning, Songs and Rhymes and Educational Games in the Classroom. The last day of the training was devoted to

micro-teaching where Batumi trainers demonstrated the principles of cooperative learning adjusting it to their teaching resources.

Our acknowledgements go to Suzanne Hampton for her exciting and wonderful trainings, for those invaluable books that she donated to our library and to Doctor Dori Nielson, Regional Advisor of GEDA (Georgia Accreditation and Decentralization Project) who made Suzy's visit to Batumi possible.

Rustavi- events chronology

MAIA DUGASHVILI, Rustavi

21 April - "How to Share Student Writing" was represented by the Guest from Tbilisi American Council Trainer Nestan Gongadze. Teachers from different schools of Rustavi attended the session.

5 May - Tsitsino Kavtarashvili our Language Development Trainer conducted a workshop on "Using Linkers". The teachers took active part in the activities.

12 May "Essay Writing" was the topic of the workshop of Manana Ruseishvili, Developing Writing Skills Trainer from Tbilisi. She spoke about *Continued on p. 4*

Successful completion of piloting NQT

On May 5-6, 2007 ETAG trainers Nelly Kukhaleishvili and Marina Chkhikvadze completed the piloting of NQT course with 11 trainees. The group of trainees was represented by 2 university, 6 school teachers and 3 fourth year students. The training was observed by ETAG trainers: T. Kvachadze, I. Badaliani and N. Mgeladze.

On the first day the trainees reviewed the first ten hour piloted modules and checked homework, which involved interviewing two experienced language teachers on lesson and course planning according to the given questions. The trainers and trainees discussed and summarized the results of the interviews. The second half of the session was devoted to

piloting of Module B: Developing skills.

On the second day Module B-Developing skills-assessment, Module C-materials and resources-Making learning enjoyable and memorable, Module D-Developing as a teacher, professional development, personal development, making the most of your colleagues were covered. It should be mentioned that piloting showed that the course helped our trainees tackle the problems they experience in planning the course and the lesson, point out ways of developing practical skills in their students, introduce to key issues of assessment and perceive themselves as developing teachers. This is what the trainees wrote in their evaluation questionnaires: "...the course gave us an opportunity to find out the solutions to our problems", "I'd like to steal as many interesting items as possible and share my knowledge with other teachers", "...Working in groups with other teachers was really useful for me because it made me feel confident and speak up without any shyness".

During the teacher development session, when the trainees were asked to name all those institutions, people, etc. they looked for support, the first supporter they named was ETAG which gave them an opportunity to be trained in this course.

What is Cooperative Learning?

Cooperative learning, also known as collaborative learning, is a body of concepts and techniques for helping to maximize the benefits of cooperation among students during teaching and learning when integrated into the teaching program. Students develop collaborating skills and just a few of the many that are important for successful collaboration are: checking that others understand, asking for and giving reasons, disagreeing politely and responding politely to encouragement. Collaborative skills often overlap with thinking skills, e.g., asking for and giving reasons pushes students to think more deeply and encourages them to explain what they have said. If you want to make cooperative learning successful, decide on roles for the group so everyone has a job. Some roles are reader, writer, includer (who makes sure everyone is talking), praiser (encourager), checker to see if everyone in the group understands and any other roles that will fit with your lesson or you see a need for. Another important factor is to teach your students the following skills:

- a Move into groups quietly
- a Share ideas and opinions
- a Encourage everyone to participate
- a Ask each other questions

(Adapted from: Circles of Learning, Johnson, Johnson and Holubec)

We would like to share with the readers of our Newsletter how to integrate the techniques of cooperative learning into the teaching process.

How to make the opening lines of a text more involving

Aim: To demonstrate the principle of cooperative learning in the prelude and presentation stages of the reading class.

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Time: 10-15 minutes

Subject: Intensive Reading

Material: a) Prepare cards with roles written: Speaker 1, Speaker 2, Elicitor 1, Elicitor 2. b) Copies of the story "The Wind Blows" by K. Mansfield (or any other story).

Procedure Prelude

1. Write down the roles on the board and explain: Elicitors elicit the information, Speakers speak and answer the Elicitors.
2. Divide the class into groups and tell the groups to choose the names for their groups out of categories: animals, flowers, countries
3. Distribute the roles in the group with the help of cards: Speaker 1, Speaker 2, Elicitor 1, 2. The number of Speakers and Elicitors depends on the number of students in the group. e.g. If you have 4 students in the group, you will have 2 speakers and 2

elicitors.

4. Tell the Elicitors to ask speakers to describe what they hear, see, smell and feel when the wind blows.

5. Ask the question: What do you hear, feel and see when the wind blows?

6. Call a number of a speaker and the name of the group and ask the student to share the information with the class. e.g. Speaker 2 - Dogs, Speaker One - Cats, Speaker 1 - Bees, Speaker 2 - Lions

Presentation

1. Tell the group to exchange the roles (speakers become elicitors and elicitors speakers).

2. Tell the groups you are going to read the first paragraph and students should answer the following question: What did the main character hear and see? How did she feel?

Suddenly -dreadfully -she wakes up. What has happened? Something dreadful has happened. Nothing has happened. It is only the wind shaking the house, rattling the windows, banging piece of iron on the roof and making her bed tremble. Leaves flutter - up and away. Summer is over- everything is ugly. How hideous life is-revolting, simply revolting.....

3. Tell the Elicitors to elicit and jot down.

4. Call a number of a speaker and the name of the group and ask the student to share the information with the class.



Peace Corps Georgia Announces

The competition for Georgian public schools to participate in Secondary Education/English teaching project. The winning schools will have the opportunity to cooperate with American English teacher throughout 2008-2010 academic years; enhance the level of teaching English and introduce new methodologies within the school. Peace Corps has been successfully implementing Education Program in regions of Georgia for 6 years already. We invite the schools of regions of Georgia (except Tbilisi) that have English language as a foreign language in the school at least 15 hours per week to participate in the competition.

In order to participate in the

competition you need to provide a filled application form to Peace Corps Georgia office. Application forms are available at the regional resource centers or at Peace Corps

Georgia office at the following address:

Peace Corps Georgia
110 b Burdzgla Street
Sairme Hill

The deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2007

For additional information, please contact Education Program staff:

Eka Zhvania
Asmat Sikharulidze
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ETAG Branches make difference

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Rustavi- events chronology

MAIA DUGASHVILI, *Rustavi*



writing courses, how important they are. "Learning to write well is step-by- step process. The ability to write is not a talent one is born with .You can learn to write well if you try hard and complete each assignment to the best of your ability by spending considerable time and effort on it." The speaker spoke about essay writing,

we analyzed two samples of Essays written at the national exams. The workshop was very useful and important for everybody attending the session.

1 June Rustavi ETA G Branch hosted American Peace Corp Volunteer, Van Nguyen. She spoke about the importance of Life Skill education. She informed participant teachers about the eight Life skills categories. Such as: decision making, character, team work, general health, communication, emotional health , conflict resolution and self-esteem. The participants expressed their gratitude to Peace Corp volunteer and her counterpart teacher, Ia Tabukashvili.

ETAG Gori

On April 28 and 29 a Senior English Language Fellow John Scafidi conducted a workshop. 14teachers attended the course

and all of them were awarded the certificates. Teachers found the workshop interesting and useful.

In April ETAG Gori members attended a club meeting at Gori Public School No9. An English teacher Diana Japaridze and her students staged a play "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

In May ETAG Gori was invited at St. George's School. A young teacher Nana Kachkachishvili conducted a lesson using communicative methods and approaches.

A group of teaches finished their training "Language Development for English Language Teachers" with trainers from Tbilisi Nana Kachabava and Nona Chavchavadze. They fulfilled all the assignments and course requirements.

ETAG Gori is proud that our branch member Marina Terterovi is the TEA winner. She will spend this summer in the United Stated and com back with new ideas and plans.

Can you think of Georgian Equivalent for these English Proverbs?

Every one can find fault, few can do better

Every dog has its day

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

An ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit

An idle brain is the devil's workshop

Discretion is the better part of valor

Between the devil and the deep sea

It is easier to find fault in other people's actions or methods than to do it properly or correctly.
One who has nothing to do will be tempted to do many mischievous acts.
One should not risk everything he has in a single venture.
avoiding a dangerous or unpleasant situation is sometimes the most sensible thing to do.
Between the devil and the deep sea
It is better to be careful and discrete than to be clever.
Everyone will get a period of success or satisfaction during his lifetime.

Tamuna Mardaleishvili - Editor-in-chief

Eka Tkavashvili - Assistant editor

Naniko Gilauri - Assistant Editor

Rusudan Tkemaladze - Editorial advisor

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