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## Upcoming Events

BALDERDASH! A benefit for the Children's Book Bank, April 29, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Pronunciation Techniques for ESL Teachers (tutors are welcome). April 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., PCC Cascade Campus

Tutor Training, June 18 & 25, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., PCC Sylvania Campus

## Literacy - The Ticket to Success

A report card on the 2011 Tutor Conference  
by Peggy L. Murphy

Once again, the Portland Literacy Council's annual tutor conference combined inspirational and informative workshops, amazing student speakers, and good old-fashioned planning and hard work. The conference re-energizes and motivates tutors who are the backbone of local volunteer literacy efforts.

The Tutor Conference attendance numbers continue to grow each year, with 124 attendees this year. Fifteen presenters and 15 workshops provided content ranging from hands-on activities, culture exchange, and a documentary film about the challenges faced by undocumented youth.

## Program Highlight - the Amazing Student Speakers Who Reach into Our Hearts



Eliuth Ayala, Hongcuc (Cookie) Ritter, and  
Guadalupe Andres Sales Ordonez

While conference attendees spend the morning and afternoon sessions learning, the luncheon program with its student speakers rivets the tutors' attentions to the realities adults face in leaving their countries and learning new languages.

Speakers' topics this year ranged from surviving a genocide, adjusting to cultural differences, and finding inspiration to improve English skills. The speakers, all from St. Anthony's Catholic Church program in Tigard, were Guadalupe Andres Sales Ordonez, Hongcuc (Cookie) Ritter, and Eliuth Ayala.

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## Surviving Genocide

The first speaker, Mr. Ordonez, who was born in Mexico in 1985, recounted his family's experiences of the 1980s when there was much conflict in Central America. The family is Maya and had lived for generations in Guatemala until the conflict forced them to take refuge in the mountains where they sought shelter behind boulders and among tree roots. Fleeing from soldiers, they survived shootings, bombings, diseases and the weather. The family escaped to Mexico where they received support and asylum.

When he was 10 years old, Mr. Ordonez's father recounted to him the family's survival during that desperate time, yet instilled in him a love for their homeland of Guatemala. His family has scattered to Mexico, Guatemala, the United States and Spain, yet Mr. Ordonez continues to look forward to the day he might return and live in Guatemala. In addition to learning English, he is learning all phases of construction so that when he returns he can use this knowledge to help his family.

Mr. Ordonez chose the genocide for his speech topic because he believes few Americans know of these events. He reminded us that many immigrants carry important stories about the world that they can share with us once they learn our language.

## English Success

Hongcuc (Cookie) Ritter has been taking English classes at St. Anthony's in Tigard since 2006. Her command of English includes humor, and she shared with us her American husband's assertion that she is from the moon rather than Vietnam.

Ms. Ritter's speech focused on cultural differences between Vietnam and the US. She misses being able to walk down the street from 6 a.m. to midnight, listening to music and seeing the many restaurants where tasty food is served day and night. She noted, in contrast, that our restaurants close early and that we have to drive to get our food.

Another contrast is the weather. Ms. Ritter finds Portland cold in winter and hot in summer. In Vietnam, thunderstorms shook school buildings and lightning was a noisy reminder of the weather.

While she used to carry a dictionary wherever she went, Ms. Ritter is now enrolled in spring term ESL Level 5 classes at PCC. Her goal is to help other Vietnamese people who don't speak English.

## Music Makes the World Go Round

Eliuth Ayala has been living in the US for ten years. He has used grocery store produce, music, television, and St. Anthony's English classes to learn the language. His favorite groups include U2 and Guns N' Roses; he has a special affinity for Ryan Adams.

Mr. Ayala related how he would hear the Ryan Adams' song "Everything I Do I Do for You," and although he didn't understand the lyrics he just knew that was how he felt about his wife. As a present one year, he gave her a recording of the song. When he finally understood the words, they confirmed his intuition about his emotions.

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## Tutor Support Makes a Difference

The three speakers are from the Advanced Class at the ESOL program sponsored by St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Tigard. Carolyn Talarr, a tutor at the St. Anthony's program, worked many hours with the students, helping them polish their speeches and presentations. Ms. Talarr's background includes working in community-based organizations in New York City for several years.

## Attendees Give the Conference High Accolades



Ann L. Gazeley, Gerald Jay Dollarhide, and Michael Barnes Weidlich

A review of conference evaluations shows high regard for the 2011 program. This sampling of comments have been paraphrased and edited for clarity.)

Conference attendees report being challenged by contagiously enthusiastic instructors. Many noted a newfound or enhanced empathy for non-native speakers. Practical, hands-on activities and new techniques were highly appreciated. Several reported that they got new insights into how much they need to learn. Presenters and moderators were described as knowledgeable, warm, friendly, flexible -- an empowering community full of excellent energy and stimulating conversation.

## Kudos to Workshop Presenters and Moderators

Workshop presenters and moderators at this year's conference hail from Portland Community College, Clark College in Vancouver, Clackamas Community College, Multnomah University, Mt. Hood Community College, People-Places-Things, and Sunset ESL, and Concordia University. Presentations include:

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Phoebe Daurio	Incorporating Reading Strategies and Activities into Your Lessons	Clark College
Harriet Gibson	Reading from Scratch	ELS Schools; PCC
Jennifer Hall	How to Teach Simple Past Tense to Low-Intermediate Students	PCC
Kathleen Holloway	Moderator, "Papers" a documentary	PCC
Nanci Leiton	Practical Grammar	PCC; Sunset ESL

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<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Workshop Title</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Patrik McDade	The Real World is Multilevel; Less Talk More Language co-presenter	People-Places-Things
Edit McDonald	How to Teach Simple Past Tense to Low-Intermediate Students	PCC
Maria Muscarella	Becoming American	Clark College
Les RiveraMore	Beginning Level ESL Activities	Clark College; PCC
John Runcie	Conversation, Ping Pong and Other Fun Ways to Teach English	PCC; Multnomah University
Jennifer Snyder	Engage Students with Hands-On Practice Activities	PCC
Andrea Vergun	I'm No Good at Writing	Clackamas CC
Kay Talbot	Moderator Tutor Discussion Session and Culture Exchange	PCC
Tamara Wallace	Less Talk More Language, co-presenter	Living Stages
Janet Wylie	Bringing ESOL to Life: An introduction to Problem-Posing	PCC, Mt Hood CC

## Donors - Luncheon Door Prizes

Local businesses continue to donate door prizes to show their support of the valuable public services provided by adult literacy professionals and tutors. Please return the favor of your patronage to this year's donors:

Acapulco Gold	Alder Creek Kayak	All Star Fitness
Starbucks on NE Broadway	Starbucks in Sellwood	The Broadway Rose Theatre
E'Njoni Café	Higgins Restaurant	Albertina Kerr Bicycles
Lauro Kitchen	Lake Oswego Tutoring	New Seasons (Sellwood)
Mama Mia Trattoria	Old Wives' Tales Restaurant	Old Spaghetti Factory
Portland Nursery	Portland Literacy Council	Starbucks on Barbur Blvd
Secret Aardvak Hot Sauce	Yoga Pearl	

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## Backstage Supporting Cast

Once again, the combined efforts of Portland Literacy's board and other volunteers created a great learning experience.



Lisa Davidson, Audrey Lee, Trina Hing, and Gary Marschke

Kris Magaurn, Chair, Portland Literacy Council, is our executive producer and the Super Glue that makes this conference successful year in and year out. Kris plans the program, recruits presenters, focuses the board members, and is the luncheon MC. Her command of hundreds of conference details is key to its success.

Audrey Lee of the PLC board set up the first-ever online registration for the conference, monitored workshop availability and communicated with attendees, prepared conference packets, and coordinated registration check-in on conference day.

PLC board members secured door prize donations, set up and monitored conference day activities, assisted with registration check-in, prepped luncheon tables, packed up all of the odds and ends, and

hundreds of other et ceteras. Special thanks to Sharon Callan, Emilia Gilroy-Sander, Troy Hickman, Gary Marschke, Penny Russman, and Peggy Murphy.

PLC thanks Trina Hing, ESL teacher at PCC's SE Center and Lisa Davidson for helping with registration.

## The Setting

PLC thanks Reed College SEEDS program for conference space and to Marty for his technical support. Luncheon provided by Bon Appetit Catering.

## Return Engagement

Next Year's Conference is Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Reed College.

## **BALDERDASH!**

### **A Benefit for the Children's Book Bank**

Match lexical wits with local celebrities at a benefit for the Children's Book Bank. Balderdash! includes wordsmithing local celebrities, a silent auction, appetizers, adult beverages, and a bedtime story.

Saturday, April 29, 2011, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
BodyVox Theatre, 1201 NW 17th Avenue Portland  
This event is 21+.

The Children's Book Bank provides new and used books to children. Help bring the joy of reading to the children in our community. Get program details and purchase tickets online through the Children's Book Bank website ([children'sbookbank.org](http://children'sbookbank.org)).

Portland Literacy Council and the Children's Book Bank are community partners.

## **Training and Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Talk Time Volunteer at Multnomah County Library**

Multnomah County Library is looking for facilitators for Talk Time, an informal conversation practice group for people learning English. If you are a "quiet extrovert" who is comfortable with silent moments, can make people feel welcome and safe in a group setting, Talk Time might be right for you. The library provides training, and is looking for people to bring flexibility and humor to weekly sessions. Talk Time is comprised of English speakers from many countries who have varying levels of English speaking and listening skills. Having fun while learning is encouraged, and all topics of conversation are open for discussion. Groups meet weekly and the Library hopes for at least a six-month commitment from volunteers.

Contact: Melissa Madenski, Adult Literacy Coordinator, Multnomah County Library, telephone 503-988-6318. Details on volunteering for Multnomah County Library.

### **Pronunciation Techniques for ESL**

ORTESOL (Oregon Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) is presenting a one-day workshop led by Susan Ginley, a speech language pathologist from PSU. Ms. Ginley will share speech-pathologist techniques to target specific pronunciation issues such as consonants, vowels, and prosody. Attendees will learn about evaluation protocols and processes to assess the pronunciation of English-language learners, how to develop a plan to target specific pronunciation issues, and techniques appropriate to specific situations.

The workshop is suitable for tutors, although membership in ORTESOL is required to attend. The membership fee for tutors is \$15; membership is available via their website, [www.ortesol.org](http://www.ortesol.org). Free to ORTESOL members

Saturday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall 122

Promoting literacy in our community.

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## **Tutor Training**

June 18 and 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PCC Sylvania Campus,  
12000 SW 49th Avenue, Portland

Registration details: 503-244-6111 X3700  
[pdxliteracy@hotmail.com](mailto:pdxliteracy@hotmail.com)

## **Additional Tutoring Opportunities**

Portland Literacy Council Tutor page  
[www.portlandliteracy.org/tutors](http://www.portlandliteracy.org/tutors)