

BALEAP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2002

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first issue of our biannual newsletter, sent to all associate individual members and institutional members via email. The aim of this newsletter is to keep all members up to date with BALEAP developments, issues, events and news from both the executive and from members. We already use the BALEAP mail base for discussion and comments, but hopefully this newsletter will provide a forum for putting all our latest developments together in one regular communicative event! I am sure that the format of this newsletter will develop over time and I would warmly welcome any comments or contributions from members – just send me an email. Finally in this brief editorial, I would like to welcome all members who have recently joined BALEAP and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next business meeting in London on April 26th and at our next Professional Issues Meeting at Heriot Watt University in June.

MEMBERS BENEFITS

Firstly, just a reminder of the different benefits your BALEAP membership is giving you. If you want to know more about any of these, please contact me. Particularly important for new individual members is that you tell us if you wish to join the BALEAP JISC mail base so that we can add you to the list.

Individual associate membership

- Attending BALEAP PIMs, conferences and other events at membership rates
- Free subscription and delivery of the Journal of EAP
- Participation in the BALEAP discussion/consultancy mail base
- Availability of BALEAP EAP publications and resources
- Registration on the EAP teachers job register
- BALEAP newsletter

Institutional membership

- Attendance and voting rights at BALEAP business meetings
- Eligibility to apply for the BALEAP Accreditation Scheme
- Attending BALEAP PIMs, conferences and other events at membership rates
- Free subscription and delivery of the Journal of EAP

- Participation in the BALEAP discussion/consultancy mail base
- Availability of BALEAP EAP publications and resources
- Registration on the EAP teachers job register
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PROFESSIONAL ISSUES MEETINGS (PIMS)

The meeting at the end of November 2001 at Sheffield Hallam on Chinese Learners was a most stimulating day with plenary and workshop sessions providing insights, analysis and the opportunity for discussion on Chinese learners' educational and cultural backgrounds, learning styles, strengths and difficulties experienced in adjusting to study in English in a different academic culture. A publication following the PIM is under discussion and a report of the papers presented is available on the BALEAP website (<http://www.baleap.org.uk/pimreports/>) It was also good to meet colleagues from ARELS & BASELT, working in the same areas. The PIM on 16 February was at SOAS, University of London on 'Accuracy in EAP' and a report of this event is also on the BALEAP website. The next two PIMs will be at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, 15 June on 'EAP Methodologies' and a day on Foundation Courses at Kent in November. Possible themes for 2003 are Academic Literacies, Distance EAP courses, Cross-cultural awareness and Research EAP. We also now have a discussion forum on the PIM web-site. Please use it.

BALEAP ACCREDITATION SCHEME

The committee are currently establishing the criteria for a new form BALEAP of assessment for accreditation, to be offered to member institutions whose general provision is accredited under the English in Britain scheme. This new form of BALEAP assessment will focus on aspects of Course Design, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Evaluation and Staffing which are criterial for EAP provision in UK university contexts and not fully covered by the EiB scheme. Institutions successfully accredited via this 'complementary' system will be awarded full BALEAP accreditation. It is hoped that this type of accreditation will be piloted this summer and will then become available to eligible members. The current form of BALEAP assessment using all BASC criteria will of course remain alongside the new scheme.

The BAS Committee has also begun the process of revising the Accreditation Scheme Handbook. The provisional date for publication of the new edition is May 2003.

JOURNAL of EAP (JEAP).

There has been a high level of interest and of demand for sample copies of the first JEAP volume, with enough papers already submitted for volume 2. BALEAP members should receive their copy of Volume 1 by the end of April.

BALEAP BUSINESS MEETING

Our next business meeting will be held at the University of Westminster on Friday April 26th. This meeting is open to all institutional members and the agenda will be circulated in early April. I am sure that as usual it will be an enjoyable event – the afternoon will include speakers on potential IATEFL/BALEAP synergies and on current areas of EAP publication.

BALEAP CONFERENCE 2003

George Blue, at the University of Southampton has offered to host the BALEAP 2003 conference next April. Keep an eye on our website for forthcoming details.

OTHER CONFERENCES, WEBSITES AND JOURNALS

Conferences

"**Convergence and Diversity: English in the 21st Century**" will be the title of the first international conference to be held under the auspices of TESOL EuroMed Affiliates will take place in Edinburgh from Thursday 31 October until Sunday 3 November 2002. The TESOL EuroMed affiliates represent countries in Europe and those countries which form part of the Mediterranean littoral.

Those expected to be giving major presentations are David Crystal, Viv Edwards, Fred Genesee, Tricia Hedge, Richard Johnstone, Charmian Kenner and Gabriela Matei. Contributions in the fields of EAL/ESL, EFL and associated areas are invited, and the deadline for proposals is 30 April. Further details available from the website at: www.heimdall-scott.co.uk/tesoleuromed or from Robin Mackenzie, Secretary of TESOL Scotland, P O Box 23024, Edinburgh EH3 6WB Tel/Fax: 0131,557 8642 o E-mail: robin.mackenzie@ision.co.uk

Websites

A useful website to look at regularly is of course our own at www.BALEAP.org.uk Other sites you may be interested in are the JEAP website at www.elsevier.com/locate/jeap and Elsevier's site for all its linguistic publications www.soscinet.com/linguistics/jeap

Elsevier Science has also asked me to tell BALEAP members that the journal *Assessing Writing* now has a new editor, Professor Liz Hamp-Lyons of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In recognition of the new international scope of the journal, it will now be called *Assessing writing: an international journal*. For further information, visit www.elsevier.com/locate/asw You can reserve a free sample copy by sending an email to l.Roberts@elsevier.co.uk

Finally, The Australian Journal of Linguistics is the official journal of the Australian Linguistic Society and maintains an international focus. For more information contact Lisa Wichall at LisaW@tandf.co.uk

If you would know of any other sites that you think may be of interest to members, please let me know and I will put the addresses into the next newsletter.

Jeanne Godfrey

Chair, BALEAP.