

BALEAP Bulletin

Andy Gillett, Chair of the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes

Since the last bulletin, there have been changes in the BALEAP Executive committee. The previous chair, Jeanne Godfrey, has come to the end of her four year term on the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne on behalf of BALEAP for her hard work over the years. So we now have a new incoming chair, Joan Turner, who will take over as chair in November this year. Joan is senior lecturer and head of the language studies centre at Goldsmiths College, University of London. The Centre covers both EAP and MFL on degree programmes at Goldsmiths College.

PIMs

Teacher development in the field of English for Academic Purposes was the theme of a one-day conference held at Wivenhoe House, University of Essex on 20 November 2004. EAP courses are becoming more popular and necessary as the number of International Students in UK universities increases. With this increase in numbers, there is a greater need for experienced and qualified EAP lecturers. The problem is, though, that, apart from modules on MA courses, there is very little training available. Some UK universities have started working on short EAP training courses and the presentations and subsequent discussions at the PIM concentrated on the content, focus and length of these, and other, training courses. The need for structured co-operation between departments and language support providers was noted often during the day. The consensus of the day was that BALEAP should take the issue of teacher training seriously and it is something we will investigate.

The next PIM will be on Intercultural Communication and will be held at the University of the West of England, Bristol on Saturday February 26th. There are 6 main strands in this conference:

1. Identity issues (learners/staff, natives/non-natives) and power issues
2. Cross-cultural training for university lecturers and/or support staff
3. Intercultural Communication and the business context
4. Promoting cultural awareness on university courses/foundation courses
5. Practical ways of approaching cultural learning
6. Country specific issues

Biennial Conference

A three day conference is held once every two years around Easter based on a theme central to English for Academic Purposes. The BALEAP conference 2005 will take place at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh from Friday 15 April (starting at mid-day) to Sunday 17 April (finishing early afternoon). The conference is being organised jointly with SATEFL (the Scottish Association for the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language) and the theme is "New Approaches to Materials Development for Language Learning".

There will be talks and presentations by materials developers in General English and Teacher training as well as EAP to encourage a dialogue among these groups. This should include research-based and classroom-based presentations and posters.

The plenary speakers include Eija Ventola, who will talk on “New Challenges for English Language teaching materials and the classroom”; Peter Grundy, who will talk on : “Optimality, context and materials in EAP”; Ian McGrath on “and Brian Tomlinson on .” Localising the Global: Matching Materials to the Local Context of Learning”.

The conference will be divided into several main themes: Approach and Course Design; Academic Cultures and Listening; Online Learning; Reading and Vocabulary/Use of Corpora; Critical Thinking; Writing; Testing; and Content-based materials. There will be a very wide range of papers presented, including: Defining academic genres, Computer-based materials in EAP; A corpus-based study of the use of reporting verbs, IT skills in EAP, Using group work in academic writing, Using group work in academic writing, Citation and plagiarism, and Critical thinking.

I hope to see many of you there.

We have also started working on the 2007 conference. It will be held at the University of Northumbria and the theme will be: “EAP in the globalizing world: An academic lingua franca.” .

Contact

As always, see the web-site www.baleap.org.uk for further information.