



# WORLD QUARTERLY

Summer/Autumn 2016

## Letter from the President

**MARTHA SAVAGE**

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Greetings,

Our profession faces significant challenges. World events can impact our classrooms. Refugees and immigrants arrive and enter our programs. The numbers of international students vary with every political shift. While classrooms are enriched from the changes, we are called to respond accordingly. Gathering teachers together to discuss ways of understanding and working with these changing landscapes is paramount. Often we are the first line of workers to meet newcomers. Our task is not easy nor would I want it to be.

We opened the 2016 WAESOL conference on the campus of Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute amidst the fall colors and brick buildings. My hope is that by preparing workshops and/or gathering professionals together, deeper thought and reflection on what we do is fostered. This is why I joined the WAESOL board...to provide those kinds of opportunities for that kind of thinking. Our keynote was provided by TESOL International. Dr. Yilin Sun, a past President of TESOL, arrived from Macau, China and gave a talk packed with data and facts about global concerns and trends. Friday was devoted to pre-conference seminars and each year more attend. Saturday was dedicated to workshops given by classroom teachers, publishers and other professionals with topics ranging from classrooms tips, research, curriculum, and k-12 strategies for content-based teaching and new materials. Thank you to all presenters. You are greatly appreciated.

As in every conference, we were able to give away scholarships to seven deserving recipients who applied. In addition, we awarded two professional grants of \$625.00 each. One teacher was nominated and recognized for her volunteering practices with another \$500.00 amount. And finally, \$750.00 was awarded for a professional development grant. A second reason I joined the board was to support teachers across the state financially. WAESOL is known for its generosity of funding.

2017 holds many opportunities for professional development. Along with TESOL 2017 in the spring, I urge all members to consider contributing to the WAESOL World Quarterly to share insights and ideas. Our discipline is like no other. We work hard at our jobs and are equally committed to the growth of the discipline at large. You can access WWQ at this link: <http://waesol.org/WWQ/>.

Watch the WAESOL website for new changes that will benefit WAESOL members. Volunteer at TESOL 2017 at this website: <http://www.tesol.org/convention2017/convention-news/lend-a-hand-volunteer-for-tesol-2017>.

Sincerely,

Martha Savage

2016 WAESOL President