

Message from The Editor

By Laura Adele Soracco

Dear WAESOL community,

This year has been a busy and exciting time for the WAESOL Board. Earlier this year, we were all involved volunteering for the TESOL Conference in Seattle, where we got to connect with many of you face to face. It was truly wonderful to see how many of you came out to present and participate at this international event.

In addition to our usual conference planning events, we recently formed a publications committee in order to improve our way of facilitating communication, professional development, and scholarly work amongst our members. Since the beginning of the year, we have worked on creating this new publication you are now reading, The WAESOL Educator. I would like to thank Eva Combs, Nizar Sulaivany, and Michelle Roth for their hard work and enthusiasm. Also, on behalf of the publications committee, I would like to thank all the contributors to our first issue. We received quite a few articles on a myriad of topics, and we hope you will find something inspiring and useful in this first issue.

The WAESOL Educator features a section in which a school, learner, or teacher is profiled. In this issue, you will find an interview with Michele Lesmeister, a Reading Apprenticeship expert from Renton Technical College. We have also included articles on teaching tips and ELT resources, where you may find topics ranging from grammar and vocabulary instruction to reading content based on the refugee experience. In our Scholar-Practitioner section, we include research related to instruction on writing thesis statements, personal narratives, and pronunciation. You will also find a report on mainstream teachers and ELL in Spokane Public Schools. Finally, we have included conference reports from three WAESOL members, including one written by last year's Professional Development grant awardee.

As you see, our publication is as diverse as our community. We aim to continue publishing articles on a wide range of topics relevant to all WAESOL community members, and we would like to encourage you to reach out and share your work with us. If you are interested in writing for our November issue, please check our guidelines at <http://waesol.org/we> or send me an email at laura@waesol.org.

*Hope you will enjoy
our first issue!*

*Sincerely,
Laura Adele Soracco.*



Laura teaches English composition at Highline College. Laura holds an MA in TESOL from the New School in NYC and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in education at Northeastern University. She has taught ESOL in Colombia, Italy, China, and Turkey. Some of her academic interests relate to learning communities, educational equity, project-based learning, and the use of digital technologies in education.