

# The Word

Newsletter of Hawai'i TESOL



## Letter From the President

Snow-topped mountains were the backdrop for the TESOL 2000 Convention in Vancouver, Canada in March. Our Hawai'i TE-SOL Affiliate was wellrepresented: TESOL students from Brigham Young University Hawai'i, who had raised funds to finance their trip, attended for the first time; Ann Chun, Candis Lee, and Dr. Ed Klein of Hawai'i Pacific University gave presentations, as did Dr. Richard Day of the University of Hawaii and Brent Green of BYUH.

As the Hawai'i representative, I attended the Affiliate Council meeting and was fortunate to meet and learn from American repre-

sentatives as well as those from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Morocco, Egypt, and Slovenia. I discovered that concerns such as meeting the professional development needs of our members, exploring employment opportunities, and pressing for professional standards were shared by many of our colleagues.

A number of American and international TESOL affiliates have established "sister" relationships: Russia TESOL, for example, is the sister organization of New York TESOL. Perhaps this is an option Hawai'i TESOL would like to explore in the future. Affiliates, for the most part, pair up by size of membership. Our

membership stands at about 100, so we would want to connect with an affiliate of a similar size. If any of you have thoughts on this or other related topics, please feel free to share them with me or other members of the executive board.

At the end of the Thursday Affiliate Council meeting, Jim Rogers,

Rogers, Chair of the Co-

ordinating Committee, presented a plaque to Hawai'i TESOL. It reads, "Teachers of English to Speakers of Other

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#### October 25, 2000

#### Volume 10, Issue 3

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## Special points of interest:

- Come to the Computer Workshop on November 18!
- Hawai'i TESOL Roundtable Registration and Call for Participation Forms inside
- Fill out a Membership Application if you haven't done so yet.
- Great Teaching Tips!

## Advance Your Career Through Membership in TESOL

TESOL offers career services, grants and awards, and other programs to help you start, continue, and enhance your career. Take advantage of the most popular resources: the Placement Bulletin, which lists jobs available world-

wide; the Employment Clearinghouse, the largest ESOL job fair of its kind; and the TESOL Online Career Center, which addresses your most frequently asked career questions. Membership in TESOL is recommended

but not required to take advantage of the career services.

#### Placement Bulletin

Are you interested in teaching in a bustling city in Italy, or in a remote village in Africa? Would you like to

(Continued on page 2)

### President's message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Languages Honors Hawai'i TESOL for 25 Years of Affiliation." Some of you may recall that the Hawai'i Council of Teachers of English joined TESOL International in 1975. The ESL Caucus of the HCTE became Hawai'i TESOL in 1995. We can certainly take pride in the fact that we were among the earliest affiliates to join the international organization.

Back home in Hawai'i, we want to thank Brent Green, Kalehua Kamakawiwoole, Barbara Cabebe, Chris Guro and Chad Green for serving on the executive board. They have given much of their time and energies to Hawai'i TESOL. Welcome to new board members, Perry Christensen, Yoneko Narita, Jennifer Wharton, and Patty Reiss. We are looking forward to a new year of events and activities for

our members. We would be happy to hear your ideas and suggestions for activities which would interest you.

I hope you had an invigorating summer. We will see you in November.

Donna Prather President, Hawai'i TESOL dprat89233@aol.com

### TESOL Membership (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

hear somebody else's story first, of how they found their job, what the living conditions were like, and if they would go back? Whether you are trying to find your first ESOL position or make a career move, the Placement Bulletin offers you current listings of jobs available worldwide, career development articles, interesting accounts from individuals in the field, and the latest resources to help you in your job search.

As a vehicle catering to a diverse audience—teachers, administrators, teacher trainers, graduate students, educational institutions, and career services libraries and resource centers—the Bulletin presents a wide range of job opportunities as well as advertisements for faculty exchanges, positions wanted, grants and awards, and housing exchanges.

Interested candidates should apply directly to the schools and institutions listed in the Bulletin; resumes should not be sent to TESOL.

Subscribers receive the Bulletin through the mail as well as updated job announcements through e-mail. Subscribers can also access job notices at TESOL Online's Career Center at <a href="http://careers.tesol.org/">http://careers.tesol.org/</a>. To subscribe to the Bulletin, please see below.

#### Employment Clearinghouse (EC)

Whether you are actively seeking a position or just keeping abreast of ESL/EFL employment trends, the EC offers you the chance to explore a wide variety of jobs: long- and short-term, teaching and administrative, overseas and domestic. Level of experience and education varies. Use this opportunity to

"Whether you are new to the field or have years of experience, membership in TESOL is an excellent link to your profession."

meet recruiters, ask questions, review hundreds of ESOL job announcements, and network with experienced professionals. By attending the EC, you'll also receive a copy of the Recruiting Directory, which lists job descriptions, salaries, plus contact information

for hundreds of job vacancies at schools, institutes, and organizations. You can also attend job-search workshops to learn how to polish your resume and hone your interviewing skills. Advantages of TESOL Membership

Whether you are new to the field or have years of experience, membership in TESOL is an excellent link to your profession. Through educational programs, networking venues,

career services, and a host of other resources, you will find support that is tailored to your specialty.

TESOL members can also apply for TESOL's Grants and Awards, a number of which help fund travel to the annual convention and participation in professional development programs, such as the TESOL Academies. Grants and awards are available to classroom teachers, researchers, material writers, graduate students, and other TESOL professionals. We encourage you to apply or nominate a colleague today! Deadlines are usually in October of each year.

Complete descriptions of TESOL's Grants and Awards will be included in the June/July issue of TESOL Matters, which is automatically sent to all TESOL members. For more information, go to <a href="http://">http://</a> www.tesol.org/assoc/ or e-mail awards@tesol.org. Karen Coyne is the Career Services Coordinator at TE-SOL. E-mail careers@tesol.org. Choose from these options to get TESOL's career resources: 1. E-mail careers@tesol.org. Include your complete contact information (name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone number). 2.Go to http://careers.tesol.org/.

## Cutting Some Count/Non-count Confusion

The terms 'mass [non-count] noun' and 'count noun' suggest a strict dichotomy where there very likely is a continuum of sorts. Allan (1980), in fact, argues for eight discreet levels of countability rather than the two we use here. (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, The Grammar Book)

In not very many words, the above quote mentions three ways of looking at the whole issue of count and non-count. Which of the following is the best way of looking at countability for our ESL students?

a. a strict dichotomy (two categories)

b. eight levels

c. a continuum

d. none of the above

After several years of grappling with this problem in my ESL writing classes, I have come to the conclusion that d is the correct answer. Teaching

students a strict dichotomy, which is what most grammar texts that I am familiar with try to do, means giving them a set of rules so riddled with exceptions that it is worth very little.



To count, or not to count; this is the question

On the other hand, eight levels (or any other such high number) or a continuum is a dose of complexity that should be reserved for detailed linguistic study of the language and not inflicted on ESL students.

So what do I teach? It depends partly on the level of a given class, but in most of my intermediate or advanced classes, I teach four levels of countability, as shown on my four-column chart of words [below]. Four categories is not a perfect reflection of reality (I agree that a continuum probably is closest to reality, and a few of the words on my chart are not the best "fit" for the column where they are found), but I think that students need to be aware of the basic grammar concept that goes along with each of these four columns.

My chart is largely the product (Continued on page 5)

## Countability Categories

Always Non-count	Can be Count or Non-count, but the meaning changes	Non-count when general, Count when specific	"Always" Count
homework			assignment
advice	iron	crime	suggestion
furniture	tape	language	chair
equipment	film	space	tool
mail	рарет	difficulty	letter
surgery	wood	fire	operation
news	glass	danger	way
information	gum	hope	game
oxygen	skin	competition	city
patience	light	instruction	river
health	land	education	coin
entertainment	room	creation	boy
gold	order	history	bus
olood	tīme	detail	problem
ightning	feeling	law	nation
thunder	company	experience	mission
transportation	support	talent	impression
recreation	character	school	fee
attention	charity	business	vegetable
tuition	trade	exercise	bean
rice	vision	punishment	potato
ertuce	quality	effort	
	growth	sausage	
(Nearly always Non-count)	gear	pineapple	*(change in meaning is slight: as a
	change		count noun means "a type of")
work	metal*		
water	fruit*		
money	meat*		
ocabulary	food*		
damage	corn		
property	hair (count = one strand)		

### Hawai'i TESOL

is committed to building a community of professionals teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i TESOL works to promote the highest standards in employment and instruction, improve professional support and interaction, and increase public and government recognition of the ESL field.

Hawai'i TESOL provides ESL professionals in Hawai'i with opportunities for networking and professional development. We welcome all who share our goals to join with us in our efforts.

Hawai'i TESOL welcomes all interested individuals to active membership. Please fill out the attached membership application and return it with your dues.

Hawai'i TESOL seeks the involvement of all its members. All activities are coordinated by an Executive Committee consisting of the officers elected by the membership at the annual business meeting and chairs of active committees. The officers are President, Program Chair, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.

Important work of Hawai'i TESOL is also carried out by active members involved in two standing committees:

- Standards, Employment, and Political Action
- Professional Activities

These two committees develop most of the programs for meetings and help plan the annual TESOL Roundtable Conference.

#### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

#### THE WORD

Members receive quarterly issues of "The Word," the newsletter of Hawai'i TE-SOL. Articles discuss language learning and teaching, describe practical classroom techniques, and summarize relevant state and legislative activities.

#### **MEETINGS**

Three to four times per year, Hawai'i TESOL has meetings open to the entire

membership and guests. Meetings focus on issues related to employment concerns, improving standards within Hawai'i, and professional development with presentations and workshops. Each meeting includes time to meet other ESL professionals and to promote networking.

#### PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Members of Hawai'i TESOL are responsible for developing programs for the annual TESOL Roundtable Conference, and will have the opportunity to give presentations or workshops.



Mr./Ms./Dr.  Family Name Giv	en Names	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Mailing Address		Membership for Academic Year (Sept. 1st to Aug. 31st)
City	StateZip	Regular (\$15)
Institution	Position	Student/Retired (\$10)
Home Phone	Work Phone	Contribution ———
Fax	e-mail	TOTAL
Circle your preferred method of contact: Ho	me Phone/Work Phone/Fax/e-mail	51
Can we put your name, email, and Institution	n on our new Hawaii TESOL WebPage?	Please make your check payable to
(Yes / No)		Hawai'i TESOL, and mail to:
http://www.lc.byuh.edu/Ha	awaiiTESOL	55-220 Kulanui St., Box 1940 Laie, Hawaii 96762

### Cutting Count/non-count Confusion (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

of years of jotting down words that have given students trouble in their essays, although some of the words were pulled out of my own mind to serve as useful examples in their category. When I distribute this chart to my students, I stress the point that none of the four columns is complete. Each category has hundreds or thousands of other words, and these words just serve as examples, many of them being troublesome words for ESL writers.

#### Always Non-Count

ESL teachers are well acquainted with many of the words in the first column. I stress to my students that they should never make any of the words in this column plural, should never put "a" or "an" in front of them, and should not do anything else with these words that cannot be done with non-count nouns.

Though I think it's important to limit my system to four columns, I do allow one sub-category of the first column, the "almost always non-count" nouns. I tell my students that they can nearly always treat these words the same as the others in the first column, but they should be aware that there are very infrequent times when these words act as count nouns (such as works of art in an art museum).

#### The Meaning Changes

The second column is the one that is the most fun to teach. I start by confessing to my students that sometimes I take ESL errors too literally in order to amuse myself. I try to lead them into this little realm of amusement with sentences such as, "I bought gums at the Seven-Eleven" (what they don't sell at convenience stores these days!); or I tell them that if I hear someone say, "I had a good vision when I was younger," I feel deviously inclined to congratulate them on their remarkable spiritual experience rather than

console them for their present need for eyeglasses. Of course, not all the words in the second column lend themselves to humor (nor do all of them change meaning so greatly), but many of them do, and the humor emphasizes the differences in meaning as well as adding life to the lesson.

#### General vs. Specific

I place a lot of importance on teaching how the nouns in the third column work because I see quite a few student errors involving this type of noun, and I have yet to see a grammar text for ESL students that adequately explains them.

Imagine that a student writes the following sentence in an essay: "When I was young, there was fire in my neighborhood that destroyed many houses." Her teacher then carefully explains that because fire is a singular count noun, it must have a determiner with it, in this case, the indefinite pronoun a. Having taken this rule to heart, the student later finds herself writing an essay about the history of the use of fire. She wonders whether she should start out by saying, "The fire has always been very important to humans," or whether "Fires have always been very important to humans" would be be better. She doesn't consider

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little.

"Fire has always been important" because her teacher made it clear on a prior essay that fire is a count noun. She ends up opting for "Fires have always..." and is quite surprised when

she gets her essay back and sees that her teacher has indicated that fire can't take a plural s because it is non-count!

Fire is a non-count noun when it is being used with a general meaning, but if we are referring to a fire that burned some houses one night, or the thing that we build and light when we want to roast hot dogs, we are speaking of a specific fire and fire becomes a count noun. I also like the word crime to explain this concept. Crime is a problem in many large cities is a good example of a general, non-count use of crime, while he is in prison because he committed a serious crime is an example of the same word in a specific, count usage. The general/specific distinction is not always so clear, but overall, the concept is very useful for students to understand.

#### "Always" Count

The fourth column seems to be the easiest one for students to deal with, but it doesn't hurt to remind them that a singular count noun always needs an article or some other determiner. I put the word "always" in quotation marks in the heading to the fourth column because native speakers sometimes like to use count-only nouns in non-count ways for humorous effect.

I teach my students that tangible objects existing as separate units (such as chair or boy) are usually "always count" nouns, but that otherwise there is usually no good way to know which category a given noun belongs in, and that checking a good dictionary (or asking a native speaker, if they ask the right questions-most native speakers have no idea what "count" and "noncount" mean) is necessary to be sure they are using a noun correctly. I have found that some students have the mistaken impression that nouns ending inion are always non-count, so I point out that -ion nouns are well represented in each of the four columns. I also point out that foods, fruits, and vegetables

(Continued on page 6)

### Cutting Count/non-count Confusion (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

show up in all four columns. They are often interested to learn that if I take *two pineapples* (count) and cut them up into pieces, they turn into just *pineapple* (non-count). And they are then usually quite impressed when I tell them that regardless of what violence they inflict on potatoes, they can never turn them into *potato*. They will always be *potatoes* (count), even if they are in one mashed mass.

There are grammar texts that present a count/noncount dichotomy, and others that additionally explain words of the type in the second column. Harder to find are texts that make any mention of words of the third-column type (and those that do usually deal with them in a very cursory way), and I have yet to see a text that covers all four of these types of nouns and makes a clear distinction between them.

I'm not deluded enough to think that errors involving countability will go away just because I supplement class texts with this four-column system, nor that these four columns are really as clean as they look on paper. (Many of the nouns have their own funny quirks that can't be accounted for by the column that I have put them in.) Also, I don't I ask my students to memorize all the words I have included on this chart. But I do hope that they will increase their awareness of how countability works in English to enhance their acquisition of grammar related to countability, and that they will perhaps find the whole issue to be less contradictory and confusing.

By Kory Collier, BYUH



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## Teaching Tips

I use proverbs quite a bit in my classes because they never fail to capture the students' interest and they can be used in a variety of ways. Here are just a few:

1. Dictations: Proverbs can be used for either teacher-led or student-to-student dictations. I usually give something like this: "One common English proverb says, 'The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.' This means that children usually turn out like their parents. For example, dishonest parents will usually have dishonest children."

After a teacher-led dictation, I often have a student write it on the board and let the other students check it to see if they agree or disagree with what the first student wrote.

- 2. Ice breaker. Proverbs are great for an icebreaker called "Find the Other Half." Simply write one proverb for every two students in your class, cut into strips, then cut each proverb in half. Each student gets one strip of paper with half of a proverb (for example "The grass is always greener"). Then the students have to match up their halves to make complete proverbs. This activity can be expanded in many different ways, such as writing each complete proverb on the board, having students come up with scenarios when they might use a particular proverb, etc.
- 3. Writing topics. Proverbs are useful for writing topics. I usually ask the students to agree or disagree with a particular proverb. For example, "A famous English proverb says 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do.' This means that people who visit a foreign country should act like the local

residents do. Do you agree or disagree with this idea?"

For a list of proverbs, you can check out: http://www.oneliners-and-proverbs.com

Some examples:

A dream is just a dream. A goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline.

A fair face may fade, but a beautiful soul lasts forever.

A friend is one who knows who you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you become, and still gently invites you to grow.

A friend is someone who dances with you in the sunlight and walks beside you in the shadows.

Tell me, I'll forget..Show me, I may remember; but involve me, and I'll understand.



### Weblinks

Both of the links in this issue are excellent sources of reading material for ESL students. Rather than being the actual repository of the materials, however, they each provide links directly to reading material from a wide variety of sources, some of which is authentic material and some of which are specially created for ESL students.

## The Internet Public Library http://ipl.org

The Internet Public Library began as a project for a graduate seminar in the School of Information and Library Studies at the University of Michigan in Winter 1995. It is now an established entity with a full-time paid staff, funded by a corporate sponsorship grant. The IPL has links to thousands of reference materials, including newspapers from every state and hundreds of different countries. It also provides links to a wide variety of magazines, some well-known, some not.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the IPL for ESL professionals is in its "Youth Division." Here you can find readings on a variety of topics, including science, computers, history, culture, and many more. I read a fascinating account of the "Earthwalker," the first man to walk around the world. The content was interesting, and the readability was suitable for intermediate level students. The materials were written for young native-English readers, but the content is engaging enough for readers of all ages, provided that their reading ability is intermediate or higher. There are some readings, particularly in "The Reading Room" which are accessible

to beginning level readers, but for the most part the readings would be more suitable for students with a little more proficiency.

My favorite part of this site is the "Orca Search," which is a beginning research project. It takes the student step by step through the research process, including notetaking and organizing up to presenting the results. There are questions that lead students to identifying the important information, and best of all, it directs the students to particular links where they can find the information they need. The presentation of this particular project is lively and engaging, so students would most likely find this a fun activity that would improve their research skills along with general language proficiency and world knowledge.

The ESL Multimedia Language Lab http://user.gru.net/richardx/read1. html

The ESL Multimedia Language Lab is a complete resource for all language skills, but this particular area is part of the Reading Lab. Like the IPL, it provides links to other materials rather than storing the materials themselves. Unlike the IPL, many of the readings here have been written specifically for ESL students, and a good number of them are accompanied by comprehension questions, vocabulary guides, or other language learning activities. Many of the links are part of the websites for other ESL programs.

The address provided above takes you directly to the Reading Lab's reading list for beginning level material (Level 1). At the end of this page you will find a link to intermediate material (Level 2), and at the end of the intermediate list you will find a link to the advanced material (Level 3).

Level 1 material includes children's stories, international folktales, history & geography, and a miscellaneous section. Level 2 material includes readings on music, animals, science, mysteries (including interactive Nancy Drew stories!) and Reader's Digest. Level 3 material has more authentic readings including Time Magazine, Frontline, various cartoons, as well as articles about astronomy, famous people, and short stories, among others.

Both of these sites, the IPL and the Multimedia Language Lab, are excellent resources, whether you are looking for "free reading" sites to recommend to your students or you need supplemental materials for the classroom. An added bonus for teachers interested in putting course material on the web is that several of the sites have great interactivity, which could give you new ideas about how to best take advantage of the latest technology for online learning.



NOTES:

## HAWAI'I TESOL 2001 TESOL ROUNDTABLE

University of Hawai'i Moore Hall 1890 East West Road

Saturday, February 10, 2001 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Deadline: January 26, 2001

#### **Please Print**

Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
				Y
Street	City			Zip Code
E-mail Address				Work Phone Number
Institution				Position
		Hawai'i TESOL member Full-time student Non member	\$10 \$7 \$15	
		Total F	Enclosed	\$

There are several options for lunch. You might care to feast at Paradise Palms Café, a short walk from Moore Hall; you can bring your own lunch; or you could duck off campus and eat at the many fine establishments surrounding the beautiful campus. Vending machines are also available in Moore Hall. Visitor parking is available for \$3.

Your canceled check will serve as your receipt.

Please send this form and your check (payable to Hawai'i TESOL) to:

Patricia Reiss 710 Iana Street Kailua, Hawaii 96734

# HAWAI' I TESOL 2001 TESOL ROUNDTABLE

## University of Hawai'i Moore Hall - 1890 East West Road

## Saturday, February 10, 2001

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Share with your colleagues in Hawai'i's ESL community your experiences in teaching and learning ESL. There are four ways to participate actively in the 2001 TESOL Roundtable:

- 1. **Presentation:** Give a demonstration or a paper on any aspect of teaching, theory or practice.
- 2. **Workshop:** Provide participants with hands-on experience in teaching and learning activities, the use of materials or other aspects of teaching.
- 3. **Colloquium**: Organize a panel to discuss a teaching, political or research issue.
- 4. **Poster:** Display a poster presentation of your teaching or research.

**Biographical Notes** (25 words maximum; to be used to introduce you). Summary (20 words maximum) to be included in the program.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it by January 7, 2001 to:

Patricia Reiss 710 Iana Street Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Note: E-mail submissions to Richard Da			
Name:	_ Affiliation/Sch	ool	
Address:	Phone (H)	(W)	
Email:			
I would like to give a [ ] presentation [ ] wor	kshop [ ] colloqu	uium [] poster	
Target Area (Circle all that apply) Grade level: Elementary Middle Secondary Skill: Reading Writing Speaking/Listening G		Other	
Orientation: Methods Theory Materials Type of AV equipment needed:			Research
Please attach: Abstract (one page maximum) which indicate	s topic, point of v	iew and depth of knowled	ge.



### Newsletter of Hawai'i TESOL

P.O. Box 1940, Laie, Hawaii 96762

#### **Executive Board:**

**President:** Donna Prather Dprather@transpacific.org

**Program Co-Chairs:** Yoneko Narita and Jennifer Wharton

Membership Secretary: Perry Christensen

Treasurer: Garth Johnson

Newsletter Editors: Jana Harper Makaafi and Melissa Pedersen

Standards, Employment, and Political Action: Kenton Harsch

Upcoming Events:

November 18, 2000 Computer Workshop

(Saturday) Hawai'i Pacific University

February 10, 2001 TESOL Roundtable

(Saturday) HPU's Hawai'i Loa Campus

March 20, 2001 TESOL Convention Reports

(Tuesday) TransPacific Hawai'i College

April 26, 2001 Language Experience/Election of

(Thursday) officers

Check out our new website for more details

Professional Activities (Roundtable):
Patricia Reiss

## We're on the Web!! Http://www.lc.byuh.edu/HawaiiTESOL

## A Gathering in "The Gathering Place"

O'ahu is "The Gathering Place," but on Thursday evening, September 21, Honolulu Park Place was the gathering place for close to 50 members and prospective members of Hawai'i TESOL. The first event of the 2000-2001 academic year drew participants who shared a wonderful meal and some very clever teaching tips in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and collegiality. Those who attended represented past presidents and executive board members of Hawai'i TESOL as well as TESL students interested in learning more about their future profession. We were even able to persuade some of those students to volunteer their

services for the TESOL Roundtable on February 10, 2001!

A special thanks to Yoneko Narita and Jennifer Wharton, Program Co-chairs, who worked so hard to organize the evening and personally prepared the entrée, chicken divan. Thanks also to Perry Christensen, Garth Johnson, and Kenny Harsch who helped register and orient those who attended. Finally a big mahalo to Betty Loui for once again helping us to arrange for the beautiful setting at Honolulu Park Place.

The infectious excitement of September 21 has now given way to anticipation of our next event,

the computer workshop, at Hawai'i Pacific University on Saturday morning, November 18. Don't miss the opportunity to network with the dynamic membership of 2000-2001 Hawai'i TESOL. See you on November 18!



Come to our computer workshop on November 18 at Hawai'i Pacific University!!