

Susan Spezzini

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Education

- Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction/TESOL, University of Alabama, 2002
- M.A. Teaching Languages, University of California-Berkeley, 1975
- B.A. Linguistics, University of California-San Diego, 1973

Professional Work Experience

- Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Birmingham, AL, US, 2018-present
- Fulbright Scholar, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay, Flex grant 2021-2023
- Associate Professor, UAB, Birmingham, AL, US, 2011-2018
- Assistant Professor, UAB, Birmingham, AL, US, 2005-2011
- Program Grant Director, School of Education, UAB, Birmingham, AL, US, 2003-2005
- Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator, American School of Asuncion, Paraguay, 1988-2002
- Instructor, English Department, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay, 1980-2002
- Peace Corps Volunteer, Paraguay, 1976-1979

Professional Affiliations

- TESOL International Association: Speech-Pronunciation-Listening Interest Section/SPLIS (Past Chair 2020, Chair 2019, Chair-Elect 2018, Community Manager 2016-17, Proposalreviewer SPLIS member 2012-present); Leadership Council (2018-20); Affiliate representative at International Affiliate Council (1995, 2008-09); Team Leader on Convention Organizing Committee (2011); K12 Dream Day Committee (2011, 2012); Convention volunteer (2012, 2015, 2017-19); Teacher Education Interest Section (proposal reviewer 2004-13, member 2003-present); TESOL member (1981-present).
- TESOL/CAEP Reviewer: Review of programs submitted for national recognition, 2014-19
- Southeast TESOL Regional Council (SETESOL): Conference chair (2017); Conference Co-Chair (2008); Council coordinator (2016-17), Council recorder (2013-16 and 2007-08).
- Alabama-Mississippi TESOL (AMTESOL): Past President, 2017; President 2016, Vice President 2014; Member-at-large on Board 2005-13; Conference Chair 2016; Affiliate representative on SETESOL (2013-present); Alternative Affiliate representative on SETESOL (2004-12).
- Paraguay TESOL (Paratesol): President 1994-95, Conference Chair 1994-95, NewsletterEditor 1989-95, Inaugural member 1989, Honorary member 2021.
- Paraguayan-American Cultural Center: board member 1995-2002.
- Fulbright: National Screening Committee for English Teaching Assistants, 2019-present.
- Paraguay-Kansas Partners: Member 1982-88; Chair of Women in Development Committee, Co-Chair of Youth Development Committee.

Relevant Presentations (since 2018)

- "Lessons learned from Pandemic-inspired hybrid teaching." Asuncion, Paraguay (2021). Panel member at Paratesol Town Hall.
- "Enhancing Oral Language in PK-8." Virtual (2021). Presenter during EEIS/SPLIS Intersection at 55th annual TESOL International Association convention.
- "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Virtual (2021). Presenter at the 2nd annual conference, Alabama Leaders Advocating for English Learners.
- "Redesigning pronunciation teaching for a virtual classroom: Reimagining kinesthetic

- activities." Virtual (2021). Presenter at Alabama-Mississippi (AMTESOL) conference.
- "Redesigning the applied phonology course for a virtual classroom: Kinesthetic activities to enhance learning." Virtual (2020). Presenter at Paraguay's 1st National Applied Linguistics Congress.
- "Learning Design to Design Learning: An Exploratory Study of Teacher Educators Developing their Online Teaching Presence." Virtual (2020). Presenter at the annual conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education.
- "Bringing the Seal of Biliteracy to Mississippi and Alabama." Auburn, Alabama (2020). Organizer and Lead Presenter of a 7-member national panel as the pre-conference institute at the annual Alabama-Mississippi TESOL (AMTESOL) conference.
- "Alabama leaders advocating for English learners." Auburn, Alabama (2020). Presenter at the annual AMTESOL conference.
- "Seal of Biliteracy." Pelham, Alabama (2020). Presenter at the first annual conference of the Alabama Leaders Advocating for English Learners.
- "Writing Grants: A Time of Empowerment for TESOL Educators." Orlando, Florida (2019). Round table presenter at the annual SETESOL conference.
- "Interactive peer-to-peer oral techniques: Strategies for effective classroom interaction." Lafayette, Louisiana (2019). Presented at the annual Louisiana TESOL conference.
- "Helping English learners overcome pronunciation difficulties." Lafayette, Louisiana (2019). Keynote presented at the Louisiana TESOL conference's PACE Day for K-12 educators.
- "Seal of Biliteracy: Celebrating bilingualism and enhancing career options." Mobile, Alabama (2019). ALSDE's annual MEGA conference.
- "Collaboration across nine TESOL affiliates." Atlanta, Georgia (2019). Participated in the Affiliate Colloquium at the 53rd annual TESOL International Association convention.
- "Nexus for career advancement: The education specialist degree." Atlanta, Georgia (2019). Organizer of 12-member panel at 53rd TESOL International Association convention.
- "It's not what English Learners said but what others heard." Atlanta, Georgia (2019). Presented within Intersection Helping Young Learners Overcome English Pronunciation Challenges at the 53rd annual TESOL International Association convention.
- "Advocating for English learners in Alabama's Black Belt." Oxford, Mississippi (2019). Presented at the annual AMTESOL conference.
- "Sustaining linking words in dialogue: Linking theory & practice." Chicago, Illinois (2018). Presented at 52nd annual International TESOL Convention.

Research and Publications (since 2018)

- Co-author. (under review). Relational mentoring and teacher motivation in an ESL master's program: A 5-year study in the context of cohorts and PLCs.
- Author. (2021). Teaching applied phonology in a virtual classroom: Reimagining kinesthetic activities. *Nemityra Research Journal*.
- Co-author. (2020). Teacher educator and preservice teacher construct virtual internship through online writing class for post-secondary English learners. In R. E. Ferdig, E. Baumgartner, R. Hartshorne, R. Kaplan-Rakowski, & C. Mouza (Eds.), *Teaching, technology, and teacher education during the COVID-19 pandemic: Stories from the field* (pp. 323-327). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education
- Co-author. (2020). Pronouncing words in English that exist as loan words in Turkish: Preliminary findings from four Turkish-speaking English learners. *As We Speak*. TESOL International Association.
- Author. (2019). Oral L2 comprehensibility among English immersion learners when giving school speeches. *Nemityra Research Journal*, 1(1), 37-64.

- Author. (2018). Accent reduction vs. intelligibility. In M. Christison & C. Broady (Eds.), *Teaching Speaking and Pronunciation, Volume 3* (pp. 1597-1602), in J. I. Liantas (Editor-in-Chief), *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Co-Author. (2018). The role of speaking in academic language. In M. Christison & C. Broady (Eds.), *Teaching Speaking and Pronunciation, Volume 3* (pp. 1789-1794), in J. I. Liantas (Editor in Chief), *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*. John Wiley.
- Author. (2018). Pronunciation assessment. In C. Coombes (Ed.), *Assessment and evaluation, Volume 8* (pp. 5174-5180), in J. I. Liantas (Editor-in-Chief), *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*. John Wiley & Sons.

Candidate's Statement: What kind of leaders does the association need? Why are you a good candidate to choose them?

The TESOL International Association needs leaders who can inspire colleagues to work collaboratively towards strengthening this association and also the TESOL profession in the wake of a devastating pandemic, one that has produced interrupted schooling, truncated careers, and uncertain futures. Across the globe, already existing disparities have become worse. We need leaders who can represent the different types of members within our diverse membership, who can build partnerships at all levels for meeting the needs of our TESOL members and their respective constituents, and who can advocate and promote practices in diverse settings for mitigating trauma such as that resulting from the pandemic. The Nominating Committee is charged with recruiting and selecting leader applicants to be on the ballot for the TESOL International Association. I believe I am a good candidate to serve on this committee because of my experience serving on university search committees for faculty and administrator positions. Through this experience, I have learned to evaluate applicant backgrounds as being a good fit for a given position. I also believe I have a good understanding of the positions for which the Nominating Committee selects candidates. My understanding stems from over 20 years of experience volunteering with TESOL affiliates (Paraguay and Alabama-Mississippi), interest sections (teacher education and speech-pronunciation-listening), and regional groups (the Southern Cone of South America and the Southeast of the United States)