



## Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Insights from PETALLS Participants

#### Featuring:

Patricia Fontaine

Tara De Oliveira

Eric Maillet

#### PETALLS Updates

PETALLS Conference  
2015 - Save the Date!

#### Call for Proposals

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**PETALLS Website**  
<http://www.uml.edu/petalls>

**PETALLS WEEBLY**  
<http://petalls.weebly.com>



The PETALLS newsletter continues to feature project participants. In this issue UMass Lowell faculty and program completers highlight the ways they work to improve instruction for ELLs.

#### **Dr. Patricia (Pat) Fontaine** Clinical Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Education, UMass Lowell

Dr. Pat Fontaine is the coordinator of initial licensure for pre-service teachers at the Graduate School of Education (GSE) at UMass. Pat also teaches social studies and history methods courses. She infuses strategies for teaching English learners (ELs) throughout her coursework.



Pat is dedicated to preparing all pre-service teachers to work with ELs. She ensures that UMass graduates understand the strengths and challenges of ELs, and she emphasizes the power of culturally and linguistically responsive education, which includes ways to outreach to the families of ELs.

Pat works with PETALLS to support the inclusion of ESL and SEI methodology throughout methods courses. She also arranges field experiences and student teaching in Lawrence Public Schools so that UMass students will experience teaching and learning in classrooms with large numbers of ELs. Pat hopes to spark UMass students' desire to teach in Lawrence.

Dr. Fontaine prepares her pre-service teachers to teach social studies and history to ELs. She emphasizes strategies to develop academic vocabulary and the use of graphic organizers to help ELs organize difficult history content. She also introduces pre-service teachers to think-aloud strategies so her students can model ways to access difficult, but important primary source documents.

#### **Tara De Oliveira** Guilmette Middle School



Tara De Oliveira is a sixth grade math teacher at the Guilmette Middle School. Tara has nearly six years experience working with ELs. In her current position she teaches four core math classes and two math intervention groups. Her classes consist of ELs with varying levels of English proficiency.

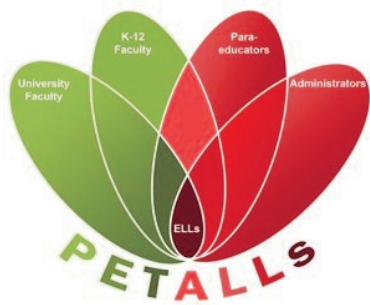
Tara completed the UMass Lowell ESL Graduate Certificate in spring 2014.

When asked about recommendations for teachers of ELs, Tara shared several elements she thought important in planning her instruction.

First, she suggests that teachers get to know their students and find out what students like and don't like, their strengths and weaknesses, and their language proficiency in both L1 and L2. Tara explains, "Teachers will use all of this information to implement strategies that will best support and address individual students."

Second, she recommends that teachers not assume that ELs will know tier one vocabulary. She suggests that teachers "make sure they consider both tier one and tier two words in order to ensure understanding."

Third, Tara recommends that teachers are clear about their instructional goals and corresponding assessments. She cautions, "Don't hold ELL students to lower expectations or standards simply because they are learning English. They need to be held to high expectations as well." With regard to assessment, Tara suggests assessing ELs' understanding using a measure that will allow them to demonstrate their mastery of the content apart from their language proficiency. To do this she suggests the use of meaningful visuals and manipulatives.



## Insights from PETALLS Participants, Cont'd.

Eric Maillet

## Project Updates

## The PETALLS Conference - Save the Date!

## INFORMATION

For newsletter input contact:  
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## PETALLS WEEBLY

Resource Site  
<http://petalls.weebly.com>

## PETALLS Website

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## Preparing Excellent Teachers for All Language Learners

**Eric Maillet**  
**Greater Lawrence Technical School**



Eric Maillet is a biology teacher at the Greater Lawrence Technical School. He teaches freshmen and sophomores including ELs with English proficiency ranging from level 1 to level 3.

Eric completed the UMass Lowell ESL Graduate Certificate offered through PETALLS in spring 2014.

Eric explained that one thing he took from the certificate program was “the importance of native language in the processing of new information.” He thinks that it is important for teachers to know students’ background knowledge “especially when ELs enter classrooms with limited English, but with rich learning experiences in their native languages.”

Eric provides two recommendations for teachers of ELs:

First, he suggests that teachers need to provide ELs with native language support. Eric explains, “Even finding the native language equivalent of a few tier 2 vocabulary words better includes ELs in the curriculum and allows them to access the curriculum that much more.”

Second, Eric recommends that teachers find the humor in teaching. He points out that although “it can get stressful, especially with all of the new initiatives coming our way, don’t be afraid to laugh with your students. It isn’t all about grading and lesson planning. So many of the positive aspects of teaching come from the students who almost always have a funny twist on things or a unique perspective that can give you a chuckle and possibly turn a stressful day around.”

## PETALLS Updates Spring 2015 ESL Certificate Course

*Methods of Sheltered Language Instruction* is currently being taught in the Lawrence Public Schools. Nineteen teachers from the Lawrence and the Woburn Public Schools are taking advantage of the ESL certificate, which is being offered by UMass Lowell and funded by the PETALLS project.

## Summer 2015 ESL Certificate Courses

A limited number of spaces are available for the ESL certificate program, which will be offered this summer at UMass Lowell. Laurie Hartwick and Kinnon Foley will teach these courses, which include *Second Language Acquisition and Assessment* and *Teaching Reading and Writing to English Learners*.

For more information, please contact Michaela\_Colombo@uml.edu

## Ongoing SEI PD To Be Offered

PETALLS is facilitating the development of SEI Professional Development (PD) for RETELL completers. Six Lawrence Public School teachers who have substantial experience in ESL are currently designing PD that will extend RETELL. This PD will satisfy the 15 PDPs required to maintain the SEI Endorsement under new licensure guidelines. We anticipate having the PD ready for piloting during summer 2015.

## The workshops to be offered are:

- \* *Teaching English Language Learners in the Elementary Mathematics Classroom*
- \* *Developing Oral Language in the Humanities*
- \* *Teaching Science to English Language Learners within an Inclusion Model*

More information is forthcoming!

## PETALLS CONFERENCE

*Practices That Improve the Education of English Learners*

### SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday October 7, 2015  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
61 Wilder Street, O’Leary Library Room 222  
and Mezzanine, 4:30 -7:30 PM

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Share your expertise and your practices for teaching ELs. For more information and proposal application see the PETALLS Conference site:  
<http://www.uml.edu/Education/PETALLS/>

Deadline for submitting proposals: May 11, 2015