Schedule of Events for the 2013 ATA ESL-C Conference

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| Time | Function | Speaker | Session Title | Session Description | Room |
| Thursday, Nov. 14  5 – 9 pm | Reg. |  |  |  | Convention Lobby |
| Thursday, Nov. 14  7 – 10 pm | Film Festival | MONYBANY DAU | The Ladder of My Life | The Ladder of My Life tells the unbelievable true story of Monybany Minyang Dau. Born in the small village of Atar in south Sudan Monybany grew up amidst the horror of a genocidal civil war. He volunteered to fight for the cause of the south when he was only 9 years old, enlisting as a child soldier. After walking for six weeks with thousands of others, he arrived at a ‘safe haven’ refugee camp in Ethiopia, a country suffering from a horrible famine. Eventually, Monybany and numerous other boys who had joined the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army as children were shipped to Cuba to receive an education, so that one day they would return and help rebuild a country that was devastated by war. | Palermo |
| Friday, Nov. 15  7:30 – 12 pm | Reg. |  |  |  | Hallway |
| Friday, Nov. 15  7:30 – 8:30 am | Breakfast |  |  |  | Santano |
| Friday, Nov. 15  8:45 -10:15 am | Welcome  Keynote | RACHEL SYRJA |  |  | Santano |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:15 – 10:30 am | Break |  |  |  | Hallway |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Darcy LeBlanc and  Paula Thompson | There’s a MOOSE-matician on the Loose! | Come out and make the most of your conference experience! Play some ELL supported moose math games that will include MOOSE (aka SKUNK or SANTA) and Moose Farkel. This workshop will model effective principles for teaching math content to Language Learners and is appropriate for grades 1-11 educators. Put this talk on your moose-do-list!  Participants will leave as moosified moosematicians with the games that we play in hand; math game templates including thought provoking questions and a handout of many other moose mathematics ideas! | Palermo |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Michelle Beauregard and  Sharon Seward | Strategies and Resources to Connect ELLs to Content | Are your ELLs struggling to find success in their core subject areas? This interactive session will focus on practical strategies designed to increase the English language learner’s ability to access the core curriculum. Through teacher created resources, current research and exploration of the new Annotated ESL Resource Collection (AERC), you will leave well equipped to support ELLs in content areas. | Savona |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Film Festival – Brandy Yanchyk | “Brooks –  The City of 100 Hellos” | Filmmaker and Journalist Brandy Yanchyk will show one of her three documentaries on immigration in Alberta. A discussion and question and answer session will follow with the filmmaker and the audience after each film.  ***Brandy Yanchyk will show her 2011 documentary*** "Brooks - The City of 100 Hellos" which is 47 minutes long. "Brooks - The City of 100 Hellos" is a documentary about how immigration is changing and challenging a cowboy town. | Marseille |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Sarah Clark | Top 10 Practical Strategies for Advancing Academic Language Proficiency in Content Areas | Developing academic language to ensure the success of ESL students is a concern many classrooms face. This session will offer practical strategies that you can implement in your classrooms immediately. We will go through the top 10 ways in which educators can increase academic language proficiency in their English Language Learners. | Sorrento |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Mary Amantea-Klukas and Samantha Tomlinson | Supporting English Language Learners in Math Class | This session will focus on how to support English Language Learners in math class. Participants will build their understanding for strategies that will engage the ELL learner and promote success in their learning. Learn how these specific strategies will foster student growth in math, language acquisition and overall achievement. | Valencia |
| Friday, Nov. 15  10:30 – 11:30 am | Session  # 1  (60 min.) | Kathy Salmon | Building Home/School Partnerships | Schools continue to engage in communication with parent communities about school activities, academic performance, and homework. This session will provide information and links for resources to support effective communication with parents of culturally and linguistically diverse students. A strong home-school partnership enables a confident level of parental advocacy for a student's learning. This session will focus on strategies for administrators, teachers and school staffs to design workshops for parents of culturally and linguistically diverse students to promote: Increased parent involvement in the education of their children. Understandings of how parents can support their children at home. Support in maintaining and building the use of home language for oral communication and literacy. Understanding of the Alberta education system and school specific reporting practices. Increased awareness and access of community supports and services. Effective communication between the home and the school cross-culturally about school issues. | Genoa |
| Friday, Nov. 15  11:30 -12:30 pm | Lunch  Keynote | DIJILA EL RIKABI |  | Dijila will be speaking on her journey to Canada from Iraq and the experiences she had. | Santano |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Roslyn Marcelo and Melissa DeStefanis-King | New to Teaching ELLs | As communities across Canada are becoming more diverse, many teachers are finding that their responsibilities include teaching both academic content and language skills to English Language Learners. This presents a unique challenge for teachers as we strive to help these students in our core content area classrooms. As educators we must continually focus on our ELLs and find effective ways to arrange their learning to help them achieve success. Spend an hour with us as we explore hands on interactive strategies for ELLs, present teaching ideas that focus on the challenge our ELLs face in the classroom and walk away with teaching ideas you can implement on Monday morning. | Palermo |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Dave Khatib and Brenda McDonald | Assistive Technology for ESL Learners | The session will give educators and administrators an insight on how they can assist ESL students by using various technology devices and online resources. Using UDL (universal design for learning) attendees will be given a number of ideas that will help them with ESL students in the school and classroom. You are highly encouraged to bring a device that can connect to the internet with you to the presentation. | Savona |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Film Festival – Brandy Yanchyk | “Nature’s Invitation” | Filmmaker and Journalist Brandy Yanchyk will show one of her three documentaries on immigration in Alberta. A discussion and question and answer session will follow with the filmmaker and the audience after each film.  ***Brandy Yanchyk will show her 2012 documentary "Nature's Invitation" which is 47 minutes long.*** "Nature's Invitation" is a documentary about Canada's quest to get new immigrants in touch with nature. It also explores the consequences of a life devoid of nature. | Marseille |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Rabih El-Masri | Teaching Social Studies to ELLS | Teaching social studies to ELL(s) might be one of the most challenging subjects to teach. This is due to many factors that are associated with the subject itself and the students. During this session, participants will gain an insight on learning about the challenges and the solutions that are associated with teaching social studies to ELL(s). For that, I will share my teaching experiences of successfully enabling ELL students to better comprehend concepts in social studies. Come and look at some of successful strategies, and students’ exemplars, that would give you ideas that would help empower the learning capacity of your students. | Sorrento |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Nancy Musica | Culturally Sensitive Assessment: Identifying Special Needs Among ESL Students | “Culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students with and at risk for disabilities evidence the greatest need for quality instructional programs of all students in our schools because of disproportionate academic underachievement, special education referrals and disciplinary actions” (Cartledge and Kourka, 2008). We know tests for identifying learning problems are often not “fair” for our ELLs, yet not providing appropriate programming in a timely fashion would be a disservice. In this session, research considering the inherent difficulties of identifying and assessing at-risk CLD students and the exploration of promising alternatives will be discussed, with a particular emphasis on identifying reading disabilities among ESL students. | Valencia |
| Friday, Nov. 15  12:45 – 1:45 pm | Session  # 2  (60 min.) | Brock Wojtalewicz | Assessing Vocabulary Development in Upper Elementary Writing | Vocabulary knowledge is increasingly recognized as a predictor for educational success in K-12 and beyond. In particular knowledge of academic lexis is crucial for reading comprehension and for the expression of ideas in writing. The end of grade 3/beginning of grade 4 is widely regarded as a threshold in literacy development in which children make the transition from "learning to read" to reading to learn." At this critical time, academic demands rise significantly. Once learners have acquired early literacy skills, they are expected to access new content through reading and to write in more formal registers. This interactive workshop will focus on productive vocabulary usage of learners in upper elementary (grades 4-6), as demonstrated in their expository writing. Participants will work in small groups and evaluate several short writing samples using a trait-based rubric. Next, vocabulary usage will be analyzed with lexical profiling tools and then compared to holistic marks. | Genoa |
| Friday, Nov. 15  1:45 pm – 2 pm | Break |  |  |  | Hallway |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Diane Casello and  Michelle Beauregard | Active Literacy, Active Minds; Engaging ELLs | Would you like to explore active means for engaging English language learners in your secondary classroom? Are you looking for ways to help your students truly understand content? Teachers attending this light-hearted, research-based session will walk away with practical literacy strategies that will spark each student's natural curiosity for learning. Active Literacy, Active Minds; Engaging ELLs is designed for any subject, any grade, and any student. | Palermo |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Malcolm McCance | Imagine Learning - An English Language and Literacy Solution | The program provides students with instruction in academic language as well as in the five essential components of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. With Imagine Learning, English learners in grades pre-K through 6 receive exactly what they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. | Savona |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Film Festival – Brandy Yanchyk | “Oil Calling” | Filmmaker and Journalist Brandy Yanchyk will show one of her three documentaries on immigration in Alberta. A discussion and question and answer session will follow with the filmmaker and the audience after each film.  ***Brandy Yanchyk will show her 2013 film "Oil Calling."*** "Oil Calling" is a documentary about new immigrants and Canada's oil patch. | Marseille |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Mike Ettrich | An Introduction to the Alberta K-12 ESL Proficiency Benchmarks | This session will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the ESL Benchmarks and how to use them to plan instruction and supports for English language learners. The session will also include a tour of the Supporting English Language Learners website from which the Alberta K–12 ESL Proficiency Benchmarks and other resources for teachers of English language learners can be accessed. | Sorrento |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Sarah Clark and Bebe Vocong | Everything You Wanted to Know About the English as a Second Language Council! | This session will outline the purpose behind the English as a Second Language Council. We will present our vision for ESL in Alberta and how we can support educators, parents and students. An abundance of resources are available through this council and we would like to share them with you! | Valencia |
| Friday, Nov. 15  2 – 3 pm | Session  # 3  (60 min.) | Hetty Roessingh | From Early to Academic Literacy Development | I will describe and demonstrate the key elements of early language and literacy development, focusing on the transition point of late/end Grade 2, to the increasing demands of academic literacy. I will provide rubrics for the ‘look-4’s’ that signal emerging control of early literacy, while highlighting the importance of the role of language, especially vocabulary knowledge, in making the transition to academic literacy. Using online tools, I will demonstrate how vocabulary diversity and richness can be assessed. ‘Next words to know’ in a child’s vocabulary profile can be targeted by classroom teachers for direct, explicit instruction. I’ll make suggestions for how teachers can and must ‘raise the lexical bar’ through academic conversations and teacher led discussions. Young English language learners need sophisticated input and plenty of opportunities to manipulate and practice new vocabulary across modalities: hear it, say it, see it, read it, write it. | Genoa |
| Friday, Nov. 15  3:15 – 4:00 pm | Keynote  (45 min.) | MONYBANY DAU | Answering the Call for a Better South Sudan | Monybany Minyang Dau was born in South Sudan. He will share his experiences as one of the Lost Boys , a child soldier as well as a beneficiary of ESL education . These life experiences have fostered a desire to help restore the dignity, and the life of his people. | Santano |
| Friday, Nov. 15  4 – 5 pm | Refugee Camp | Jan Underwood |  | Guided by volunteers, from Central Alberta Refugee Effort and Catholic Social Services participants will be given the ID of a fictitious person who is a refugee, while registering for entry to the camp at the Registration table. They will imagine that they are among the [millions of people fleeing violence and persecution](http://refugeecamp.ca/about-refugees/) in, for example, Somalia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Sudan. | Savona |
| Friday, Nov. 15  4 – 5:30 pm | Wine and Cheese  Reception |  |  |  | Santano |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  7:30 – 8:30 am | Breakfast |  |  |  | Santano |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  7:30 – 8:30 am | AGM |  |  |  | Santano |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  8:45 – 9:45 am | Session  # 4  (60 min.) | Liz Spittal-Cote and  Joan Miles | Teaching Refugees in Alberta Schools  Session 1 of 2 | The purpose of this session will be to share a website the Calgary Board of Education developed that is available to all Alberta teachers, regarding teaching refugees. The site has a wealth of information and resources. The speakers will point out some key elements of what the site has to offer and augment the online experience with additional examples (take-aways), implementation tips and utilization suggestions. The speakers have both taught in and supervised the classes/ programs for refugees in the CBE district and are the content managers of the website. | Palermo |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  8:45 – 9:45 am | Session  # 4  (60 min.) | Elsie Johnson and  Karen Bradley-Eye on Literacy | Using Wordless Picture Books to Help ESL Adolescent Learners Emerge, Develop and Expand L2 | With a lack of resources available to teach adolescent ESL learners with little or no formal schooling, this session will introduce wordless picture books as an alternative resource to develop L2 through visual literacy. A wide array of early literacy activities that address learner outcomes will be presented by unpacking the layers of language; emerge, develop, and expand. | Savona |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  8:45 – 9:45 am | Session  # 4  (60 min.) | Malcolm McCance | Imagine Learning - An English Language and Literacy Solution | The program provides students with instruction in academic language as well as in the five essential components of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. With Imagine Learning, English learners in grades pre-K through 6 receive exactly what they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. | Marseille |
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| Saturday, Nov. 16  8:45 – 9:45 am | Session  # 4  (60 min.) | Nancy Musica | Culturally Sensitive Assessment: Identifying Special Needs Among ESL Students | “Culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students with and at risk for disabilities evidence the greatest need for quality instructional programs of all students in our schools because of disproportionate academic underachievement, special education referrals and disciplinary actions” (Cartledge and Kourka, 2008). We know tests for identifying learning problems are often not “fair” for our ELLs, yet not providing appropriate programming in a timely fashion would be a disservice. In this session, research considering the inherent difficulties of identifying and assessing at-risk CLD students and the exploration of promising alternatives will be discussed, with a particular emphasis on identifying reading disabilities among ESL students. | Valencia |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  8:45 – 9:45 am | Session  # 4  (60 min.) | Annie Fung | Introducing ELLs to the World of Shakespeare | Shakespearean English is almost like another language in itself? Even native speakers of English may feel intimidated by Shakespeare so should ESL teachers do anything with Shakespeare with their students? But if we don't try, are our ELLs put in a disadvantage in higher level classes? Join Annie through another of her experimental journeys to teaching" A Midsummer Night's Dream" to her junior high ESL students where we look at how to introduce the Shakespearnean world, use various resources to scaffold students' understanding... enough that they can analyse some authentic texts at the end! Please bring your "Shakespearean" teaching hats so we can share strategies and resources! | Genoa |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  9:45 – 10 am | Break |  |  |  | Hallway |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Liz Spittal-Cote and  Joan Miles | Teaching Refugees in Alberta Schools  Session 2 of 2 | The purpose of this session will be to share a website the Calgary Board of Education developed that is available to all Alberta teachers, regarding teaching refugees. The site has a wealth of information and resources. The speakers will point out some key elements of what the site has to offer and augment the online experience with additional examples (take-aways), implementation tips and utilization suggestions. The speakers have both taught in and supervised the classes/ programs for refugees in the CBE district and are the content managers of the website. | Palermo |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Teresa Borchers | Reading Strategies to Support ELLs | Looking for strategies to support English language learners in their reading? Discover how the Three Part Learning Framework can guide you in this process. We will explore Anticipation Guides, Texts Codes, Double Entry Journals and much more. Leave with a variety of strategies you can use in your classroom to support ELLs in their reading and language development. | Savona |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Jan Underwood | Two Week Summer Camp ESL experience in Italy 2013 | Follow Jan's journey from Canada to England to Fossalta Di Piave in Nothern Italy, on her first adventure as an ESL teacher working for an English Company. Hear the amusing stories of teaching English Immersion in a two week summer camp, to Italian children aged 6-14 years old, preparing lesson plans for English, Art, and Drama, writing Report Cards, being evaluated, making own resources, organizing a sports day, special projects, using the"House System" from Harry Potter, and putting together a musical "Spectacular" on the last day for an audience of 150. Find out what it was like staying with Host families, and the interesting experiences which unfolded. | Marseille |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Marta Albertin and  Franca Paolozzi | Making Sense of the Alberta Ed. ELL Proficiency Benchmarks | An interactive presentation that allows teachers in a coordinating role to approach the Alberta Education ELL Proficiency Benchmark implementation process with streamlining in mind. Benchmark documents will be presented in a user friendly way that will reduce stress levels of teachers in the assessment and planning process for ELL students. This presentation will showcase a system of organization developed at St. Matthew School in the Calgary Catholic School District that allowed for a seamless transition and use of the Alberta Ed. Benchmark system for staff. Opportunities to review the documents and electronic tracking forms with be available at the end of the session. | Sorrento |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Darcy LeBlanc and  Paula Thompson | There’s a MOOSE-matician on the Loose! | Come out and make the most of your conference experience! Play some ELL supported moose math games that will include MOOSE (aka SKUNK or SANTA) and Moose Farkel. This workshop will model effective principles for teaching math content to Language Learners and is appropriate for grades 1-11 educators. Put this talk on your moose-do-list!  Participants will leave as moosified moosematicians with the games that we play in hand; math game templates including thought provoking questions and a handout of many other moose mathematics ideas! | Valencia |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  10 – 11 am | Session  # 5  (60 min.) | Rachel Pinno | Steps Along Our Journey: Immigrant Youth's Stories | The book “Steps Along Our Journey” is a collection of the personal immigration experiences of sixteen local youth, as told in their own words. It was produced through a Central Alberta Refugee Effort initiative and was made available to the public in February 2013. The book has been very well received in the community and has helped to raise awareness of the different struggles that immigrants go through when moving to Alberta. Youth from this book will read their stories and answer questions that you may have about being an immigrant in Canada. | Genoa |
| Saturday, Nov. 16  11:15 – 12:30 pm | Closing Address  and  Keynote | RACHEL SYRJA |  |  | Santano |