

CAPE Alumni Internet Connection: English Teacher Talk

CAPE Internet Talk was started as part of CAPE follow-up activities to continue ties with CAPE alumni and those who are interested in professional development in English teaching. It is hoped that this would increase our bond and aloha among former participants, and that the information in the TALK would help our alumni and friends/members review what they know and deepen their understanding of issues and interest in the ESL field.

Aloha and welcome to another edition of Teacher Talk. I hope you have all had a pleasant week. Here at CAPE we are counting down to our winter program. It is a busy time.

Because we are so close to the (Western) New Year, I have been thinking a lot about resolutions. I have been asking myself what I want to accomplish in the next year both professionally and personally. Professionally, I want to continue to try new ideas. I have been inspired by my colleagues at the Hawaii English Language Program. They have such great ideas and give so much to the students. I would like to use videos and listening realia more in the classroom too. It can be very labor intensive to prepare this material, but it is worth it. I also want to fully adjust to the HELP program next term. It's hard for me to keep in mind that it's only a 40-hour program, so inevitably, I plan too much. (As my fiancé said, "Sarah, this is not the only writing class your students will ever have.") Finally, I want to practice more critical pedagogy (if I can just figure out what it is : >). I hope to empower myself and my students. Now, more than ever, is the time to ask questions and search for underlying reasons and motivations. It has been scary to question what I was taught implicitly, but once I did, everything seemed to fall into place.

Sarah Toohey - Editor, CAPE Alumni Internet Connection: English Teacher Talk
Jai-Ho Yoo - President