

## Featured Presentation

# A Brief glimpse at the future, as seen from the stars

Friday, November 3

9:00-9:45

Jefferson Room



Andy Curtis

**Abstract:** Fourteen years ago, in 2003, in the UK national newspaper *The Guardian*, Robert Phillipson wrote an article titled 'The Future of ELT'. In that article, he stated that: "Language teaching faces many exciting challenges". This plenary presentation will, then, start by looking at Phillipson's predictions about the future of English language teaching and learning, and some of the challenges facing us as TESOL professionals today. More than a decade after the article in *The Guardian*, the then-President of the TESOL International Association, Deena Boraie, posted a blog, in February 2014, titled 'The Future of English Language Teaching and Learning Locally and Globally'. In her blog, Boraie wrote: "Ideologically, there is a growing movement that advocates that the best way to educate children is through their mother tongue, and within this movement this is seen as a basic human right." Much has happened since 2014, which may give us an indication of where we may be headed in the future, and how we might get to the stars.

**Biography:** Andy Curtis received his M.A. in Applied Linguistics, and his Ph.D. in International Education, from the University of York in England. He is currently working with the Graduate School of Education at Anaheim University, which is based in California, USA. From 2015 to 2016, Andy served as the 50th President of the TESOL International Association. In 2016, he received one of the Association's 50-at-50 Awards, when he was voted one of the Fifty Most Influential Figures in the Field, over the last 50 years. Over the last 25 years, Andy has published more than 100 articles, book chapters and books, and been invited to present to around 25,000 teachers in 50 countries, in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as North, South and Central America. He is based in Ontario, Canada, from where he works as an independent consultant for teaching and learning organizations worldwide.

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