

## 16th Annual Conference Held in Chicago July 15-16

ATEG held its 16th Annual Conference on Friday and Saturday, July 15-16 at the downtown Radisson Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The conference was preceded by a 2-day workshop, held July 13-14, at the Washburn School in Winnetka, Illinois, and taught by **Joan Berger** from the Washburn School, **Martha Kolln** from Penn State University, **Michael Kischner** from North Seattle Community College, and **John Crow** from Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.

The keynote speaker for the conference was **Edgar Schuster**, author of *Breaking the Rules: Liberating Writers Through Innovative Writing Instruction*. Schuster, an engaging speaker, entertained and informed the opening plenary session for over an hour with numerous examples of interesting and effective writing instruction.

The rest of the first morning's session was filled with presentations by individuals. **Kate de la Fuente**, from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, illustrated "The Use of Smart Boards to Teach Grammar" with a lesson on nouns taught with movable screen objects. **Cornelia Paraskevas**, from Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon, discussed the use of "Style Sheets" for both elementary and secondary students and how linguistics can be used to give writers enhanced tools so that grammar becomes a craft. **Craig Hancock**, from the University at Albany, presented a discussion of how "Tree Diagrams" can become a visual representation of grammar and an alternative to traditional Reed-Kellogg diagrams. The final morning session was by **Tim Hadley**, from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, who outlined plans for the organization's journal.

After lunch the afternoon session began with **Karen Wink**, from the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, who used the writing of French author Raymond Queneau to discuss "A New Approach to Teaching Active and Passive Voice." Then **Wanda Van Goor**, from Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland, got everyone involved in a rousing session of "Body Grammar," where several prepositional phrases and possibly even a few subordinate clauses could be seen wandering around the room. Next came **Mary Mocsary**, from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana, who introduced a teaching method known as "Grammar BINGO," where the Bingo game is used to make grammar and writing terminology and examples more palatable to high school students, college freshmen, and even English Education majors. **Dawn Burnett**, from McIntosh High School in Peachtree City, Georgia, presented "Handling Sentence Structure: Discovering Grammar through Manipulatives," where she gave a brief overview of Daily Grammar Practice, a method she developed for enabling students at all grade levels and all ability levels to understand grammar and its relevance to writing. More information about the method is available at [www.dgppublishing.com](http://www.dgppublishing.com).

The second half of the afternoon involved two breakout sessions, both of which carried over to Saturday morning. One was chaired by ATEG president **Amy Benjamin**, who directed a workshop session on developing lessons that use visuals and manipulatives. The other was chaired by **Craig Hancock** and **Paul Doniger**, from Pomperaug High School in Southbury, Connecticut, and involved ATEG's "Scope and Sequence Project." This session included the following speakers and topics: •

- **Joan Livingston-Webber**, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois—"An Evaluative Review of Current Grammar Pedagogies"
- **Tim Hadley**—"ATEG Alternatives to NCTE's Non-Grammar Position"
- **Martha Kolln; Jan Jayman**, Carroll County, Maryland Schools; and **Kevin Mooney**, Westminster High School, Maryland—"The Carroll County Grammar Initiative"
- **Cornelia Paraskevas**, "A Rhetorical and Linguistic Understanding of Style"
- **John Crow**, "Grammar Pedagogy and Cognition: The Forgotten Dimension"
- **Bill Spruiell**, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan—"Standard English Cited near Tuscaloosa"

The Saturday morning session began with the annual business meeting, where routine discussion was supplemented by a major initiative: The members voted to change the name of our journal from *Syntax in*

*the Schools to ATEG Journal*. Thanks to ATEG member **Burke Kinnaird** of Winnetka, Illinois for suggesting this new name (see more on this, page 18). After the business meeting concluded, Friday's breakout sessions continued.

ATEG president **Amy Benjamin** and conference host **Joan Berger**, as well as all others who assisted with conference details and planning, deserve special thanks for an excellent 2005 conference.

Make your plans now to attend next year's ATEG conference—dates and location TBA ASAP!