



Newsletter

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 2

MARCH - APR. 2020

“Enriching Learning and Teaching”

from the President
M. Rosella Manni

Dear TESOLers,

I hope you, your families and friends are all healthy. The pandemic is far from over, but I feel confident that, as a community, we can get through this together.

The year 2020 marks a big milestone for TESOL Italy- its 45th anniversary!

An anniversary is a chance to reflect on your organization’s history and reward people who have contributed to your organization’s success along the way. Forty-five years ago, two active pioneers and leading thinkers on education, Mary Finocchiaro and Renzo Titone, with a group of passionate foreign language teaching experts, started something big here in Rome. They focussed on championing best practices, innovation and excellence in language teaching. And TESOL Italy was born. Forty- five years later we are still motivated and inspired by those pioneers who worked with enthusiasm and by the same clear mission. It has been a meaningful long period full of great challenges for all of us who have taken an important role in teaching English. Since then TESOL Italy has continued to expand professional development programs and educational resources, looking back into the past and imagining the future, also through the unexpected

continues on p. 19



Standing In Solidarity With Our TESOL Affiliates⁽¹⁾

The statement published below is signed by the Board of Directors of TESOL International Association. As we “face unprecedented and challenging times”, it invites all of us to “find strength and support in our global community of English language teaching professionals.”

Standing In Solidarity With Our TESOL Affiliates

by David Cutler | 04/17/2020

As our world continues to face unprecedented and challenging times, we, members of the Board of TESOL International Association, want to reach out and wish your members well. We reaffirm our partnership with the leaders and members of the over 100 organizations that belong to the TESOL Affiliate family. We know we can find strength and support in our global community of English language teaching professionals.

While we continue to navigate the uncertainty that this pandemic has imposed, one thing remains clear: whether 6-feet apart or 6,000 miles away, TESOL will continue its work in the service of our profession through professional development, research, virtual events, publications, and advocacy efforts. To that end, we are excited to announce that we will be holding the first-ever TESOL Virtual Convention this July. While the details are still being finalized, we are delighted to offer our members and TESOL Affiliates the opportunity to connect with one another at a time

In this issue

♦ From the President	p. 1
♦ Food for thought	p. 1
♦ From the editor	p. 2
♦ Best of EVO 2020	p. 3
♦ Distance learning	p. 9
♦ EFL Talks Italy	p. 11
♦ Teen voices	p. 12
♦ Staying the distance	p. 13
♦ WeUNITUS.	p. 15
♦ A small experiment	p. 17
♦ Webwatch	p. 20
♦ eTwinning	p. 21
♦ Distance learning.	p.23

when knowledge and sharing is needed the most. The TESOL community is a resilient one, and even though we are more physically separated than ever before, we are also reminded of what brings us together: our dedication to the teaching of English and our commitment to the learners and educators that we serve. It is this dedication to TESOL that will undoubtedly help us overcome the many obstacles we now face. Like all of our TESOL Affiliate Network organizations, the TESOL Board of Directors and staff are looking forward to the day when we can once again come together in-person and celebrate our renewed vision and commitment. This day will come. Until then, we hope for the continued health and safety of all our TESOL Affiliate members worldwide.

1. TESOL International Association

TESOL Italy Newsletter è un bollettino informativo a circolazione interna dell'associazione TESOL Italy. Non è in vendita, ma viene distribuito gratuitamente ai membri dell'associazione. Supplemento a Perspectives, Spring-Fall 2011

TESOL Italy
Via Boncompagni, 2
00187 Roma.
Tel 06 4674 2432
fax 06 4674 2478
e-mail: tesolitaly@gmail.com
web page: www.tesolitaly.org
TESOL Italy membership dues for the year 2019:
1) ordinary members: • 30,00;
2) students under 30: • 20,00;
3) supporters, schools, universities, agencies: • 60,00
(including subscription to EnglishTeaching Forum).
Subscription to English Teaching Forum (4 yearly issues): • 15,00.
TESOL Italy Newsletter

Editor: Daniela Cuccurullo
danielacuccurullo@gmail.com
Editorial board: AnnaRosa Iraldo, Lucilla Lopriore, Marina Morbiducci, Patrizia Petrucci, Franca Ricci Stephenson, M.Rosella Manni

DTP: Piera Fiori Nastro

TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Italy

TESOL Italy, an affiliate of TESOL International, founded by Mary Finocchiaro, is a non-profit organization of teachers of English in Italy. Its purposes are to stimulate professional development, to disseminate information about research, books and other materials related to English, and strengthen instruction and research. TESOL Italy organizes a national convention every year.

Members receive TESOL Italy Newsletter and Perspectives, the academic journal of the association.

Officers: Maria Rosella Manni, *President*, Maria Grazia Maglione, *Vice President*, Daniela Cuccurullo, *Second Vice President*, Patrizia Petrucci, *Office Assistant*.

Ex officio members: Rodney D. Ford, Cultural Attaché, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Rome; M. Paola Pierini, Cultural Affairs Assistant, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Rome.

Executive Committee: Alessandra Cannelli, Michael Joseph Ennis, Rosanna Fiorentino Morozzo (*President 1998-2000*), Enrica Flamini, Mary Elizabeth Flynn (*President 2005-08*), Maria Rosaria Gismondi, Paola Grelli, Sarah Mercedes Howell, Maria Gabriella Ianni, Annarosa Iraldo Invernizzi (*President 1994-96*), Lucilla Lopriore (*President 1996-98*), Paola Mirti (*President 2016-18*), Marina Morbiducci (*President 2008-10*), Carroll Mortera (*President 2004-2005*), Maria Antonietta Ortenzi, Julia Paludan Shore, Franca Ricci Stephenson (*President 1992-94*), Elisabetta Vaccaro.

National Committee: Gary Belayef, Perugia, Beth Ann Boyle, Roma, Elisabetta Burchietti, Latina, Paolo Coppari, Vetralla, Daniela Cuccurullo, Napoli, Maria Irene Davi, Messina, Valdinete Del Nero, Marino Laziale, Valeria Franceschi, Verona, Annalibera Guazzieri, Venezia, Lisa Kester-Dodgson, Osimo (AN), Esterina La Torre, Mondragone, Anna Mazzeo, Benevento, Elizabeth Heather Mugan, Bologna, Anna Maria Nanni, L'Aquila, Maria Antonietta Ortenzi, Roma, Luisa Pantaleoni, Bologna, Erricoberto Pepicelli, Belgio (BN), Giovanna Saggio, Caltanissetta, Raffaele Sanzo, Roma, Filomena Savore, Formia, Maria Antonietta Sessa, Benevento, Cosma Siani, Roma, Janine Sprague Zolle, Trieste, Manuelisa Tuzzetti, Gela, Lina Vellucci, Roma, Paola Vettorel, Venezia, Andrew Wimhurst, Bolzano.

TESOL Italy's mission is to develop the expertise of those involved in teaching English to speakers of other languages, and to foster professional growth and active participation in language teaching. Its mission includes promoting community understanding of the role of language in a progressively changing environment while respecting individuals' language rights.

To achieve this TESOL Italy

- encourages access to and standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, continuing education and student programs;
- links groups to enhance communication among language specialists;
- produces high quality programs, services and products
- promotes advocacy to further the profession.

FROM THE EDITOR

Tackling a global education challenge

As the pandemic threat grows around the world, global education systems are collaborating to collectively respond and provide quality education for all during these difficult times.

The present issue of the newsletter is a spotlight on some effective solutions that help parents, teachers and children navigate through the plethora of challenges facing education during the pandemic. From the opportunity for teachers to form much stronger connections with parents, students (especially for students with disabilities) to challenges of untrained teachers and lack of access to digital learning resources, the newsletter has plentiful insights and resources.

Starting with the webcastathon incredibly well-organized by Vance Stevens to give an idea of the Best of EVO 2020 online, or with the engaging 10 minutes EFL Talks by Rob Howard, all the experiences and reflections that come from the university and school worlds are evidences of new and great changes: a challenge but also a treasure from which to draw in planning for the future.

Enjoy your reading!

Best of EVO 2020 – NOT cancelled! Moved ONLINE!!

A webcastathon over two days in 3 parts

by

Vance Stevens



On Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, 2020, the Best of EVO 2020 – NOT cancelled! Moved ONLINE!! was held in Zoom, inviting moderators of EVO sessions to present for 20 minutes on their 5-week workshops held in January and February of that year. Moderators convened in three separate webinars, one on Friday and two webinars on Saturday 12 hours apart. The event show notes and recordings were archived as Learning2gether Episode 445, freely accessible here:

<https://learning2gether.net/2020/04/03/best-of-evo-2020-not-cancelled-moved-online-a-webcastathon-over-two-days-in-3-parts/>

Best of EVO 2020, Electronic Village Online, presented online

EVO, which stands for Electronic Village Online, was conceived by members of the CALL interest section in TESOL in 2000 as a way to have colleagues mount workshops for one another prior to the annual conference. EVO has since become an annual event each January-February where participants and ESOL experts engage in collaborative, online discussion or hands-on virtual workshops of professional and scholarly benefit, organized at <http://evosessions.org>.

As a CALL-IS initiative, participation in EVO was never limited to TESOL members, so it has also been a way to involve those outside TESOL or members who could not attend the conferences in activities including both member and non-member colleague teachers worldwide.

Best of EVO has long been an on-site fixture at international TESOL conferences, with moderators of EVO sessions holding symposia at those conferences, but when Vance Stevens was asked to organize the one in Chicago in 2018, he found that only two EVO session moderators were planning to attend the conference to fill the 2 hours allocated for the event. Since the event was scheduled to be streamed out from Chicago by CALL-IS, Vance decided to bring presenters from a distance TO Chicago over the same bandwidth we would be streaming out on. This way we netted several additional presenters to commit to joining us online from wherever they would be at the time of our 2-hour presentation in Chicago.

The event was organized in a Google Doc. Vance issued a CfP for anyone who wished to present to join the document as editors and provided a template for presenters to fill in proposals in consistent format, and the proposals were then moved around the document according to a schedule over the two hours the event would run. Presenters physically in Chicago were streamed out to the live audience worldwide, and presenters not in Chicago were piped in via Zoom, their presentations broadcast to the room. The computer broadcasting to the room was simulcast into the stream being webcast out, and it was all captured on a continuous YouTube recording, and archived here:

<https://learning2gether.net/2018/03/28/the-best-of-evo-at-tesol-chicago-2018/>

The same setup was repeated in 2019 in Atlanta, only this time the event was expanded to around three hours divided into events taking place on two days of the conference, and recordings of the stream from both days were archived here, <https://learning2gether.net/2019/03/15/learning2gether-with-the-best-of-evo-2019-blending-webcasting-onsite-and-online-from-the-atlanta-tesol-conference/>.

The same was planned again for the TESOL conference in Denver, 2020, but COVID-19 intervened. When the conference was cancelled, planning for the Best of EVO event had already started. EVO Coordinators Vance Stevens and Jane Chien had already set up a Google Doc and issued a call for participation for the event. Having gone from completely on-site to a blended combination of on-site and online in Chicago and Atlanta, it wasn't a huge leap to move the event to an entirely-online format. We continued to evolve our schedules and presentation details through the Google Doc, and when all the pieces for the event were in place, this document became the official program at <http://tinyurl.com/best2020evo>



At the online event, coordinators, moderators, and participants in Electronic Village Online convened online to talk about their EVO 2020 sessions and about how EVO functions. Moderators overviewed their sessions, and participants were invited to describe their experiences as members of the EVO online community. EVO coordinators explained how to become involved as moderators or participants next year.

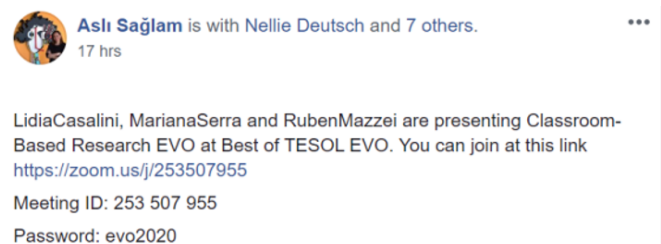
For context, our promotional materials contained a video of Christine Bauer-Ramazani talking at the EVO 2020 closing ceremony Feb 16, 2020 about the Best of EVO event being organized for Denver, 2020, and about the 20 years of EVO anniversary celebrations coming up at TESOL 2021 in Houston, Texas. Here the video is queued to where she made these remarks: <https://youtu.be/pL0Z-CtAahw?t=1161>

As mentioned, we organized our event in a crowd-sourced shared Google Doc here

<https://tinyurl.com/best2020evo>. We used this as our program and also prepared a Google Slides presentation here:

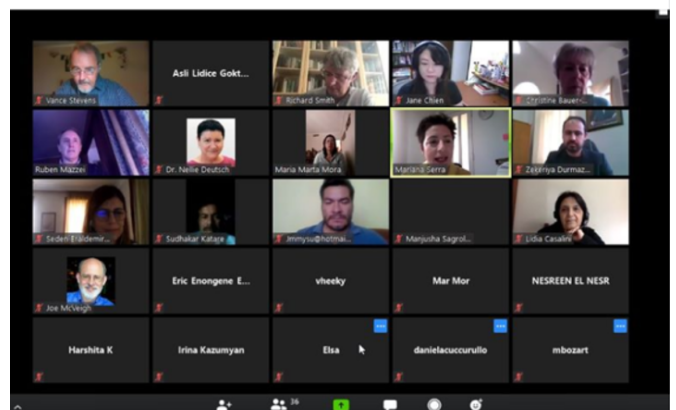
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jdlwiMDaCbtzL0VQnVmyzpD6r8erGke2fYJl2Ppns-k/edit?usp=sharing>

Having moved to a fully online environment, we were no longer constrained to times, or even days, the event had been scheduled to be presented to the live audience in Denver. We tried to keep it to around the calendar days of the conference, but to accommodate everyone's time frames, we organized three presentation blocks over two days.



Part 1 took place Fri 3 April from 1400 to 1600 UTC

- As many as 57 attended this session, recorded in YouTube here: https://youtu.be/vo6WQcNNZ_0
- The audio is also available: https://learning2getherdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/2020-04-03_best-of-evoaudio_only.m4a?

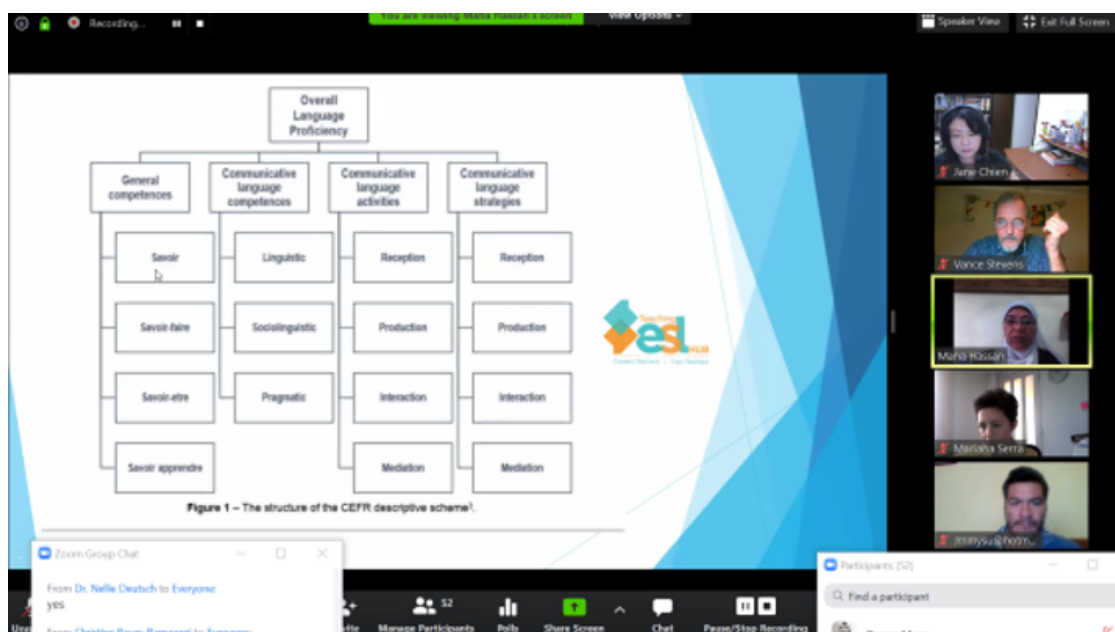
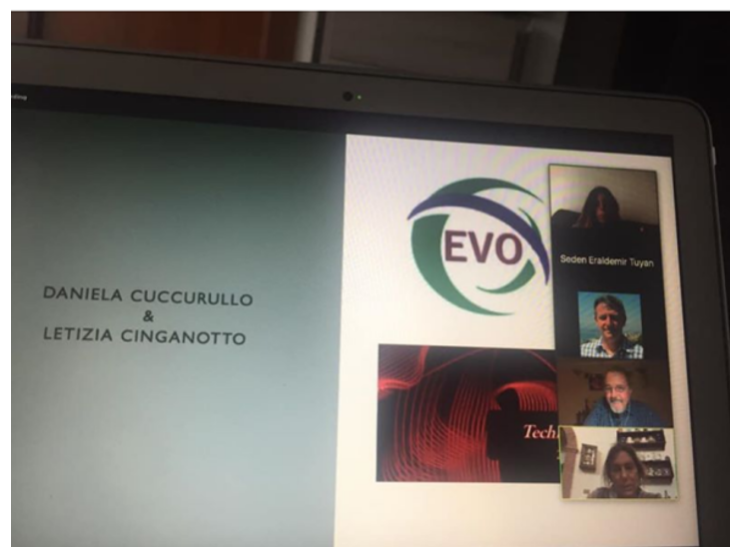


- Here is a direct link to details on the main program for Friday April 3 – 14:00 to 16:00 UTC

The presentations, with direct links to each, were

- Lidia Casalini, Ruben Mazzei, Mariana Serra (tbc) – Classroom-Based Research
- Richard Smith & Seden Eraldemir Tuyan – Mentoring Teacher-research
- Daniela Cuccurullo & Letizia Cinganotto – Techno-CLIL 2020
- Maha Hassan – CEFR Vs. Assessment: How Can New Revisions Help?
- Nellie Deutsch – Moodle for Teachers EVO20
- Nellie Deutsch – Tools for Student Collaboration

Here are some screenshots from these presentations:



Maha's presentation on CEFR

Part 2 was held Saturday April 4 morning from 0200 to 0400 UTC

- 7 attended this session, recorded in YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/6fec0xa9Ndo>
- The audio is also available: https://learning2getherdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/2020-04-04bestofevo_online_audio_only.m4a?
- Here is a direct link to details on the main program for Saturday AM April 4 – 02:00 to 04:00 UTC

There were two presentations, shown below with direct links to each

- Harshita Kapoor – [Getting Online as a Teacherpreneur](#)
- Rosmery Ribera – [Tools for Student Collaboration: Padlet](#)

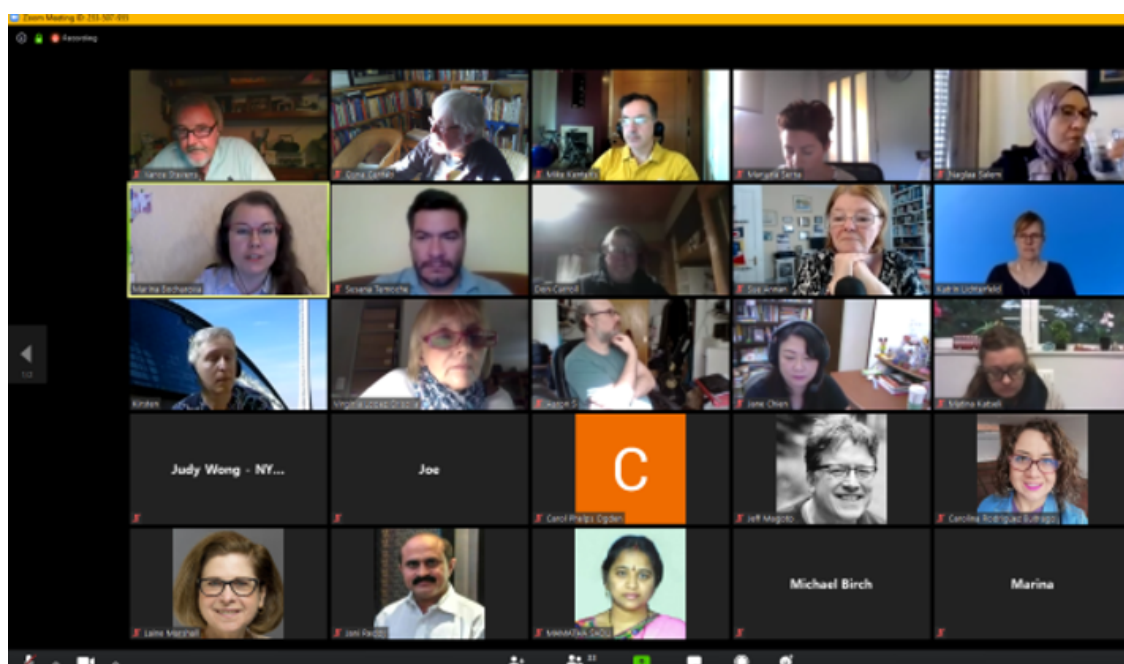
Part 3 final presentations took place Saturday April 4 from 1400 to 1600 UTC

- About 35 were in this session at any given time, recorded in YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/gYIlkYvDryM>
- The audio is available here: https://learning2getherdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/2020-04-04bestevo_online_final_audio_only.m4a?
- Here is a direct link to details on the main program for Saturday PM April 4 – 14:00 to 16:00 UTC

The presentations, with direct links to each, were

- Vance Stevens, Jane Chien, and Don Carroll – EVO Minecraft MOOC
- Kirsten Waechter, Katrin Lichterfeld and Virginia Lopez – English for the workplace
- Martha Ramírez, Jeff Magoto, Mike Kenteris, Diana Salazar, Carolina Rodriguez – Flipped Learning for Language Learning
- Naglaa Salem – Grammar in TESOL
- Heike Philp – [Immersive Language Learning](#)
- Judy Wong and Sheryl McCoy – Teaching EFL to Young Learners

Here are some screenshots from these presentations:





Jane Chien is with Mike Kenteris and 7 others.

21 hrs · 🌐

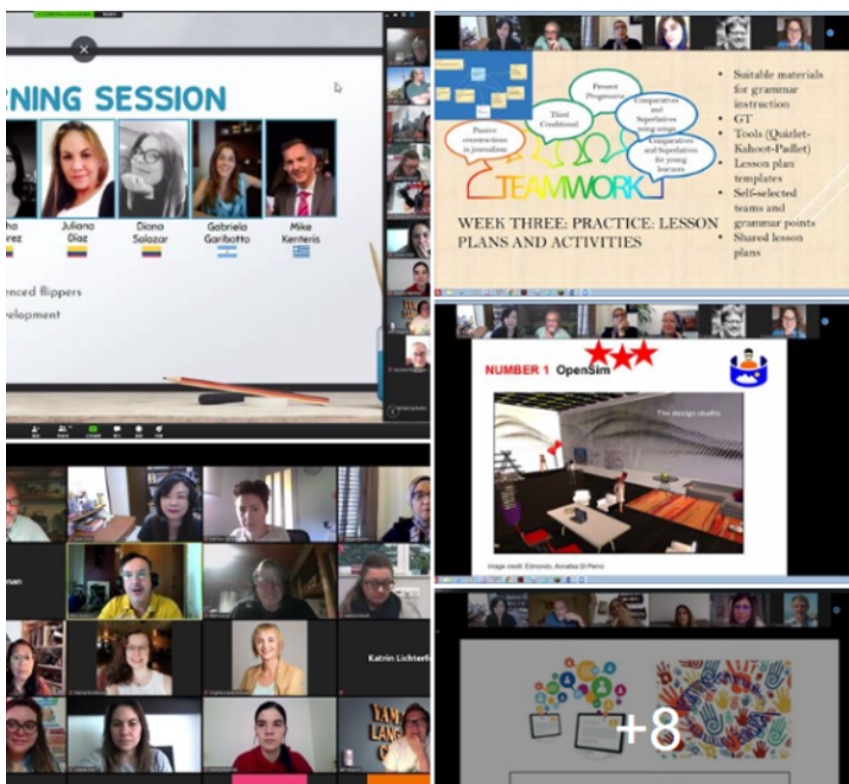
The last session of Best of EVO 2020 is happening now! Thanks to all the presenters for moderating your sessions and presenting! Thanks for your hard work and contribution to this global community of teachers! Next year is EVO's 20th anniversary, serving over 40,000 participants over the past 20 years. EVO is growing strong as you volunteer your time and expertise to provide excellent professional development for all!!

<https://zoom.us/j/253507955>

In conclusion

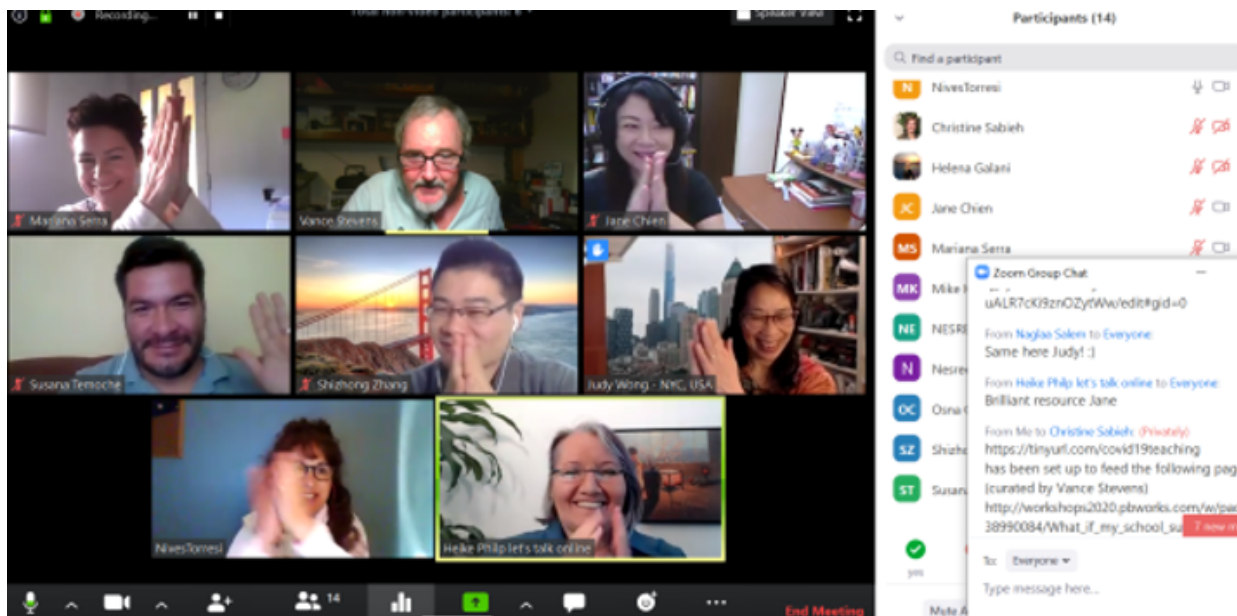
The event was mounted in part to prove several concepts. One was as a response to the necessity of conferences, among many other aspects of our private and professional lives, being cancelled or put on indefinite hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. EVO is an event that has been conducted online each January-February since 2001, and for the past few years we had been applying the fact that EVO moderators and participants were comfortable in online spaces to bring them into the conferences in Chicago and Atlanta from a distance. It was a small and logical step to move our entire Denver event seamlessly online. Another concept is one that colleagues worldwide have been grappling with at scale since March of this year, when many were forced into online spaces with their students without having the comfortable familiarity with such spaces that

EVO participants take for granted. Indeed I was giving workshops face to face in Thailand in January of this year, and engaged to give a fully online followup to those sessions in February and March, <http://workshops2020.pbworks.com/>.



I came to realize that I was modelling how to work in blended modalities with face-to-face audiences and then move them online, something that many of my participants were desperate to learn to do when the online course ended in mid-March. The lesson is clear, when you incorporate blended approaches to f2f classes or presentations, you are ahead of the game when it becomes impossible to carry on your work f2f.

EVO is just one example of a movement that can function smoothly online or f2f. The most important proof of concept that we illustrated is that when you live and learn the ins and outs of blended learning, you can successfully apply these to your COVID-19 emergency contingencies.



At the end of the event, there was a round of applause



TESOL Italy website: <http://tesolitaly.org/new/>

TESOL Italy Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tesolitaly>

TESOL Italy Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/tesolitaly/>