



# English In Georgia

## Project Updates

**In-service teacher training project** has entered its crucial stage. The pilot stage of a 20 hour TT course has been completed. Twenty four Georgian teacher trainers from Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Poti, Zugdidi, Gori and Akhaltsikhe plus the observers (OSGF SPELT trainer and Peace Corps volunteers) got together to feedback on the pilot course. The seminar took place in the hotel Kolkhi in Tbilisi on February 1-2. Barrie Watson and Maya Kiasashvili are being involved in consultancy and coordination of the project. **The project is funded by the British Council.**

**Branch development.** With the help of Tamuna Kvachadze, British Council information coordinator, over 300 items (books, cassettes, videos and CDs) have been ordered for Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and

**Rusudan Tkemaladze**  
*ETAG National Director*

Akhaltsikhe branch libraries. The publishers are: Cambridge and Oxford University Press, Longman and Heinemann-Macmillan. The materials are diverse and satisfy the needs of those who teach young learners, Business English, are interested in testing or general English. The order includes graded readers and fiction, year 2002 best-sellers among them. On the matter and also on the library rules, please contact the branch managers: In Tbilisi: **Tsisana Tsiskaridze:** tel: 25 08 56, email: [etag@internet.ge](mailto:etag@internet.ge); In Kutaisi: **Marina Bagaturia:** tel: (8 231) 4 62 46, email: [etag\\_kutaisi@hotmail.com](mailto:etag_kutaisi@hotmail.com) In Batumi: **Nino Aroshidze:** tel: (888 222) 7 12 93, email: [eng@batumi.net](mailto:eng@batumi.net) and in Akhaltsikhe: **Meggie Tabatadze:** tel: (8 265) 2 02

93. email: [Akhaltsikhe\\_ETAG@yahoo.com](mailto:Akhaltsikhe_ETAG@yahoo.com). **The project is funded by the British Council.**

**ETAG Website** designer is being recruited. We hope to have an updated ETAG Home Page by next month. **The project is funded by the British Council.**

**Civic Education Textbook.** Civic education textbook has been approved by the Ministry of Education as a supplementary textbook for the 9th and 10th graders. 5000 copies of the textbook is being distributed free of charge in schools. **The project has been funded by the US State Department and consulted by College of Education, IOWA University.**

## More Learning, Less Teaching goes

More Learning, Less Teaching is the title of the 20-hour teacher's course that is now ready to be offered to all ETAG members. Many teachers have already attended the course - over one hundred in fact since October 2002 - and in the last 4 months, the course has been conducted once in Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Poti, Gori and Akhaltsikhe, and five times in Tbilisi. However the version of the course that has been used so far was a pilot version; the trainers were conducting it for the first time and we needed to know if all the activities in the course were going to work, and if teachers found them enjoyable and useful.

The response from teachers to the course has so far been enthusiastic and so the job of producing a final version of the course was not so difficult as we feared. It was to discuss this final version, in the light of the last 4 month's experience, that all the trainers - 25 of them - came together on 1st and 2nd February in Tbilisi.

The week-end workshop was organised by Maya Kiasashvili, the project coordinator, and I had the job of collecting all the feedback information on the pilot course from the train-

**Barrie Watson**  
*Consultant*

ers. We all got enormous help and guidance from Helen Prevost, the OSGF SPELT teacher trainer; Helen travelled to many of the places where the course has been run and observed most of the courses and the trainers in action.

Also present were five Peace Corps Volunteers: Ken Goff, Sean Reed, Ross McGill, Sonia Follet and Bryan Morris. They have been discussing, preparing and evaluating this course with the trainers in their regions and their presence, during the piloting of the course, and in our course review meeting, has had a great impact on the quality of the final version of the course.

So, as from the beginning of March, More Learning, Less Teaching goes live. The course in its final form will be made available to all ETAG members - and practising teachers of English - wherever they are. ETAG members who have not attended the course so far should find more information at their local ETAG Branch. And those who have already done the course should make sure that all their colleagues know about it!

*continued on p. 4*

## Editorial

Dear readers,

I did not mean to shock you, but since January is not the most active month in Georgia, many of you may get two issues simultaneously. Don't get a heart attack, OK?

A few words about some of our main features. In Project Update section you will get the information on the latest developments of ETAG projects and exciting new events.

Teacher development section is led by Eka Tkavashvili. We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas about the thought-provoking article on the role of questioning skills in teaching language.

In this issue I am introducing a new feature: SPOTLIGHT ON. This section intends to introduce NEW faces. Teachers who are special and yet not very well known will have a chance to share their experience.

Focus on a branch will give you better picture of a particular branch activities. I would like to take this opportunity and thank Ms. Maggie Tabatadze (Akhaltsikhe branch manager) for her time and cooperation. Due to low response from other branches in this issue we again will focus on AKHALTSIKHE. I would like to encourage other branch managers to record the interesting activities and events and communicate them to ETAG office through e-mail. THANK YOU!

# Asking Questions

*"It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers."*

*James Thurber*

**Eka Tkavashvili**, assistant editor of the Newsletter, is going to lead the Teacher Development section. In the previous article she introduced Igor Zagashvili's article taken from "A Journal of Reading, Writing and Critical thinking." Editorial team challenges you to develop critical thinking skills of your students through foreign language teaching. Many of you are probably already doing his. What methods are you using? Are some of the points raised by Mr. Zagashvili familiar to you? Do you agree/disagree with him? Why? How do you use questions in teaching language? Editorial team wants to invite you to share your opinions.

With the help of questions, humans build bridges to the unknown. Students should not know the answers to their questions. Why ask if you know the answer? Questions help to explore new spheres and to fill in the information gap. On the one hand, asking questions for the sake of checking learners' knowledge, undermines their motivation and discourages them from learning.

On the other hand, question words may help them to create the so-called "zone of interest". Below you will find a most interesting strategy that have helped many teachers

develop in their students the ability to ask questions.

"Question Words" strategy.

This strategy is used when learners are already familiar with the content or theme of a lesson and have learnt a number of basic notions connected with the material being studied.

The teacher asks students to list on the right of a chart ideas they remember in connection with the theme. The left of this chart is filled by various question words (no less than eight).

Question words      Terms and notions

What?	Tolerance
Why?	Intolerance
What kinds of...?	Intolerant behaviour

What are the advantages...? Prejudices

What are the disadvantages...?	Citizenship
Where?	Diverse society
How?	
How come?	
What does...consist of?	

After that students are asked to formulate as many questions as they can using elements from both columns (5-7minutes). This work may be performed

individually or in pairs.

Here are few examples:

*What is tolerance?*

*What is intolerance?*

*What kinds of intolerance can you name?*

*"What is the connection between prejudices and intolerance?"*

Then we ask students to discuss their lists and choose two (or four at the most) questions they consider the most interesting (productive, unexpected, deep, etc.) Before students read out the results of their work, they are asked to consider the criteria they used in making their choices.

Sometimes a teacher can get a little confused by the abundance of questions he is not ready to or did not plan to discuss at this particular lesson. Using such a strategy, teachers are able to gather objective data about which issues are of particular interest to students. The "unanswered" questions may be addressed later.

*To be continued.*

## Upcoming Events

Horby Alumni Conference will be held in Tbilisi on

March 20-22. Main theme: ELT association development. Participants are Horby alumni from Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia. Georgian side will be represented by Horby alumni Marina Tevzaia and Thea Beulava, the former and the present Heads of ETAG Tbilisi branch. The conference will be attended by Mr. Jeremy Jacobson, Deputy Director, English Language Teaching from the British Council London.

1st Caucasus English Teachers Conference "Sharing Across Borders" will be held in Tbilisi on April 25-27. Georgian, Armenian and Azeri teachers will share ideas and experiences. Georgian side will be represented by 50 participants, including the presenters. Registration form for the participants is inserted in this issue. Registration form for the presenters can be obtained in ETAG Central office. Deadline March 3rd. Organizers and founders: USA Embassies and British Councils, also ELT associations of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

### ETAG Video Shows

will be held from February 21 every other Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Enjoy the ETAG novelty!

February 21      Inside Britain

March 7      Classic Cornwall

March 21      Bridget Jones' Diary

### ETAG Saturday Meeting Schedule

Venue - Room 8 (White room)

1. English as an International Language      February 15

2. Total Physical Response (TPR)      March 1

3. Teaching Young Learners      March 15

4. Business English      March 29



*Very few of you may have heard of this name before. Nevertheless, this name is known internationally through the English teaching Forum. Shalva has never had any formal training, yet he's constantly been working on his own professional development through reading and interacting with his colleagues. While working as a supervisor of the English Teacher's Association in Gori and a methodologist of the Gori methodological centre, he was invited to teacher development courses as a trainer in Language Teaching Methodology. "This contributed to my professional development greatly. My best memories of these courses are of a wide variety of activities that stimulated meaningful discussions of the issues related to language teaching and learning and finding solutions to so many problems." Now an experienced teacher, he can recall times of failures and disappoint-*

*ments, but this did not stop or inhibit him. Challenges only stimulated his motivation to seek and find! Here is Mr. Shalva Shaptoshvili himself with answers to more questions.*

***If I wanted to get my article in Forum, I would not know how to do it. Can you tell ETAG members about this?***

The English Teaching Forum gives practising teachers the opportunity to share their practical classroom experience with others. The Editorial Office welcomes authors with experience and interesting and original ideas. And if you have new ideas why keep them to yourself? Why not let other teachers benefit as well? Make a clear and organised writing, illustrate it by practical examples and try it with the Forum. Before sending it off ask your colleagues to read through your article and make comments on it: we all have much to learn from each other. Do not be discouraged if your submission is not accepted: take all the constructive criticisms into consideration, rewrite and try again. Your contribution will be welcomed. It's a great pleasure when your article is seen by more than 60 000 readers in over 100 countries.

***What makes the learning process successful in your classroom?***

The key to the successful learning process is that I combine the best of traditional methods with more recent communicative approach in my teaching of English. For example, I integrate very controlled repetition drills, gap-fills, etc and semi-controlled exercises with more creative work. For example, speaking activities, class sur-

veys and role plays where students talk about themselves and their environment. Both traditional and modern methods have their good points. Both of them have a role to play in motivation, which is the key to successful learning.

***Can you recall yourself as a learner?***

I began to learn English at school in the fifth form. My parents were not so rich to afford private English lessons. Frankly speaking, I was not a good learner at the beginning. My first mark in English was a two. But as time went on it was noticeable that I was progressing and my attitude began to change. Very soon I became one of the best students in the class. But it is worth noting that when I was at school the grammar-translation method was used in teaching foreign languages. There was a little attention to listening and speaking. My teachers used to present new words as isolated units, writing them down on the blackboard. We acquired grammar through learning a set of grammatical rules and analysing sentences grammatically. There was no requirement for students to use a foreign language as a means of communication then. It was my English teacher at the Institute of Foreign Languages Mrs. Nelly Donadze who led us to practical mastery of English. She stimulated our language activity and involved us in the act of communication in the target language. I am

very, very grateful to her. I am also very grateful to my former lecturer Mrs. Nino Razikashvili. I want to take this opportunity I'd like to thank them for what they have done for me and wish them happiness in their lives.

***What are your recollections of your first years of teaching English?***

On the whole negative. There were failures, discipline problems and feelings of disappointment for the first two years or so. In order to find practical ways of solving these problems I interacted with other teachers. I did not inhibit from confiding a failure, finding a solution to a problem and getting an idea how to advance my teaching. I asked my colleagues to observe my lessons. Sharing ideas and skills really helped me move forward. The book "Talks about a foreign language lesson" published in 1971 had the greatest influence on me and proved most useful for my teaching.

*I would like to thank Mr. Shalva Shaptoshvili for his time and an interesting interview. There are so many talented teachers out there. Do you know of somebody who is a standout in your school, community, town? Please recommend them to the editorial team. Let's learn more about each other!*

## Questions of Language Provocative Statement

*Nino Ananiashvili dances in Tbilisi Opera House tonight.*

Would you correct this sentence?

How? Why?

**Living in the target language community for 3 months is more productive than taking English classes in your home country for a year.**

**Do you agree? Disagree? Please send in your opinion. The best ones will be published in the next issue. You can contact me by e-mail, telephone, or simply bring your comments to ETAG Saturday meeting. Your ideas are**

**IMPORTANT!!!!!!**

In this issue we are again focusing on Akhaltsikhe branch. ETAG is proud of Ms. Meggie Tabatadze, the branch manager, who was kind to send us the information and pictures of the trainings that took place.

On 6- 10, January teacher trainers Miss Guliko Janova and Miss Galina Tsereteli held 20 hour training for 14 ETAG members. The 20 hour teacher training: "More learning, less Teach-

## Focus on Branches

ing" was monitored by Mr. Ken Goff, a Peace Corps volunteer. Ken is a teacher trainer. He works at Akhaltsikhe university and attends nearly every ETAG workshop.

Head of ETAG Akhaltsikhe Ms. Guliko Janova, Ms. Galina Tsereteli and Peace Corps Volunteer Ken Goff visited Atskuri secondary school on 29th of January. The English teachers of this school had a chance to share their experience with the guests.



Akhaltsikhe teachers involved in a lively discussion



Contact Akhaltsikhe branch: **91 Rustaveli st. / Akhaltsikhe State University. Tel: (8 265) 2 02 93. email: Akhaltsikhe\_ETAG@yahoo.com.**



From left to right: Head of ETAG Akhaltsikhe Ms. Guliko Janova

## More Learning Less Teaching Goes

The ETAG members who have been approved, by ETAG and the British Council, to conduct the 20-hour course More Learning, Less Teaching are:

Tbilisi:

**Vika Kuprashvili**  
**Mzia Chkonia**  
**Marina Khomeriki**  
**Maya Darchia**  
**Thea Berulava**  
**Lika Mikeladze**  
**Nana Shavishvili**  
**Marina Tkebuchava**  
**Mzia Skhulukhia**

**Marina Tevzaia**  
**Ketino Purtskhvanidze**

Kutaisi  
**Tiniko Kutivadze**  
**Rusudan Kopaleishvili**  
**Tsitsino Tkeshelashvili**

Batumi  
**Neli Kukhaleishvili**  
**Manana Mitaishvili**  
**Tamar Mgeladze**

Zugdidi  
**Mzia Khubulava**

**Irma Kadarina**  
**Manana Topuridze**

Poti  
**Nana Tsurtsumia**  
**Nino Gogichaishvili**

Gori  
**Nana Begiashvili**

Akhaltsikhe  
**Guliko Janova**  
**Galina Tsereteli**

### Goldwynisms

Sam Goldwyn was famous not only for the Hollywood films he produced but also for some amazing things he said! Here are some of them for you to enjoy:

**"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it is written on."**

**"I'll give you a definite maybe."**

**"Include me out."**

**"Don't talk to me when I am interrupting."**

**"When I want your opinion, I'll give it to you."**



**"Here we go Winston - exercise time."**

Tamuna Mardaleishvili - Editor-in-chief

Eka Tkavashvili - Assistant editor

Tamuna Makhoshvili - Assistant editor

Rusudan Tkemaladze - Editorial advisor

For further information and for making contributions please contact ETAG office: Chavchavadze Ave. 36, University 5th building, 2nd floor, r. 8. Office Hours 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tel: 25 08 56 e-mail: etag@internet.ge