

TESOL Arabia  
Dubai Chapter February 2010 Event  
**Teachers' Virtual Assistants**  
Abstracts

**Workshop**

***Social Networking Sites for ELT Professionals***

**Time:** 9:45–10:30

**Ismail Fayed**

**ESL Teacher/ TESOL Arabia Webmaster**

**IAT / TESOL Arabia**

**Bio:**

Ismail Fayed obtained his MA from the University of Manchester. He has been involved in Educational technology projects for the last ten years. He was recently appointed as TESOL Arabia Webmaster.

**Overview:**

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce some of the recent web technologies classified as social networking sites (SNS) for ELT purposes. The potentials as well as drawbacks of using SNS in the ESL context will be discussed.

**Presentation**

***Creating Your Own PD Opportunities***

**Time:** 9:45–10:30

**Shari Virtue & Kelley Fast**

**EAP Instructors**

**Canadian University in Dubai & American University of Sharjah**

**Bio:**

**Shari Virtue**, MA Applied Linguistics, Brock University, Canada. Currently teaching at the Canadian University of Dubai.

**Kelley Fast**, MA Applied Linguistics, Brock University, Canada. Currently teaching at the American University of Sharjah"

**Overview:**

This presentation will define and evaluate what constitutes effective professional development. It will provide an overview of how professional development has evolved, highlighting the importance of reflective practice. Drawing from current literature and personal experience, the presenters will examine current approaches and activities, including suggestions as to how they can be adapted using modern technological tools.

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### Workshop

***Look, what the birdie brought...***

**Time:** 10:45—11:45

**Tamas Lorincz**

**Teacher Development Specialist**

**MAG/Muath Bin Jabal Secondary School**

#### **Bio:**

English teacher, trainer, Ed-tech enthusiast, Tamas, likes novel ways of engaging students and teachers in learning. Tamas started his English teaching career in his native Hungary. Later worked in publishing in the UK, and the MENA region, before joining Madares Al Ghad in 2009.

#### **Overview:**

Twitter - You have an account but don't know why? Have heard of it but why is it good for me? "What are you talking about?" - Is this how you feel?

By sharing my experience I will demonstrate the value of having a Personal Learning Network (PLN). My aim is to demonstrate how "tweeting" can be the next big thing in your professional development. Enthusiasts, skeptics and open minded educators are welcome to join us.

### Presentation

***Building Knowledge, Connections, and Content One Wiki at a Time***

**Time:** 10:45—11:45

**Sean Sweeney**

**Technology Integrator**

**Zionsville Middle School**

#### **Bio:**

Sean has an undergraduate degree in elementary and computer education. She will graduate with her Masters of Arts in Educational Technology this summer and will apply it to her new position as a Technology Integrator.

#### **Overview:**

Presenter will demonstrate the uses of wikis as a technology tool for the classroom. We will explore examples of student use for collaboration and work submission, teacher's use for classroom resources and guided learning, as well as the use of a wiki for building professional learning communities.

## Presentation

### Using Moodle Magic to Enhance Student Learning

Time: 12:00—1:00

#### Bio:

In this presentation you will learn about Moodle Magic from the presenter, invited guests and students. Moodle is an Learning Management System(LMS), or can simply be referred to as a "Metal File Cabinet" in the sky. Moodle can enhance your role as a teacher and enrich student learning. You will learn about Moodle's benefits for schools, teachers, and students and about the many features that attract teachers and students to it, such as ease in organizing class content, and the fact that course content can be easily accessible from anywhere, at any time. Also, the fact that Moodle is much easier to use for both teachers and students than Blackboard Vista make it a good choice for educators. In addition, you will gain ESL/EFL ideas about how Moodle features can benefit your students.

## Maryanne Campo

Educational Technologist, HCT, Sharjah.

#### Bio:

Mary Anne, an Educational Technologist, is currently teaching at HCT. Previous to the UAE she has been a Director of Distance Learning, Instructional Designer, and director of Teaching & Learning with Technology.



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