

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 2

ESL GO! Newsletter

SLS/ESL Program, The Department of English, Purdue University

SLS/ESL Achievements

Book reviews written by **Veronica Jayne**, **Kyle McIntosh**, and **Carolina Peláez-Morales** were recently published in *Critical Inquiry to Language Study: An International Journal*. Links are available at http://www.isls.co/media/Accepted_Reviews.html.

A review of 2010 scholarship on L2 writing co-written by **Tony Silva**, **Veronica Jayne**, **Crissy McMartin-Miller**, and **Carolina Peláez-Morales** appeared in the December edition of *SLW News*.

Congratulations to **Hai Laoriande**, who has passed his preliminary exams, and **Sara Randriansolo**, who recently defended her prospectus and accepted a new position as the International Student Services Administrator in the College of Liberal Arts.

Do **you** have an achievement you'd like to share? If so, please contact cmcmarti@purdue.edu.



Happy New Year!

The first ESL GO! event of 2012 was held on January 21. SLS/ESL PhD candidate Harris Bras gave a well-attended talk for the ESL speaker series entitled “ESL writing in the global university: Who is taking 106i? How is this population changing? What do they want from an American education?” As usual, ESL Happy Hour followed. This month also marks a new regular feature for the ESL GO! Newsletter. Each issue, “Purdue SLS/ESL Alumni: Where Are They Now?” will profile a graduate of our program to not only touch base but also explore the types of jobs someone with a graduate degree in SLS/ESL could pursue. Finally, be sure to check out the CFP for ESL GO!’s fourth annual graduate student symposium on SLS/ESL on page four.

Save the Date: 2012 PLA Symposium

The 2012 Purdue Linguistics Association Symposium will be held March 23-24 at Purdue University. This year, the focus is on sociolinguistics, but the event will include presentations on subfields of linguistics, as well. Electronic submissions of abstracts for 20-minute presentations are due by February 18, 2012. For more information, email plasymposium@gmail.com or visit <http://linguistlist.org/confcustom/pla2012>.

Meet the ESLers



John Hitz

John Hitz is a seventh year Ph.D. student in the SLS/ESL Program and may possibly graduate in May 2012. He has been in the SLS/ESL Program for so long that he has witnessed the construction of half the buildings currently on the Purdue Campus. At Purdue, he has benefitted from teaching many different types of classes such as English 106, 106I, 227, and 620, and has also enjoyed working in the Writing Lab.

Before coming to Purdue, John taught English in Istanbul, Turkey for five years. While in Turkey, he taught himself to speak fluent Turkish. He got his M.S. in Applied Linguistics/ESL at Georgia State University. His main interests are in the influence of the first language on second language acquisition, Turkish linguistics, Chinese linguistics, and the relationship between language processing and grammatical representations. He enjoys watching Turkish soap operas, the television series *Mad Men*, and playing with his two-year old son, Burhan.

Suthathip Thirakunkovit

Her name is Suthathip Thirakunkovit. Well, yes. That is her name. She is a first year Ph.D. student from Thailand. Many Thai names are super long, especially among Thais of Chinese descent. To her understanding, this is because many of those lengthy names come from our attempt to translate Chinese names into Thai equivalents. That is why most Thais have a nickname. I guess you guys can call her “Ploy.”

She was born in Bangkok on the Fourth of July, 198___. For those who know her, you can fill in the blank with the most appropriate number yourselves. ☺ She spent all of her childhood in the capital city of Bangkok. That is why her most vivid childhood memory was all about getting stuck in traffic every morning.

Her everyday life often begins at 5 or 6.00 AM. Yes, she is an early bird. However, she believes that this is the most exciting part of being a teacher. When things got a little out of control, she would start thinking whether she should quit the job. Nonetheless, after five years of her teaching at the university level in Thailand, she found that it was the most rewarding experience in her life.



Purdue SLS/ESL Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Catching up with Kelli Odhuu

After graduating in 2004 with my PhD in ESL from Purdue and going on the job market, I found that Margie, Tony, and April had prepared me well for any job that I would want in ESL/EFL.

For two years I was the Senior English Language Fellow in Mongolia for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural, US Department of State. Then I worked at Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne teaching composition courses, learning communities, and an ENL practicum, and I also trained volunteers in Fort Wayne to teach ESL to newly arrived refugees. Currently, I am a Regional English Language Officer (RELO) in the US Department of State. RELOs provide guidance to embassies and officials on English as a Foreign Language methodology and best practices.

Presently, I am posted in Washington, D.C. I can really say that I have a great job. I get to travel to many countries and interact with the best English language professionals around the world.

The biggest surprise I have had since I graduated is that I miss the homework. At Purdue, I had to read and read and read and read. In my present position, I manage and create and revise and teach. Where is the time for reading? It is difficult to stay on top of my field. Despite this, I've managed to have a lot of fun since I graduated, although I am little jealous of the students in the program now. What a wonderful time I had at Purdue!

Dr. Odhuu can be reached at odhuuke@state.gov.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Graduate Student Symposium on Second Language Studies and ESL

April 14, 2012

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Keynote Speaker: Fred Davidson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Featured Speaker: Muriel Gallego, Ohio University

Submission deadline: March 2, 2012

The Purdue University Graduate Student Symposium on Second Language Studies and English as a Second Language is a growing forum for research focusing on a variety of issues related to SLS and ESL. The Symposium is designed to give graduate students a chance to present their work in a professional and welcoming setting. We encourage submissions from a variety of fields and perspectives that can contribute to an understanding of language use, language teaching, and language learning. We welcome cross-disciplinary proposals (such as relevant work from education, psychology, or sociology). Proposals grounded in action research (inside and outside the classroom), works in progress, and pilot research are also welcome.

Proposal topics include (but are not limited to):

- Analysis of discourse and interaction
- Applied linguistics
- Classroom practice and pedagogy
- Corpus linguistics
- Intercultural rhetoric
- Research methodologies
- Second and foreign language policy
- Second language acquisition
- Second language assessment and testing
- Second language writing
- Sociolinguistics
- Theory
- World Englishes and lingua francas

Proposals of three types are requested:

Paper presentation: 20 minutes long, followed by 5 minutes for discussion. Both individual and group presentations are encouraged.

Panel: 45 minutes long, followed by 15 minutes for discussion. A panel is a forum for presenters to discuss a current issue. Panels are limited to three members, including the leader.

Workshop: a 45-minute, hands-on professional development activity.

Rooms are equipped with computer and AV equipment.

Submission process guidelines:

Email a proposal as an attached PDF or Word document to slsymposium@gmail.com by March 2, 2012. Please type "SLS Symposium Proposal" as the subject line of your email. Proposals should include:

Page 1: Name, affiliation, address, phone number, email address, and a 50-word biographical statement.

Page 2: Title; Type of Session (presentation, panel, or workshop); Content Area (choose from the list above or specify); Abstract (max. 50 words); Description (max. 250 words)

The title, abstract, and biographical statement will appear in the Symposium Program, but only reviewers will see the description.

Factors affecting selection:

Topic reflects current research. Title accurately reflects the content of the presentation. Abstract does not exceed 50 words and accurately conveys the contents of the presentation. Description does not exceed 250 words, has a clearly stated purpose and point of view, shows an appropriate amount of material for the allotted time, and does not make explicit reference to the presenter's status or work.

Specific recommendations for:

Paper presentation: synopsis, including central idea and supporting evidence

Panel: synopsis of issues and roles of panel members

Workshop: statement of goal, synopsis of theoretical framework, and description of tasks.

Website: <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~eslgo/symposium.html>

Questions? Email slsymposium@gmail.com