

NOVEMBER 2011

ESL GO! Newsletter

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



Higher Education in Afghanistan

Four scholars visiting Purdue to participate in the Afghan Junior Faculty Program spoke at this month's ESL Speakers Series event. Pictured below from left to right, they are: Adel Shamsurahman of Nangarhar University; Hossein Mohammadi of the Ibnesina Institute of Higher Education; Zakaria Shafa of Baghlan University; and Mohammad Hussain Issari of Alberoni University and the American University of Afghanistan. Among the topics they discussed were English language teaching and the current status of female students and faculty in Afghanistan.

Happy fall, ESLers!

With a summary of a talk by visiting Afghan scholars and an update from an SLS/ESL graduate now working at Kabul University, Afghanistan seems to be the theme of this month's issue of the ESL Go! Newsletter. On page two, you can also find autobiographies from two current SLS/ESL students and, on page three, accomplishments and achievements from SLS/ESL students and faculty. Finally, the pictures above are from the latest ESL Happy Hour. Wow. We really do look happy!

Save the Date – ESL Speaker Series

SLS/ESL PhD candidate Crissy McMartin-Miller will address instructor practices and student attitudes toward corrective feedback in her talk "How Much Feedback Is Enough?: Error Treatment in Second Language Writing" at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 11, in RAWL 1071.



Meet the ESLers

Sara Randrianasolo

Sara Randrianasolo is a third year Ph.D. student in the SLS/ESL Program and is serving as the 2011-2012 ESL GO President. She has been involved in the field of international education for nearly a decade, having held both faculty and administrative positions. Sara balances the Ph.D. program with a full-time Immigration Counselor position in Purdue's International Students and Scholars (ISS) Office. Besides advising students on immigration matters, she also coordinates the Boiler Out! Volunteer Program, writes the ISS Insider, and participates on campus-wide committees that tackle topics such as the first-year student experience and comprehensive internationalization. Sara is an active member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators and has twice won the "Best of State" award for her presentations. Sara is thankful for her husband who encourages her "I can do it all!" attitude and is blessed with a beautiful daughter, Sophie.



Marie Gerken

I got my BA degree in Teacher Training for elementary and middle school education at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany in 2009. After my BA I taught first and second grade English to native German speakers at an elementary school in Hamburg, Germany. Although I have always enjoyed teaching, I had the desire to study further. Since I have always loved to travel and learn new languages such as French, Spanish and English, I was interested to find out *why* and *how* an individual learns a language, which motifs and goals underlie language learning and how research findings can contribute to improving language teaching methods and approaches. Thus I am currently pursuing my MA in Second Language Acquisition Studies at the University of Hamburg, one of Purdue's partner institutions, with focus on psycholinguistics and second language teaching. In my free time, I love to cook, run and travel all over the world - some of my favorite places are Greece, Spain and the US West Coast but I hope to see many more. I am looking forward to spending a great year at Purdue!



SLS/ESL Achievements and Announcements

Mariam Alamyar, who graduated with her MA in SLS/ESL in 2010, writes from Kabul, Afghanistan, about her work there: “I have been teaching methodology and composition for senior students in the English Department of KU [Kabul University] and both managing and conducting English classes for a female project in the Ministry through the American University. I have been working really hard in the last few months and the workload has been more than I expected. I don't get that much time for my social life, but I am off on Fridays, so I get time to rest. I won't be busy during the winter because KU is off during this season, and I won't have any classes there. Also, the situation is getting somewhat worse. When I get out of my house, I am not sure if I am going to be back. Especially now that I am working with Americans. The university can be targeted so easily. I hope things get better in the future.”

Aylin Atilgan and **Veronica Jayne** will both be participating at INTESOL on November 19. Aylin is giving a workshop entitled “Is this a second language learner which I see before me?” and Veronica is contributing to the poster session. If you are attending INTESOL, stop by and show your support!

Beginning in January, **April Ginther** will begin a five-year term as co-editor of *Language Testing*. *Language Testing* has been published since 1984 and is considered the primer journal for language testing and assessment. Professor Ginther will join an impressive group of editors: Arthur Hughes, Don Porter, Jack Upshur, Alan Davies, Charles Alderson, Lyle Bachman, Dan Douglas, John Read, Glenn Fulcher, and Cathie Elder. She is only the second woman who has been invited to edit.

Veronica Jayne, Annie Ou, and Crissy McMartin-Miller were named winners of the English department's Excellence in Teaching Award for TA/Graduate Instructors.

Congratulations to **Yunjung You**, whose manuscript "Factors in Vocabulary Acquisition through Reading" was recently accepted by the *INTESOL Journal*.

Do **you** have a presentation, publication, or other achievement to share? Please email the ESL GO! Newsletter headquarters at cmcmarti@purdue.edu.