

M A R C H 2 0 1 2

# ESL GO! Newsletter

SLS/ESL Program, Department of English, Purdue English



## SLS/ESL Accomplishments

Aylin Atilgan will present “How Can English Instructors Help International Students with Writing?” at the 2012 Purdue Linguistics Association Symposium on March 23.

Dwight Atkinson will make an invited presentation to the Southern Illinois University English Department in Carbondale, IL, on March 2. His topic will be sociocognitive approaches to second language acquisition.

Harris Bras will present “Little Understood Global Gateways to Composition for International Students” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis, MO, on March 23.

Elena Lawrick has accepted the position of full-time faculty and ESL Program Coordinator at Reading Area Community College, PA.

Joshua Paiz presented “Simulation-gaming: Driving Communicative Competence” at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Teachers of English and Administrators in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Finally, congratulations to Mei-Hung Lin for defending her prospectus and to Joshua Paiz and Scott Partridge for winning Quintilian Awards for Teaching.

## Spring into ESL, GO!

February may have been a short month, but ESL GO! packed in a lot of events. As part of the ESL Speaker Series, April Ginther gave a talk entitled “Validating Language Tests” on February 10. On February 21, Martha McNamara, Professor Emeritus of the University of Akron, presented “Issues in ESL Curriculum Development: Stakeholders and Professional Responsibility.” Finally, the submission deadline for the Graduate Student Symposium on SLS/ESL is March 2. Email [sllsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:sllsymposium@gmail.com) for questions.

## Save the Date: 2012 TESOL Convention

Purdue will be well represented at this year’s TESOL Convention, to be held in Philadelphia, PA, March 28-31. Kyle McIntosh will co-present “Cherish City-Cherish: Linguistic Landscapes as Pedagogical Tool in EFL Settings,” Elena Lawrick will present “Familiar Strangers: International Students in US Composition Courses,” and Tony Silva, Carolina Peláez-Morales, Mei-Hung Lin, and Crissy McMartin-Miller will co-present “Scholarship on L2 Writing in 2011: The Year in Review.” To join us, visit [tesol.org](http://tesol.org).

## Meet the ESLers



**Paulo Dutra** was born in São João de Meriti and raised in Rio de Janeiro, where he managed to stay out of trouble. He is now pursuing a PhD (overdue) in Spanish and a Graduate Certificate in ESL. Among his interests are: learning English, Don Quijote, poetry, literary aesthetics, second language writing and Margie's classes. He has been teaching Spanish and Portuguese at the former FLL and now SLC since 2006. He loves to dance and to ice-skate, but since he is incapable of dancing and skating, he just watches other people doing so. He also loves travelling despite the long (and terrifying) hours

spent in airplanes, airports, and going through customs. For the future he expects to get an opportunity to teach English, Spanish or Portuguese in the so-called eastern hemisphere for a while before going back to Brazil.

**Harris Bras** began his pursuit of a doctorate in Second Language Studies at Purdue University in 2006. His secondary area is rhetoric and composition. He was raised in western Iowa and early pursuits included weeding soybean fields and working with pigs. He studied social sciences at Northwestern College in Iowa and first became involved with ESL when he taught EFL at a high school in Yokohama, Japan for four years. He returned to the United States to pursue a graduate degree and logged many hours in American, Chinese and Japanese history before turning to TESOL at the University of Northern Iowa and earning an M.A. in 2002 while simultaneously getting married and having a couple of kids. While living in Cedar Falls he also taught many sections of the East Asian Cultures course at the community college in neighboring Waterloo. He then taught EFL classes at Cheju National University in South Korea for three years before coming to Purdue. At Purdue he has taught most of the writing courses (106, 106i and 621) and also worked with students from Afghanistan through the AJFD Program. In addition to travel and history, Harris has a long standing interest in classical music and has heard all of Gustav Mahler's nine completed symphonies in person with the exception of the seventh (which he doesn't especially like). When he lived in Tokyo he appeared on stage as an extra with the Vienna State Opera in Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* playing a serf pushing a (paper mache) boulder around stage. On a different occasion (and art form) he was in the same men's room with the legendary Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa at a cinema in Shibuya.



## Purdue SLS/ESL Alumni: Where Are They Now?

### Catching up with Dilia Hasanova



Having spent five years as a doctoral student at the ESL program at Purdue, I've gained not only a solid foundation in ESL theories and methods but also practical experience in working with culturally and linguistically diverse students. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to study/collaborate with talented peers and internationally known faculty.

The guidance and advice I received from the ESL faculty helped me land several campus interviews in the US, as well as in Canada. In the US, I worked as a Director of the ESL program at Brescia University, Kentucky. In Canada, I served as a Head of Teacher Training and Curriculum Development at PLI (a Kaplan School in Vancouver, BC) and provided leadership and professional development in TESL to a staff of 45 teachers. I am currently affiliated with the English Language and Culture program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC, and the ESL program at Douglas College in New Westminster, BC.

*The picture to the left was taken in Banff, Alberta.*