

OCTOBER 2011

ESL GO! Newsletter

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



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Welcome Back!

The fall semester kicked off with a party at Professor April Ginther's house, where we were able to meet all the new ESLers: this year our program added six PhD students, four certificate students, and three continuing lectures (you can read profiles for four of the newcomers on pages two and three). ESL GO! also held its first meeting of the academic year on September 9 and its first Speaker Series event with Professor Margie Berns on September 23. For more achievements from ESL/SLS students and faculty, check out page four.

Save the Date – INTESOL

The Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages 2011 conference will be held in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 19, 2011. This year's theme is "Learners and Leaders in Times of Change". For more information, visit their website: <http://www.intesol.org/Conferences/2011/conference11.html>



Meet the ESLers

Hyojung Keira Park

I'm a PhD student in the SLS/ESL program at Purdue University. I'm working as an instructor teaching First-Year Composition and the job is much more demanding than I expected. I spent my high school years in Melbourne, Australia, and some years in New Zealand and Japan while I was in college. I used to be a language geek, ambitious to set a lifetime goal—conquering ten different languages before I die. Well, still working on it. I spent two and a half decent years majoring in Japanese Area Studies in Seoul National University and later on earned my MA degree in linguistics in Hanhuk University of Foreign Studies while working as an educational coordinator, a TOEFL teacher and a Japanese teacher. I travelled a lot: several countries in Europe (Spain and Belgium were the best!), China (I know Shanghai doesn't count as REAL CHINA), Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia. I hope I can have some getting-away-from-my-books time in the near future to travel around in the US, well, at least to CHICAGO! I do some uncognitive activities, like reading chick-lits or watching hilarious TV shows, to relax and charge my brain in my spare time though I rarely have spare time as a first-year PhD student ☺.



Ghada Gherwash

Ghada Gherwash is a first year PhD student in Second Language Studies. She got her MA in English literature from Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. In 2006, she was awarded the Fulbright scholarship to teach Arabic as a foreign language. She was also one of the first group of Libyan students ever to receive a Fulbright Scholarship. Before coming to Purdue, she taught Arabic and worked on translation for the past five years. Some of Ghada's academic interests include translation, second language acquisition, and contrastive rhetoric. In her spare time, Ghada likes travelling, cooking and hiking.

Meet the ESLers

Annie Zhang

Annie (Cong) Zhang is a first year PhD student in English as Second Language. Her original dream was to be a simultaneous interpreter or anchorwoman in CCTV9 (the English TV channel in China); however, she found herself more attracted to teaching and fell in love with teaching students. So, later on she chose the path of research and teaching in English. Before coming to Purdue, she earned her BA in Scientific English and MA in English language and literature at Shandong University in China. She has been teaching English in different language training organizations in China since she was a sophomore, including: TOEFL writing, interpretation, English vocabulary, and English listening. Now her interest is second language writing, EFL teaching and learning. Her non-academic hobbies are cooking (Chinese food), shopping and travelling. Shangri-La is, in her mind, the most beautiful and amazing place that she has traveled to.



Joshua Paiz

Joshua Paiz is a first year Ph.D student in the SLS/ESL program at Purdue University. He received an M.A. in English with a concentration in ESL and graduate certificate in the Teaching of Writing from the University of Toledo (UT) in May 2011. During his time at UT, Joshua taught both levels of ESL composition as well as a section of mainstream composition I, and a community ESL tutorial. Also during his time at the University of Toledo, he taught numerous intermediate level reading and writing classes for the American Language Institute, an intensive English program connected to the University. He also served as webmaster for the ESL writing program during his second year of study at the University.



Currently, his research interests include: simulation-gaming for language learning, simulation-gaming for composition instruction, L2 writing, and body-language and teaching. During his spare time he's usually watching *Dr. Who* or playing *Halo* on his Xbox 360.

SLS/ESL Achievements and Announcements

Aylin Atilgan was elected to serve as the GradSEA SLS/ESL program representative for 2011-2012.

Mira Bekar presented at the 4th International Adriatic-Ionian Conference entitled ACROSS LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, which was held at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, at the Department of Comparative Linguistics and Cultural Studies from 1st to 3rd September, 2011. The expensive registration fee (150 euros!) included: (1) the presentations of the two keynote speakers: professor Robert Phillipson (yes, the linguistic imperialism person himself) and professor Prue Holmes from University of Durham, UK, and (2) some excellent Italian espresso and pasta. Phillipson talked about English in globalisation and European integration and informed the audience about some new language policy challenges in Scandinavian countries, while Holmes talked about intercultural competence as a combination of intercultural dialogue and intercultural responsibility. Mira's presentation focused on the link between discourse and intercultural competence in online chats.

In addition to speaking at the first ESL GO Speaker Series event "Linguistic Innovation & Literary Creativity in China in English", **Professor Margie Berns** gave a presentation "Chinese-ness and World Englishes" at the AILA/International Association for Applied Linguistics Conference in Beijing in August. During the conference Tony and Margie met SLS/ESL alums **Mingyan Hong**, **Rui Yang**, **Yin Ling Cheung**, **Yichun Liu** and her daughter Claire, and **Lixia Chang** for a dinner reunion.

Kyle McIntosh's review of the book *Teaching Readers of English: Students, Texts, and Contexts* by John S. Hedgcock and Dana R. Ferris was recently published in the *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, volume 10.

Since last April, **Professor Tony Silva** has given presentations on journal publication patterns in second language writing for ESL GO, at National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan, and Chung Yuan Christian University in Taiwan. At the Symposium for Second Language Writing also in Taiwan, Professor Silva served as the co-chair and participated in the open mic session "Writing for scholarly publication" and the reflection session "The 2011 Symposium." At the AILA Conference in Beijing, China, he gave the presentation "*The Chinese visiting scholar experience in the US: Perspectives from the visitor and the host*" with Junju Wang, Dean of the Foreign Language College at Shandong University, Jinan, China. Most recently, he delivered the keynote presentation "*Working with second language writers*" at the Center on Teaching Excellence at St. Louis University.

And finally, congratulations to **Sara Randrianasolo** and **Beril Tezeller Arik** for recently passing their preliminary exams. Read about Beril's experience on her blog at <http://berilarik.blogspot.com/2011/08/on-preliminary-exams.html>.

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