

# ESL GO! Newsletter

SLS/ESL Program, Department of English, Purdue University

## Welcome Back ESLers!

Hopefully everyone had a great summer and is off to a great start of this fall semester! ESL GO! welcomes everyone back and wishes all a wonderful academic year. These are some recent events:

### Past Events

- **INTESOL Conference: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
Purdue was very well represented at the conference! Here is a list of the presenters in the order in which they presented: Kamal Belmihoub, Dr. Oliveira, Yu-Shan Fan, April Burke, Scott Partridge, Aylin Baris Atilgan and Harris Bras, Yunjung You, and Joshua Paiz.

- **Midwest Association Language Testers:**  
There were two presentations at the MwALT 2012 conference during October 5–6 at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign:

1. Lixia Cheng: *Task Difficulty in ESL/EFL Speaking Performance of Requests*
2. Xun Yan, Suthathip Thirakunkovit, and Nancy Kauper: *A Survey of Test-Taker Feedback on a Local Oral English Proficiency Test*

- **First ESL Speaker Series Lecture:**  
*Speak Everywhere: A Technology-Based Solution for Out-of-Class Oral Practice*

Dr. Atsushi Fukada and Mark Haugen presented on problems with and a solution for speaking instruction. The Speak Everywhere software is presented as a solution.

- **Second ESL Speaker Series Lecture:**  
*Beyond the Great Grammar Debate in L2 Writing*

Dr. Paul Matsuda argued that students should not be penalized for grammatical problems. Instead, corrective feedback on grammar should be provided along incentives in the form of extra-credit, for example, for doing well on grammar.

### 2012-2013 ESL GO! Officers

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*Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn. Elizabeth Lawrence.*

## New ESLers' Profiles



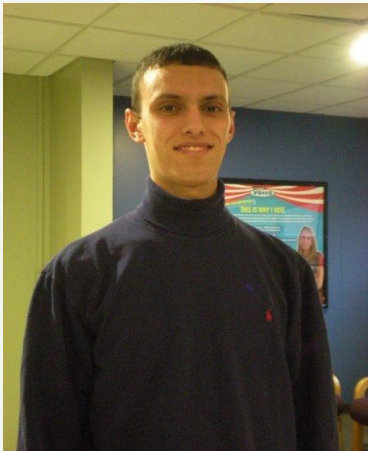
**Elena Shvidko:** If you ask me what makes me happy, I could quickly list at least ten different things and teaching would be among them. It's been an integral part of my life for several years and it truly does bring happiness and joy into my life. I graduated with a BA in Romance and German Philology from Ural State University, Russia. My education continued at Brigham Young University, Utah, where I received my MA in TESOL. I just started my first semester in the Second Language Studies Program here at Purdue. I feel very privileged and lucky to be surrounded by so many intelligent students and professors in the English department. Their level of knowledge and experience will never stop to surprise me. Outside of the school, I am an outdoorsy person, and I love nature! Hiking up to the mountains or spending time by a river with a fishing pole is something that I would do anytime! I also enjoy theme parks! I can spend the whole day in the Disney Mickey Town and feel the happiest person in the world ☺ In short, I am just a girl that loves life and people. This is one of the reasons why I chose to be a teacher. Being in a classroom, interacting with so many different personalities, and making someone's life better is what makes my job and essentially my own life meaningful.

**Heejung Kwon:** I'm starting my first year as a PhD student in Second Language Studies program. I'm generally interested in cultural and linguistic differences in written communication, World Englishes, and professional writing. But I'm just starting, so I'm open to any topics in the field of SLS and Rhet/Comp. I'm teaching 106 now, and I had taught freshmen year ESL academic writing classes while I was doing my MA at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I'm from Pohang which is a fishing town with a giant multinational steel-making company in South Korea. I grew up there and went to college in Seoul, the capital of Korea. I like cooking, traveling, reading, and swimming.

## New ESLers' Profiles



**Mark Haugen** is a first year Ph.D. student in the Second Language Studies/English as a Second Language program. He hails from St. Joseph, Minnesota. After finishing his undergraduate studies in 2006 he spent four years, teaching, learning and travelling throughout Europe, South America, and Asia. He then came to Purdue where he completed a Master of Science in Education Degree in May of 2012. His research interests include language acquisition and study abroad, oral language pedagogy, and CALL. Apart from academics he is interested in bikes, guitars, and frisbees.



**Kamal Belmihoub** is a first year PhD student in the Second Language Studies Program. He is originally from Algeria. He received a BA in English from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and an MA and a Certificate in the Teaching of Writing from the University of Toledo, Ohio. In Toledo, he taught in an Intensive English Program and he taught ESL and NES composition. He is interested in World Englishes, International Education, Rhetoric and Composition, and Second Language Writing. Besides academics, he likes soccer, hiking, board games, and much more!



## Halloween Jokes!

What should you do when zombies surround your house? Hope it's Halloween.

Why did the Cyclops give up teaching? Because he only had one pupil.

### SLS/ESL Achievements and Announcements

Congratulations to Lixia Cheng who received two dissertation awards, one by The International Research Foundation for English Language Education and the other by the TOEFL Grants and Awards Committee, under Small Grants for Doctoral Research in Second or Foreign Language Assessment! Her dissertation is on the *Effects of Pragmatic Task Features, English Proficiency, and Learning Setting on Chinese ESL/FL Learners' Spoken Performance of Requests*.

Veronika Maliborska, Yushan Fan, Matthew Allen, Tony Silva, and Margie Berns received the Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of English, 2011-2012.

### Upcoming Events

- On Friday, November 2nd at 1:30 pm, Kyle McIntosh will be presenting a workshop with Christopher La Cross titled "Classroom Role Plays Redesigned" at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers' Conference in Indianapolis. Later that day, he will be presenting on his dissertation titled "ELT Professionals Publishing in International Applied Linguistics Journals: The Case of Mainland China" as part of the ESL Speaker Series from 5.30-6.30 pm in RAWLS 1071.

- Professor John Edwards will give two lectures at Indiana University: The 'New' Ecology of Language: Some Critical Thoughts on Ecolinguistics on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 pm in Frangipani Room at IMU, and Multilingualism: Understanding Linguistic Diversity on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30 pm in IMU Georgian Room.