

ESL GO Newsletter

SLS/ESL Program, Department of English, Purdue University

Issue 9, May 2014



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Upcoming Conferences

June 6-7: Intercultural Rhetoric and Discourse Conference, IUPUI,
Indianapolis, IN, <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/icic/conference/>

Call for Proposals

Symposium on Second Language Writing: Sunday, June 1, 2014, 11:59 pm.,
Mountain Standard Time. More information at: <http://sslw.asu.edu/2014/>

TESOL 2015 Call for Proposals: Monday, June 2, 2014, 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern
Daylight Time. More information at: <http://www.tesol.org/attend-and-learn/international-convention/convention2014/2015-session-proposals>

AAA 2015 Call for Proposals: August 20, 2014, 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Daylight
Time. More information at:
<http://aaal.org/associations/12182/files/AAAL%202015%20CFP%20Final%20Updated.pdf>

Congratulations!

Margie Berns was inducted into the Purdue University Book of Great Teachers. The book bears names of faculty who have devoted their lives to excellence in teaching and scholarship (December 2013)

Lena Shvidko received Purdue University Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award-2014 (April 2014)

Joshua Paiz won 1st Place in Johnson Award at Annual Literary Award (April 2014)



Welcome New Faculty!

Assistant Professor ESL/SLS: Shelley Staples

Shelley Staples is graduating with a doctorate in Applied Linguistics from Northern Arizona U. Her dissertation investigated linguistic differences in the discourse of international and US nurses in their interactions with patients, including lexico-grammatical (e.g., pronouns), interactional (e.g., discourse markers), and prosodic (e.g., pitch range) features. More broadly, her research focuses on applications of corpus linguistic methods to questions of relevance for Second Language Studies, particularly sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, and second language writing. She is also interested in the integration of corpora and other technology in language teaching and classroom-based research. Her work has been published in the *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* and *English for Specific Purposes Journal* as well as several nursing journals.



SLS Symposium: Thank you!

Our 6th Graduate Student Symposium “*Global Dimensions of English Language Learning and Use*” was a great success! It was our honor to have Professor Cecil L. Nelson from Indiana State University as a keynote speaker and Kyle McIntosh as a featured speaker.

We had a great representation of presenters and attendees from other universities: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, Oklahoma State University, St. Cloud State University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Toledo, and of course Purdue University.

We would like to thank the symposium organizing committee, the proposal reviewing committee, and many volunteers, who made this event a success. We extend a special thanks to the presenters from our own program:

Aylin Atilgan
Cong (Annie) Zhang
Ghada Gherwash
Kyongson (Sonny) Park
Lena Shvidko
Mariam Alamyar
Suneeta Thomas
Scott R Partridge
Yue Chen



And of course, very special thanks to our professors April Ginther, Dwight Atkinson, Margie Berns, and Tony Silva for their inspiration, support, and encouragement!

Academic Year 2013-2014:

The academic year of 2013-2014 was very successful for our program. We accomplished much, we learned from each other, and we gained valuable experiences in many different areas of research and teaching. In a word, we have grown together!

But what was this year like on the individual level? Several students will share the experiences they had this year as doctoral students in the SLS Program.



Mariam Alamyar

“This year was very busy for me but at the same time very much rewarding and successful. It is my second year in graduate program and I am glad that I am almost done with my course work, prelim exam, and prospectus defense. This is a big achievement for me. All I want to say is that hard work pays off.

My special thanks goes to my adviser Margie Berns, and all my other professors—April Ginther, Tony Silva, Dwight Atkinson, classmates, and friends for helping me and supporting throughout the year to be able to finish up with everything so soon. You are all wonderful!”

Lixia Cheng

“I completed my 3 ½ year and 3500 USD dissertation project, and right now I am looking forward to my dissertation defense in late May and commencement in August. I was invited to write a chapter on my dissertation research for a 2016 volume of the Studies in Language Testing (SiLT) series, which will be published jointly by Cambridge English Language Assessment and Cambridge University Press, and my abstract has been accepted. In addition, I published another study, which examined the pragmatic choices of suggestions that composition instructors make in their written feedback on ESL writing, in the January 2014 issue of the New York State TESOL Journal. I have greatly enjoyed collaborating with Kyle McIntosh since May 2013 to develop, pilot, and revise a curriculum for a new English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course at Purdue: General Studies (GS) 490, “Reading, Writing, and Speaking for International Studies”. I am excited about starting my position as the Testing and Assessment Coordinator in the newly founded Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange (PLaCE) program on July 1st and before that, moving my family including a playful 1st grader out of Purdue Village and into a house in the West Lafayette schools district.”



Matthew Allen

"This year has been challenging but rewarding for me. I entered my fifth year of PhD studies this year, and I've had some important progress on my dissertation research and participated in some new teaching opportunities.

Sadly, however, one of my committee members (and a great supporter and mentor), Linda Bergmann, passed away. All in all, it's been a time of reflection and growth."



Annie Zhang

"I worked as the co-assistant chair for the 2013 Symposium on Second Language Writing, thanks to Tony's trust. It was the first time I have helped organize an international conference and I learned a lot. I also had my first experience attending and presenting at TESOL! Last but not least, I will finish my prelims by the end of the semester! Hooray!"

Song-Eun Lee

"1. Working with my friends in our program for the symposium was a new and great experience for me!

2. I'm done with my coursework (officially)--Hooray!

3. I've started to work with OTHERS for projects and realized that I enjoy it.

4. Finishing another linguistics class--Semantics!"



Mark Haugen

"The 2013-2014 academic year was full of challenges and rewards. I found it incredibly rewarding to work with students from multiple disciplines while completing courses in statistics, linguistics as well as second language studies! I look forward to another great year in 2014-2015!"

Scott Partridge

“This year has allowed me the opportunity and tools to broaden my focus from individual classroom writing instruction to the institutional factors that affect, and in very real ways dictate, the language and communication outcomes for our students. Our classrooms offer an important realm for experimenting with new techniques of teaching, but without a systematic approach to language learning that is reinforced at the programmatic level, the best we can realize are incremental changes. Our current system approaches writing and communication in isolation: as if a single class or two will “fix” students; we know this is a false premise, but haven’t successfully communicated this to other disciplines. This is what I want to work on.”



Soohyon Ji

“The first year as a PhD student was absolutely a busy one but at the same time was very much enjoyable. I learned a lot (hopefully!), found new interests from new fields which I am looking forward to learn more. It was a good start to continue my studies, thanks to our great professors and friends!”

Yue Chen

“My first year as a PhD student has been a year of laughter and tears. Becoming a novice researcher is never an easy task, but along this journey, I learned how to collaborate, to trust, and to be productive.”



Rodrigo A. Rodriguez Fuentes

“This was my first academic year in the United States and as such, it was a whole new experience that (I must confess) I am still getting used to. The most important thing is that it has helped me to grow as a person and professionally, and that is all that really matters.”

Suneeta Thomas

"This past year has been my most productive year yet, at Purdue. Right from being involved as the ESL Speaker Series Chair to participating in conferences with Professor Berns and Professor Silva, to being part of our program Faculty Search Committee, ESL Symposium Planning Committee, the department's variety show-Heavning of Whimsy and GradSEA, it's been an invigorating and an enriching ride. I hope to be this involved in the coming year too!"

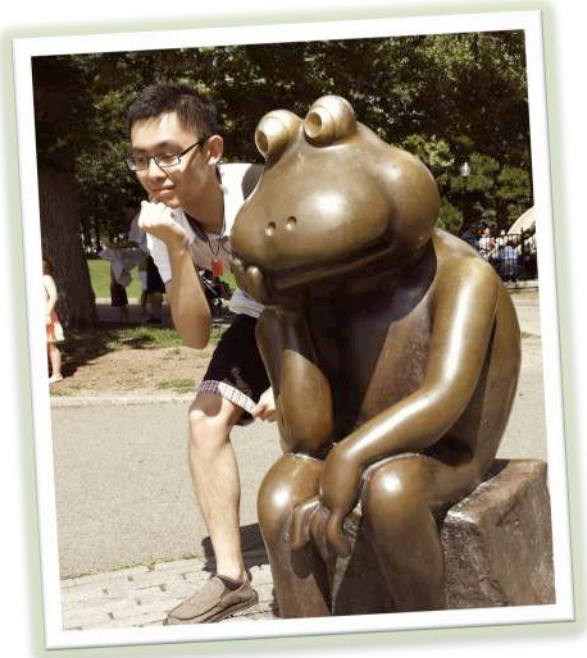


Kamal Belmihoub

"This academic year has been significant because, after this year, and for the first time, I am no longer required to take classes, though I am not ready to give up on coursework just yet. I learned a great deal by travelling to three major conferences (World Englishes, AAAL, and TESOL), and I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with colleagues to serve our program and successfully organize our own major event: the annual ESL GO! SLS/ESL Symposium. Finally, I had two wonderful groups of students who I had the privilege to help and who helped me grow as a teacher."

Xun Yan

"For me, this academic year has been a crazy but important transition period from graduate school to the real world. I defended my prospectus, helped develop a language test, received a research internship, presented at four conferences, and published two papers. I also spent the winter break at home with my family and for the first time feared that I won't be able to enjoy the luxury of a three-month summer break at home anymore. I think I have grown up..."



Advice From Our Alumni

Professor Melinda Reichelt, University of Toledo:



Ph.D. in English, Purdue University, 1996

Website: http://englv00.utad.utoledo.edu/english/?page_id=196

Professor Reichelt gives advice to graduate students in the SLS/ESL Program:

“The most valuable experiences I had as a graduate student at Purdue were classroom teaching, working in the Writing Lab, and going to Germany to do my dissertation research on L1 and L2 writing instruction at the secondary level. I felt very fortunate to have support and guidance from my mentors in these endeavors, as well as the freedom to follow my own research interests.

I recommend choosing an area of research for your dissertation that will sustain your interest for years to come. At the time I was choosing a dissertation topic, I didn't realize that my dissertation research would lay the groundwork for so much of my future work. Of course, you're not locked into your dissertation topic for life, but it's nice if it's something you enjoy. I also recommend, in graduate school and beyond, pursuing a balanced life, taking care of your physical health as well as social and family relationships. If possible, have a hobby that doesn't relate to your academic life.”

Have a wonderful summer!

