

ESL GO! NEWSLETTER

2014-2015 / Issue 2

Second Language Studies/ESL at Purdue University

Professional Development Opportunities in Graduate School

Dear Readers,

For this issues, we have invited doctoral students from our program to share their experiences in professionalizing and diversifying their academic selves. These are just some of the numerous opportunities for students to explore on their way to graduation. But it is these small steps taken by us every day that shape who we become tomorrow.

ESL GO! Speaker series:

Please join our monthly ESL GO! Speaker Series. They are a great opportunity to learn about others' research interests and socialize during the Happy Hour!

Upcoming:

Dec. 5 Dwight Atkinson, "Does Second Language Writing Really Equal Second Language Grammar?"

Past:

Oct. 31 Shizhou (Nicholas) Yang, "L2 Autobiographical Writing and Identity Work."

Read:

"Professionalizing L2 Writing: A Symposium " by Elena Shvidko

<http://blog.tesol.org/professionalizing-l2-writing-a-symposium/>

ESL GO! OFFICERS:

President: Xun Yan

Vice President: Scott Partridge

Treasurer: Ploy Thirakunkovit

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Professional Development Committee: Yue Chen / Annie Zhang

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ESL GO! Editor: Veronika Maliborska

First Year Liaison: Heejung Kwon

Fundraiser: Dennis Koyama

Crossing Boundaries: My Experience in Taking Interdisciplinary Courses

by **Mariam Alamyar**

Since I started my graduate studies at Purdue University in SLS/ESL, in addition to the courses from my own program, I have had the opportunity to take courses from different departments and schools such as Linguistics, Rhetoric and Composition, Education, Communication, and Organization Leadership and Supervision. Some people might think that specializing in a very specific discipline can help one to get an in-depth knowledge of their field. However, I believe in order to gain vast knowledge and make more valuable contributions to a discipline, it is important to create something new by crossing boundaries, thinking across them and experiencing courses from other disciplines.

Taking courses from other disciplines assisted me to synthesize broad perspectives, knowledge, skills, flexibility, interconnections, and methods. It helped me to learn more about several academic schools of thought, professions, and diverse graduate students' perspectives when they are pursuing their degree. It exposed me to a wide variety of ideas and methods that help me learn how to apply the knowledge in different ways and combine ideas while also using the tools of different disciplines. I also believe that any field requires understanding of diverse disciplines to solve neglected problems that exist in the field and use different approaches to solve them. Yet, they were not able to eliminate or even lessen the problems due to the fact that those approaches were used and replicated several times and they never got the chance to adopt an approach from another discipline.



Photo courtesy of **Mariam Alamyar**

Exploring other disciplines provided me the opportunity to have more job options. For example, taking a few courses in leadership helped me to find a job in managing an education project during the summer. It helped me function well and fulfill my responsibilities properly in this job. I was able to implement to some extent the skills and knowledge that I learnt through those courses and integrate more of what I learned from them. It helped me not only to improve my leadership skills in my classroom but also be able to manage educational projects. I was able to modify and implement the knowledge I gained into my own major. Similarly, the composition course that I took from Rhetoric and Composition Department expanded my knowledge not only about ESL writing but what is going on in the writing field in general. I understand that taking courses from other disciplines can be a challenging task due to the students' different knowledge and areas of contributions. However, it can be a very powerful tool if one knows how to apply, modify and utilize them in their own major.

I think not only the students in our SLS/ESL program but any other programs within the English department have a wonderful opportunity to explore a vast majority of courses to broaden their horizons and form their future career. Our ultimate goal is to serve students and it can be done in different ways by experiencing and getting knowledge from different disciplines and trying to apply them in our own field. It requires hard work but it will be paid off at the end. I really encourage my fellow ESLers to go beyond what our program offers them and seek more advice from their advisors in this regard. Finally, I thank my adviser Dr. Margie Berns, Dr. April Ginther, and Dr. Tony Silva and all my professors in SLS/ESL for encouraging, guiding and building my confidence in any decisions that I make in my academic life.

One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.

Eleanor Roosevelt

My Very Own Personal Reflection on SSLW 2014

by Song-Eun Lee

Joining Symposium on Second Language Writing (SSLW) of 2014 was my first distant (out of IN) conference trip and gave me many lessons and good memories. It was so weird for me to leave my little tigers in WL and be separated from them for a while, but it was worthwhile. The best part of the symposium was absolutely "about people" as I had heard from many friends and professors before. Making new friends, knowing more about "big" people, looking at our teachers from a new angle surrounded by a large audience and listening to them in a new, big place, and hanging out with my close friends and knowing more about them as well—these are all new and precious experiences for me. I actually felt that my advisor and our teacher, Tony, was literally the father, the legend of Second Language Writing and that Dwight was SO popular (much more than I imagined :)).

I could see again Paul Kei Matsuda, remember almost every single graduate student and talk with them kindly and heartily. Among many new and old acquaintances that I made there, there was my favorite, one new acquaintance, Tony Cimasko. He always carried his black backpack as if he were still a graduate student, looked really curious about other people's presentations, and listened to them earnestly. Far from what I imagined about him in the past



Photo courtesy of Paul Kei Matsuda

when I saw him only at a distance (I imagined he would be slightly cold and strict), he even showed a great sense of humor while he was talking so softly and was very comfortable to talk with. Another surprising and interesting thing was that he spoke some Korean very cutely. :) He was just like another Tony (Silva); that might be why people have historically (in our program) called Tony (Silva) "BIG Tony" and Tony (Cimasko) "little Tony," not only because of their name. It is never easy to travel out of town during the hectic time of the semester; however, I learned that, from this opportunity, meeting with people at conferences is a good way that can make our long and tough study/academic life happier and more spirited. Additionally and more importantly, it is the very way that we can continue to be connected and catch up in person wherever we are even after we leave Purdue in the future!



Photo © Veronika Maliborska

Internship Opportunities:

CaMLA Internship Program

“The CaMLA internship program provides professional training and research opportunities for English language teaching professionals and graduate students. Successful applicants will work closely with CaMLA teams on English language assessment tasks and projects that are appropriate to their interests and skills. ”

January 30, 2015 Deadline for applications

March 16, 2015 Notification of results

<http://www.cambridgemichigan.org/about-us/working-with-us/internships>

EST 2015 Summer Internship Program in Research for Graduate Students

“Interns conduct research under the guidance of an ETS mentor in Princeton, N.J. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a full-time doctoral program and have completed a minimum of two years of coursework toward their Ph.D. or Ed.D. ”

February 1, 2015 Application deadline

April 1, 2015 Applicants are notified of selection decision

<https://www.ets.org/research/fellowships/summer>

Upcoming Conferences:

March 18-21: CCCC, Tampa, Florida

<http://www.ncte.org/cccc/conv>

March 21-24: AAAL, Toronto, Canada

<http://www.aaal.org/2015conference>

March 25-28: TESOL, Toronto, Canada (Submissions for CALL-IS Electronic Village Events are extended till December 7, 2014)

<http://www.tesol.org/convention2015>

April 16-20: AERA, Chicago IL

[http://www.aera.net/EventsMeetings/AnnualMeeting/2015AnnualMeetingTheme/
tabid/15492/Default.aspx](http://www.aera.net/EventsMeetings/AnnualMeeting/2015AnnualMeetingTheme/tabid/15492/Default.aspx)

It's Time for a Celebration, ESL GOers!

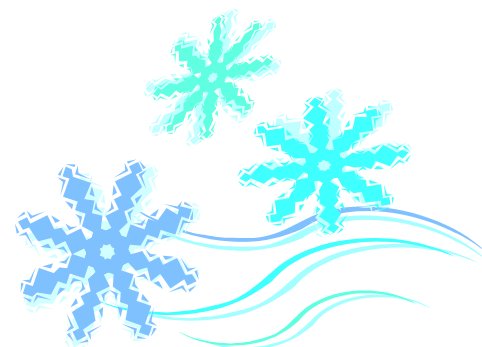
Invitation from Margie and Tony

You and your guest are invited to celebrate

the end-of-classes with us on

Saturday, December 13, 2014

8:00 pm

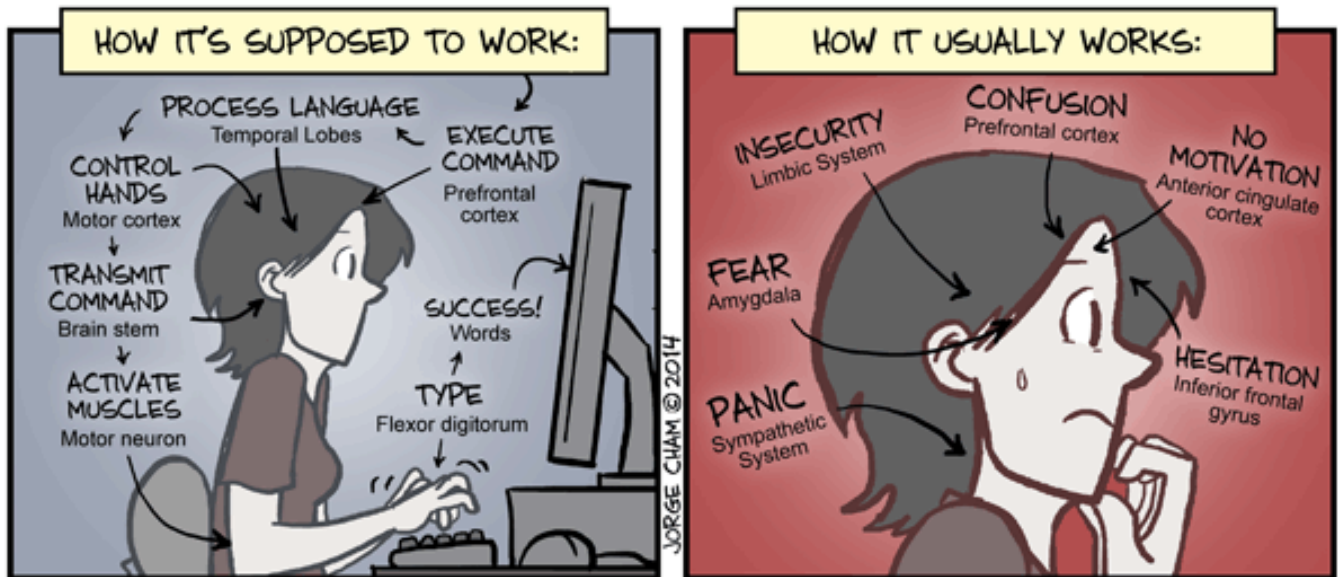


(see email from Margie Berns for address)



The Neurobiology of Writing and the Imposter Syndrome

THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF WRITING



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham

Get involved with ESL GO!

Have ideas on what we could be doing better? Want to get involved? Contact our president, Xun Yan at yan50@purdue.edu with questions and suggestions. We would love to hear your ideas!

Contact Us

Email your submissions to: vmalibor@purdue.edu

ESL GO! Website:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~eslgo/index.html>

SLS/ESL Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/117624535104094/>

ESL GO! Newsletter Editor

Veronika Maliborska