

ESL GO! Newsletter vol. 1, issue 1

Welcome (soon-to-be) loyal readers to the premiere edition of the **ESL GO! Newsletter**.

What an exciting semester it's been so far, with **9 new PhD** and **5 new MA** students entering the program, and three of our long-standing colleagues recently giving their defenses: Congratulations to **Jennifer Haan, PhD, Jihyun Im, MA, and Venetka Marinova, MA!**

On Saturday, November 7th, Purdue will play host to the 2009 **Midwest Association of Language Testers (MwALT)** conference. Among the presenters will be our own **Rui Yang** ("An Investigation of the Function of a Rating Scale"), **Lixia Cheng** ("Examining Task Variability on a Computer-based Oral English Proficiency Test"), **Haiying Cao** ("Language Profiles of the Cutoff Borderline Cases for OEPT Rating"), and **Nancy Kauper** ("Evidence-Based Development of an Assessment of Interactive Conversation Skills"). A pre-conference workshop will be held on Friday, November 6th and will be open to those who have pre-registered.

That same week, several ESL graduate students will be attending the **Second Language Writing Symposium** in Tempe Arizona, November 5th- 7th. **Elena Lawrick** and **Fatima Esseili** will give a presentation entitled: "Nurturing Independent Writers in an Introductory Composition Course for International Students: A Case Study of Multimodal Learning Environments, Course Outcomes, and Student Self-Assessment." They will be reporting on a one-semester case study of instruction in three sections of introductory ESL composition. **Kyle McIntosh** will be presenting a paper on "Using Ethnography to Teach English Academic Writing in China" that chronicles his attempts to help advanced undergraduate students at a mid-size Chinese university focus on the planning and drafting stages of the writing process and collaborate on research.

Mira Bekar and **Brian Guthrie** will each be chairing a session.

Professors **Tony Silva** and **Dwight Atkinson** will also be attending the Symposium, speaking as part of an invited colloquium entitled "On the Future of L2 Writing: Ten Years Later," a follow-up to a similarly themed 1999 TESOL colloquium. Both speakers will revisit and revise the predictions they made for the field back then.

The very next week, Dwight will travel all the way to Tampere, Finland to attend the **Applied Linguistics Association of Finland Annual Conference**, November 12th - 14th. The title of his presentation will be "Sociocognitive Approaches to Second Language Acquisition." In it, he will discuss a number of alternative approaches that view SLA as "taking place in an integrated mind-body-world continuum rather than an isolated cognitive space (the mainstream view)."

In publication news, Professor **Margie Berns** has a chapter in a book that's hot off the presses:

Berns, M. (2009). Lingua Franca: Form or function? In *World Englishes: Problems, properties, and prospects*. T. Hoffmann & L. Siebers (eds.). Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 370-372.

She is also the editor of -- and contributor to -- *The Concise Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics*, which is set to drop sometime next year:

(2010). (Ed). *Concise encyclopedia of applied linguistics*. Oxford: Elsevier

(2010). Introduction. In *Concise encyclopedia of applied linguistics*. M. Berns (ed.). Oxford: Elsevier, pp. xv-xvi. M. Berns & P. K. Matsuda

(2010). Applied linguistics. In *Concise encyclopedia of applied linguistics*, M. Berns (ed.). Oxford: Elsevier, pp. 3-13. (Reprinted from *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. 2006. Edited by K. Brown. Oxford, Elsevier, pp. 394-405).

Meanwhile, **Tony Silva** has co-edited another book with **Paul Matsuda** that you'll soon be able to add to your collection:

Silva, T., & Matsuda, P. K. (Eds.). (2010). *Practicing theory in second language writing*. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press.

And **Dwight Atkinson** has two book chapters and an article on the way:

Atkinson, D. (In press). Sociocognition: What It can mean for second language acquisition. In R. Batstone (ed.), *Sociocognition: An emerging field of enquiry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Atkinson, D. (In press). Theory with a big "T" and practice with a small "p." In T. Silva & P. Matsuda (eds.), *Practicing theory in second language writing*. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press.

Churchill, E., Nishino, T., Okada, H, & Atkinson, D. (In press). Symbiotic gesture and the sociocognitive visibility of grammar. *Modern Language Journal*, 94, 2.

Be sure to add all of the above to your reading list.

Finally, **Fatima Esseili**, **Kyle McIntosh**, **Cindy Torres**, **Elena Lawrick**, **Cristine McMartin-Miller**, and **Shih-Yu Chang** just had their article, "World Englishes: Practical Implications for Teaching and Research," accepted to an upcoming issue of the INTESOL journal.

That's all for now. Hope you've enjoyed it. Comments, criticism, and contributions are always welcome. And if you or anyone you know has breaking news regarding our ESL graduate students and faculty, or any upcoming events that we should know about, please feel free to email that info to:

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See you next time!