

The ELC Hosts MITESOL Conference



The English Language Center hosted the 2013 conference for Michigan TESOL, the professional organization for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. This year's theme was "Realizing Transitions: Common Core, College, Career". The annual conference was held on October 4 & 5 in the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the MSU campus. Carmela Gillette and Andrew McCullough acted as Local Chairs for MSU, and together they ensured a successful conference attended by more than 500 teachers and educators from all over Michigan. 11 faculty members represented Michigan State University in 7 presentations during the conference.

ELC Faculty Elizabeth Webster, Carmela Romano Gillette, Stacy Sabraw, and Carlee Salas presented the initial results of their research study in a presentation entitled Developing a University Needs Analysis: Determining What Students Need. They described how they developed and implemented their multi-semester needs assessment project which involved data collection (surveys and interviews with MSU instructors and former ELC students) as well as preliminary results. Their research is one of the very few being done on Intensive English Programs, and

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their presentation was met with much curiosity and enthusiasm. The complete results of their research will be presented at the 2014 International TESOL Conference in Portland, Oregon.
-Kim Benedicto



English Language Center

Fall 2013

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters



The ELC Hosts Homecoming Tailgate

Once every fall, schools and universities around the U.S. invite their alumni back to their campuses for a special time of reconnection and celebration of school spirit. This event is known as "homecoming". During homecoming, the focal point of festivities is the school's football game, which is usually the most well-attended game of the year. Alumni and fans from the community gather together on campus before the big game and have a pre-game party, known as a "tailgate". At these tailgate parties, fans dress in school colors, bring lots of food, and enjoy each others' company by playing games and cheering for their football team. In celebration of Michigan State's 2013 Homecoming football game, the ELC hosted a tailgate party for ELC students, instructors, and families. It was a beautiful, sunny fall day that was perfect for outdoor games and snacks. Students enjoyed tasting special Michigan fall treats such as apple cider, glazed donuts, and pumpkin muffins. Among the different sports enjoyed at the tailgate event, there were also athletic competitions like sack races and a Frisbee toss. Students' listening and trivia skills were also tested with an "Unusual Facts" game lead by an instructor. The winners of these competitions were rewarded with Spartan swag, like MSU t-shirts and hats. Marina Ueno, one of our ELC students, commented about her experience at the event, "I have been interested in tailgate parties since I came to the United States, but until now, I didn't have a chance to join one, so the ELC tailgate party made this dream come true". All in all, this was a fun-filled day for international students to participate in an American collegiate tradition and show their Spartan spirit! -Laura Ballard



English Teachers by Day, Rock Stars by Night



Collin Blair, and Austin Kaufmann all bring very different musical tastes to their band, **Gerund and the Infinitives**. They play cover songs from country, rock n' roll, and bluegrass, and they also write and perform some of their own songs. Another unusual quirk of this band is that it doesn't feature a single front man. Instead, they share the spotlight, each member singing lead on a few tunes. And as for their name - Gerund and the Infinitives - well, what else would you expect from five English language teachers? Like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GerundandtheInfinitives>

In your classes and in the corridors of Wells Hall, they seem normal, just like any of your other ELC teachers. They take attendance. They lead discussions. They give you homework. Lots and lots of homework! But behind their mask of professionalism, five of your ESL instructors share a dark secret: deep down, they are really rock stars. (Or at least they think they are!)
ELC Instructors Mark Cunningham, Larry Zwier, Matthew Rynbrandt,

Level 3 and 4 Students Participate in Cross-cultural Communication Project

This Fall semester, ELC students in Level 3 and Level 4 Speaking / Listening classes are being paired with MSU students taking a COM 100 course in the Communication Department. Each Level 3 and Level 4 student was given a partner from the COM 100 course, and over the semester they are assigned to complete several interactions, both online and face to face.

The goal of the program is to help students establish a good relationship with a friend from a different culture. Students participating in the program were encouraged to communicate with their partners as many times as they can and meet up for activities that allow them to share their culture with each other. The students first communicated with each other online, introducing themselves and chatting with each other on Twitter, Facebook, Skype, or email. After a few weeks of online communication, the partners met up face to face several times. Many student pairs went to restau-



The students were also required to create a Twitter account and tweet about their meet ups. You can follow the COM 100 program on Twitter at @msufisprogram



rants that offered food from their home countries, tailgate parties during home football games, shared holiday traditions like Halloween costume parties, attended religious celebrations, had coffee, or just hung out in the library doing homework together.

Aside from online communication, sharing cultural traditions and having face to face conversations, the ELC students were also invited by their partners to attend their COM 100 lecture. ELC students were able to sit in a large lecture class with over 300 students and experience a real college lecture in MSU! Another venue for interaction for the partners were coffee hours sponsored by the ELC and the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) where students from both groups could meet and talk in a group setting. Kelly Veltema, one of the ELC faculty members coordinating the program says that this program is a really wonderful opportunity for our students because it requires

them to reach out to their American partner and establish communication and build a relationship.

Level 4 student Jaruan Chaikham describes what she likes about the program: "I like the COM 100 project because I got a new friend. I think we will be in good relationship. My partner is friendly and so kind. I can practice many English skills with her like speaking and listening. And I can learn American culture with her directly. Also this project help me be brave to speak English."

Portuguese Language Exchange

This fall, the English Language Center has partnered with the MSU's Center for Language Teaching Advancement to create a Portuguese-English Language Exchange program. The goal of this program is to pair native Portuguese speakers with MSU students who are studying Portuguese and give these students an opportunity to interact with native speakers outside of the classroom. In October, the group held its first event, a meet and greet, where forty students gathered to meet one another, participate in a few language games, and find a conversation partner. Since this initial meeting, students have paired up to meet on a weekly basis to practice their Portuguese and English skills. Because this pilot program has been quite successful, plans are in the works to start similar programs with students studying Arabic, Chinese, and Korean. -Laura Ballard



New Teacher Feature: Laurel Waller



Laurel grew up in Illinois, in the suburbs of Chicago. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago) in English, with a minor in sociology. After college, as part of her ESL training, she spent time in Seville, Spain where she taught English and received a TEFL certification. Because she loves interacting with people from different cultures, she decided to pursue ESL teaching.

In the summer of 2013, Laurel returned from teaching English in South Korea for four years to study and teach at MSU. While in Korea, she taught for two years in the suburbs of at a private school for children. During her third year, she taught at a private school for adults in Seoul, and in her final year she worked in the countryside at a medical university teaching freshman and sophomore students. Since moving to Michigan, she sometimes gets "homesick" for Korea.

Although she has experience teaching many different types of skills, she enjoys teaching writing the most because students can visually see their linguistics progress through their writing.



In her free time outside of MSU, she enjoys learning how to cook healthy food and regularly practices yoga.

New Teacher Feature: Maggie Vosters

Maggie grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, and studied Journalism and Mass Communication as well as Spanish at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. During her undergraduate studies, she spent a semester studying Spanish in one of her now-favorite cities—Seville, Spain. After earning her B.A., she worked as an account coordinator at an advertising agency in Madison, but a volunteer experience teaching English to a native Spanish speaker during that time changed her career path.

She went on to earn a TEFL certification, and returned to Seville to teach English to university students and adults at two language academies. After teaching abroad, she decided to come back to the



U.S. to complete her M.A. in TESOL at MSU, and is now a TA at the ELC.

Maggie loves teaching English because she finds it incredibly rewarding to be a part of helping her students improve their English language skills. She truly

enjoys working with people who come from diverse backgrounds.

Outside of work, Maggie enjoys spending time with her family, singing, downhill skiing and visiting her friends and host family in Spain as often as she can. She is also a huge Wisconsin Badgers basketball fan, and tries to hide that as best as she can from her classmates and colleagues at MSU.

