

ELC Hosts Fulbright Scholars for Academic Preparation Program



Fulbright Scholar Sura AlMahasis from Jordan

English Language Center
619 Red Cedar Road
B230 Wells Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Arts & Letters
English Language Center

English Language Center Joins Other IEPs for Trade Mission to Columbia and Brazil

For the second consecutive year, the ELC ran the Fulbright English for Graduate Studies Program (EGSP) from late July to early August. Thirty-one Fulbright Scholars attended a three-week pre-academic training program at MSU. The scholars, who were accepted to Master's and Doctoral programs at a number of different universities in the United States, came from more than twenty countries. These international scholars studied coursework focused on refining their oral and written communication skills needed for graduate work. In addition, they attended seminars on U.S. academic culture, higher education institutions, healthcare, police interactions, sexual discrimination, research practices, and key relationships in academia.

The program also included extra curricular activities to assist with the Fulbright Scholars' adjustment to American life and culture. They visited Chicago, the Michigan Capitol, Mackinac Island, and attended a baseball game. They also expanded their professional network by meeting with MSU faculty in their respective fields of study and made valuable connections. East Lansing families also hosted the Fulbright scholars in their homes for dinner.

The Fulbright Scholars are now enrolled in their graduate degree programs in their respective universities across the United States. "The EGSP program at MSU was a perfect start to our Fulbright journey, they took care of each and every thing very well. Also, it was great learning experience regarding communication and university life in the United States," recalled Marukh Zafar. He is completing his master's degree in Public Health at the University of Iowa.

Sura AlMahasis, who is taking a graduate degree in Pharmacology at Auburn University, said about the program, "Not only people from EGSP were super friendly, supportive and caring, but they also made sure to prepare us well for the graduate school in the US through holding frequent seminars and lectures on different topics. I have to be honest, I didn't face any obstacle or surprises like the ones other international student usually face when they start their first academic semester because I think, my participation in this program has made my transition to my university go smoothly."



Participants of the Trade Mission in front of Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro

In November, the English Language Center participated in the first ever Certified Trade Mission focused on Intensive English Programs in Columbia and Brazil. This trade mission was an international event sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Commercial Service, and EnglishUSA in two host countries and four host cities. This Certified Trade Mission was the first time such an endeavor had been organized and the overall event included twenty-five Intensive English Programs (IEP) from all over the U.S.

ELC Director Dustin De Felice and External Programs Coordinator Mark Albee travelled to Colombia and Brazil and attended student fairs in Bogota & Barranquilla, Colombia, and Belo Horizonte & Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These fairs ranged in size from roughly 200 participants to 800 participants. They spoke with the most prospective students in Belo Horizonte, while Bogota, Rio, and Barranquilla provided additional opportunities talk about MSU and the ELC. Rio probably would have been an even better venue if the student fair hadn't coincided with a national soccer match! They also participated in two mini-fairs at universities in the Colombian cities. Mark and Dustin talked with a number of students and faculty at each of these mini-fairs.

In addition to the student fairs, they attended a variety of meetings with dignitaries, local officials, Education USA staff, and Department of Commerce guests and speakers. Many of these meetings gave Mark and Dustin ideas for institutions the English Language Center may be able to collaborate with in the future.



Mark Albee (left) and Dustin De Felice (right) Represent MSU at a Student Fair in Bogota, Colombia



At the Trade Mission Fair in Bogota



Prospective MSU Students Pose with Sparty



Watching and Learning about the Very American Sport of Baseball



The 2019 Fulbright Cohort Celebrated the End of the Pre-Academic Program at Lake Lansing Park

Japanese-English Language Exchange



This fall semester, the ELC continued its partnership with MSU's Japanese Department to offer a language exchange program in which Japanese-speaking English language learners and English-speaking Japanese language learners practiced their second languages in small speaking circles. The language exchange met once a week in Wells Hall for an hour, with students breaking off into groups of 3 to 4 people. The group spoke in English for the first half hour and in Japanese for the other half, on topics such as college life, holidays, pop culture, social media, sports, media, and current events.

Aside from Professor Masumi Hamada, sophomore Brent "Ren" Maccowan helped organize the weekly language exchange. When asked about his experience, Brent said, "The Japanese-English language exchange has been a fantastic way to challenge my ability and progress further. I've gained a surprising amount of confidence in both public speaking and my spoken fluency in Japanese. The friends I've made this year alone are friendships that now run deep, and I feel that this won't be the last time I see them. I'm very excited to see how this goes next fall and am even more excited to meet all of the Japanese international students who will come to MSU. I can't wait to help coordinate and expand this program."

The ELC looks forward to collaborating with the Japanese Department on more partnerships that bring their students and our students together.

The ELC looks forward to collaborating with the Japanese Department on more partnerships that bring their students and our students together.

Teacher Training Program for Chinese Educators

From late September to early October, the ELC hosted eleven participants from China for a three-week teacher training program. The participants were from Unibridge International Education, which is an educational institution for English language learning and teaching in China. The program was designed to improve the participants' English language teaching skills and teach them about American culture. The coursework of the program focused on the different methodologies for teaching reading, writing, listening, and speaking, as well as examining the role of the teacher in the language classroom. The program also included several classroom observations in English as a Second Language courses and foreign language classes at MSU, as well as a visit to Wilcox Elementary School in Holt.

The participants also led a China cultural fair at MSU where they shared their culture with visitors through interactive displays. In between their classes and assignments, the group visited Chicago, Detroit, the Michigan Capitol, and the Henry Ford Museum. They also attended a practice hockey game and cheered on the Spartans. The International Coffee Hour hosted by the Office of International Students and Scholars was also a popular activity among the group and provided an opportunity to meet people on campus.



Learning about American History at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village



Exploring Downtown Detroit on a Guided Architecture Tour



Sharing Chinese Culture with Elementary School Visitors Through Interactive Displays



Cheering on the Spartan Hockey Team in Munn Ice Arena

Pre-Academic Programs: PAL and MAPP

Right before fall semester, the English Language Center offered two Pre-Academic programs for new MSU students: PAL and MAPP.

Preparation for Academic Life (PAL) is a discussion-oriented course featuring guest speakers from OISS, WRAC, Office of the Provost, and the MSU Writing Center. The course aims to help and offer guidance with the following: 1) an awareness of the challenges students may face socially and academically, 2) knowledge of and interaction with campus resources, 3) guidance on how to be accountable for one's own learning, and 4) an introduction to the realities and pressures of group work, writing demands, different types of listening skills, and a chance to practice joining the conversation.



The Master's in Accounting Preparation Program (MAPP) is administered by the Accounting and Information Systems Department, and the ELC coordinates the English language curriculum. The program prepares master's students for their academic work in accounting for three weeks prior to the start of the fall semester. Students learned business English and American academic culture, which integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students worked together in team projects and practiced giving business presentations.

The students were also exposed to American corporate culture through a company visit to the Detroit branch of Ernst & Young LPP, a multinational accounting and professional services firm.



Dr. Susan Gass Honored at SLRF Reception

Former ELC Director Dr. Susan M. Gass was honored during a reception ceremony at the 2019 Second Language Research Forum in September. The reception was held in the Kellogg Center on September 19 before the start of the SLRF conference and was attended by faculty and staff from the ELC, Second Language Studies, MA TESOL, CeLTA, and the Linguistics Department. A scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Gass was announced, in recognition of her years of dedicated research, mentorship, and service.

Dr. Susan M. Gass was the ELC Director for 30 years and a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages. In 2013, she was awarded the Modern Language Association of America's 32nd Kenneth W. Mildener Prize for her excellent work in Teaching English as a Second Language.



Dr. Susan M. Gass (center) Surrounded by ELC Faculty, Staff, and Former Graduate Students