

ELC Students Bring International Festival to East Lansing Elementary School

English Language Center
619 Red Cedar Road
B 230 Wells Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824



By Kim Benedicto

On October 17, ELC students presented their native cultures at an international festival at Marble Elementary School in East Lansing. The event was organized by ELC faculty Alissa Cohen, who frequently organizes language and cultural events at the elementary school. The ELC students shared their culture with the elementary school students and their parents through interactive displays and activities. The Marble Elementary students were able to explore different cultures from around the world right in their school, and ELC students had an opportunity to use and practice their English skills. The event was also a great way for the ELC to connect with the local community and build stronger partnerships.



Alissa and Jonas Cohen pose with the display from Saudi Arabia



Ethnic dishes were donated by local restaurants



Students enjoyed learning about Japanese ninjas



ELC and Marble students made Chinese paper crafts



Students were taught how to prepare the Panamanian dessert "arroz con leche"



Students learned how to count in Spanish

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY College of Arts & Letters English Language Center

ELC Granted Re-accreditation by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA)

By Leah Addis

In August of 2017, the ELC was granted 10-year reaccreditation by CEA (Commission on English Language Program Accreditation). This accomplishment followed two years of hard work by ELC faculty and administrators. In July 2015, Leah Addis and Carlee Salas returned from training in Washington, D.C. and led the ELC in a year-long self-study of our practices related to the 12 CEA standards (addressing faculty, curriculum, administration, student services, etc.) During the self-study, we revised our mission statement, rewrote our student learning outcomes, and updated many of our internal documents and promotional materials. In October 2016, we submitted a 187-page report to CEA with over 177 supporting documents. CEA site reviewers visited the ELC in February 2017 to verify the contents of our report, observe classes, and interview faculty, administrators, and students. Site reviewers especially commended the Center for the strength and professionalism of our faculty and the quality of our facilities. The ELC continues to lead the field in providing quality instruction and experience for our students. Congratulations to all!



Left to Right: Carlee Salas, ELC Director Dr. Susan Gass, Leah Addis pose with the certificate of accreditation awarded by CEA

New Student Welcome Party at Lake Lansing Park

By Kim Benedicto

On August 27, the ELC hosted a picnic at Lake Lansing Park to welcome new students to the Intensive English Program. The students first met at Wells Hall and were taken by bus to the park. Students enjoyed a picnic lunch of classic American barbecue dishes such as pulled pork, macaroni and cheese, and baked beans. After lunch there was a rousing game of sand volleyball and several students learned how to play the American game "cornhole." One student even braved the chilly water and jumped into Lake Lansing! It was the perfect day for students and teachers to meet each other and relax before beginning the busy fall semester!



The sand volleyball game was intense



The barbecued pulled pork was a hit



Students enjoying American barbecue and refreshing watermelon

ELC Students Explore American Culture Outside the Classroom

Every semester, the English Language Center plans a variety of field trips, special events, and outdoor activities for students. Attending these activities is a great way to experience American culture, explore Michigan, meet other students, and speak English. This fall semester, ELC students visited the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Lake Michigan, Chicago, and Great Lakes Crossing Outlet Mall. The photos from the trips are always posted on the **English Language Center (ELC)** Facebook page, so make sure to like us!

Check the bulletin board in the ELC lobby and the ELC website for announcements on upcoming trips. You can sign up for trips at the ELC office in Wells Hall Room B230.



ELC group in Chicago, before heading out to explore



Students from Hiroshima university spell out "MSU" on the Magnificent Mile in Chicago



In Greenfield Village, which is part of the Henry Ford museum in Detroit



Dune buggy ride in Saugatuck, a resort town by Lake Michigan



Shopping trip to Great Lakes Crossing Mall, an outlet mall in Auburn Hills



Students asleep during the long bus ride to their destination

Japanese-English Language Exchange Provides Opportunity for Sharing Culture

This fall semester, the ELC continued its partnership with MSU's Japanese Department to provide an opportunity for language students to practice their conversation skills in their second language with native speakers. In the early part of the semester, the ELC and the Japanese Department coordinated a language exchange program in which Japanese-speaking English language learners and English-speaking Japanese language learners met once a week to practice their second languages in small speaking circles.

In the second half of the semester, Japanese professor Mika Yamaguchi invited Japanese ELC students to participate in a collaborative project with the students in her JPN 301 class. In the project, the students worked together in groups to prepare a 15-minute presentation on the similarities and differences between Japanese and American culture. The presentations were given in Japanese and English, with each student presenting in their second language. The topics covered in the presentation were holidays, food, music, seasons, mascots, university life, and ghost stories. The project was a valuable experience for both groups of students, who were able to explore in depth the culture of their target language with people from that culture.

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



Conversation practice during Japanese - English Language Exchange



Group presentation about American vs. Japanese mascots in JPN 301 class

EAP Class Meets Michigan Legislator, Sam Singh

Mark Albee's ESL 222 class got a special treat when they visited the Michigan Capitol. They were met by Sam Singh, House Democratic Leader and representative for Michigan's 69th district. Mr. Singh invited the group onto the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives chamber where he talked to the students about how the legislature works, how bills become laws, and answered their questions about state government. Mr. Singh stressed that even though they are international students, he was their representative and this is the "people's House." He also said they were welcome to come and observe when the House was in session so they could watch the Michigan Congress in action.

The ESL 222 class also got to tour the Capitol with a tour guide who explained the history and the architecture of the building. The group was able to visit the Governor's office, the Senate Chamber, the House Appropriations Committee Room and the picturesque Capitol rotunda.



ESL 222-6 Class with Representative Sam Singh (D) in the House of Representatives Chamber

Shiga University Special Program

Each fall semester, Economics students from Shiga University, Japan come to MSU for a 4-week intensive English program. Aside from studying in the classroom, the Shiga university students also travelled all over Michigan and the United States to experience and learn American culture.



The Shiga University group of fall 2017 pose with Sparty at the Union

"The America we thought of before came from TV shows, movies, and newspapers. At MSU, we talked with people with many different backgrounds and communicated in different languages. We went to Chicago and saw art all around the city. We went to New York city and we saw all the things we had seen in movies with our own eyes. In the last month, we were able to experience American culture and closely observe it, which made our ideas and opinions change".
-Mengran Zhou



At Lake Michigan with ELC classmates

"My purpose why I participated in this program is speaking English in practical situations. I met many people and spoke English with my teachers, classmates, MSU students, and my host family. When I talked with them, I often couldn't say my thoughts well because of my lack of vocabulary and grammar. So I realized their importance and I will study vocabulary and grammar when I come back to Japan. And I hope to come back here to see my friends and host family in the future".
-Toru Tanikawa



Kazuhide Ryuno and Daisuke Yamada with host family

"One month is not a long time but we talked to many people and experienced many things. We were able to feel the excitement of living in MSU. We had a heartwarming stay with our host family. But the most important thing for us is being able to experience a different lifestyle. We really appreciate this passionate and touching trip to America."
-Zizhang Xia



Maid of the Mist boat ride in Niagara Falls, Canada



Zizhang Xia goes skydiving in New Jersey

"I was very looking forward to go to Niagara Falls because it is one of the most famous places in the world. It is very far from East Lansing. We spent 5 hours to get there, and it was very hard for me. But when we reached and saw it, I was so moved because it was more beautiful that I thought".
-Daisuke Yamada



Michigan Capitol building tour

Teacher Training Participants Visit Local Schools



Participants in the ELC's teacher training program visited three schools in the local community this fall semester. Participants from Panama Bilingue and Hiroshima University visited Wilcox Elementary, MacDonald Middle School, and East Lansing High School. In each school, the participants observed classes in different subjects, such as ESL, French, Spanish, Math, Science, History, and Art. These class observations gave them the opportunity to experience American K-12 public education firsthand. Participants were also given a tour of each school which let them see the facilities and services of each building.

At Wilcox Elementary, Principal Traci Heuhs talked to the group about her work as a principal and the partnership between teachers and their students' parents. During the visit to MacDonald Middle School, the teacher trainees were curious about where the school gets their funding, and staff Mary Lou Turnbull gave an information session on how the public education system in America is funded through taxes and federal grants. At East Lansing High School, participants were able to observe an academic support class for the school's ESL population.



The school visits also allowed the teacher trainees to see the teaching methods they have been studying in practice. The group took classes and seminars on language teaching pedagogy, Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), classroom management, language assessment, and lesson planning.

Student Writing Feature

My Favorite Place at MSU

By Yudai Osada

Today, I will tell you about my favorite place at MSU. My most favorite place is MSU Dairy Store. Have you ever heard of MSU Dairy Store? It is a famous ice cream shop. Products of this shop are made of milk of MSU farm's cows. There are various products such as milk, cheese, yogurt. The business hour is from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are two stores at MSU. One of them is in MSU Union, and the another is in center of MSU. I recommend you going to the latter one because it has more kinds of flavor ice cream than MSU Union store. There are over twenty kind of flavor ice cream. You can choose kind of cone among normal cone, sugar cone and waffle cone. Waffle cone was made in the store. If you don't try it yet, you should go the MSU Dairy Store.

This article represents the ideas and language of the student writer; however, some grammar editing has been done for ease of reading.



Photo courtesy of MSU Communications and Brand Strategy