

## Former ELC student featured in MSU News



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On May 30, MSU Today featured Thiramet “Dream” Sotthiyapai. The article, titled “Student’s Green Aspirations Being Fulfilled at MSU,” included a video of Dream being interviewed about his major, his extracurricular activities, and his experience at MSU as an international student. In the video, Dream talks about receiving a scholarship from the Thai government and how he came to choose to come to MSU. Dream is majoring in Biosystems Engineering and is an Honors College student. Aside from his academic study, he works in the greenhouse on top of Bailey Hall growing food for Brody Dining Hall. Dream was a student at the English Language Center when he first came to MSU, where he excelled from the very beginning.

The story can be viewed at <http://givingto.msu.edu>



# The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY College of Arts & Letters English Language Center

## ELC Offers Online Academic English Program for Summer Semester 2017

The English Language Center offered online language courses for the first time in Summer Semester 2017. The Online Academic English Program (OAEP) consisted of Academic Reading, Academic Writing, and Academic Listening and Speaking courses. The program was piloted by the ELC’s Educational Technology Team headed by Luca Giupponi. The team has been working with the instructors to develop the online courses since September 2016. The Academic Listening and Speaking course was taught by Austin Kaufmann, the Academic Writing course by Carlee Salas, and the Academic Reading course by Kimberly Benedicto.

The online program allowed students to develop their academic language skills in a digital environment while benefiting from the interaction and guidance of an experienced language teacher. The OAEP was well received by students, and the ELC plans to develop more online language courses in the future. With this experience, the Educational Technology team is poised to develop online courses tailored for special program groups.



The Online Academic English Program is an addition to the current course offerings of the Center that includes the Intensive English Program (ESL 090-094), English for Academic Purposes courses (ESL 220-223), Special Topics (ESL 291 and ESL 491), and Special Program courses.

## ELC Hosts Professional Development Conference for 5th Year

*By Austin Kaufmann, ELC Faculty*

On April 8th, 2017, the ELC hosted the annual National Geographic Learning | Michigan State University Learning Symposium, now in its fifth year. This year’s theme “Real-World Writing in ESL Classrooms” was highlighted by a keynote address by ESL writing expert Dr. Christine Feak. As in years past, National Geographic brought in an internationally renowned National Geographic Explorer. Cultural educator and TED Fellow Aziz Abu Sarah (pictured right) brought his audience to both tears and laughter -- and left the stage to a several-minutes-long standing ovation -- after sharing stories of his peace and reconciliation work in the Middle East. This year’s Learning Symposium was the largest yet, bringing together around 225 English language teachers and administrators from around Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio for a full day of high quality professional



development. Presentations focused on how English language teaching professionals can best meet the diverse, real-world writing needs of our students.

## Spanish - English Language Exchange Provides Conversation Practice



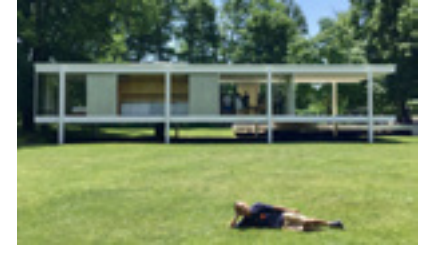
This spring semester, the ELC partnered with MSU’s Spanish Department to provide an opportunity for international and domestic students to practice their conversation skills in their second language with native speakers. In January and February, the ELC and the Spanish Department coordinated a language exchange program where Spanish-speaking English language learners and English-speaking Spanish language learners came together to share their cultures and practice their second languages. At each of the meetings, over thirty students gathered to meet one another, mingle, play language games, and find a conversation partner.

# Takenaka Program Combines English, Construction Management, and Travel

Takenaka Corporation, Japan's oldest construction company, sends a group its employees to study at the ELC every summer semester. In summer 2017, seven Takenaka employees were here to study language, culture, and construction management. They studied English at the ELC, attended construction seminars from MSU faculty, and had a Business English course. Aside from studying in the classroom, the Takenaka trainees also travelled all over Michigan and the United States to experience and learn American culture.



On a constructiob site tour of the MSU FRIB (Facility for Rare Isotope Beams)



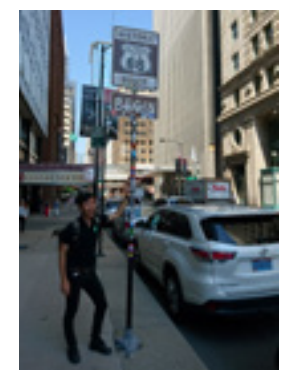
Takuro at the famous Farnsworth House designed by architect Mies Van der Rohe, in Plano, Illinois



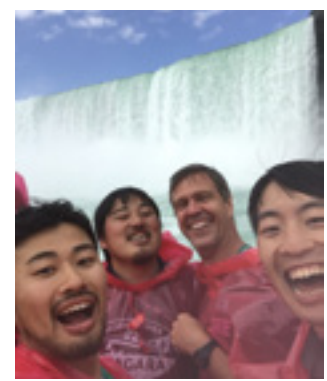
Detroit Tigers Baseball Game At Comerica Park



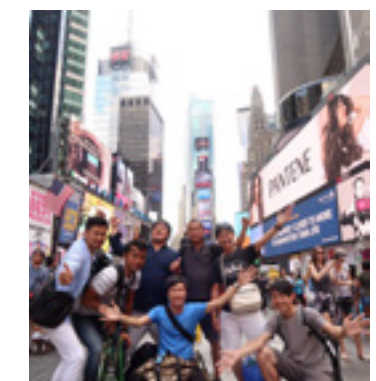
Tour of downtown Detroit



Kensuke in Chicago, Illinois



With Jim Desler at Niagara Falls, Canada



Times Square, New York City



At the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan



Akiya at the White House in Washington, D.C.



Daisuke jumped into Lake Michigan after a long run in Chicago. The water was cold!



Seminar with Dr. Matt Syal from MSU's School of Planning, Design and Construction



Keisuke and Aikya ran the Detroit Half Marathon



The group worked on their golf swing at Forest Akers Golf Course at MSU

# Teacher Training Visit to Panama



A Big Welcome in Panama City by the Spring semester 2015 Cohort

By Amy Kroesche, ELC Faculty  
The English Language Center at Michigan State University has been hosting teacher-trainees from the government-sponsored Panamá Bilingüe program since Spring Semester 2015. The teachers come to the ELC for training in various teaching methods as well as in English language. Every year, the teacher-trainees have asked when we would visit them in Panama. This year, I got my chance!

Panamá Bilingüe held their first annual teacher conference in Panama City on May 10, 2017. More than 3,000 teachers from every province in Panama attended the conference. Around eighty teacher-trainees who had studied at MSU were part of that number! Talks by the President of Panama, the Panama Minister of Education, and a Peace Corp trainer were highlights of the conference. The MSU alums also had workshops with me in the late morning and early afternoon where we caught up on current teaching methods and practices. What an overwhelming sight to see proud Spartans welcoming me with banners and signs and hugs and smiles to Panama!

The teachers often asked me during the week how the temperature was for me. Since most of them came to MSU in January when it was bitter cold, they were wondering how I would like the extreme heat! The warm weather did allow me to see the warm culture of Panama which helped me to understand the warm spirit of the teachers even better!

The teachers who have come to study at MSU are really amazing! Most of them have two and sometimes even three teaching jobs. They work hard in their classrooms for their students' success. I got

the pleasure of getting to see the teachers in action in their various schools. I visited an elementary, middle, and high school in different parts of Panama City and the surrounding area. I also saw several afterschool programs for students at varying levels and at universities.

I got a little time off to enjoy Panama as well! I had a great time going to the Panama Biomuseum and the Causeway with several of the teachers. I also got to see the amazing Panama Canal and experience wearing the traditional dress of Panama, the beautiful pollera. And of course, I enjoyed the food culture too - getting to try local fish, ceviche, tostones (fried plantains), chicheme (a drink made with corn and milk), and more! Getting to experience the flavors and sights of Panama and to see it through the eyes of the teachers who had also come to MSU made the trip extra special.

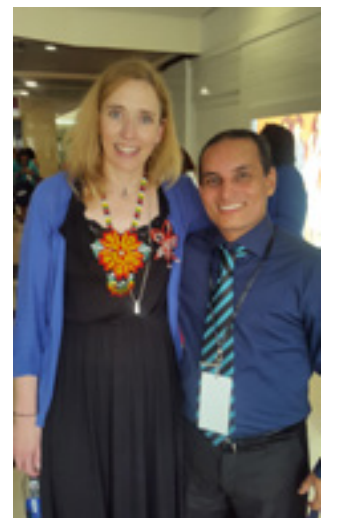
We're looking forward to hosting more teacher-trainees from Panama in the Fall!



Proud MSU Spartans in Panama City



Panama's national dress, the pollera



With Nicasion Castroverde from the Spring 2016 cohort

# Communication Class for Business School Cohort

By Carol Wilson-Duffy, ELC Faculty

During Fall Semester 2016 and Spring Semester 2017, I had the opportunity to teach Communication Skills to the Fall 2016 Masters of Science in Marketing Research program (MSMR) cohort in the ELI Broad College of Business. This cohort consisted of twenty-two students from Canada, China, India, South Korea and Taiwan, all with very diverse backgrounds. For instance, they had a variety of professional skills--some had previously worked in the fields of marketing, advertising and construction, while others had just graduated from university in their home countries, Canada or the US. Some of the US graduates came from California, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Kansas, and some (of course) were Spartans during their undergraduate programs. All of this diversity made for a wonderful learning and teaching experience.

The two-semester course covered both written and oral skills in academic and professional settings. Here are a few comments from the students about their experiences in the course:

“As an international student, I knew language and academic writing like research critiques and proposals would be big challenges and concerns for me. This communication course was a great addition for me during my master’s degree program and even for my next career life. From the beginning of this course last fall semester, I was exposed to different situations happening on campus which complemented the blanks that I had, even though I attended a 4-year college here in the US. With the various course content, I have gradually immersed myself in MSU, and in the US. The content included presentation practice, oral English, writing techniques, pop culture, and even professional skills that we will use in working, such as resumes, cover letters, networking, and interview skills.”

“As an international student from Korea, I did not have many chances of delivering a presentation/speech in English. However, our instructor trained us well from basic pronunciation tips to developing well-designed PowerPoint slides. From this class, I believe that I have developed a lifelong presentation skill that I will be able to use in my future career.”

“Communication is undoubtedly an essential component for one’s marketing research career; yet communication, which cannot be ignored, is a weakness for most international students. ‘We know communication is important, but we don’t have enough time to practice and work on it,’ that is what most international students think. In the face of heavy course load and academic stress, I almost gave up my struggle for improving communication skills. Thanks to Mrs. Wilson-

Duffy, I didn’t give up, and kept trying. I did not realize my growth and development on communication until I traveled alone in Vegas. No longer seemed anxious nor self-abased, finally, I could enjoy the learning and living in an English-speaking country.”

“As an Indian student coming to the US, I was not particularly looking forward to have a communications class since English is common in India. But then I realized there was always room for improvement, couldn’t ask for a better place to learn that than Prof. Carol’s class. Each one of her class is different - has a unique agenda, activity and takeaway, most importantly fun and engaging.”



Sample student resume developed during the course

For me, the instructor, I also found it a challenge, but an interesting challenge. Working with these students on their marketing presentations, which included topics like focus groups and one-on-one interviewing, reminded me (happily) of my graduate courses in qualitative and quantitative research practice. I used these concepts, along with other marketing and business related topics to serve as the content for communication scenarios and language activities. This worked out well, but like any language teacher, I am not fully satisfied and look forward to developing my craft.

Congratulations to the FS16 MSMR Cohort! Can’t wait to see what you, a Spartan, will do!

# ELC Students Participate in International Fairs

In Spring semester, ELC students took part in International Fairs at local elementary schools. The students presented their cultures to the elementary school students through interactive displays that showcased national dress, food, games, history, and music.



*Korean students ready to teach children about their country*



*Pouring Arabic coffee*



*Elementary school students learn about education in Panama*



*Learning Turkish words*

## Snow Tubing at Hawk Island Park



In February, ELC students went to Burchfield Park to brave the cold for the thrill of flying down snow-covered hills on inner tubes. The students were from tropical countries, and this was their first time for experiencing snow sports. An exciting time was had by all.

## Camping Workshop



On June 9th, ELC instructor Kim Benedicto offered a workshop about a favorite American summer activity: camping! ELC students learned about the basics of camping and how to plan their own camping trip right here in Michigan. Students even put together a real tent and assembled a campsite!