

Student Success Program Brings Diverse ELC Students Together

English Language Center
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East Lansing, MI 48824



Listening to a jazz concert hosted by the Music department

This summer semester, The Student Success Program (SSP) was developed to provide Intensive English Program and Special Program students with further opportunities to practice their English and get to know their ELC peers. Students were placed in small groups that included members from different first languages. Students took part in weekly campus activities in their SSP groups and shared their experiences on the SSP group Facebook page.



One student taught his group the Japanese martial art of Kendo, which is swordfighting using bamboo swords



Students cool off at ice cream social co-hosted by OISS



Students enjoyed the cooking activity where each group made pancakes with blueberries following a classic recipe



Students tried different country's ethnic food in different restaurants in the area

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters
English Language Center



A Message from New ELC Director, Dr. Dustin De Felice



Hello students, faculty, staff, friends, and supporters of the ELC @ MSU.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new director. As an experienced educator coming up on my second decade on the job, I have a passion for working with teachers, learners, and organizations in creating an environment of success. As a scholar, I have explored language teaching and learning through qualitative inquiries and I am particularly interested in technology as it relates to the development of materials and its use in traditional and virtual classrooms. My teaching has taken me around the US and Mexico and I regularly advocate for language learning at Michigan State University and beyond.

On August 16, 2018, Dr. Dustin De Felice became the new Director of the English Language Center. He is an Assistant Professor in MSU's Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA) and is the former Director of the Master of Arts degree in Foreign Language Teaching (MAFLT) program, which is housed within CeLTA and is designed for current and aspiring foreign language teachers.

Of course, I am honored to continue the legacy of the former director, Susan Gass, ELC management, faculty, and staff. I look forward to helping grow the ELC, serve our students and scholars, and work towards a dynamic and sustainable future. With the numerous ongoing activities, initiatives, programs, and projects underway at the ELC, I believe one of my most important roles will be to support the continuation of these valuable endeavors. As director, I will also look for ways of continuing to raise the profile of the ELC within our college and across the university. Working with such a dedicated faculty and staff is a unique opportunity. Having the support of the former director, ELC management, faculty, and staff places me in a great position to lead us toward even more success. In short, our ELC will continue to be extraordinarily dynamic and committed to international students and scholars in their quests for academic excellence, cultural awareness, and advanced English proficiency. Our Center will also continue to lead our field in English language proficiency assessment, language teacher training, and programs for specialized English needs and goals. You can always reach me by email at defelic5@msu.edu

ELC Hosts 21 Teachers From Brazil for Teacher Training Program

Twenty-one teachers from Brazil came to study at the ELC in Spring semester 2018. The "Programa de Desenvolvimento Profissional para Professores de Lingua Inglesa nos EUA" (PDPI) was sponsored by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES) and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The program was designed to improve the teachers' English language proficiency and English language teaching skills. The teachers studied at the English Language Center for six weeks and took speaking/listening and reading/writing classes, along with an English as a Foreign Language teaching methodology class. *Continued next page*

ELC Hosts Brazilian Teacher Training Program

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The Brazilian teachers also visited several local schools in the East Lansing area during their program. In each school, the teachers observed classes in different subjects, such as ESL, Math, Science, History and Music. These class observations gave them the opportunity to experience American K - 12 public education firsthand. The group also participated in a cultural festival at Pinecrest Elementary school where they presented their culture to the students and their families. "Visiting different schools and taking a look at that environment was really amazing. Not mentioning the wonderful chance we had at the cultural night where we could show a little about our country as well," primary school teacher Cidalli Oliveira said of the experience.

The group is now back home in Brazil where everyone is teaching English in their schools. When asked how the PDPI program improved their teaching practice, Susana Prestes, who teaches in high school, said, "I have been more confident about my teaching practice. Have been shifting from a more grammar-focused class to a more content-based class. Students have been looking for my help more often during my office hours. I believe that's because I've become a more open, trustworthy teacher and they've noticed that."

When we asked Susana what was the most valuable thing she learned and experienced from the program, she said, "I learned that Brazil and the U.S. are more similar than I had thought. We are both huge countries, full of diversity and contradictions."

Right: Brazilian teachers enjoying the snow that covered campus during the teacher training program in January and February



Connecting with MSU graduate students who are studying foreign language teaching to discuss practices and pedagogy



Presenting about Brazil during a cultural festival in Pinecrest Elementary School



Observing English classes in MacDonald Middle School



Meeting Sparty at athletic games



Watching MSU hockey at Munn Arena



School Visit to Okemos High School, home of the Okemos Chiefs

Message from Dr. Susan Gass, Outgoing ELC Director

As I leave the English Language Center after 28 years of having the good fortune of serving as Director, I have the luxury of thinking back over three decades of change.

Change has occurred in so many areas:

size

we started with one Director, one Associate Director (Bob Vassen), and two faculty members (Carol Bishop and Gary Cook);

physical location

we started in the basement of the International Center, moved to the 7th floor of Wells Hall, and finally moved to our current location;

academic location

we started as part of the Department of English and moved to an independent unit in the College of Arts and Letters;

student population

we started in 1990 with a large number of intensive program students and a relatively small number of EAP students and slowly moved to a different proportion where we serve mostly MSU provisionally-admitted students.



But one thing has remained stable—an excellent cadre of faculty and staff, each and every one dedicated to the well-being of the students and providing all students with the best possible educational experience.

In our quest to being the 'best of the best', we have gone through three successful rounds of CEA accreditation, each round emphasizing the excellent program that the faculty have developed.

I have had the amazing good fortune to work with so many incredible teachers, administrators, and staff. I am grateful to each and every one for their part in making the ELC the place it is, a place we can all be proud to have had a part in developing.

A big thank you to everyone!!!

Eli Broad College of Business Thanks Takenaka

Takenaka Corporation, among Japan's oldest and largest general contractors, sends a group its employees to study at the ELC every summer semester. In summer 2018, five Takenaka trainees studied language, culture, and business English at MSU. They studied English at the ELC and attended construction management and negotiation seminars from MSU faculty. Aside from studying in the classroom, the Takenaka trainees also travelled all over Michigan and the United States to experience and learn American culture.

Mr. Toichi Takenaka (MBA 1968), president and chief executive officer of Takenaka Corporation, is an MSU alumnus. Mr. Takenaka is a generous donor to the Broad College of Business' new academic building. Dr. David J. Frayer, the Assistant Dean for Executive Development and Professional Programs, met with the five Takenaka trainees to personally thank them on behalf of Dean Sanjay Gupta and the Eli Broad College of Business. The trainees were given a tour of the ongoing construction site of the new building, where a room will be dedicated to Mr. Takenaka for his generous endowment to the College.



Takenaka trainees tour the construction site of the new Business College building



Dr. David Frayer meeting the Takenaka trainees

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. During spring and summer semesters, ELC students visited the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, the Michigan Capitol, Chicago, Mackinac Island, and Detroit. They also went snowtubing and attended several baseball games. The photos from the trips are often 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.



At the famous Cloud Gate (“The Bean”) in Millenium Park, Chicago



On a tour of the Michigan Capitol on a cold winter day



Reliving American history in Greenfield Village



Watching the Lansing Lugnuts in Cooley baseball stadium



In the freezing waters of Lake Huron during a trip to Mackinac Island



On a guided tour of downtown Detroit

International Festival at Wilcox Elementary



On February 27, the Panama Bilingue special program participated in the International Festival at Wilcox Elementary School in Holt. The Panamanians presented their culture to the elementary school students through interactive displays that showcased their national dress, food, games, geography, history and music. The participants of the Panama Bilingue special program undergo teacher training and English language instruction at the ELC, and participating in the Wilcox International Festival has become a tradition.

Masters in Accounting Preparation Program

In summer semester the ELC coordinated the English language portion of the MAPP program. The pre-academic program administered by the Accounting and Information Systems Department prepares master's students for their academic work in accounting for three weeks prior to the start of the fall semester. ELC instructor Carlee Salas taught business English and American academic culture that integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking.



ELC Hosts Professional Development Conference



The 6th annual National Geographic Learning | Michigan State University Learning Symposium was held on April 14th in Akers Hall on the MSU campus. With this year's theme of "Best Practices in Teaching Speaking and Pronunciation" the 2018 Learning Symposium offered nearly 200 English language teachers and administrators from around Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio a full day of high quality professional development. Presentations focused on how English language teaching professionals can best meet students' academic speaking needs in today's competitive university environment.

ELC Students Volunteer at Japanese Language Camp



The Center for Language Teaching Achievement (CeLTA) offers the Japanese Language Camp every summer for children 6 to 12 years old. Bunkyo University students studying at the ELC for the summer volunteered as native speakers at the language camp. The children were able to use their Japanese language skills with the Bunkyo students in a simple conversation. Then they joined the children in singing some favorite Japanese songs.