

Former ELC Student Earns Academic Scholarship



By Patricia Walters

Ms. Noura Massri, a student at the ELC before embarking on her undergraduate program in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, was awarded the Marilyn Mood Endowed Scholarship on April 14, 2016. This scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student in nutritional sciences who plans to pursue a career in the field. Noura fits this bill perfectly. She hopes to conduct research in an industrial or academic setting, with the goal of helping people lead healthy lives.

Noura began her studies in food technology engineering in her home country, Syria. She was attracted to this field of study because she enjoyed chemistry and sciences. At MSU, she enjoys being in a "diverse environment, meeting so many people from different places and different majors." In Syria, she said, a class cohort goes through a degree program and classes together for 4 or 5 years. However, here, she has taken core courses with fellow students who then branch out to other colleges and majors. Through her classes, her campus job, and the clubs she is involved in, she has made many friends, which is what she finds is a highlight of her experience. To juggle everything, she has to plan her week out carefully. "It's hard some days," she admits, "because I have to schedule my meetings, my job, and my study time. Some days are very long."

She appreciates her experience at the ELC, which, she says, played "a critical role in my social and academic transition to MSU. I feel that this is very important because without the supportive teachers at ELC, I would not be able to achieve this academic accomplishment."

Undoubtedly, her hard work is paying off. The English Language Center congratulates Noura Massri for this wonderful recognition!

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

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As for the cultural component of the course, Lin says, "Also, there is some cultural knowledge and it is very useful to know it, so that we can communicate in a more comfortable and confident way." Student Youngjun Lee agrees: "ITAs can get more information about the real situations for their future classes and learn strategies to address some specific topics in an American academic context."

One small example of a topic covered in class was answering student questions. Americans expect someone to answer a question within 3 seconds. Therefore, a non-native speaker needs to know that longer silences can be misinterpreted as the student not being heard or the teacher not knowing the answer. Certainly, this is something a TA wants to avoid and strategies such as saying "let me think" or even "umm" can help them to be more successful in these situations.

Students say they have found the course beneficial. Lin says, "I'm less concerned with my accent compared to before. The teacher and some parts of the textbook told us that we can keep our accent and express ourselves clearly." Hana Kang says, "It's hard to improve English in a systematic way just by speaking with friends." Siwen Guo says, "I have already recommended this course to my friends because I think it's helpful to have a specific course for the TAs in our program. It works not only on our listening and the pronunciation but also on our organization and explanation of the content in our area."

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY College of Arts & Letters English Language Center

ESL 491: A New Course Offering for Graduate Students



ESL 491 students and their instructor spell out sentence stress and intonation

By Stacy Sabraw

Most people know that the English Language Center offers courses in the Intensive English Program (090-094), English for Academic Purposes courses (ESL 220-223) and Special Program courses. However, most people do not know that the Center also offers Special Topics courses (ESL 291 and ESL 491). In fact, the first versions of these courses were held during the Fall 2014 semester. With a lot of outreach by faculty and administrators of the ELC and collaboration with faculty from other colleges and departments, students who may never have taken a course through the ELC before can still get the language and academic skills support they need. One such course was designed for a very specific group: graduate students in the Measurement and Quantitative Methods (MQM) Ph.D. program.

This particular version of ESL 491, which began this semester, is for international teaching assistants to help them speak more intelligibly in English and teach them how to navigate specific situations in American culture both inside and outside the classroom.

Regarding the speech improvement part of ESL 491, student Qinyun Lin says, "This course helped me realize that I did not pronounce certain words correctly or clearly. With this awareness, I started to pay more attention to certain words or syllables and try to say them

clearly every time I used them." Student Unhee Ju agrees and adds that she learned how to, "properly use thought groups, intonation, pausing, and prominent syllables."

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Dr. Susan Gass, TESOL 50 at 50

At this year's 50th International TESOL Conference in Baltimore, Dr. Susan Gass, ELC Director and Distinguished Professor, was recognized as one of the 50 leaders in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). This celebrated group of 50 has "made significant contributions to the profession with in the past 50 years." These leaders have helped develop English language teaching and learning into a profession that touches the lives of students and educators worldwide.



Congratulations Dr. Gass!

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. Check the bulletin board in the ELC lobby for announcements on upcoming trips and sign up. The photos from the activities are always posted on the **English Language Center (ELC)** Facebook page, so make sure to like us!



At the North American International Auto Show in Detroit



At the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade



In Chicago's Millenium Park



At the Frankenmuth Snow Festival

The Experience of a Lifetime



By Esteban Almengor
 My name is Esteban Almengor and I work as an English teacher for an elementary school and an after school program for a high school in Panamá. Since my country wants to make greater improvements in the use of English as a second language, they have started a program called Panama Bilingüe. This program seeks to train more than 20,000 teachers in mastering the English language, becoming familiar with a foreign culture and acquiring new learning methodologies by being immersed in a native English speaking country. As for me, I got the chance to study at Michigan State University for the first two months of 2016. Today, I feel so proud of having the opportunity to share my experience at MSU and how I am using what I learned at the English Language Center now that I am back in Panamá.

My two-month learning experience at MSU was excellent from day one. I flew to Michigan with 24 more teachers from my country. By the time I got to MSU, the English Language Center team had already organized everything for my stay. I was given information about class and event schedules, trips, school visits, MSU e-mail, ID, food, seminars, staff and access to all the facilities. In addition to this, I had several wonderful teachers. They cared about both my progress in picking up the language and about how to become a better teacher by instructing me on EFL methods, classroom management, SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support). To make things better, I observed how they applied these strategies in class when I visited different elementary schools, high schools and classes at the ELC. By the end of the course,



With my group of Panama teachers at MSU, January-February 2016

I had also enjoyed so many outside events, including ice skating, basketball and hockey games, open mics, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Broad Museum, the planetarium, shopping, tubing, Wharton Center shows, bowling, Detroit and Chicago tours and more.

Now, back at my work in Panamá, I have started to apply new teaching ideas that I learned at the ELC. Among these are the use of authentic materials such as children's books, songs, videos, and activities that help build basic vocabulary. I also try to manage my classes and activate students' desire for learning using top-down and bottom-up processing, scaffolding, meaningful learning, X-words, and other rules and procedures. By applying all of these ideas, my classes have become more dynamic, beneficial and significant. I always try to incorporate helpful ways to teach and assess students' needs and abilities so they can ease their way in learning.

All in all, I can say that the English Language Center made my stay at MSU safe, friendly and rewarding - the experience of a lifetime! I am grateful for the opportunity I had to study, live, practice the language and meet the culture in a perfect environment for learning. From now on, I am proud of being a Spartan. Go green! Go white!



Teaching my elementary school students English vocabulary in Panamá

4th Annual National Geographic Learning Michigan State University Learning Symposium March 19, 2016



Courtney King, CMU: "Learning to love your students' smartphones"



Fredrik Hiebert, Archeology Fellow of National Geographic Society gives keynote speech



Zuzana Tomas & Trisha Dowling, EMU: "Good Writers are Good Readers"



Attendees discuss teaching strategies journals during Jeff Smith's presentation "Implementing Reading Response Journals"



Austin Kaufmann, Symposium organizer



Prof. Fredericka Stoller gives keynote speech



Attendees work together during Cynthia Macknish and Haley Gardner's presentation on critical reading



Jeff Smith, Ohio Northern University



Attendees compare notes on reading strategies

The 4th annual National Geographic Learning | Michigan State University Learning Symposium was held on March 19 in Akers Hall on the MSU campus. With this year's theme of "Reading in the 21st Century," the 2016 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 reading needs in today's competitive university environment.

Shigeo & Isako Imamura Graduate Fellowship Awardees

Laura Eickoff was awarded the Shigeo and Isako Graduate Fellowship for Academic Year 2015 to 2016, and Erin Degerman for 2016 to 2017. The fellowship is in honor of the late Shigeo Imamura, who was an American kamikaze pilot during World War II, but never took off on a mission. His experience led him to devote his life to promote peace through cross-cultural understanding and language learning. He was the second director of the ELC in 1964. Before his death in 1998, Professor Imamura had held distinguished academic positions in the United States and Japan, published scholarly works in English and Japanese, and promoted international education.

The fellowship is awarded to either a masters or Ph.D. candidate who is teaching in the ELC and who can demonstrate a commitment to academic and classroom excellence in English Language pedagogy. Laura is graduating from the MA TESOL program this semester and has taught courses in ESL 092 and 093. This is Erin's second semester in the MA TESOL program and she has taught in ESL 093 and 094.



Laura Eickoff



Erin Degerman



Culture Exchange at Wilcox Elementary School's International Night

On February 23, ELC students shared their cultures with 3rd graders and their families at the annual International Night hosted by our sister-school, Wilcox Elementary in Holt Public Schools!



Wilcox students enjoyed Chinese paper fortune telling



Panama teachers educated students on the geography and history of Panama



ELC students from Turkey, Libya, and Saudi Arabia share information about geography, history, and traditions



ELC students share one type of beverage Starbucks doesn't have - Turkish coffee