

# The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters  
English Language Center



## Two New Online Courses Available For Spring Semester



Image: Two women sitting at a desk are working on a laptop

The English Language Center is pleased to offer two new online courses for Spring Semester 2021: AAE 291 and AAE 491.

AAE 291 Online Academic Training is for international students who are looking for more ways to transition to studying at a U.S. university. The course will help students to understand and adjust to the expectations of academic culture, learn about the American education system, communicate with teachers and peers appropriately, understand and fulfill academic assignments, and apply language strategies independently. AAE 291 is fully online, with both asynchronous and synchronous requirements.

AAE 491 is a 3-credit course aimed at international graduate students who have already met the MSU minimum proficiency requirement for English (through TOEFL, IELTS, or completion of required ELC coursework) but would like to further develop their English language skills. Two sections will be offered.

AAE 491 Section 1 is Special Topics in Effective Oral Communication for Graduate Students. This course familiarizes students with essential aspects of effective communication in the academic setting, including features of English pronunciation, interaction strategies, and variables affecting fluency. Students will practice and receive feedback on their communicative effectiveness in contexts such as class discussions, groupwork, and mock conference presentations.

AAE 491 Section 2 is Special Topics in Field-Specific Academic Writing for Graduate Students. This course explores basic values and assumptions underlying American academic writing conventions in general, as well as variations that occur across disciplines and writing types. Students will gather and analyze scholarly writing from their own field of study in order to discover and practice employing these important writing conventions in such genres as lab reports, abstracts, literature reviews, scholarly research, etc.

Both sections of AAE 491 will be taught online for Spring 2021 through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous coursework. Synchronous times to be determined. Students with tuition waivers may apply a portion of their waiver to cover the cost of tuition. For questions or enrollment interest, please contact Patricia Walters, ELC Associate Director, at [walter31@msu.edu](mailto:walter31@msu.edu).

## ELC Faculty Take Part in International Education Week

On November 19, ELC faculty members took part in "Celebrating International Education Week 2020 through Virtual Networking" with Pakistani teachers and faculty from a number of other U.S. universities. The event, hosted by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, included remarks from several of the participants about their experiences with educational exchanges and teacher training programs and their efforts to share the knowledge they have gained with their own students. The program was an opportunity for American and Pakistani English language educators to network with each other to discuss the importance of international education and collaboration.

Participants were put into Zoom breakout rooms for the final segment of the event, during which time they had the opportunity to discuss how they promote diversity and inclusion in their own classrooms, as well as how they might be able to stay connected to offer opportunities for exchange between their students. The ELC faculty members were part of lively conversations where they celebrated diversity and engaged in discussions that started new friendships.

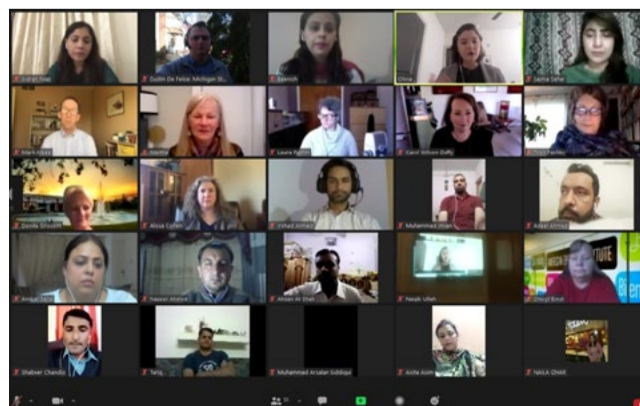


Image: Participants in a Zoom meeting

# ELC Contributions to the Conversation with Provost Woodruff



Image: Photograph of Provost Teresa K. Woodruff

On August 1st, MSU welcomed Teresa K. Woodruff as its new provost. As part of her virtual tour with colleges around campus, she visited the College of Arts & Letters in September. During that visit, she requested more information on what units like the ELC are working on this semester. The faculty and staff shared the following update with her:

In a time of great uncertainty with international education and English language study within the U.S., the English Language Center (ELC) is working tirelessly to serve the university, the college, and our partnerships throughout the world. From language training students to provisionally admitted ones, we are dedicated to ensuring the success of international students across university life.

We have worked in close collaboration with the Graduate School on supporting a variety of needs for International Teaching Assistants and in providing excellence in testing for the overall success of our academic community. We also provide testing for approximately 10,000 students in

Greece each year in a successful, decade-long partnership with two prestigious American universities there, one in Athens and one in Thessaloniki. Research based on ELC testing is conducted by ELC testing specialists and by faculty and students in MSU's PhD Program in Second Language Studies, which is one of the leading programs in the country.

We have led our field nationally in adapting to pandemic related logistical challenges. For example, we anticipated the difficulties of getting ebooks to students residing in China (which many of ours are), so we prodded book publishers and vendors to create digital materials and negotiate novel sales channels, with the result that our students worldwide are using legal copies of top-quality materials.

We have also taken a lead role in developing new initiatives centered around language teaching, online language learning, and collaborative ventures within the college. We hope to continue expanding our programming and finding new ways of generating revenue through our excellence in teaching, special programming, and testing. Even as face-to-face conferences and symposia have been suspended, the ELC continues its regional and national leadership in organizing, promoting, and contributing to distanced professional-development events.

Provost Woodruff, one request we have as a center is for continued advocacy on behalf of international students currently at MSU and those whom we should welcome in the future. We have seen first hand the importance of our university's voice in ensuring international students are an integral part of our Spartan community. We look forward to welcoming you to our center in the future.

## ELC Faculty as Invited Speakers at MITESOL 2020

On Saturday, November 7th, Larry Zwier, Mark Albee, Patricia Walters, and Dustin De Felice gave an invited speaker talk at the MITESOL 2020 Virtual Conference. Their session was titled "Post-secondary ESL Programs: Surviving Tough Times."

The four panel speakers discussed how post-secondary ESL programs are experiencing full-force the great current upheavals in education. We teach via machine and around national firewalls to students half a world away. Our colleges and universities face record budget shortfalls. Even before the pandemic, enrollment had been shriveling because of political and cultural desiccants, foreign and domestic. Yet here we are, determined to see it through. But how? This presentation laid out broad strategies and specific tactics for a post-secondary ESL program to survive—and even thrive—under such conditions. The presenters drew on their experiences and on a variety of reported cases at colleges and universities around the United States.



## ELC Holds Zoom Sessions with Koka City

On Friday, October 2nd, Mark Albee led an informational Zoom session with Koka City International Society, the land of the Ninja. Sixteen members of the society attended and learned info about MSU and East Lansing (and of course Sparty as well)! This was the 2nd Zoom session the ELC has led with the first one having been July 17th, in which Carol Wilson-Duffy led a session on Michigan and current events. In both sessions, it was clear that there is a lot of interest from the Koka City folks about education, COVID, the current elections, and our lives here in Michigan. The next session, to be led by Koka City, will be coming soon, so stay tuned!