

# INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE



## newsletter

VOLUME 001 ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

As IELI nears its 45th birthday, I'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on where we started and how far we have come. IELI continues to be a national leader as an innovative Intensive English Program (IEP) but, as I was recently reminded, we are much more than an academic unit. For many international students, who travel far from their homes to study in the U.S., IELI is family. We recently had with a visit from three former IELI students who studied in IELI in 1975! These men, pictured on the right, were here on a reunion tour. IELI was an important part of this tour as their experience here was so important in their lives; even after 40 years they spoke fondly of their teachers and classes.

IELI was formally organized in 1970, after several Foreign Language faculty members, their spouses and several USU professors had been involved with the English tutoring of an increasing number of international students at USU. IELI grew steadily from its start of about 20 students.

In 1982 IELI became one of the first IEPs in the United States to offer undergraduate elective credit for its courses. The basic premise for earning credit was that intensive language study in a university was an academic undertaking worthy of credit, like the Spanish, German and French study-abroad programs already established in USU. The final objective of language competence sufficient to begin academic coursework was also compared to the final competency expectation of language majors at American universities, and there was consensus that few of them would be able to begin to study in a foreign university after four years and a bachelor's degree in their foreign language.



*Saburo Yamasaki, Ken Kitamura, and  
Akinori Murakami*

IELI became a unit independent of the Department of Languages and Philosophy in 1985. The status of IELI faculty changed from the lecturer rank to the professorial rank in 1999 as USU revised its Faculty Code. To date, this professorial status remains unique amongst other IEP in the U.S. and many other programs look to IELI as a model of professional practice.

The IELI faculty is firmly committed to maintaining high standards, ensuring that our program remains current and vibrant. IELI has been a member of the University Consortium of Intensive English Programs (UCIEP) since 1989. It has also been a member of the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP) since the early 1990s. IELI was one of the early programs to be awarded accreditation in 2002 from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), a body recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education. This accreditation requires a rigorous self-evaluation which has provides us the opportunity to continually reflect and grow.

In 2013, IELI was reunited with the Department of Languages Philosophy, and Communication Studies. Although all of the IELI faculty hold at least an MA, the terminal degree in our field; IELI hired its first PhD tenure track faculty in 2013.

Over the last 45 years, there have been many changes in the field of second language teaching; IELI has not missed a step along the way as it continues to evolve with the field. During this time we have not forgotten that we do not simply teach language, we help many students realize their dreams.

Jim Rogers, Director

FATIH ORTAKCI,  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES'  
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR  
BY NOLAN WEIL



I first met Fatih Ortakci in the Fall of 2011 when he took my Academic Discourse class, an advanced speaking course designed to help students clearly explain concepts in their academic fields. A PhD student in Nutrition and Food Science, Fatih spoke on topics like probiotic bacteria, cheese making, and microencapsulation—a topic I later learned more about as Fatih’s

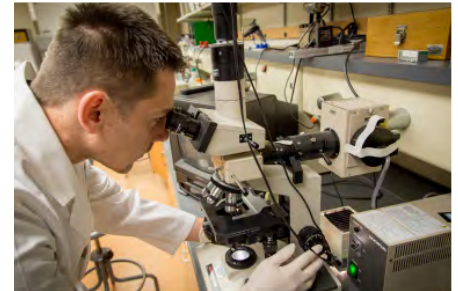
language consultant on a [submission](#) to the Journal of Dairy Science.

Fatih recently completed an internship with Saputo, the largest cheese manufacturer in Canada and has returned to Logan to finish his dissertation.

**“Every time you help me with something,” Fatih tells me, “with a paper, with a scholarship package, with an award, I succeed.”**

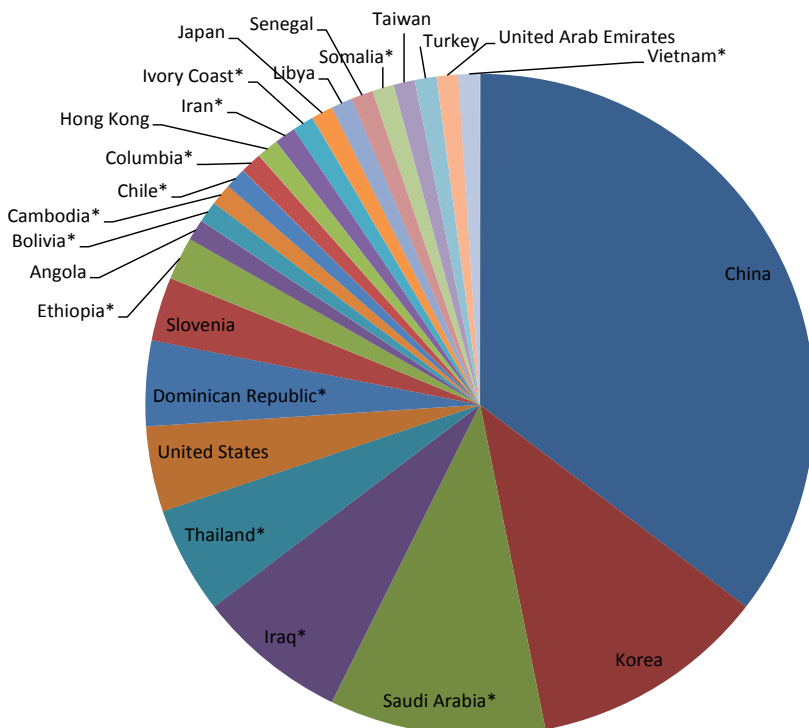
Fatih’s productivity—four journal articles and nine conference presentations since 2012—recently earned him Graduate Student Researcher of the Year awards in both the Department of Nutrition and Food Science and the College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences. And, he has been nominated for the USU Graduate Student Researcher of the Year award. A cheese connoisseur, Fatih is studying “gassy” cheddar

cheese. Cheddar, of course, is best when aged or “ripened,” but in consulting with Fatih on his work, I learned that during ripening, some cheeses develop textural defects characterized by slits and cracks. Although these defects do not affect the edibility of the cheese, their presence is not acceptable in a quality cheddar and results in major economic losses to cheese manufacturers.



“Cheese makers have recognized the phenomenon for over 100 years,” says Fatih, “but the problem hasn’t really been well explained before.”

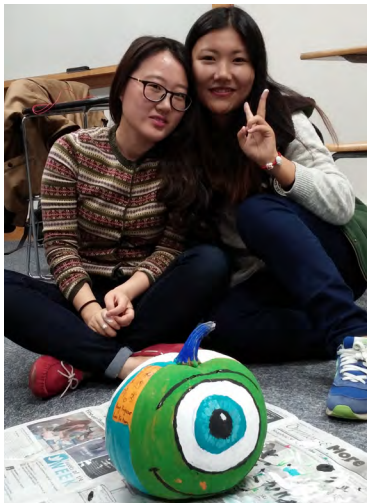
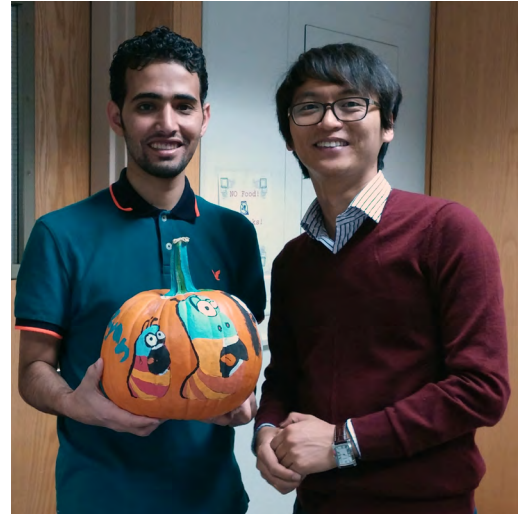
Fatih’s research, however, promises to cast light on it. The culprit may be *Lactobacillus wasatchii*, a previously unknown species of bacteria, recently discovered by Dr. Craig Oberg of Weber State in a sample of “gassy” cheese from the Aggie Creamery. Fatih is investigating the hypothesis that *Lactobacillus wasatchii* or some other lactic acid bacteria like it produces splits and cracks in cheese when five and six carbon sugars are available to support growth and unwanted gas production.



## IELI STUDENT BODY FALL 2014

This Semester the Intensive English Language Institute has students from 24 Countries involved in 16 different majors.

# HALLOWEEN



In IELI 1230 Cross-Culture Speaking class, students learned about different customs and traditions observed in the United States. One of these is the custom of carving and painting pumpkins as a fall or Halloween activity. In pairs, the students decided on what they would paint on their pumpkins. They had a lot of fun!

## NEWS ITEMS

### **Thanksgiving dinner at Angie's**

No place to go for Thanksgiving? Angie's Restaurant is hosting a FREE Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th from 11:00-2:00. Donations are welcome and will go to the Huntsman Cancer Center. 690 North Main St.

### **English 1010**

If you need to take English 1010, consider taking one of these classes. Both native and non-native English speakers will study cultural and language differences as strengths from which we can all learn, developing a deeper understanding of both North American and worldwide cultures and how they influence language.

CRN 11398 ENGL 1010-019 MWF

8:30AM- 9:20AM

CRN 11397 ENGL 1010-016 MWF

9:30AM-10:20AM

## IELI IN CHINA

IELI is working with the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business to give students in China the opportunity to get a USU degree in Economics. IELI faculty collaborate with Chinese teachers who are teaching IELI courses at four different institutions in China: Beijing Institute of Technology, Northeast Dianli University, Northwest University for Nationalities, and the Institute of Advanced Learning, Hong Kong. Look to the next issue for an in-depth look at this program.

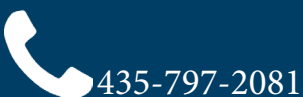


## FACULTY PROFILE - ANN ROEMER

IELI faculty are all engaged in scholarship to better understand how to improve the curriculum and foster better learning. Ann Roemer has taken her research to the next level by pursuing a Ph.D. in the Department of Education, Culture, and Society at the University of Utah. Because this is an interdisciplinary program, her coursework has included classes in anthropology, education, sociology, history, philosophy, statistics, and research methodology. She has recently completed research at three public universities in Utah to better understand the campus and classroom climate for international students at these predominantly white universities. In particular, she is focused on students from the People's Republic of China and Saudi Arabia. Her research examines two important questions: How welcomed do they (and other international students) feel in their undergraduate classes? How do they perceive the behavior of their American classmates and their professors? She is using a mix methods analysis (using both quantitative and qualitative data) to analyze her findings and plans to finish in 2015.



Bryan Raun, former IELI student, playing *Chrysanthemums Terrace* on the piano. He is accompanied by his friend on the Chinese traditional instrument, the Erhu.



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