From the Director:

Even as the director, I am always surprised to see the many activities in which the IELI faculty and students are engaged and the ways in which IELI has touched the lives of so many. In this newsletter we highlight a few of our students who were attracted to USU. The IELI faculty is always impressed with the quality of students and their dedication to learning English and pursuing their dreams at USU. Please take a few moments to learn more about three of these students, two of whom were chosen as our students of the year. The IELI faculty have also been quite productive investigating various aspects of language learning and teaching. Have a look at the faculty scholarship page which highlights the diverse venues in which IELI faculty are sharing what they have learned. Finally, I am always happy to see how IELI has played a role in the lives of those who have worked with us. Anne Cannon was bitten by the ESL bug as an undergraduate student working with IELI students; now she is an ESL faculty at Salt Lake Community College.

In the spring issue we’ll highlight Kim Andrus, whom we recently hired. We are lucky to have an experienced teacher like Kim join our faculty. I will be on sabbatical during the spring semester, during which Nolan Weil will take over as director.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

Jim Rogers, PhD
The Conversation Partner Program had another successful kick off event this semester. The event hosted by IELI was held on September 17 and attracted almost 50 students. IELI students were joined by students from majors, such as Education, Climate Variability and Dynamics, Economics, International Studies, Food Science, Aviation, Guitar Education, Biology, Journalism, and Communication. Besides English, students came to find conversation partners in their quests to learn Arabic, German, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and French. All enjoyed lively conversations accompanied by yummy pizza. With their new partners, students set off into a semester of learning each other’s languages and cultures. The next event is planned for the beginning of Spring 2019 semester and we hope to attract an even larger crowd.
On September 26, we had the IELISA kick-off meeting to select student officers. These are our 2018-2019 IELISA volunteer leaders:

**Umutoni Uwera (Secretary)**
Hi this is Muto! My full name is Umutoni Uwera and I am from Nyabiheke Refugee Camp in Rwanda. I have been here in USA 4 years almost 5. I want to major in human Biology because I want to be OBGYN in the future.

**Salado Ali (Photographer)**
I’m from Somali. In the future I want to get into the nursing program and become a midwife.

**Ya Han Chang (Treasurer)**
Hello this is Grace (my American name). I’m from Taiwan. I’m pursuing a business major.

**Jennifer Bryan (President)**
Hi I’m Jennifer Bryan. I’m from Brazil but I’ve been living in Utah since 2016. I’m a biology major student on PreMed track. I’m married and I have a baby girl.

On October 8, the first IELISA activity was to participate in USU’s Homecoming Street Painting tradition. IELISA, along with many other campus groups, shared their creativity and school spirit by painting street murals in front of the Taggart...
Ekaterina Arshavskaya


Marta Halaczkiewicz:

Forging Future Global Citizens in a Cooperative Chinese-American Program by Culturally Responsible, Technology-mediated English Language Instruction. International Conference of the China Association for Intercultural Communication 2018, Jinan, China

Get a Job: Do’s and Don’ts for an Academic Position. ITESOL Conference 2018, Salt Lake City, UT

Using Video Games to Enhance Academic Writing Experiences of Language Learners. Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Convention 2018, Kansas City, MO

Promoting Inclusion and Understanding in the Multicultural Classroom. Inclusive Excellence Symposium 2018, Utah State University, Logan, UT

Ann Roemer:

Get a Job—Do’s and Don’ts for an Academic Position. ITESOL Conference 2018, Salt Lake City, UT

I will be serving on the Fulbright U.S. Student Program National Screening Committee in December.

Elena Shvidko:


Hi everyone! My name is Nefi Reyes De La Paz. I came to USU following advice of one of my friends. The visa application process went really fast and I started at IELI in January 2018 with Level 3. I met people from all over the world and made many friends.

At the start, I was a bit skeptical, yet I learned a lot of different skills, such as academic writing and presentation skills. I am still using those skills every day in college.

Right now, I am a TA in Spanish 2020. I major in Spanish teaching and minor in International Business. I strongly believe being a TA is helpful for my future as a Spanish professor.

Nefi has also written a book:

https://www.amazon.com/Dimitri-anillo-poder-Spanish-Reyes/dp/1729416756/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1545084428&sr=8-1&keywords=Nefi+Reyes
Anne Cannon, Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL) at Salt Lake Community College, never thought of teaching as a career possibility because of her shy and reserved personality. While she was an undergraduate at USU majoring in Political Science, however, she worked in the IELI program as a classroom assistant. That, she said, was the spark lighting the flame that would become her passion: teaching ESL.

Anne's career path has been circuitous, both professionally and geographically. As a political science major, she thought that she would work in foreign service or law, but her first job was at Holt, Rinehart, and Winston Publishers in Austin, Texas, where she edited social-science textbooks. She continued working as an editor for a newspaper in Wyoming, as a webmaster for an online bookstore in Utah, and later as an editor, again for a major textbook publisher in Salt Lake City. There Anne volunteered as an ESL tutor at the Guadalupe Schools, and she loved it so much that she decided to make a career change.

Besides being circuitous, Anne's life has also been serendipitous. Before attending the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a master's degree and became certified as an ESL teacher, Anne ventured abroad to teach EFL, English as a Foreign Language, in South Korea, Mexico, and India, where she worked for Microsoft. While visiting her parents in Pittsburgh during Christmas, she met a friend of theirs who was a professor at the University of Pittsburgh in the School of Education in Foreign Language Education. Later, when she returned to India, he contacted her about applying to their graduate program. She decided to give up her job at Microsoft and pursue a master's degree at "Pitt." After graduation, she taught in Salt Lake City at the Guadalupe Schools, Westminster College, and the Refugee and Immigrant Center, as well as two years at Kansas State University.

What Anne remembers about IELI in the 1990s is that she "absolutely loved" her time there. She not only worked in the office with Frank Bacheller, but also as a classroom assistant for Lee Rawley and Tom Schroeder. In addition, she helped with the ITA (International Teaching Assistants') workshop in the summer. When asked about her time in IELI, she recalled "the kindness, encouragement, friendliness, and fun personalities of the faculty and staff in IELI."

While she was at USU in the 1990s, Anne may have been an introvert, but she certainly does not appear so now. She is active in the field of English-language teaching, presenting at conferences and becoming a board member of InterMountain TESOL, the local affiliate of TESOL International.
Student Achievement

Students of the Semester Fall 2018

IELI Director Jim Rogers, Ivanna Fuentes Javier, (Dominican Republic)
Ya Han (Grace) Chang, (Taiwan) Ryohei Taka, (Japan)

Students of the Year 2018

IELI Director Jim Rogers, Ivanna Fuentes Javier, (Dominican Republic)
Nefi Reyes, (Dominican Republic) Ailizati Halimulati, (China)
Hello, everyone

This is my short story about my experience in USU.

This is TEIF ABDULQANI NAJM, I am from Iraq. I have a scholarship from the higher committee for education development in Iraq (HCED). I am an assistant teacher in the Biochemistry department in Alqurna college / University of Basrah / Iraq.

I have been here at the Utah State University since May 2014, when I started taking first steps in my program to learn the English Language. When I arrived in the US, I think I had 10-25% English language skill, so I started with IELI from level one through level four, finishing it in May 2015. IELI is the first step in my English education, it helped me a lot in how to speak, write, and oral communication. Also, it was very helpful to contact with people and students. Additionally, it gave me an approval to the next steps in my program, which is academic education.

I started my academic program in Fall 2015 in my Ph.D. program in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food sciences department/Agriculture College/USU. My project connects biochemistry (protein) and food systems. During this period, I finished my academic classes and I am still work with my research requirement. I also took ITAs workshop with my IELI teacher, and it was a very good workshop because it helps graduate students how to teach and communicate with the undergraduate students. The teacher for this class was very helpful, and she gave participants three chances to make a presentation and answer some questions. I felt good to work again with IELI teachers and in the end, I got more experience to teach in the English language.

Now, I am a TA for protein and enzyme class in NDFS department. I hope to teach more classes next semester because that will help me to develop my language and more knowledge in my area. Finally, my goal, when I graduate from USU, is to keep doing my research and teach classes in the English language in my country.
Upcoming Important Dates

Spring 2019

Placement Exam January 04
Orientation January 07
Classes Begin January 08
Classes end April 26
Last Day of Final Exams May 04

Summer 2019

Placement Exam (1st session) June 03
Orientation June 04
Classes begin (1st session) June 04
Classes end (1st session) July 05
Placement Exam (2nd session) July 08
Classes begin (2nd session) July 08
Classes end (2nd session) Aug 09

Fall 2019

Placement Exam August 23
Orientation August 26
Classes Begin August 27
Classes end December 06
Last Day of Finals December 13

Current and former IELI students we would love to know what you are doing.

Please email updates and comments to :

ieli@aggiemail.usu.edu