From the Director:

In memoriam: Frank Bacheller

It is with deep sadness that I wanted to share the news that our dear colleague, mentor, and friend, Frank Bacheller, passed away last week. Frank retired after 29 years in IELI, 11 of which he spent as director. In the last newsletter, I outlined some of Frank’s contributions to IELI, USU, and the field of ESL. As you look through our current newsletter, know that Frank was instrumental in many of the diverse activities in which IELI engages. He touched the lives of his colleagues, students and others with whom he worked. Please take a few moments to reflect on some of the comments that came in when Frank’s colleagues, students, and friends learned of his passing.

Bittersweet news: IELI was granted 10 year re-accreditation from CEA last week. It is rare that a program gets the full 10 year accreditation without some reporting requirements. Frank, who served as a CEA reviewer and commissioner, orchestrated the CEA report.
I am originally from Russia and came to the United States in 2012 as an international student to study English in an intensive English program in Provo, Utah. While studying in that program, I realized how much I enjoyed being around people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. So after completing two semesters of my English studies, I decided to continue my education in the U.S. I received a Master’s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Brigham Young University (Provo, UT), and a Ph.D. degree in Second Language Studies from Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN). While pursuing my education, I also taught English as a second language (in Provo) and university-level introductory writing (in West Lafayette).

I started my position as an assistant professor at Utah State University in January 2017. I am very much looking forward to my time in IELI, and I am thrilled to be back in Utah, as I have come to love this state, and I truly enjoy its beauty.

Outside of my life in academia, I enjoy reading, hiking, spending time with friends, traveling, and visiting national parks. I like to stay active in life, both physically and intellectually. In fact, one of my favorite things to do is to go for a walk while listening to the radio or to my favorite music. It helps me clear my mind, reflect on my life, and organize my ideas.

Hope you all are enjoying this semester!
I am a PhD student in Engineering Education. I started the program in the Spring of 2015. I had a lot of teaching experience before coming to USU, but never had any training on how to teach. I took the International Teaching Assistant training with Dr. Ekaterina Arshavskaya in the Summer of 2015 and it was a great experience. I learned a lot about how to teach. Especially helpful was the times when we were videotaped while presenting. This allowed me to improve my teaching a lot. For example, I noticed I spoke too fast and not loud enough, and I started working on that. Similarly, I also noticed a distracting habit where I click on the pen I am holding in my hand continuously, which is very distracting and possibly annoying to students. I managed to drop that habit since then. Additionally, the feedback provided by Dr. Ekaterina Arshavskaya and the other teachers and students were valuable to notice any weakness in teaching style. After taking this two week seminar, I became more confident in my teaching and even won an award for Graduate Student Teacher of the Year from my department in 2015.

Murad Mahmoud
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Di Cao
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Di holds a Master’s degree in British and American Literature from Beijing Foreign Studies University, China and a Doctoral degree in Education Policy from Capital Normal University, China. She teaches English reading, listening, IELTS, and Chinese Culture to undergraduates and academic writing to post-graduates. Her research interest is (foreign) language education policy analysis in both China and abroad. She enjoys traveling, hiking, listening to music and going to the gym.

Each year the Intensive English Language Institute hosts visiting scholars. These scholars perform research and observe IELI courses to understand our teaching practices.
In February, Level 3 speaking students hosted a Lunar New Year party. The party was initiated to celebrate with students who were far away from home, family and friends at a special time of year. It was a perfect opportunity for Chinese students to share their culture and heritage with others and to celebrate with other homesick students.

In a room decorated with mementos and reminders from home, students enjoyed a potluck meal combining efforts from several cultures. Some students met in the Family Life kitchen to prepare and cook Chinese dumplings. Some students brought dishes from a local Chinese restaurant and other students brought dishes from their own countries, to honor and celebrate a tradition that was not their own.

Celebrating the Year of the Rooster

One of the great strengths of our IELI students and program is the desire to learn from and care for students of different backgrounds. The Lunar New Year party was a special celebration of traditional culture and of the power of diversity.
Students of the Semester
Spring 2017

Intensive English Language Student of the Year
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Pictured L to R: IELI Lecturer Taira Nieves, Shen Tian, Haoyi Li, and Jiayi Zhou

Osamu Fujiwara Scholarship Recipients

Pictured L to R: Dean Joseph Ward with Naoki Uchida and IELI Director Jim Rogers

Naoki Uchida with IELI Director Jim Rogers

Lele Liu with IELI Director Jim Rogers
Originally from Osaka, Japan, Hajime Sagane came to Logan with his wife, Chie, and studied in IELI Fall 2011-Spring 2012. He continued to study at USU and worked as a Teaching Assistant with Atsuko Neely, Japanese faculty. In 2016 he received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, with a concentration in aerospace engineering. He recently came back to say thank-you to the IELI faculty and to tell us that he was returning to Japan to work at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. However, after having worked only a few months with this company, he recently accepted a new position at Bell Helicopter, in Texas, starting immediately. He will be working in a team with longstanding partnership with Fuji Heavy Industries which supplied helicopters to Japan’s Ground Self-Defense Force’s. 


Before coming to Logan, Hajime was a helicopter pilot for the Japanese Coast Guard and undertook two daunting assignments. On March 11, 2011, the strongest earthquake in Japanese history hit the country, causing devastation and destruction. The tsunami it triggered swept thousands of people into the sea, and more than 20,000 people were killed. In addition, it damaged the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Because of the radiation leak, the government set a 30-kilometer restricted perimeter around the plant. Six days after the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, two Japan Self-Defense Force helicopters entered the radioactive area and dropped water on the reactor to cool it. Later, on April 14, the Japanese Coast Guard ordered a search-and-rescue mission in the area, which involved airplanes, helicopters, and patrol boats. For three weeks, Hajime flew a helicopter along the coast to look for victims. Unfortunately, there were no survivors. He removed over 50 bodies from the water—20 of them were children.

Hajime used this experience to inform other helicopter pilots about the measures that need to be taken in emergencies involving radioactivity. He presented a paper at the American Helicopter Society International's 72nd Annual Forum in West Palm Beach, Florida in May of 2016, and his article, “Helicopter Operation at Fukushima Nuclear Disaster,” was published in their journal.
Frank was a wonderful man and a dear friend. He will be missed by so many people whose lives he changed. I will miss his smile and kind manner. Condolences to his family.

This is incredibly sad! I enjoyed taking classes with him! He was so inspirational and thoughtful! I’ll never forget you professor! Rest in peace.

Dr. Frank Bacheller had worked for the cooperative program since 2000, and contributed greatly to the development and success of the program! His devotion and contribution was highly appreciated by the University, the local facilitators and the program.

Frank was a friend and colleague over the years. We served together on both the AAIEP, now EnglishU-SA, board, and the commission for CEA. He was a fun-loving, dedicated person and we shared our love of Japan and teaching. He will be missed. Condolences to his family.

We are so impressed by his passion, kindness and humor. We are sorry to lose not only an excellent teacher but also a dear friend.

Very sad. His students were fortunate to be in his class...a caring teacher.

So saddened to hear of franks passing! Hugs to his family!

What a lovely tribute. I expect he’ll be missed from China to Japan to Logan.

Frank was one of my favorites professors during the time that I was in my IELI classes, I even saw him a few months ago. It is so hard to believe.

We are so impressed by his passion, kindness and humor. We are sorry to lose not only an excellent teacher but also a dear friend.

Thank you Frank for everything you taught me! I will miss you.

I can not believe it. I am so sad. Thank you Frank

What a wonderful and kind man. He will be missed.

So sorry to hear of franks passing! Hugs to his family!

Rest In Peace my best professor... I learned a lot from you

Rest In Peace!!! IELI’s professors, you’re always in memory, best times, and never will be forgotten.

Rip Mr. Frank! It is very sad to hear the loss of you!!!

We lost such a kind man, professional teacher and close friend.

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What a lovely tribute. I expect he’ll be missed from China to Japan to Logan.

Rest in peace professor Bacheller.

His face, smile, words and many other things all are sculptured in my mind. I won’t forget him...

I've passed the news on to others who knew and worked with him, as you’ve been doing. Everyone is revisiting memories, and in every case Frank’s essential character emerges – a truly good and genuine person, as well as generous colleague.

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