First of all, I would like to recognize and applaud IELI Senior Lecturer Marta Halaczkiewicw and Graduate Instructor Sharon Lyman for being awarded the Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies Lecturer of the Year and Graduate Student Instructor of the Year. They both move on to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) with very strong portfolios.

IELI prides itself on teaching. We are teachers, teacher-researchers, teacher-trainers, and teacher-mentors. Of course, our main goal is providing students the language, academic, and cultural knowledge to be successful university students. And our students are successful! The average GPA of an IELI graduate is 3.08 and many of our students do much better and are awarded honors from their respective programs.

In addition to teaching in the English for Academic Purposes program that is the core of IELI, our faculty are busy sharing their vast experience with graduate students, with visiting scholars (who are often experienced teachers themselves), and with a myriad of English teaching professionals at the various conference at which we attend and in publications in which we publish our teaching related research.

We are passionate about teaching and are honored when our faculty is recognized for teaching excellence! Good luck to Marta and Sharon as they move forward to the CHASS awards.

Jim Rogers, PhD
Global Company Kiswire Creates English Learning Opportunities

Q: What do you do at Kiswire?
A: I am in charge of the quality control department for tire reinforcement called "steelcord" as a team manager. I particularly manage to guarantee the quality of reinforcements supplied to major tire companies such as Michelin, Goodyear, and Bridgestone for safe driving.

Q: How is studying English in IELISA different from your past English study experiences?
A: I used to study mainly regarding the TOEIC test and reading. I didn’t usually learn about speaking or conversation.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who is planning to come to the USA to study at IELI in the future?
A: I think the best way to learn English is to just face it. Even though I am not good at English, I am learning English through experiences that are under tricky situations such as opening my own account, traveling by asking for directions and ordering meals.

Q: What do you like the most about being at USU?
A: I can learn English systematically. Also, I feel like I'm back in college.

Q: Has anything surprised you about being or living here?
A: First, I was impressed with the welfare of the university, such as the playground, sports center, swimming pool, school bus, and sport free admission. Second, I was impressed by the passionate of the students and professors in the class.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who is planning to come to the USA to study at IELI in the future?
A: Read a lot of English books and study basic grammar before studying IELI, it will help you study much more.

Youngjae Sung
Jongmin Jung
Jahaeng Jeong
Each year, IELI open its doors to a number of Masters in Second Language Teaching (MSLT) program students. These students are studying to become English as a Second Language instructors and have the opportunity to practice their teaching skills with the IELI students. This year, IELI plays host to three exceptional MSLT students: Brandee Burk, Emma Duncan, and Sharon Lyman.

Brandee Burk

Brandee is a Graduate Teaching Assistant who is working in the IELI 2410 Comprehending Lecture Discourse and the IELI 2320 Writing from Authentic Texts courses. She has previously worked as a Classroom Assistant for the IELI 2330 Spoken Discourse and Cultural Communication course. Over the several semesters of her involvement with the IELI program, she has made a lot of international friends and keeps in touch with them still. She decided to join the MSLT program and teach ESL because it allows her to work with students from all over the world. Brandee is a local, from West Haven, UT and enjoys hiking, music, food, and traveling.

Emma Duncan

Emma is IELI’s new Graduate Instructor. She is from Cedar City, UT and loves linguistics, language learning, living in new places, and berries. In the Spring 2019 semester, when she first joined the MSLT program, she worked as a Classroom Assistant for the IELI 1000 Conversational English Language course. She is currently teaching that course on her own. She wants to become an English language teacher because she loves languages. After experiences living in a few different countries and attempting to learn the languages there, she felt sympathetic to those who are trying to do the same here in the US. She is intrigued by how teachers can make the language classroom a place where real, useful language learning happens. In her IELI experiences so far, she likes seeing students become really engaged in what they are learning which is exemplified by them staying after class and discussing the topic they were working on that day. In the future, she would like to continue her international journey (she has her eye on Albania next) and teach in a community college setting.

Sharon Lyman

Sharon is the IELI Graduate Instructor for the second year in the row. She is an Aggie from Erda, Utah. She is an avid rock climber, runner, hiker, and all-around nature enthusiast. She loves language teaching and learning. She speaks Spanish, is conversational in Portuguese, and currently dabbling in Russian. In the academic year 2018/2019, she taught the IELI 1000 course and this year she is teaching one of the IELI core courses, the IELI 2360 Reading Authentic Texts. The most memorable learning/teaching experiences for her have been the times she spent with students on campus fieldtrips, playing language games, watching presentations showcasing students’ countries, building spaghetti and marshmallow towers, ginger bread houses, and all the laughter and friendships that paralleled the language learning. Another highlight for her are her students’ bi-monthly book reports through which she can observe how literature can transport students out of Logan and bring a world of learning into the reading course. After she graduates, she hopes to temporarily teach English abroad as a Fellow. Then, she plans to return to the U.S. where she can focus her teaching efforts to help immigrants and refugees become confident English communicators.
Arshavskaya, Ekaterina

Papers:
Arshavskaya, E. (2019). Teachers’ Stories about Teaching: Collaborative Dialogues as Open Educational Resources. Journal on Empowering Teaching Excellence, 3(1), Article 3. DOI: https://doi.org/10.26077/k1s8-jn09 Available at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/jete/vol3/iss1/3


Conferences:


Roemer, Ann

Cut-off Decisions and the IELTS Exam: A Lesson from One University. Journal College & University. Forthcoming winter issue.

Rogers, Jim

Coherence as Identity in an Advanced Level Writing Class. V International Colloquium on Languages, Cultures, Identity, in Schools and Society. Soria, Spain, 2019.

Shvidko, Lena

Publications

Conference Presentations
Promoting second language socialization through course projects. Intermountain TESOL, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2019.
IELI Conversation Program

IELI Conversation Partner Program Fall 2019 Kick-Off

We’ve had another successful start to the IELI Conversation Partner Program. On September 12, more than 40 students showed up to the kick-off event where they could socialize over some tasty treats. About half of those who attended were IELI students learning English. The other half were USU students who learn foreign languages such as Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish, or French. Five continents and fifteen languages were represented. Students mingled and found partnerships in which, over the span of this semester, they will meet to practice conversation skills in the languages they are learning. This has been a popular event, as it allows both IELI students and other language learners to get some real-life language practice outside of class. Students repeatedly report enjoying the interactions with their conversation partners and building friendships that last beyond the semester. If you know of someone who could benefit from our ongoing program, please, contact Marta Halaczkiewicz at marta.hala@usu.edu.
IELI Student Ambassador Lends Hand at Latino Education Fair

The IELI faculty would like to give a special shout out to David Hernandez for his contribution to the Latino Education Fair held Saturday, November 16 at Logan High School.

The fair was hosted by USU Extension in collaboration with university departments and other local sponsors to raise awareness in the Latinx community regarding the benefits of higher education and to share basic information on the admissions process and financial aid opportunities.

David is among a number of Latino students who entered IELI this semester, placing into Level 4, the highest level of the program. The faculty was delighted that David was available to participate in the event where he spoke with several parents and prospective students about his experiences in the Institute and its value as a pathway for bilingual students into a university career after high school.

In addition to student representative, David Hernandez, IELI representatives included graduate student intern Sharon Lyman and faculty members Taira Nieves, Ann Roemer, and Nolan Weil.
Student Achievement

Ann Yao
Fall Student of the Semester
Student of the Year

Ayat Albaltniji
Fall Student of Semester
Student of the Year

Mohammed Alharthi
Student of the Year
Upcoming Important Dates

Spring 2020

Placement Exam Jan. 03
Orientation Jan. 06
Classes Begin Jan. 07
Classes End April 29
Last Day of Finals May 02

Summer 2020

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

Current and former IELI Students:
We would love to know what you are doing.

Please email updates and comments to:

ieli@aggiemail.usu.edu