As we welcome a new group of students for the fall semester, we have barely had time to take a breath and relax as our summer session just recently finished. In addition to our regular full program we run in the summer, our last group of students from Nanchang University just left a few weeks ago. A week later, the international teaching assistants (ITA) workshop started which marked the beginning of fall semester. IELI is a program that truly runs year round!

This has been an especially busy year as we have been undergoing our re-accreditation process with the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). The CEA is our field's leading accrediting body and is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. This process is an intensive one as it covers 44 standards in areas such as curriculum, faculty, administrative and fiscal capacity, student services, student achievement, and program development, planning and review. Even though it has been a time consuming activity for the entire IELI faculty, we have used to the opportunity to re-examine what we do and improve our program. Dr. Frank Bacheller, deserves special recognition for the heroic effort he has put in to organize and lead our reaccreditation efforts. We are extremely lucky that Frank has served many years as a CEA reviewer and commissioner; he brings a wealth of experience and insights to the process. In October, a review team will come to USU for the on-site review during which time they will interview faculty and administrators, observe our teaching, and review more documentation.

Jim Rogers, PhD
Director, Professor
Visiting Scholars

Each year, IELI hosts up to three visiting scholars from China. These scholars observe IELI courses to better understand our teaching practices and engage in their research with IELI faculty.

Guiyun Guan

I come from the Northwest University for Nationalities in China, where I am an associate professor, teaching Lexicology, The History of English Literature, Listening, Writing, Reading, English Newspaper Reading, and College English.

I like being with students because it makes me feel energetic, dynamic, and young. I like the feeling of sharing what I know with my students. I also like the feeling of being respected and liked. Yet, I find that sometimes I encounter some problems in the course of English teaching, so I decided to learn more.

Luckily, I received the sponsorship from the China Scholarship Council and came to IELI as a visiting scholar about three months ago. I find that my studies here are exciting. I can learn different teaching methods and different cultures, which will be helpful for my teaching of English back in China.

I like Logan and of course, USU. The city is beautiful, quiet, and safe. The people here are very polite and helpful. I go to the library every day. I can make full use of the resources here to finish my literary book and write some papers.

After I go back to China, I will still keep in touch with IELI colleagues and my IELI mentor, so I try to cooperate with the professors here as much as possible.

Yanli Yu

I am a lecturer of Northeast Forestry University in China. In my school days, I was greatly influenced by my English teacher and I attended the Normal University to be an English teacher.

The IELI program is fascinating. I have attended many classes in the program. These classes covered almost all courses for learners of different levels, from which I benefit a lot.

I love Logan and USU as much as I love my city and university. Logan and USU offer such a beautiful scenery, especially after the snow. Compared with Logan, my city, Harbin is as populous as any city in China. It is freezing in winter, but snows a little. As a university with Forestry as its leading subject, my university is covered by all kinds of plants, from the towering trees, the swirling vine, to the rare plant species. When I recalled it, I could see the foliage change with the seasons.

After I come back to China, I will apply what I learn from the IELI program, i.e., put my valuable experiences into my teaching practice and try to propose and improve the level-based English teaching we carry out in China.

I hope that my visiting experience in IELI can further facilitate the cooperative activities between IELI and College of Foreign Languages of my university.

Ning Wang

I am a lecturer in the Foreign Languages Department of Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT). I have my B.A. and M.A. from Beijing Foreign Studies University and have 15 years of experience of teaching ESL at a university level. My interests lie in teaching, particularly teaching English for academic purposes and cross-cultural studies.

Utah State University and Beijing Institute of Technology has a well-established cooperation and four years ago, I started to work as a facilitator for IELI program at BIT center. I’ve been teaching writing from level 1 through level 4 with the guidance of leading professors from USU, who have helped me to enrich and improve myself in teaching and learning of English. I have seen some of my students who have made great achievements through the IELI courses and continued to pursue their further study successfully in USU.

When I was granted a scholarship from the China Scholarship Council last year, I decided that USU would be the best choice for me to spend a year as a visiting scholar. I am very grateful to Jim and Frank for accepting my application and Margaret for helping me with all the paper work. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the teachers of IELI for their warm welcome. I have no doubt that this year will be fruitful and rewarding here at
In addition to our regular summer program, IELI hosted two groups from China this year.

Beijing Institute of Technology

The first group was a group of students from one of our partner universities, Beijing Institute of Technology. A group of 15 students came for one week to study English and Economics. We partnered with the Department of Economics and Finance to provide a short but intensive USU experience for them. Many of these students plan to return to USU to complete their senior year in Economics.

Nanchang University

The second group was from Nanchang University. IELI worked with the office of Global Engagement to set up a month long academic and cultural program for these sophomore and junior university students. The program was so successful that Nanchang University is considering bringing back another group next year.
Each year the Fujiwara Scholarship selection committee has the difficult job of selecting one recipient. This year the committee was moved by Irma’s story and happy to offer financial assistance for this incredible mother and grandmother.

Tell us a little about yourself: I am from Chihuahua, Mexico. I have three daughters and grandchildren who keep me very busy but also make me very happy. I enjoy doing outdoor activities with my family. Such as, hiking, running, swimming and picnics. My hobbies consist of reading books, listening to music, gardening and exercising.

How did you end up at USU? I came to the U.S. escaping domestic violence to protect my family. I decided Logan was the place to live because it was a small, safe town to raise my children. I decided to go to USU because I wanted to continue the education I had to leave behind in Mexico.

What are your goals after IELI? My goals after IELI is to get my degree as a Social Worker. As a Social Worker I want to help low-income families with problems that they are facing, especially with people who are Spanish speakers and do not speak English. Especially since I know how scary it can be to be in an unwanted position and not know the language. I really want to be able to help and comfort those who are scared and think they are alone.

In what ways has IELI helped you prepare for the university? IELI has prepared me by helping me better understand English. It has also taught me to correctly write sentences and use proper grammar. With what I am learning in IELI I will be able to use techniques like note-taking in my classes for when I start on my degree. The presentations that I have done also help me gain confidence in getting in front of people and speaking.
Congratulations to our Students of the Semester for Spring 2016. Faculty nominate students from their classes who have demonstrated academic excellence and scholarship as well as a willingness to get along with students from other cultures. Irma Ramos, Gilmara Cotner and Angelina Abreu have all demonstrated the characteristics necessary for faculty to select them as our outstanding Students of the Semester.

We would like to wish the best of luck to all our students who have completed the program and will be moving on to pursue their academic goals. It takes hard work and dedication to get through the Intensive English program and we admire all our students who received their certificate of completion. We can’t wait to hear about all the amazing accomplishments of these students in the

Congratulations to our Summer Students of the Semester! Wsaal Haggi (left) and Naoki Uchida (right) were presented with a certificate from IELI Director, Jim Rogers.
Taira Nieves hosted the IELISA summer party. It was a beautiful day for a back yard barbecue where hamburgers and hot dogs were enjoyed by all!

The End-of-Semester Luncheon for summer was held at First Dam. Students visiting from Nan Chung, China were invited to join IELI students and faculty for food and fun!