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Your accomplishments are important to all of us in the program. Let everyone know about them. Send your information to Bethany Gray at Bethany.Gray@nau.edu

If you have news that you'd like to share with others in our program, please let GSAAL know. Send your news to Elena Poltavtchenko at ep99@nau.edu

The GSAAL is happy to share with you the first issue of the organization's newsletter— **GSAAL News**. We thank everyone who contributed articles for this issue or simply shared interesting news with us. Unfortunately, we were not able to fit all information we received in our first newsletter, but we will do our best to share all your news in our next issue. If you have something to tell other students and faculty in our program, please let the GSAAL know by e-mailing at ep99@nau.edu!

Congrats! The GSAAL wholeheartedly congratulates this semester's graduates Julie O'Neil and Navin Singh. We wish you both all the best and hope you will keep in touch. We also would like to remind everyone to come and celebrate at the end-of-semester party on December 12, 2008, at the Program of Intensive English.

Recent Happenings

Journal club

by *Tatiana Nekrasova*

The GSAAL organized three journal club events this semester. The first meeting (September 18) was led by Stephen Doolan who guided the discussion of Silva and Leki's (2004) article about the place of composition research within the field of applied linguistics. Either because of the topic discussed or personal charms of the discussion leader, this first meeting appeared to be most popular - we had as many as 12 students in the audience.

Mark Johnson led our second discussion (October 9) of Midgette, Haria, & MacArthur's (2008) article in a more private setting. This, however, did not affect the depth of the conversation about possible conceptualizations of the con-

struct of audience awareness in L1 writing as well characteristics of the study design.

Our final meeting (October 30) was led by YouJin Kim who chose to discuss another recently published empirical study on task complexity (Tavakoli & Foster, 2008). During this last meeting we discussed several complexity measures that are widely accepted in the field, such as T-unit, C-unit, and AS-unit.

This is the second semester that the journal club exists. Although we have a group of inquisitive individuals who have consistently been coming to all journal club events, GSAAL would like to encourage our M.A. and Ph.D. colleagues to come to our meetings. Regardless of how much you know (or do not know) about your field, it is

amazing how much you can learn from your own colleagues by listening to them, maybe even disagreeing with them, but, most definitely, by finding time to actually participate in a discussion with them. And if everything else fails, there is always some food for you there!

On behalf of the GSAAL, we would like to thank Stephen, Mark, and YouJin for their time and effort leading the discussions. Currently, we are working on a schedule for the journal club events for next semester, and we would be happy to hear your comments and suggestions about how to make this event even more successful. Also, if you are interested in leading one of the discussions, please let us know.



Linguists joke

From Shannon Fitzimmons

A linguistics professor was lecturing his class the other day. "In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. However, in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn't a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative." A voice from the back of the room retorted, "Yeah, right."

Peer Mentoring Program (PMP)

By Kornwipa Poonpon

We had our first getting together at the beginning of the semester to introduce mentors to mentees and to talk about guidelines of the mentoring program. Four new first year students (from both MA-TESL and

PhD-AL) are joining the PMP, although there were twice more experienced students volunteer to be mentors than the mentees (Thank you for your volunteering!).

The mentors have got together with their mentees at least once since the begin-

ning of the semester. So far the feedback from the mentees about the program is quite good. They are quite happy with the PMP.

AZ TESOL - 2008

By Elena Poltavtchenko

This year AZ-TESOL 2008 State Conference took place in Tucson on October 3 and 4. Not only many students from NAU's MA TESL and PhD programs attended this professional venue, but the conference program featured a lot of familiar names.

Thus, Kum Young Chang gave presentation on the use of drama for second language learning; another 2nd year MA TESL student, Betsy Buford, reported on the website development and collaborative learning in ESL/ELL classroom; and our recent MA TESL graduate Carynn Davis presented on shadow/mentor program intended to help L2 students transition.

Further, several of our PhD students represented the program at AZ-TESOL. Reiko Komiyama gave talk about the usefulness of ESL student questionnaires, Jingjing Qin discussed the use of source texts in writing argumentative papers, and Gina Iberri-Shea presented on using public speaking and debate in content-based instruction.

Our faculty members also demonstrated their involvement in the regional conference. Dr. Grabe and Dr. Stoller led roundtable discussion called "Good Ideas for Teaching Reading" and also demythologized several teaching aspects of reading in their plenary address at the conference entitled "Who ya gonna call?: Mythbusters. Talking about reading".

Finally, students from both PhD and MA TESL programs, a recent graduate and a faculty member together delivered a workshop about the importance of addressing the topics about environment on ESL classes "Green is In: Environmental Topics in ESL Classes". Not only, according to the evaluation forms, this workshop delivered by Staci Hauschild, Elena Poltavtchenko, Dianna Sanchez, and Dr. Stoller has been favorably accepted by the participants, but it was selected as "Best of AZ-TESOL" by the AZ-TESOL Board of Executive Directors.

Faculty Watch

Recent publications

- Ädel, A., & Reppen, R. (Eds.) (2008). *Corpora and Discourse: The challenges of different settings*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Grabe, W. (in press). *Reading in a second language: Moving from theory to practice*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Grabe, W. (in press). Teaching and testing reading comprehension. In M. Long and C. Doughty (Eds.), *Handbook of second and foreign language teaching*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Grabe, W. (in press). Reflections on second language reading: Research and instruction. In Z-H. Han & N. Anderson (Eds.), *Second language reading: Research and instruction*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Grabe, W., Jamieson, J., Eignor, D., Kunnan, A. (2008). Frameworks for a new TOEFL. In C. Chapelle, M. Enright & J. Jamieson (Eds.), *Building a validity argument for the Test of English as a Foreign Language* (pp. 55-95). New York: Routledge.
- Grabe, W. & Jiang, X. (in press). Building reading abilities with graphic organizers. In R. Cohen (Ed.), *Teaching reading*. Alexandria, VA: TESOL.
- Grabe, W., Robinson, M., Stoller, F. & Horn, B. (in press). An easy-to-use writing exercise targeting chemistry-specific writing practices. *Journal of Chemical Education*.
- Grabe, W. & Stoller, F. (2008). Teaching the written foreign language. (with F. Stoller). In K. Knapp & B. Seidlhofer (Eds.), *Handbook of Applied Linguistics. Vol 6. Foreign language communication and learning*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Helt, M., & Reppen, R. (2008). Training teachers to use corpus resources. *TEIS Newsletter*, 23 (2).
- Kang, O. (2008). The effect of rater background characteristics on the rating of International Teaching Assistants Speaking Proficiency. *Spain Fellow Working Papers*, 6.
- Kang, O., Rubin, D., & Pickering, L. (in press). Judgments of ELL proficiency in oral English and acoustic measures of accentedness. *Modern Language Journal*.
- Kim, Y. & McDonough, K. (2008). Learners' production of passives during syntactic priming activities. *Applied Linguistics*, 29, 149-154.
- Kim, Y., & McDonough, K. (2008). The effect of interlocutor proficiency on the collaborative dialogue between Korean as a second language learners. *Language Teaching Research*, 12, 211-234.
- McDonough, K., & Mackey, A. (2008). Syntactic priming and ESL question development. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 30, 31-47.
- McDonough, K., & Trofimovich, P. (in press). *Using priming methods in second language research*. New York: Routledge.
- Reppen, R. (2008). From Corpus to Classroom. (2007). A. O'Keefe, M. McCarthy & R. Carter. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Book Review for the *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 13 (4), 564-566.
- Reppen, R. (2008). *Meaningful texts: The extraction of semantic information from monolingual and multilingual corpora*. Book notice for *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 30 (4).
- Robinson, M. S., Stoller, F. L., Costanza-Robinson, M.S., & Jones, J. K. (2008). *Write like a chemist: A guide and resource*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Rubin, D. & Kang, O. (2008). Writing to speak: What goes on across the two way street. In D. Belcher, D., and A. Hirvela, (Eds.). *The oral/literate connection: Perspectives on L2 speaking/writing connections*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Rubin, O., Pickering, L., & Kang, O. (in press). Relative impact of rater intercultural and language background, rater attitudes, rater training, and measurable elements of pronunciation on TOEFL iBT speaking proficiency scoring. *ETS Research Reports*. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

Social Events

By Mark Johnson

GSAAL started the school year with a hike of the Kachina Trail on the San Francisco Peaks.

A lot of good sports showed up way too early on a holiday morning to complete the ten mile hike. However, our

youngest hiker (Noah Gray, aged 6 weeks at the time of the hike) had to turn back early. Still more hiking linguists completed a much shorter hike of Sandy's Canyon on November 9th.

Coming GSAAL social events include the winter break potluck on December

12th and a karaoke night, which is still in the planning phase. Please join us on the twelfth to celebrate the end of a successful semester. And start practicing now for your karaoke debut!



We are on the Web!
<http://www.cal.nau.edu/gsaal/>

Mark your Calendars: In Spring 2009 all GSAAL-planned events will take place on Mondays from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. The first Brown Bag Presentation scheduled for Spring 2009 will be on February 16th and will feature Dr. Reppen. Please bring your lunch and join us at this event. The refreshments will be provided by the GSAAL.

Healthy Lifestyle

Jogging Club

By Loisann Francis

"Balance," a friend told me, "is something I glimpse as I run from one extreme to the other." I can relate to this metaphor. Last fall, for example, I became absorbed with school and work. Many graduate students successfully juggle both school and work, but I was trying to overachieve in both areas. By the end of the year I felt like a robot. It scared me.

Seeking equilibrium, this fall I decided to lace up my running shoes. Luckily I saw a flyer posted advertising a running club in town. Kelly Yoshida, another MA TESL student, joined as well. Within a week the club

leader suggested we run the PF Chang's Rock and Roll Marathon this January. I couldn't let the opportunity pass me by; I now had two dedicated running partners. Having completed a half-marathon four years earlier, I know that support is essential to accomplishing such a daunting task.

Marathon training is not easy, but the benefits outweigh the costs. Running gives me energy, alleviates stress, and provides a healthy social outlet. Plus, I have the chance to help others by raising money for a worthwhile non-profit organization called Girls on the Run. Most important, it reminds me not to peg my identity to my student or work life.

Sadly, nine days ago I incurred a stress fracture. Running is on hold for the moment. As I limp around the Liberal Arts building, concerned classmates have asked me if I am out of commission, but I am determined not to quit. God willing, I will still participate in the full marathon on January 18th, even if I have to crawl. Maybe that's the key to finding a balanced life—slowing down enough to enjoy the journey, not focusing on what awaits me at the finish line.