



IELI newsletter

Volume 006 Fall 2017

From the Director:

Most universities in the U.S. have seen a precipitous decline in international student admissions this year. Similar to what we saw post 9-11 and later in the economic downturn of 2008, IELI is also experiencing a drop in student numbers. We expect this to rebound, just as it has in the past; but this time it may take a little longer. In addition to USU's efforts in recruiting we have reached out in our own recruiting efforts. Our first endeavor is offering a summer scholarship through an innovative marketing company, SQORE. As of this writing, we have had 17,000 prospective students view our opportunity and over 900 students apply for the scholarship. In order to apply for the scholarship, prospective students have to go to our website to learn more about IELI and USU. Even though we are offering one scholarship, we are getting the news out to thousands of students who, hopefully, will learn more about what our program and USU has to offer. Our second endeavor focuses on students closer to home. We have been working with USU's admissions office to offer the opportunity for U.S. citizens and residents who are non-native speakers of English. Some of these students have the required high school GPA to be admitted to USU but lack the ACT and SAT scores for admission. We are especially excited about providing a pathway for these students to enter USU. We are confident that with a semester or two of IELI under their belt, these students will have the academic language and study skills to be successful at USU.

Even though student numbers have dropped, our impact at USU and beyond remains strong. In this issue, read stories about: our International Teaching Assistants who teach across departments at USU, our students who visit the local elementary school on campus, our Korean students who are sent by their company to learn English for a semester, and a legacy student whose grandfather has a building at USU named after him.



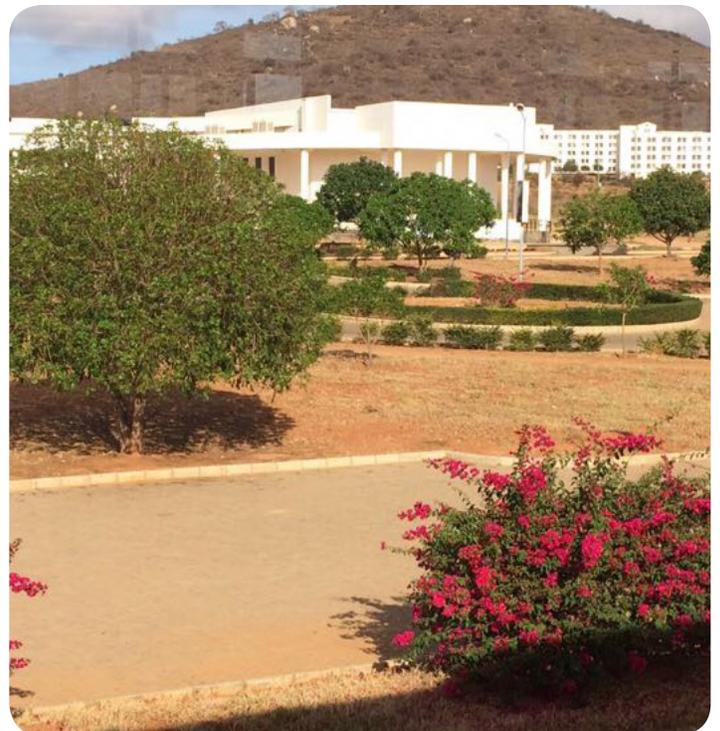
Faculty News

Ann Roemer

USU Fulbright Scholar Tanzania



Associate Professor Ann Roemer was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach English and train new language teachers in the University of Dodoma, Tanzania. Fulbright scholarships are given on a competitive basis to the most talented and accomplished scholars and teachers. Dr. Roemer currently teaches a course in research methods in Education for graduate students and a course on English structure for undergraduate students. The classes are quite different from IELT classes involving around 400 students in a single class! Dr. Roemer considers this a very challenging yet exciting and rewarding experience.



In The Classroom

Korean Students

Global Company Kiswire Gives Employees English Learning Opportunities



From left to right: Changki Kang, Jangmin Kim, and Jaechul Lee

Dear All,

We are Korean and are learning English in IELI classes at U.S.U. In Korea, we work for Kiswire, a global company that makes various wires and is leading wire industry. Kiswire has given an opportunity to three employees to learn English and experience globalization during the fall semester every year at USU since 2010. We are the 8th group of employees who have these benefits. We have tried to do our best not only to meet Kiswire's expectations, but also to improve individual abilities such as speaking and listening skills in English as well as confidence to talk with foreigners. We will always have unforgettable memories of IELI classes at U.S.U with classmates and professors. We are sure that we will conduct our missions much better than ever at work with improved English skills after going back to Korea at the end of December.

Open Educational Resources Project: Focus on International Teaching Assistants

*By Ekaterina Arshavskaya
ITAs' workshop coordinator*

New international teaching assistants (ITAs) often lack knowledge of what an interactive classroom looks like. Many international students come from countries whose educational systems are more traditional. In many of their classes, the students are expected to sit quietly and not interact. As a result, when they are asked to teach courses or labs at USU they are not familiar with North American teaching practices which encourage students to be more active. In order to provide them an ideal model of an interactive class, a number of IELI students along with U.S. classroom assistants gathered to record a teaching sample by Yen-Heng Lin, a PhD student in Plants, Soil and Climate department and recent ITA workshop student.

Yen-Heng Lin gave an interactive and very informative 10-minute teaching demonstration on monsoons. The lecture was recorded and posted on the IELI website as a resource for training new ITAs at USU. This video is the first in a series for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) workshop that IELI offers in the late summer and fall. You can access this teaching model here:

<https://youtu.be/i7nZoa8SBZI>



Student Activities

Cross-Culture Speaking Class Edith Bowen Lab School



EDITH BOWEN
LABORATORY SCHOOL



Students from the IELI Cross-Culture Speaking Class were invited to participate in the PTA Carnival at Edith Bowen Lab School where we had a language booth. Our students invited kids to come and learn to speak and write a phrase in either Chinese, Arabic, French, Korean, Spanish, or Japanese. They did an excellent job and were very proactively recruiting students to learn their language. Great job guys!



Student Spotlight

Who the heck is Ray West?

By Nolan Weil, Associate Professor (IELI)

Summer 2017, just back from sabbatical and partly out of the loop. “What kind of international student is named Ray West?” – I wonder looking at my class list for IELI 2330. I get a copy of the IELI placement test results from spring; it lists new students by country. Sure enough, Ray West- Japan.

“This Japanese kid is either a smart aleck, or he has a great sense of humor,” I think.

International students sometimes adopt American names if they think their teachers will have trouble pronouncing their given names. But you learn that only after the first class meeting. “I wonder if this one knows he’s named himself after a building,” I say. My colleagues laugh at my bemusement.

“You’ve got Ray, huh? You don’t know the story?”

Turns out it’s not a joke. But I’m not the only one to think it might be. “When I introduce myself (on campus)” says Ray, “people always ask me, –What’s your real name?”

In Japan, he goes by Ito Rei. Ito is his mother’s last name. His mother is Japanese; his father, Allan West, is American. And as it happens the connection to the USU building is not coincidental. Ray B. West, the benefactor after whom the building is named, is Ray’s great-great-grandfather.

“How did your parents meet?” – I ask Ray. He gets asked all the time, he says. His father served an LDS Mission in Japan in the 1980s before returning to Carnegie Mellon to finish up a bachelor’s degree in art. It was after he returned to Japan to study Japanese traditional art at Tokyo University of the Arts that Allan met Ray’s mother at church. When they married, Allan stayed in Japan, where Ray grew up.

Ray is one of three students to receive the IELI Student of the Semester Award this fall. After finishing IELI, Ray will enroll in the Aviation Technology Program on the professional rotorcraft pilot track.

Asked what sparked his interest in aviation, Ray cites the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster. Rescue and recovery operations were featured daily on the TV news, Ray tells me, and he was impressed by the prominent role of helicopter pilots. Later he learned that Japan is facing a pilot shortage as veteran pilots retire more quickly than they can be replaced.

Contemplating college, Ray found many reasons to come to USU, including family connections. Ray’s paternal grandparents lived in Logan for many years, and Ray visited them several times while growing up. In fact, says Ray, it was his grandmother who urged him to come to USU, an appealing idea on many levels, not the least of which is that pilot training in Japan is much more expensive than it is here.

But the main reason, he wanted to come to the U.S., Ray tells me, is that growing up in Japan, he had always been aware of a kind of hybrid identity, half-Japanese/half-American. Living in the States will now enable him to explore his hybridity from an entirely new perspective.



Ray West poses with a plaque of his great great grandfather

Student Achievement

Hadjer Abir Bensaha, Algeria
Student of the Semester 2017
Student of the Year 2017



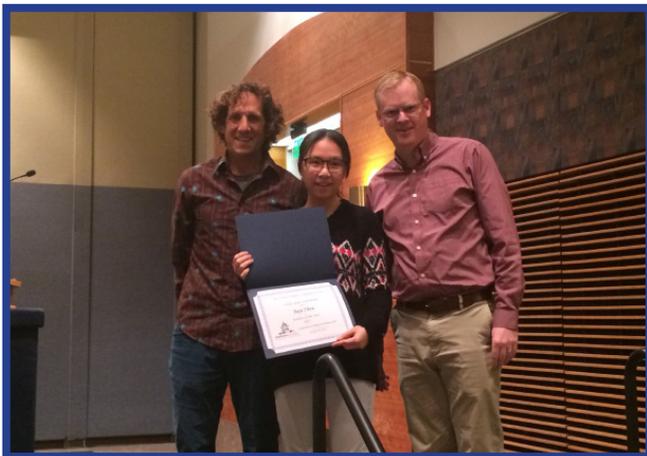
Pictured L to R: IELI Director Jim Rogers, Hadjer Abir Bensaha, Associate Dean Matt Sanders

Kim Humm, Switzerland
Student of the Semester 2017
Student of the Year 2017



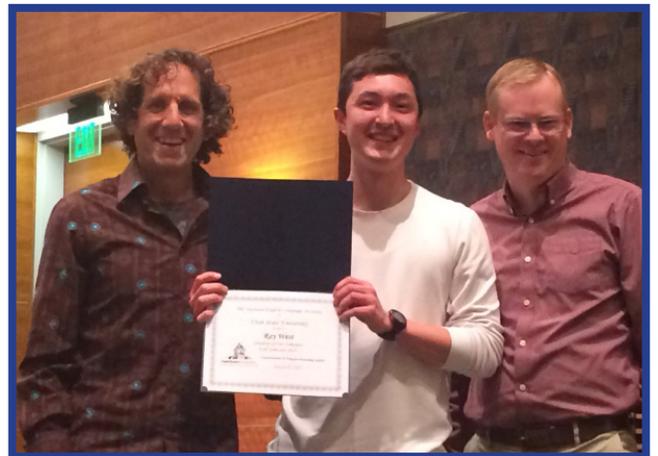
Pictured L to R: IELI Director Jim Rogers, Kim Humm, Associate Dean Matt Sanders

Jiayi Zhou, China
Student of the Year 2017



Pictured L to R: IELI Director Jim Rogers, Jiayi Zhou, Associate Dean Matt Sanders

Ray West, Japan
Student of the Semester 2017



Pictured L to R: IELI Director Jim Rogers, Ray West, Associate Dean Matt Sanders

IELI Information

Upcoming Important Dates

Spring 2018

Placement Exam January 05
Classes Begin January 09
Last Day of Classes April 27
Last Day of Final Exams May 04

Summer 2018

Placement Exam (1st session) June 04
Classes Begin (1st session) June 05
Classes End (1st session) July 06
Placement Exam (2nd session) July 09
Classes Begin (2nd session) July 09
Classes End (2nd session) August 10

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

**Please email updates
and comments to:**

ieli@aggiemail.usu.edu