ELI opens new building on Main Street

One of the most popular resources of the new location is the state-of-the-art Self Access Learning Center (SALC). Designed to provide ELI students with the latest communication and educational technology, the spacious facility offers more than 70 computer stations with easy access to high-tech instructional equipment, and well-lit, airy spaces. It may be, that it is committed to making international students feel welcome and supported. Classrooms can be as intimate as a main street café where we might find a Saudi or soup kitchens, interacting with members of society often invisible to the world of the more privileged. Classrooms can be as intimate as a Main Street café where we might find a Saudi and a Colombian sharing a coffee and, perhaps, a moment of camaraderie that helps them transcend differences of faith, culture and world views.

And finally, late at night, it is that one-room schoolhouse, the bedroom, where each student, weighed down with occasional homesickness and the weariness of living in a strange land, and studying a difficult language, grapples with the demons of self-doubt, emerging the next morning stronger and more determined to parevance. As John Ciardi once wrote, “The classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it.” And although ELI classrooms are a form of sanctuary, where our amazing talent faculty make students feel safe in exploring and taking risks with English, they, are, most of all, a threshold, a gateway to the far wider world beyond, where our graduates, armed with new powers of communication, might take paths leading to further education, meaningful careers, and, most of all, a lifelong journey of self-discovery.

May the new year bring you joy, blessings—and adventure.

Scott G. Stevens, Director

PS: This tale of ELI’s own classroom adventures for 2010 has been beautifully rendered by Barbara Morris, editor-in-chief, and editors Wendy Bullock, Janet Louise, Sarah Petersen and Grant Wolf, with the collaboration of their colleagues.
Academic Bridge Program expands in 2010–11

T he jump in ELI enrollment spurred by the Conditional Admission Program (CAP) and begun in 2009 continued into 2010, with a record 649 students studying at the English Language Institute in September. This was up from 613 last September and 467 in the 2008–09 academic year.

“Even though the growth of ELI has been dramatic, we have been able to hire outstanding new faculty, teach courses and continue to be able to maintain the high quality of instruction and student support for which our program is known,” said CAP Director Scott Stevens.

“At the same time, the ELI is becoming more integrated than ever into the academic and cultural life of the University, thereby enhancing the educational experience of all American students alike.”

“We need the ELI. It’s a way for us to diversify the campus,” said UD President Patrick Harker at a college-wide meeting in September, adding, “Your growth is due to the quality of your program.”

Of the total ELI enrollment, 336 students (52%) in September were CAP students, compared with 319 in 2009 and just 49 in 2008.

Under CAP, international students who have satisfied the academic requirements in their chosen degree program but have not yet passed the English proficiency requirement are conditionally admitted to the University. Students must then complete their language requirements by studying in the ELI program and passing the English for Academic Purposes (ELP) IV courses with high grades.

The length of time required to do so ranges from four months to over a year, with the average taking eight and a half months, reported ELI director Scott Stevens, admissions coordinator Laurie Furtmann.

Of the 231 international undergraduates who matriculated at UD in the fall semester, 167, or 72 percent, had completed their language requirements at the ELI under CAP. This is an increase over fall 2009, in which 35 percent of 153 international undergraduates had done so. While the majority of new CAP students come from the People’s Republic of China, the population also includes nationals from Libya, South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

In order to grow the ELI student body and maintain its diversity, the Institute has pursued an aggressive marketing effort over the past two years, including visits by Nadia Redman, Deb Detzel, Barbel Schumacher, Scott Stevens and UD Admissions colleagues Amy Foley and Christine Schulte to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Peru, South Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

“We are beginning to see the fruits of these efforts,” said Nadia Redman, assistant director of admissions and recruitment, citing a 36 percent growth in the number of Brazilian nationals at the ELI since 2009.

In addition to the undergraduate program, the following 16 graduate programs are now participating in CAP: accounting, applied mathematics/mathematics, biological sciences, business administration/pathways, center for bioinformatics & computational biology, civil & environmental engineering, computer & information sciences, economics, finance, hospitality information management, information systems & technology management, linguistics, organizational effectiveness, development & change, physics & astronomy, political science/international relations, and public administration.

In 2010, 45 CAP students matriculated at UD in graduate programs. BM

New Building, Continued from page 1

In the near future, we hope to provide extended technology training to both teachers and students, as well as a variety of technology-based cultural events.

We hope the new SACL can truly be a center for student guided learning.”

The new building provides a popular Conditional Admission Program (CAP), with most of the English for Academic Purposes classes located there. The ELI also continues to maintain classrooms and offices at the “home” building (102 W Main St., 102 E. Main Street, Alison Hall, Rodney Hall and two new classroom facilities at 57 and 119 Elkton Road, GH)

In 2010, 45 CAP students matriculated at UD in graduate programs. BM
Students from developing countries learn leadership, language skills on State Department grant

A unique program funded by the U.S. Department of State brought 60 students from Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America to the ELI last summer. The undergraduates, who are studying a wide range of majors in their home countries, had one important quality in common: “Everyone wants to be better leaders. Everyone wants to develop their countries,” said Ana Maria Duarte from the Dominican Republic. “We all share the same dream.”

“All were selected on the basis of leadership potential and academic excellence, in addition to coming from economically challenged and underrepresented sectors of their societies,” reported program coordinator Baarbel Schumacher.

Other participants came from Angola, Bolivia, Cambodia, East Timor, Haiti, Laos, Mauritania, Myanmar, Rwanda, South Africa and Venezuela. They arrived in two groups of 30, each of which attended classes in two consecutive sessions from May through August.

Along with studying English in the intensive English program, the students took a 20-hour course in leadership and civic engagement taught by faculty in the School of Urban Affairs.

Developed for this group and team taught by Professors Kathy Denhardt and Raheemah Jabbar-Bey and doctoral student Baky Elmedri, the leadership course combined theory and practice as students first examined leadership styles in class and then met with community organizers at a variety of non-profit organizations in Wilmington.

Participating centers included the Delaware Center for Horticulture, the Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, the Kingswood Community Center, the Latin American Community Center, the Neighborhood House and the William Hicks Anderson Community Center.

Class discussion, Denhardt reported, was often colored by students’ backgrounds. For students traumatized by genocide in their countries, for example, the process of conflict resolution could not begin without first an apology from the perpetrators. Others whose governments did not encourage political activism were cautious about what they said in class on that topic, said.

“I gained an understanding of the behavior of people in groups,” said Alain Ndoli from Rwanda. “I learned what a leader should do: encourage the heart, challenge the system.”

On the last day of class in June, students described projects they hoped to carry out in their home countries. Ana Duarte’s project—a public library—was inspired by visits to the Kirkwood Highways and Newark libraries in Delaware.

“There are just two public libraries in the Dominican Republic,” she said, “and both are in the capital.”

A graduate in soil and environmental management, Ndoli hopes to solve the problem of deforestation in Rwanda by planting trees. Cheina Chea, a freshman studying agricultural economics and rural development in Cambodia, focused on family planning and reproductive health for her project.

“I proposed this because it will help people have a better life. It will help women have good health, so this will make my country develop,” she said.

Even a simple idea, such as forming a club and serving as role models for younger students, is valuable, said course instructor Elmedri.

“In some developing countries, kids don’t know anyone who’s been to the university,” he said. “It’s a way of giving them hope that they can do something.”

ELI fills four full-time faculty positions

After a national search in spring 2010 with more than 50 applicants, ELI hired four outstanding teachers with a variety of experience and expertise to fill new full-time faculty positions.

Nigel Caplan

On a whim, Nigel Caplan applied for a scholarship to study at the University of Pennsylvania while studying modern and medieval languages at the University of Cambridge, England. He was accepted and earned his master’s of education in TESOL.

Nigel brings to the ELI the energy and excitement of one who is willing to take risks and is quite successful in doing so. Originally from Leeds, England, Nigel’s teaching career has spanned four countries: France, Germany, England and the United States. His experience at UPenn, Michigan State University and the University of North Carolina prior to coming to the ELI this year has included designing and teaching drama classes; creating an ESL book; clubs; developing and teaching pedagogy, language and culture to Korean teachers; supervising faculty and teaching assistants; serving on committees for curriculum and textbooks; writing textbooks; and maintaining his own web site where he posts answers to interesting language questions and provides tips for learning English (http://nigelteacher.wordpress.com). Now an assistant professor at the ELI, Nigel is teaching English for Academic Purposes Reading/Writing for graduate students and is serving on the curriculum, technology and professional development committees.

Ninnie Bell

Most ESL teachers dream of combining their love of travel and work. Before coming to the ELI in 2006, Ninnie Bell spent more than eight years in Peru and Florence, Italy, as a teacher and a campus missionary. Bell, who is from northeastern Pennsylvania, received her bachelor’s in American studies at Rutgers University. After seven years in campus ministry in Pennsylvania, in the late 1980’s, Ninnie earned her master’s in TESL from Columbia International University in South Carolina. Following that, she moved back to the Lehigh Valley, Pa., area to teach at several colleges, among them Lehigh University, Cedar Crest College, and the community colleges of Northampton, Lehigh and Delaware Counties. She prepared students for college and also developed curricula for adult literacy. At the ELI, she has taught high beginner, intermediate and advanced level students and has demonstrated her skill in professional development by leading workshops in American culture and pedagogy for groups of visiting Korean educators, creating workshops in writing instruction for ELI colleagues and organizing popular roundtable, roundtable workshops as well as ELI retreats. She also led the professional development task force in developing a five-year plan for faculty activities.

Eui Jung (Ana) Kim

Ana Kim earned her master’s in linguistics from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2002. She began her work career as an administrator for an international vendor and as a trilingual interpreter and translator (English, Korean and Spanish) in military and civil courtrooms, at business conferences and for university officials. While working, Kim earned a bachelor’s in international business and a TESOL graduate certificate from Old Dominion University.

Ana began her ESL teaching career while she was studying for her master’s in Colorado. After moving to Delaware with her family, she taught ESL at Delaware Technical & Community College. Since joining the ELI in 2008 as adjunct faculty, Ana has taught primarily intermediate and high-intermediate classes. She has also served on the activities and events committee and coordinated several teacher training programs for Korean teachers, including a current group of teachers sent by the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.

Mikie Sarmiento

University of Delaware graduate Mikie Sarmiento took advantage of Delaware’s longstanding study abroad program to spend time in Costa Rica and Spain to improve her Spanish, experiencing the culture of each place as well as absorbing the language. After graduation, she worked as an ESL tutor in the Brandywine School District in Wilmington, Del. In this position, Mikie often had to use her Spanish to interact with parents as well as students and was challenged to work with all age levels of second language learners from kindergarten through high school.

In 2006, Mikie completed her master’s in teaching English as a second language here at Delaware. Beginning at the ELI in 2006, Mikie has taught students from beginning to low-advanced level. She also taught in group settings at the ELI Tutoring Center in pronunciation and pre-literacy skills, and has taught beginning and intermediate level listening labs. Energetic and enthusiastic, Mikie enjoys taking part in the ELI’s cultural trips, such as skiing, ice skating and hiking.

Students from developing countries learn leadership, language skills on State Department grant

Ana Maria Duarte explains her project to her peers.
Hankuk University winter program

The eight students who arrived in Delaware from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea, on New Year’s Day can only barely remember the dry, bare ground of their home for a few days. Much easier to remember is the cold, white powdery fluff that fell from the skies for the rest of their stay. The students saw snow galore in Philadelphia and New York, and they even ventured to Washington, D.C., to see a major snowstorm. Unfortunately, their scheduled ski trip to be cancelled due to snow.

Despite the record-breaking weather, these students successfully immersed themselves in English classes and pursued every opportunity to experience American culture. Academic coordinator Cathy Heath and all the ELI faculty were sorry to see another great group of HUFS students leave in February. Hopefully they will have many more memories of their time at the University of Delaware.

Gyeynggido Institute for Foreign Language Education

Between January 11 and February 5, 26 teachers sponsored by Gyeynggido Institute for Foreign Language Education (GIEFLE), South Korea, participated in a four-week training program in English language skills refinement, ESL/EFL teaching methodology, and American culture and pedagogy, all coordinated by Ana Kim. One of the highlights of this program was a teaching opportunity in an American school district, MOT (Middletown/Owensboro-Ky.) The GIEFLE teachers taught in 7th and 8th grade arts and languages courses. Teachers gave lessons on Korean games, music, geography, food, and the Korean alphabet. Both the Korean teachers and MOT students found the rare experience to be invaluable. What is more, the group enjoyed a three-day tour of Delaware lead by Mrs. Kim and ELI international projects manager Barbara Schulman, where many distinguished activities were offered, including Dr. Greg Fulkerson of the Delaware Department of Education, Professor George Bear of the University of Delaware School of Education, and Dr. Tony Machiach, superintendent of Appoquinimink School District, as well as some of the GIEFLE teachers themselves, had chances to share their experience and participate in fruitful round table discussions.

Incheon Office of Education

Twenty-five highly competent and enthusiastic teachers sponsored by the Office of Education of Incheon, Korea, took full advantage of an ELI program in January designed to refine their language skills, refresh their teaching methods and raise their awareness of American culture. Weekdays were filled with listening and speaking classes, group reflection time, individual tutoring and visits to local schools, organized by program coordinator Sarah Petersen, while on weekends the group explored New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Additional highlights included a service project boxing food at the Delaware Food Bank on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as well as an American cooking class with author, and ELI teacher Nancy Tierney.

Seinahn Gakuin University

Some of Delaware’s deepest snows on record did not stop 24 brave students from Seinahn Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, from taking full advantage of their ELI program from February 7 to 27. During that time, under the supervision of program coordinator Barb Schulman, they worked intensively on their language skills in the ELI’s regular program, breaking away on the weekends to experience Washington, D.C., and New York City. They even found time in their busy schedules to offer an afternoon of service at the Delaware Food Bank.

Hiroshima Institute of Technology

From February 28 to March 21, six students from the Hiroshima Institute of Technology in Hiroshima, Japan, attended ELI classes and enjoyed a home-stay experience. These students spent their spring vacation improving their English skills and learning about American culture. Besides attending class at the ELI, the four young men and two young women enjoyed trips to New York City and Washington, D.C. and individually participated each Wednesday in the UD Japanese Table, where they could exchange their Japanese skills for American culture with UD students who are studying Japanese. Another highlight was visiting Kentmere Middle School and sharing their culture with the students in the after-school program there. Program coordinator Krista Beutlich, as well as their ELI teachers and homeste families, were so happy to see this group’s time here come to an end.

American Law and Legal English Institute

In July the ELI offered its American Law and Legal English Institute for four weeks to international lawyers, law professors and law students from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. The program, coordinated by ELI Associate Director Joe Mattern, consisted of seminars on American corporate and criminal law, the American court system, Delaware corporate law and international law. The majority of the seminars were taught by Stephanie Schuster, an American lawyer who teaches American law in Paris, France. Other instructors were Ann Johnson, an American lawyer completing a dissertation program at the University of Delaware, and two Delaware lawyers: Mary Mattern and Anthony Azaro. In addition to the seminars, the program included a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol building, and to meet American law students participating in international law. Other trips were to various courts in Delaware, to Walmart Law School, to Delaware law firms, to the Delaware Division of Corporations and to Philadelphia and New York.

International Teaching Assistants

The International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Program had the privilege of being the first to use the ELI’s new facilities at 100 W. Main Street when over 90 ITAs from 18 different countries were tested there. Testing was made easier this year by the use of new technology, including computers to administer a speaking test and new “flip” style classrooms which let students easily review their own testing turns and practice lessons. There were also changes in personnel this year. ELI Associate Director Joe Mattern stepped down and Ken Hyde took over as program coordinator. Teachers Dave Caroling and Sandy Nicolas returned to teach and intelligibility, while Leslie Criston and Dr. Carey Heiron were back to teach culture and pedagogy. These familiar faces were joined by a new group of graduate students from UD’s Department of Linguistics to join the ITA teaching team. M. Catherine, Nadya Frontain, Eben Brandon, Carol Anne Edie and Darrell Laren taught courses on pronunciation and English phonetics, and UD graduate Tim McGlathry taught a course on American culture and pedagogy. Connections between the ITAs and students in the regular ELI programs got stronger this year, as some ITAs went to Six Flags amusement park on an ELI-organized trip, while others attended the ELI annual picnic and other fun summer events. These interconnections were made even stronger by the fact that several ITAs, such as Faith Kukandu and Sedid Tekla, were former ELI students able to share with their fellow ITAs what they had learned at the ELI.

Russian Gymnasium

Seven students from Linguisitic Gymnasia W in Ud, Russia, honed their English skills at the ELI from July 19 to August 13. This is the twelfth such group to be organized and hosted by the inspiring teacher, Ms. Inna Fomina. These students are always very much and happily anticipated for their eager spirits, fresh perspectives and their generous gifts of chocolate!

Hankuk University summer program

Two young women and five young men from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea, arrived at Ray Street dormitories on June 27 for eight weeks of intensive English training and much, much more. Besides studying, the students experienced highlights of the middle Atlantic coast. On their first weekend, they went to Washington, D.C., for a full day of American history. The following weekend was more recreational, with a trip to Rehoboth Beach where, according to program coordinator Luis Sanchez, “They had a blast in the sand and the water even though it was as cold as the North Pole for them!”. Later on the same week, the group got a taste of a U.S. public transit system when they made their way by public bus to Christiana Mall. The next week they discovered Philadelphia, and finally they went for an overnight to New York City. These students put their best effort into their English classes and pursued every opportunity to experience American culture.

French high school program

Fourteen high school students from Marseille, France, joined the ELI from July 5 to 30 to brush up their building English skills and discover the Mid-Atlantic region. The group’s program was coordinated by Erin Tallman, daughter of long-time RT staff member. Other instructors were Ann Johnson, an American lawyer completing a dissertation program at the University of Delaware, and two Delaware lawyers: Mary Mattern and Anthony Azaro. Unfortunately, their scheduled ski trip to be cancelled due to snow.

REQUIREMENT OF TEACHERS AT THEIR GRADUATION.
Colfuturo & ELI celebrate 15 years together

Traditionally, for a 15-year anniversary, a couple might receive genuine crystal or beautiful glass. But at the ELI, the gift of choice is much more valuable than that—more students—specifically, more Colombian students genuinely eager to improve their English skills in order to access the cultural exploration of the English language but also broadens their exposure to new cultures, such as a trip to New York City, where they encountered political demonstrations; and Newark, where they took part in a breast cancer walk in Central Park and mourned the events of September 11, 2001, at Ground Zero on the very day of its ninth anniversary. In Newark, they experienced service learning by serving food in the Hope Dining Room at the Delaware Food Bank. The students shared Japanese culture with young people at Kennett Square Elementary School. Weekly Nihongo Table (Japanese Table) gave the teachers from the ELI the opportunity to be teachers and help UD students practice their Japanese.

Kobe Shoin study abroad program

Nine young women from Kobe Shoin Women’s University in Japan came for a four-week study program in August. Following a more than 20-year tradition, the students and their volunteer academic program coordinator, Janet Louise, embarked on a cultural exploration of Newark and the region: the historical district of Philadelphia; Washington, D.C., where they encountered two political demonstrations; and New York City, where they took part in a breast cancer walk in Central Park and mourned the events of September 11, 2001, at Ground Zero on the very day of its ninth anniversary. In Newark, they experienced service learning by serving food in the Hope Dining Room at the Delaware Food Bank. The students shared Japanese culture with young people at Kennett Square Elementary School through name writing in Japanese characters and through origami and later enjoyed time with seniors recounting tales of their youth at the Newkirk Senior Center. Living with American families rounded out the American experience for these young women.

Kobe Shoin semester abroad program

Eight students participating in the Kobe Shoin Women’s University semester abroad program arrived at the ELI in August. With a focus on personal excellence in scholarship while studying at the ELI, the students also took part in service learning opportunities including introducing Japanese culture to pupils at Kennett Square Elementary School. Weekly Nihongo Table (Japanese Table) give the group the opportunity to practice and help UD students practice their Japanese.

Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education

On August 25, the ELI welcomed seven enthusiastic secondary school English teachers sponsored by the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education, South Korea, for six months of intensive professional development and cultural exploration that will continue until February 18, 2011. From September to December, the group whose program is coordinated by Ana Kim and Dih Dotzel, participated in the Institute’s intensive English program as well as UD undergraduate courses. In addition, a number of cultural activities have taken them far beyond the confines of their classrooms, allowing them to experience the contrasts between the American and Korean cultures. “Through classes and cultural outings as well as participatory visits to schools, workshops and seminars that will take place in January 2011, the program not only promotes participants’ opportunities to attain a deeper understanding of the English language but also broadens their exposure to teaching practices in the United States,” said Kim.

Language partner initiative

One Spanish professor in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department has made partnering with an ELI student an optional “challenge” for his course. Assistant Professor Hans-Joerg Busch has incorporated conversing with an ELI student whose native language is Spanish into his fall courses, making it one of several options for a required project worth 15% of the course grade. Out of 60 students enrolled in his three sections of Spanish 401 and Spanish 314, 27 have partnered with 25 Spanish speakers enrolled in the English Language Institute. “It’s such an easy thing to learn a language. All you have to do is practice it,” said Busch. “We have such a great opportunity here.” Busch’s students are required to meet, email or call their partners regularly, to keep a diary of what they discussed and learned, and to put together a final written project, such as a report on their partner’s country. “The students from the ELI always try their English with my students,” said Busch. “My students are more shy.” Helping organize the exchange was ELI instructor Mary Beth Worrilow, a former colleague of Busch’s who previously taught Spanish courses in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. “Mary Beth had a big part in this,” Busch said. “Without her, I couldn’t have done it.” Worrilow organized meetings between American and Spanish-speaking students at the ELI in the beginning of the fall semester to get to know each other and to compile a list of students who were interested in the language partner project. Late Worrilow and Busch set up mixed groups of four to eight students. Follow-up meetings were planned at Jastak-Burgess Hall. “We wanted to make this happen primarily for the students but also as a serendipitous way to increase interdepartmental cooperation,” said Worrilow. Spanish is by far the most popular foreign language studied at UD in the fall of 2010. Following by French (632) and Italian (432). A total of 349 UD students studied Chinese in the fall of 2010, Busch said. Both Busch and Worrilow hope to see the activity expand among other languages in the near future. “This type of program only works if colleagues in the Foreign Languages and Literature Department are behind it,” Busch said. RM

Special Programs, Continued from page 4

Kobe Shoin Women’s University students in times square.

One such student is Pedro Garcia, a former student at Colfuturo who has attended the ELI’s English program in the beginning of the fall semester and to get to know each other and to compile a list of students who were interested in the language partner project. Late Worrilow and Busch set up mixed groups of four to eight students. Follow-up meetings were planned at Jastak-Burgess Hall. “We wanted to make this happen primarily for the students but also as a serendipitous way to increase interdepartmental cooperation,” said Worrilow. Spanish is by far the most popular foreign language studied at UD in the fall of 2010. Following by French (632) and Italian (432). A total of 349 UD students studied Chinese in the fall of 2010, Busch said. Both Busch and Worrilow hope to see the activity expand among other languages in the near future. “This type of program only works if colleagues in the Foreign Languages and Literature Department are behind it,” Busch said. RM
Student sampler: Class of 2010

Students from more than 40 nations flocked to the ELI for all or part of the year, bringing with them a rich diversity of backgrounds and a wide scope of ambitions. Two have been chosen to represent them.

Learner and motivator

For Carlos Jaramillo, group work in an ELI class was a bit like managing a sales force. In fact, for the 48-something Colombian, life is a classroom and learning and motivating others are his passions.

The outgoing civil engineer found his calling 17 years ago when he joined Suramerica de Seguros, the largest insurance company in Colombia. From a technical position involving soil studies, he gradually transitioned into management, eventually becoming a full-time office manager with 300 salespeople under him.

“I consider myself a good leader,” he said. “People who work with me feel confident. They enjoy making the sales goals with me.”

Carlos began taking courses in sales and business administration at local universities in Medellin and also started reading books to help his sales force.

“I used to read a book a year,” he said. “Now I read a dozen motivational books a year.”

Soon he became a sought-after motivational speaker, developing a series of talks on subjects like “Your Worst Enemy,” “Change,” and “Dreams” and traveling as far as Guatemala to deliver them.

Selected out of 5,000 employees in his company to study English in Delaware, Carlos arrived at the ELI in February and was joined in May by his wife, Lina, a food engineer and sales rep, and their two children. The whole family set about learning English, with Lina taking ELI classes, and the children—Maritana, 9, and Sebastian, 11—living with Carlos’s former homestay family and going to summer camp before starting school at West Park Elementary in the fall.

“Now we are trying to speak English at home,” he said. The ELI experience has taught more than English to Carlos, who began in Level III and progressed to Level VI Pre-MBAs courses in his 10 months here.

“When you live with other cultures, you learn a lot about life,” he said.

The changing seasons of Delaware’s temperate climate and the different lifestyle brought about by their temporary circumstances also afforded many lessons. The whole family regularly pursues seasonal activities, like summertime swimming in an outdoor pool, which they took for granted in sub-tropical Colombia.

“They’ve also learned to live with less. “Here we live in a smaller place, and we have an old, ugly car,” said Carlos. “It’s good to recognize you don’t need much to live.”

Carlos is looking forward to a better position with his company when he returns to Colombia. He also hopes to become a career coach.

“A lot of people like to talk with me about their career problems,” he said. “I really like to help people.”

Role model for at-risk children

Hendrica Malete owes a lot to English and fulfill another dream.

At the ELI, Hendrica took classes in stories and film, her own personal interests. She has written and produced three plays at her university and is in the middle of her first film script, the story of a poor girl who makes unwise choices that hurt her family.

“I like to write about what I know,” she said, “I want to raise people’s awareness of social problems.”

In the future, Hendrica wants to be a radio announcer, write for magazines and produce plays.

“I’d love to be an English teacher,” she said. "BM

2010 picnic photo highlights

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BARBARA MORRIS 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 LOWELL RETHMULLER 5
Alvaro Hoyos gmaun27@hotmail.com (Colombia ’08) is now teaching at Bolivarian Pontifical University in Medellín, Colombia, where he is director at the audiovisual production center.

Chiho Tamaki Hisayama chihotamakihisayama@hotmail.com (Japan ’01) and husband Shin welcomed a baby boy, Keito, February 18, 2009.

Eun Kyung (Estella) Lee estellasklee@naver.com (Korea ’18) married Zachary Bond on April 10. She finished her MBA in finance at Goldey-Beacom College in August.

Chieko Tamaki Hisayama chihotamakihisayama@hotmail.com (Japan ’01) and husband Shin welcomed a baby boy, Keito, February 18, 2009.

Eun Kyung (Estella) Lee estellasklee@naver.com (Korea ’18) married Zachary Bond on April 10. She finished her MBA in finance at Goldey-Beacom College in August.

Lydia Eugenia Holguín lydheuge@hotmail.com (Colombia ’16) and Gustavo Adolfo Gaviria (Colombia ’08) were married in Cali, Colombia, on May 22. The couple is residing near Philadelphia, where Lydia is currently doing an internship at a psychiatric hospital while studying for her master’s in counseling at Villanova University. Gus is finishing his MBA at Goldey-Beacom College. Both plan to graduate in May.

Adolfo Gaviria

Lydia Eugenia Holguín

Adolfo Gaviria

Horacio Moreno horacio.dgonconsultora.com.ar (Argentina ’03) and his wife Maria Lucia welcomed a baby daughter, Maria Delfina, on August 1. Horacio received his MBA in 2009 from the University of CEMISA Buenos Aires and is president of DGN Consultora, a finance and investment firm he created in 2001.

Jairo Carvera jairo.carvera@alum.sabanciuniv.edu (Colombia ’16) was promoted to finance manager for Emerson Electric de Colombia in Bogotá. He started working for the company as an accountant in 2009. Jairo says he uses English almost all the time in his new position as most of his colleagues are American.

Maen Aldawish maenalddawish@hotmail.com (Yemen ’18) is working for a telecommunications company in Philadelphia and living with his wife Alia and daughter Malak, born in 2009. He received his MBA in finance from Goldey-Beacom College in 2007.

Maria Eugenia Díaz ciber_queena@hotmail.com (Chile ’09) married Matthew Siebecker in 2009. Husband Matthew and daughter Gabriela into their lives on June 22.

Maeen Aldawish

Maria Eugenia Díaz

SCHUHBAJDA JAIN shubhajain@udel.edu (India ’09) is working as a corporate associate for AstraZeneca, LTD. The Corporate Associate Program is an elite internship program for full-time graduate students in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics.

Lyda Eugenia Holguín

Lyly Chen

Lyda Eugenia Holguín

Lyly Chen

Tidiane Wann stwann@hotmail.com (Guinea ’06) and his wife Olaya, shown here with Delaware Senator Tom Carper (right) and U.S. District Court Judge Leonard Stark (left), became American citizens October 7 in a ceremony held at the U.S. District Court in Wilmington.

Priscilla Moraes pm4002@gmail.com (Brazil ’19) is a PhD Candidate at UD and was named outstanding woman graduate student in the computer and information science department. She and her husband, Marcos, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Cindy, born July 21.

Tidiane Wann

Priscilla Moraes

Adolfo Gaviria

Lydia Eugenia Holguín

Lance Finlay

Lance Finlay

Lance Finlay

Lance Finlay

Alumni news 2010

Eli alum excels as Longwood graduate fellow

Q uestion: Who would plan a public botanical garden in one of the most dangerous places on the planet? Answer: Dongah Shin (Korea ’07), a graduate fellow in the University of Delaware’s highly prestigious Longwood Graduate Program in public horticulture. Shin, who completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees in urban and regional horticulture in Korea before coming to the ELI, first became interested in public gardens while working at a floriculture company in Korea. Seeing the possibility of public gardens “like a living museum with an overarching theme, a cultural institute,” she decided to continue her studies in the United States, choosing the University of Delaware because of the internationally known Longwood Graduate Program, a partnership between the University of Delaware and Longwood Gardens. After acquiring the needed English skills at the ELI in 2007, she went on to complete a comprehensive one-year international internship at Longwood Gardens, and then applied to the Longwood Graduate Program (LGP). The intensely competitive, tuition-free LGP accepts only five students per year, following a rigorous application and interview process. Dongah noted that she is the only non-native speaker enrolled at this time.

The program emphasizes the conception, design and administration of public gardens, including not only botanical gardens, arboretums and research institutions (such as Longwood Gardens), but also gardens with a variety of social, historical, educational and cultural functions. This year, Dongah is working with a group of Longwood fellows on a plan for a one-acre therapeutic and community garden for the Holloway campus of Delaware Health and Social Services in New Castle, Delaware, which provides mental health services to local residents. Dongah’s thesis project, however, refocuses her attention on the unique circumstances of her native Korea. Inspired by a lifelong fascination with the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the 2.5 mile wide strip of land between North and South Korea, she is creating a proposal for a public botanical garden to be located there.

“The DMZ is the largest area of undeveloped land left in the Korean peninsula,” she said. “It represents a unique ecosystem and is a cross section of Korean ecology and geography.”

The goal of the proposed garden will be to research native flora, build a seed bank of native species and educate the public with regard to the ecology and history of the DMZ. The project will also include a traditional Korean garden, providing an ideal setting for cultural preservation and performing arts. Dongah’s far-reaching and detailed plan will require extensive research, both in the United States and in Korea, where ideas for similar projects are already being discussed. Although the timetable for such a project remains uncertain at this time, Dongah Shin will no doubt be instrumental in seeing that someday the modern swords of the 100,000 North and South Korean soldiers amassed along the DMZ may indeed be turned into plowshares.

DONGAH SHIN AT THE UD BOTANIC GARDENS.
Three new classes offered in 2010

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ELI faculty developed three new course offerings in the regular program in 2010.

Fiction and fact

Who wouldn’t like to read a great book and then discuss it with the author? Curtis Neely’s Level VI R/W students have the opportunity to do just that in the new English through Modern Fiction class. In May, they studied Fsum by Pennsylvania author Jon Clinch, based on the classic Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, which led to greater understanding of the American frontier and the post-Civil War era. Students imagined the through Twain’s eyes as they explored saite, completed a webquest on the Underground Railroad, examined quilting as a means of storytelling, and imagined the feelings of freedom inspired by African American heroes such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. They wrote their own versions of I Have a Dream and watched the film Freedom Writers to connect with the struggles of today’s youth. They studied in various media the themes of freedom and oppression, as well as the religious influence on the abolitionist and civil rights movements. The class culminated in June with an hour-long question-and-answer session via Skype with author Jon Clinch.

Through journals and class discussion, students were able to share their ideas and gain a sense of accomplishment. Student Eyup Gucel spoke for his classmates, calling the class “a place where I could be myself.” At the conclusion of the course, Neely said her students agreed with her that “words are power, in whatever language one speaks. And in history, there is freedom.”

Ready, point, shoot

With the start of 2010, Level VI students in Julie Lopez’s L/S English through Film class could work on improving their listening and speaking skills by making their own movies. In preparation, they watched podcasts and TED.com lectures on academic subjects and screened films. Upon analyzing his classmates’ documentaries. After seeing how the pros do it, the students tried their hand at videocam and editing their own short films using ELI’s newly purchased Kodak Z18 HD video cameras. The pioneer class presented its short films about different aspects of American culture in the first ever ELI film festival at the end of February. A subsequent class researched areas surrounding Newark, then took an overnight trip to Harper’s Ferry in Virginia to shoot scenes for their films.

“Every different topic made us learn much. I learned to use the most appropriate way to express my ideas. Also, my oral skills have improved since I needed to record my voice and edit it many times,” said CAP student Zenan Zeng, from China.

Personally, I felt a little bit burned out with studying English,” added Mengyi Hu, another Chinese CAP student who had been at the ELI for six months, “but after getting better now because during this class I enjoyed making movies and having fun with my whole class.”

Read 180 turns things around

Starting in January, students have had the option of enrolling in Read 180, a new computer-based class designed to help them boost their reading skills. The core of the class—the Scholastic Read 180 software package on CD-ROM—helps students improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary and spelling skills. The software, which is also supplemented by textbooks and audiobooks, is installed on 20 computers in the new Self-Access Learning Center (SALC) at 108 E. Main Street and offers lessons on a variety of issues related to American culture and society.

“The topics that the software covers are so interesting to students who are looking to learn English and learn more about American culture,” said Nicole Nolen, course instructor and SALC coordinator. “They discuss everything from freedom of speech to 1920s America to current advancements in science.”

The program, which has a proven success record in the public school system, works to build background knowledge while reinforcing essential study skills. Students learn strategies for test taking, critical reading, notetaking and more. In addition to being offered as a class, the Read 180 software is available to all ELI students, who may access it by enrolling at the SALC desk.

“The books on CD are very popular with students who are trying to improve their listening skills,” said Nolen. NVN

Homestay a labor of love for Newark couple

“A retirement job” hosting ELI students has led to a 10-year life-changing experience for one family. Karl “Papa” Kaminski and his wife Karen decided to welcome ELI students in their home as a kind of second career three years prior to retiring from their full-time jobs. He was a history teacher and the other a special education teacher. They have even had two students who became UD students, Denise Ayaz (Turkey ’04) and Taeko Saito (Japan ’06). Even when

these students moved out, they frequently visited the couple for a home-cooked meal and sometimes—‘to do laundry just like many young adults often do with their real parents.

“The Kaminskis love indulging their young charges, learning what kinds of foods each one especially likes. One student, they fondly recall, just loved chocolate. One morning, she searched the kitchen high and low, without saying what she was looking for. Finally, she triumphantly found her treasure: breakfast in the form of a chocolate ice cream bar.

“As a former teacher, Papa says it gives him ‘personal gratification to see someone grow educationally,’ adding, ‘I’m impressed with the caliber of the ELI teachers and can see that the students really appreciate it’.

For Karen’s 70th birthday, the couple travelled to Turkey to visit Denise Ayaz. They enjoyed celebrating the day with her and also visiting places not usually seen by tourists. That led to a hobby: educational tours in other countries. They’ve taken one to Germany and will travel next to Israel on a Bible study tour. Together with other homestay families, the Kaminskis have developed a real community. With their lengthy experience, Karl and Karen enjoy welcoming new homestay families, sharing tips, transportation and support.

Local family makes ELI a rite of passage

When Patricia Aguittaga studied at the ELI 26 years ago, she didn’t know she was starting a family tradition. Since then, eight other members of her family, including both parents, three siblings and three cousins, have followed her footsteps from Ecuador to the ELI front door.

A manager for Latin American derivatives for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank in Wilmington, Patricia majored in business at UD and is currently raising two children in Newark while acting as host mom for the past ten years to a variety of ELI students.

“My closest girlfriends are the ones I met at the ELI,” she said, explaining that, like her, the three, two from Honduras and one from Japan, married and settled in the state. And ELI memory remains alive as well for brother Juan Matlued, the next to arrive.

“I still have a picture of my class at graduation in 1990,” he said, sitting in his restaurant—Olé Tapas—on Kindred Highway.

Unlike his sister, Juan returned to Ecuador to run a petroleum processing company for 10 years after getting his degree in international business from Goldy-Beacon College. He came back to Delaware two years ago, looking for a possible business opportunity. He soon found one: Olé Tapas outside Newark proudly displays the 2009 “Best New Restaurant” banner at its entrance.

“We also got the Best Tapas and Best Mediterranean Cuisine awards for 2010,” he confided. “Like they say, this is a country of opportunities.”

Other members of the family, including mother Marceline ‘99 , sister Regina ‘90 and brother José Fernandes ‘95, are putting the education they gained at the ELI and other schools in Delaware to good use.

Mrs. Aguittaga works for the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington in a community outreach program for pregnant women and new mothers. Regina, who graduated in accounting from Goldy-Beacon College, now works for J.P. Morgan in London. José Fernandes earned a master’s in finance and a master’s in computer science from Goldy-Beacon College and works for Goldman Sachs in New York.

Juan Matlued, who brought his wife and three children back with him, is happy to be residing in the First State. “Delaware is an amazing place to raise a family,” he said. BM

KARL AND KAREN KAMINSKI VISITED THEIR FORMER HOMESTAY STUDENT DENISE AYAZ IN ISTANBUL.

FIVE MEMBERS OF THE AGUITAGA FAMILY WHO STUDIED AT THE ELI ARE PICTURED WITH SPACES AND CHILDREN: AT TOP REGINA (LEFT), PATRICIA (MIDDLE LEFT), JOSÉ FERNANDO (MIDDLE RIGHT), SEATED, PARENTS MARILDA AND MARLENE (CENTER) AND JUAN MAULUED (RIGHT).
Service learning continues

The ELI tradition of service learning continued this year, responding to local as well as international needs in ways that testify to the generosity and creativity of the ELI community. As in previous years, ELI students volunteered their time and energy at the Food Bank of Delaware, Newark Manor Nursing Home, Hope Dining Room and Delaware Special Olympics. In addition, ELI students, faculty and staff responded to the emergency needs of the Haitian people following the devastating earthquake in January 2010. Level ELI Listening/Speaking classes visited all other ELI classes in seven buildings across campus, using posters and speeches to raise awareness of the need to contribute to the relief effort. The intermediate level students, many of whom had never heard of the impoverished Caribbean country before the tragedy, were excited about their contribution. “It gave them a real-world purpose to communicate,” said instructor Rachael Miller.

In an event that combined service, creativity and American culture, ELI students and teachers celebrated Peterson’s Level VI Read It! Watch It! class visited local beekeeper Jill Jensen to find out how keeping beekeeping and bee behavior. The students learned about the division of labor in a hive, the insect’s life cycle and honey making. In the end, the group thoroughly enjoyed the home-baked bread straight out of Ms. Jensen’s oven, served with raw honey from her own bees. So that Marcia Hall’s session V EAP VI students could better understand how the U.S. Supreme Court makes decisions about freedom of religion, some of them did a brainstorming exercise to apply the strict scrutiny test to decide whether people should be allowed to establish a new religion to worship chickens. The strict scrutiny test states that a law or a policy must be justified by “a compelling governmental interest.” The exercise also suggested that if chickens were worshipped, people would no longer eat them; therefore, the chicken industry would go out of business and the state would lose a lot of tax revenue. Ironically, as they listed and debated arguments pro and con this issue, the students were unaware that Delaware bills itself as the “chicken capital of the world.” Let’s hope that no one actually decides to devote the bird—even the Bly—such mercy.

This past ELI, the beginning sections of EAP VI specifically for future graduate students, in the high-advanced Reading/ Writing EAP VI Graduate course, taught by Nigel Clayton, students preparing for admission to master’s and doctoral programs studied the style and conventions of academic articles in their fields and wrote literature reviews on a wide range of topics of interest, from marketing to public health. In session V, Mary Long accompanied her Level VI American Business Case Studies class on two site visits. At Mike’s Famous, the Harley Davidson dealership that sells more Harley motorcycles than any other in the U.S., the students were fascinated by their tour of the showroom and detailing shop. At AstraZeneca, a global pharmaceutical firm, the class had the privilege of visiting its Newark manufacturing and packaging plant and one of its world distribution centers. Rachel Lapp and Sean Stellfox hosted a one-day art gallery in Perkins Student Center for their Level VI Listening and Speaking classes in October as part of an art themed unit. The project was designed for students to creatively discuss their thoughts and opinions of art work. Over the course of the week, students learned new vocabulary, new photography techniques from a photographer and new ways to think about art. The art gallery provided students the opportunity to showcase their original photographs: a self-portrait, a stranger portrait, and a landscape. The students had the opportunity to discuss their and other students’ artwork and also to interview each other as artists. Both teachers were excited about the excellent turnout and the positive feedback from their students.

Stories told by students in Walt Bobich’s Level V English through Stories class are critiqued by classmates in a manner similar to that used in art classes. After a student speaks, classmates ask questions about the content of the story and then offer bits of constructive criticism to the storyteller. In this way, students learn from their own errors and also from the errors of others. Level VI’s Alaa Almehadi of Saudi Arabia and Wenzhe Chen of China, both in Mary Long’s session V Entrepreneurship and Managerial Communication classes, prepared and delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Saudi culture at the presentation drug plant of the multinational pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. As the staff was preparing to host guests from Saudi Arabia who would be observing its quality control and assurance procedures, they were very appreciative of the cultural information, which would enable them to welcome its guests more appropriately.

“Service learning is a great opportunity for students to meet people and expand their understanding of American society while practicing communication skills,” coordinator Baerbel Schumacher said. GW/
Some folks at ELI believe Nadia Redman, associate director of admissions and recruitment, has a magic touch: a few short months after her arrival in February 2008, the Institute’s student body doubled.

Nadia attributes the ELI’s success to its commitment, as captured in its mission statement, to “meet or exceed our students’ expectations for developing their linguistic, academic, and professional skills.” It was precisely this spirit that drew Nadia to the ELI in the first place.

Living in Quebec, Redman had experienced firsthand the nation’s passion about language learning. In Quebec Province, official policies put up roadblocks to becoming proficient in English. For example, a child of French-speaking parents is not allowed to enroll in an English-speaking public school.

“In contrast, the ELI’s message is, ‘Yes, you CAN! And we will do our best to help you,’” explains Redman. “This is an attitude that completely resonates with me—and I’m the one that gets to travel internationally to help make it happen.”

Nadia’s enthusiasm for languages and all things international—as well as her fervent belief in the importance of acquiring English education—made her an ideal marketing ambassador, not only for the ELI, but for the University of Delaware as a whole,” said University Director Dr. Scott Stevens.

Nadia has attended international student recruitment fairs in nine different countries. After attending the School of English in Europe, representing the ELI to answer the questions of potential students. While in the home office, she daily answers dozens of email, phone and even walk-in inquiries.

On the admission side of her duties, Redman coordinates document creation and collection and ensures students into the ELI and U/D database systems, not only by the staff. In addition, she reserves 10 hours a week for student advising, especially on visa issues, educating each student on the requirements of his/her particular visa.

Other activities Melora is passionate about are organic gardening at her house on South College Avenue, earning notoriety at the “Krabulous” fundraiser. She has earned a degree in English and French studies and is currently working on a masters degree in teaching English. She continues to be an active member of the ELI community.

Nadia Redman

It’s the “people side” that Redman loves most about her job. “I love working with students from all backgrounds, languages and cultures,” she says.

“My background lends itself to diversity. My family is from Barbados, and I’m multicultural. I have both American and Canadian citizenship. I speak four languages. My undergraduate degree (in international education) was from an American university, while my MBA (in international management) was from a French-speaking university in Quebec. I’m a native English speaker married to a native French speaker. My British friend, Ross Holmes, calls me the ‘bi-lingual multiple threat!’”

What lured a woman whose roots stretched from Barbados to Canada? A love story. While at the University of Delaware, Redman met and fell in love with fellow studentalus Masende Phinda. Phinda was later offered employment as an instructional designer at U/D, and Redman followed to remain close to him. It was later that she connected with the ELI.

“The ELI staff and faculty welcomed not only me but my fiancé—when he was it with everyone,” she says. “We started off knowing nobody in Delaware, but when Masande and I got married, practically the whole ELI administration attended the wedding. Now we feel like we really do have a family here in Delmarva.” SP

Nadia Redman

Faculty profile: Ken Cranker

One would be hard pressed to find a more surprising career change than Ken Cranker’s personal journey from medical student to research analyst to ESL teaching, Cranker, an ESL instructor of 21 years who has helped students at the ELI since 2004, brings to the job a rich diversity of experiences.

Ken started out wanting to be a doctor, studying biology as a pre-medical undergraduate at Cornell University. An army student, Ken also had to work to support himself at college. Between the intern college loans and room and board, by the end of the college Ken had burned out on studying. Rather than pursue his medical studies, he accepted a position at Cornell’s world-renowned laboratory for cholesterol and heart disease research.

The lab had a thoroughly international atmosphere, with experts from all around the world. From all over the world. “I was impressed that these people were doing top-notch research in a second language, English.”

But he that knows it’s easy for them because they often came to him for language help.

“That’s how I discovered that I enjoyed helping others learn English as a second language more than playing with text rules.”

Inspired by this experience, Ken enrolled at the State University of New York at Albany to earn his master’s degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages. To get even more experience, to learn Mandarin in preparation for teaching overseas. Master’s degree in hand, Ken set his sights on China. For the year 1989—a time of popular street in China— and Chinese acquaintances advised Ken to change his plans. A former colleague from his home university recommended that Ken English language school in Japan invited to join him there, so he travelled his Mandarin dictionary for a Japanese vocabulary and headed to Japan.

That dictionary would get quite dog-eared over the next 1/4 of a century. Ken lived and worked for all of that period in Japan, except for a few years back in the States in his twenties. (Just long enough to impress on him that “you can teach English.”) He travelled six years on his homestay college’s establishment and then was offered a dream position—seven hours per week teaching and the remainder spent on research—at the University of Aizu, a computer science university.

During his stay in Japan, Ken and his wife Kamiko also welcomed into their family a son, Jun, and daughter, Yuri.

In 2001, Naoko was Ken’s hometown, so the Crankers often came to the town to see her family. He returned to the ELI’s replication, Ken took advantage of one of the family’s trips to visit the ELI and meet its director, Dr. Scott Stevens. Improved with the Institute, Ken kept in touch with many former students after graduation, occasionally even recruiting his Japanese students to attend the ELI’s intensive English program.

When family concerns eventually brought the Crankers back to the United States for good in 2004, they set their sights on Newark. The ELI offered Ken a two-month contract for his busy summer season but was so impressed with his work that he was asked to stay on. His position became full time in 2007.

Over the years, Ken’s many hats at the ELI have included instructor, Self Access Learning Center coordinator, TESL Center coordinator and the ELI’s technology committee, special group coordinator, and guest lecturer on vocabulary in professional development courses. As a part of the MA TESL program’s EDUC 467 course.

Ken has also contributed to the Institute’s English for Academic Purposes track, which strengthens the linguistic and academic competence of students who have been conditionally admitted to UD. Within this track, he recently redesigned both the listening/speaking and the reading/writing courses at the ELI’s most advanced level. Along with ELI instructors Marcus Hals and Julie Lopez, Ken has developed and submitted to Congelton publications as well as in college reading and writing for students of English as a second language.

Ken Cranker

No picture of Ken Cranker is complete without his red passion for his English. He plays almost every night of the week, in a league called Iron Men. For the Newark Parks and Recreation Department, Ken was a very popular and very successful volleyball coach. For a year and a half, Ken was a very popular and very successful volleyball coach. For a year and a half, Ken was a very popular and very successful volleyball coach. For a year and a half, Ken was a very popular and very successful volleyball coach.

In the TESOL Convention, courses, advanced-level students are Melora’s favorites, and she encourages their cultural and intellectual questions about this country.

“I believe the greater good on Earth is to live peacefully, the greater good on Earth is to live peacefully, the greater good on Earth is to live peacefully, the greater good on Earth is to live peacefully, the greater good on Earth is to live peacefully,” she says. “My small contribution is to work on one- on-one helping students learn English, but more importantly, helping them recognize our common humanity.” IFW

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Personnel notes

Arrivals and transitions

The ELI welcomed five outstanding teachers to the ranks of its full-time faculty: Kristina Curtis, who works with English language learners at our West Park Elementary School site, and, in our intensive English program, instructors Victor de Oliveira, Ely Ledonnis Hernandez, and Nonie Bell, Ana Kim and Mikie Sarmiento as well as Assistant Professor Nigel Caplan.

To coordinate our newly expanded Self Access Learning Center, ELI hired Nicole Nolen.

We welcomed back supplemental faculty member David Schmitt, who returned in September after a short hiatus.

Tutor Victoria Dowey Abdel-Salam became a mother this summer. Lena Niamh (Neeve) Abdel-Salam, came into the world on August 16.

Instructor Phil Rice welcomed a daughter, Hope Alyse, on November 8.

A number of ELI faculty members and staff were married this year: Erin Bastien, Kathy Hankins, Emily Thayer, and Dayl Thomas. We wish all of them a lifetime of joy with their new partners.

Departures

We said good-bye to our much-loved PreMBA coordinator, Mary Long, who moved to Utah to enjoy semi-retirement and gorgeous landscapes. We will miss you, Mary!

President of Panama Partners studies at the ELI

From the start, Mercedes Barragan had a dual purpose in coming to the ELI in May. A school principal in Panama, she knew she needed to improve her English skills for professional reasons. With more and more multinational companies headquartered in her Central American country, the pressure to convert her family-run bilingual school to an English-only institution was growing.

“Panama is becoming a hub of international commerce,” she said.

But she had another reason to return to Delaware. In 2009, she had visited the First State as part of a delegation representing Panama Partners, an affiliate of Partners of the Americas, a non-profit organization that connects volunteers in the United States with their local counterparts in Latin America. As president of her national branch, she hoped to firm up and expand contacts made during her first visit. At UD, she spoke with faculty members about one project, the creation of a museum to conserve historical and religious objects in Nata de los Caballeros, a 16th century colonial city on the Pacific coast of Panama.

“We also want to encourage professional exchanges between Delaware and Panama,” she said.

Mercedes Barragan returned to Panama after her August graduation, speaking more English and determined to further the ties between Delaware and her country. She can be reached at mercebarragan@hotmail.com. RM
International Culture Club links UD, ELI students

The idea behind the International Culture Club (ICC) is simple: to connect UD students with ELI students for conversation and cultural exchange. Previously the club was named the "Language Partner Program." The name was changed to ICC because club members now meet in groups instead of one-on-one.

"This provides a safe and comfortable environment for students to meet and have fun in a group and after they've made friends they have the opportunity to meet outside of group activities for more in-depth conversational exchange," explained club president Amanda Stevens, a UD senior.

Other officers include junior Katelynn Anderson, vice president, senior Dan Weinberg, treasurer, and junior Nermine Zubaca, public relations officer. The club has meetings two to three times a month, bringing ELI and UD students together to enjoy food, games and conversation and to hear news and announcements about activities and events sponsored by the club. These include game and movie nights, bingo night, tie-dying, going to UD football games, learning dances from around the world, cooking and eating international food, volunteer work, and trips to state parks and Philadelphia.

"These activities can help ELI students practice their English skills and help UD students with the second languages they may be learning," said Stevens. "Most importantly, the aim of ICC is to spread culture and diversity throughout the University of Delaware community." AS

Festival of Nations

The ELI student body hosted the sixth annual Festival of Nations on November 17 in Perkins student center. Part of the University’s celebration of International Education Week, the festival featured tables representing dozens of nations and regions, a diverse array of cultural performances and a fashion show highlighting traditional dresses from around the world. Sponsored by the Language Institute and Office of Residence Life, the event included students from the Multicultural Student Organization, Asian Student Association, Caribbean Student Alliance, Black Student Union, Delaware African Student Association, Kappa Alpha, and the Chinese Student Association.

The fifth column in each month's magazine is for the University of Delaware community. The fifth column should be a creative or informative piece that highlights or promotes University of Delaware activity. If there is an event happening on campus, the fifth column is an opportunity to create a feature piece promoting the event. There is no need to be a student to submit an article to be featured in the fifth column. To submit an article, email it to fifthcolumn@udel.edu.