

Message from ELC Director Prof. Kim Hughes Wilhelm...

Welcome to our third publication of the ELC newsletter! As you will see in the pages which follow, it has been a busy and productive semester for the English Language Centre here at the University of Macau. Since our last newsletter, we have conducted the July intensive English Program for provisionally admitted students, expanding beyond regular classes with full-time teachers to include language laboratory and discussion sessions with English Teaching Assistants as well as several English immersion field trips. In late August and early September, with the approval of Vice-Rector Professor Simon Ho and the support of our Academic Affairs Office, ELC faculty administered the Institutional TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) as part of our language placement procedure. Over 1100 students sat for the exam, and it helped immensely in placement and course waiver decision-making.

UM classes began in early September, with over 1600 students enrolled in 75 sections of ELC classes this semester. New courses include English for Law Majors II, Usage of English, and Professional English Writing (for first-year Gaming and Hospitality Management students). We are field-testing new textbooks for other courses, working very hard on curricular improvement.

Along with the start-up of classes were special initiatives for our UM students to improve their English through an English Table held at lunchtime twice a week, language immersion social events held at the American Corner, and cultural and language immersion field trips held throughout the semester. Many of those events were planned and implemented by our wonderful Fulbright ETAs – Austin, Jennifer, Samantha and Susan – who “hit the ground running” upon their arrival in Macao in August (please see their photos and introductions in this newsletter). Our CREW (Centre for Research and English Writing) graduate assistants have also been busy holding seminars, workshops and tutorials for UM undergraduate students as well as helping with special activities such as the Delta Cup and English Festival events (please see our “Facts and Figures at a Glance” summary which follows).



Kim Hughes Wilhelm at English Festival Opening Ceremony

The highlight of the semester was the English Festival, held October 20-22, 2009 with many more details and photos presented in the pages which follow as well as on our ELC website at <http://www.umac.mo/elc/> Special guests included the U.S. Consulate General’s Regional English Language Officer for Beijing Mr. Damon Anderson, Hong Kong-America Center Director Dr. Glenn Shive, and Professor Peter Skehan from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Student-oriented events were particularly popular, with more planned for our second semester festival to be held mid-April, 2010. Please mark your calendars now!

We are pleased to report that our expanded testing centre has now been approved by ETS, so testing capability will *triple* as of semester II of this year. We are planning to use the testing centre as an independent learning (self-access centre) during weekdays and will be working with ELC students in the second semester to encourage self-access use. Our (ad hoc) teaching and learning committee has provided a number of workshops for teachers, and our pedagogic committee has worked to expand the number of elective options for students as well as propose courses for the new General Education curriculum reform effort.

It has clearly been a busy, productive semester here at the ELC, and we thank all who are interested in and supportive of our efforts to improve the standard of English among our UM students, on our UM campus, and in the wider Macao community. Happy reading!



(left to right) Profs. Andrew Moody, Peter Skehan, Glenn Shive & Sylvia Leong cutting the ribbon to open the English Festival, October 2009)



The friendly staff of the English language Centre (Fanny Chan and Eric Lam missing)



Summer intensive English Program



Fulbright ETA Susan Pei leads a discussion with students at the English Table



Participants at an English Festival event

ELC Newsletter Issue III

Facts and **Figures** at a Glance

3327 English essays were scored by ELC faculty as part of the UM Admissions Exam in May.

34 students enrolled in the **120**-hour intensive English course during the summer (July).

1114 entering undergraduate students were given the ITP Placement Exam in August & September.

7 Fulbright ETAs attended a **2**-week orientation conducted by Special Projects Coordinator Eve Smith for UM and Macau Polytechnic English teaching assistants in August.

120 students attended **4** games nights to get to know others and for English immersion at the American Corner in September.

132 participants attended the English Festival Opening Ceremony with welcome by HK-America Center Director Dr. Glenn Shive and scholarly talk by Prof. Peter Skehan in October. **32** teachers from various secondary schools and **5** tertiary institutions in Macao were present, as well as dignitaries from the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Student Affairs Office and the Academic Affairs Office.

42 electronic posters were created by students of the *English for Business* class to promote the English festival.

108 UM and **33** Macao Anglican College students attended "How to Be a Good Language Learner" talks by RELO Damon Anderson in October.

500 or more students attend English Festival events designed especially for "fun and games" English, including a Games Corner, Magic Show, Karaoke Competition and Jeopardy! game show in October.

21 students attended a bowling field trip on 25th November.

101 students attended seminars and **133** attended workshops conducted by the CREW this term.

77 students met in individual tutorials with CREW GAs about writing concerns during this semester.

15 or more students participated each week in English Table lunchtime chat sessions in the Library Cafe.

10 students from NYU (New York University) joined two classes of EELC 101 for discussions about American and Chinese Cultures with **40** UM ELC students.

52 UM administrative staff participated in English improvement sessions conducted by the ELC from October through December.

37 UM administrative staff sat for the Test of English for International Communication administered by the ELC in cooperation with Human Resources in November/

50 students enjoyed the end-of-semester Holiday Party at the American Corner on December 18.

587 test-takers sat for the TOEFL, GRE, SAT, ACT or TOEIC exams in 2009.

15 full-time faculty, **2** part-time faculty, **4** Fulbright ETAs, **4** CREW GAs, **6** student helpers on shift, and **4** administrative staff worked tirelessly and cheerfully to make this semester a huge success!!!

English immersion at the Games Corner



English Festival, 20-22 October 2009

The 3rd English Festival attracted hundreds of students from the University of Macau as well as several secondary schools in Macao.



Secondary school students listen to "How to Be a Good Language Learner"

Mr. Damon Anderson, of the Beijing Regional English Language Office of the U.S. Department of State delighted students with his entertaining and informative talk, "How to Be a Successful Language Learner," on Wednesday and Thursday. He focused on strategies for students of all levels to learn English.



Damon Anderson with UM students

Students immediately warmed up to the lecture with laughter when Mr. Anderson began his talk with a selection of English language idiosyncrasies ("If vegetarians eat only vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?"). Moving away from pitfalls of learning English, the rest of the lecture presented students with clear strategies for successful English learning, touching on topics such as accent and pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing.

Professor Peter Skehan, invited academic specialist from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, explained recent research in task-based English language learning as part of the opening night. His speech followed an opening by Hong Kong-America Center Director Dr. Glenn Shive and welcoming remarks by ELC Director Kim Hughes Wilhelm.



Peter Skehan, Kim Hughes Wilhelm, Eve Smith & Glenn Shive



Damon Anderson discusses approaches to language learning with English teachers

Austin Brawner, Fulbright English teaching assistant, showed his award-winning short film, "A Box with a View," about the impact of television on a rural village in India.



Austin presenting his award-winning video "A Box with a View"

Students also were featured in the program: **Carlos Pang** shared his experiences living and studying in the U.S.A. in his talk, "Transitioning to American Life." The **Amazing Leo** mystified everyone with his Magic Show. These events drew such large audiences that there was standing room only in room L105.



Carlos Pang speaks about life in the USA



Leo's Magic Show

English Festival Games and Contests

The Jeopardy! contest and Bananagrams word game on Wednesday were very popular. Eighteen teams competed to win the Jeopardy! quiz show. Question categories included "Things That Start with a 'V,'" "World Geography & Monuments," "Surfing the Net," and "Anglophone Holidays." The groups shined as they answered quiz questions with skill and knowledge. Top competitors were awarded Starbucks coupons as prizes. The four 1st Place winners were: Vong Kuok Neng (Aggie), Lei On I (Annie), Lei Mei Fong (Susanna), and Chan I Tong (Toni).



Students playing Jeopardy!



ELC teacher Alan Miller with students at Games Corner, a popular event at the English Festival

UM Idol Shakes the ROOM!!!

Do you know where the most talented performers in Macao can be found? Move over Bellini Bar! We learned from the UM Idol Karaoke Competition that there are stars in our midst. Over 25 dynamic students performed songs ranging from "Yesterday Once More" by the Carpenters, to "Lose Yourself" by Eminem. It was an exciting, fun-filled event that ended up drawing the largest crowd in the entire festival.

1 st	Wang Xiang Bo (Vega)
2 nd	Cheang Chi Hou (Benson)
3 rd	Chang Weng Sun (Tracy)
4 th	Lao leong (Wasabi)

The UM Idol event had so many applicants that some had to be asked to wait until the next English Festival. Watch for it in the spring semester!



Vega working the crowd at UM Idol

E-Poster Competition – Go FBA Students!

Students taking EELC 215 *English for Business* celebrated the 3rd English Festival with their bright, colourful, and creative ideas for an e-poster. These students are all from the Faculty of Business Administration, with different majors. This is the first year EELC 215 *English for Business* is offered at the English Language Centre. As part of their course project, students created e-posters depicting their own interpretations of the English Festival. Around 42 charming e-posters were submitted.

A panel of judges composed of five English language instructors had the daunting task of choosing the four most outstanding e-posters. Winning e-posters were emailed to all UM account users via the intranet, and some were printed out and posted on bulletin boards around the campus. The winners were given certificates of recognition and a gift as a token of appreciation for their hard work. Our warmest congratulations to the winners!

1st Prize: Lei Wan Cheong (Gary), Chan Cheng (Alisa), Ng Lek (Nick)



2nd Prize: Liu Bingbing (Ice), Cheng Wing Yee (Wing), Zeng Jianwen (Jan)



3rd Prize: Lin Yijing (Hazel), Chen Yujing (Jade), Liu Jiaqi (Ella)



4th Prize: Loi Peng Peng (Apple), Un Pak Peng (Julia), Lo Yan Wai Denise)



Summer English Program 2009



Students and teachers of the Summer English Language Program

A total of thirty-four UM students participated in the four-week intensive Summer English Language Program this past July. This course is a special opportunity for local students to raise their English language skill up to such a level that they will be prepared to study successfully through the medium of the English language in the University of Macau. In addition to classroom and computer lab activities, extracurricular activities were organized, which included a tour of the Macao Venetian Hotel & Casino, a Macao Heritage Guided Walking Tour and a visit to the Macau Museum.



Macao Heritage Guided Walking Tour

American Corner Games Nights



Students playing Scrabble

At least 120 students showed up over the course of four days for fun-filled nights hosted by the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants. Students munched on snacks and sipped drinks as they played intense games of Scrabble, Uno, and Jenga. The atmosphere became even livelier as games like Pictionary and Twister turned rowdy, and of course, super competitive. For English language learners, Games Nights—held on September 8th and 15th at 7:00 PM, and September 9th and 16th at 4:00 PM—were a great way to start off the school year. Everyone is looking forward to the arrival of more games.





Games Night fun



Games Night in the American Corner

Bowling Field Trip



Twenty-one students participated in the first ETA-led field trip: an afternoon of bowling and practicing English at the Macau Dome in Cotai.



Students strike a pose to bowl a strike

For many students, this field trip was their introduction to the classic American game, so they picked up new vocabulary such as *strike*, *spare*, and *split*. Although some classmates showed more natural talent than others, all the students encouraged and cheered each other on, so everyone had a great time.

English Table for Students

Each Tuesday and Thursday the ETAs host a table in the Library Cafe where students can come to practice speaking in English while they eat lunch. Topics can include anything the students want to talk about, ranging from TOEFL preparation and studying abroad to holiday traditions, sports, and superstitions. Attendance has ranged from five to twenty students, so it often expands to multiple tables!



Austin with students at the English table

English Table for UM Staff

Fulbright ETAs and CREW graduate assistants have been holding biweekly sessions with UM administrative staff in the library this semester. More than one dozen staff enrolled in the Friday sessions, and more than three dozen on Wednesdays. The goal of these sessions is to provide staff with the necessary support to improve their everyday English. Attendees discuss readings, give presentations, and share emails and essays with facilitators. The ELC hopes to continue to make a positive contribution to the administrative community with this English Table.

ELC Language Lab

Progress has been made toward the goal of creating a self-learning center in the Language Lab. Many new interactive English learning programs and games have been acquired, including *Tense Buster*, *Issues in English*, *Author Plus*, *Active Reading*, and *Sky Pronunciation Suite*. A room has been built to house the new server that will be delivered soon. Students and teachers can take advantage of the latest technology for education. The Sanako system has also been upgraded, and a new digital camera is available for teachers to use.

Teaching and Learning Committee

To promote professional development, the English instructors in the ELC are sharing their expertise with each other in a series of workshops organized by the newly created Teaching and Learning Committee: Teresa Lacuna, Ricardo Medeiros, and Mark Wong. For the inaugural workshop, members of the committee led a discussion on best practices in teaching, with instructors sharing their concerns and ideas. In subsequent workshops, GradeKeeper software was introduced by Suzanne Rizzo; the Turnitin feature integrated with UMMoodle was demonstrated by Rex Wilson; Ricardo Medeiros led a discussion on student activity records as a tool to promote positive

participation in classes. ELC colleagues are sharing their expertise and learning a lot from each other!

Welcome to New Staff

Barbara Jean Weissmann

Although born in Germany and raised in the USA, Barbara has spent the majority of her working years in Asia. After graduating from university with a degree in International Relations, she lived and worked in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the PRC. She taught English there to doctors and post-graduate students at the Hubei Medical College. Barbara arrived in Macau in 1987 and has lived here ever since! She has worked in several different units at the University of Macau (even before it was called the University of Macau!), teaching English in the Associate Arts program, FSH, the Pre-University Program, and now in the ELC. Along the way she acquired a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics, and two children. Her research interests are first language attrition and bilingualism.



Many thanks to Sem. I part-time teachers
Dean A. F. Gui and Alan E. Miller



Dean Gui



Alan Miller

Fulbright English Teaching Assistants

Four English teaching assistants (ETAs) have been sent to the English Language center to help develop English immersion opportunities and extracurricular activities for Macao students. They come to us courtesy of the Fulbright Program of the U.S. Department of State. These enthusiastic and energetic young graduate students immediately set to work organizing Games Nights, English Tables, and other initiatives. Let's meet them:

Austin Brawner



I grew up on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with my parents, Robert and Staci, and my sister Colbi. I attended Pitzer College, where I graduated with a B.A. in Economics. My desire to explore Asia

led me to apply for the Fulbright Program in Macao. So far, I am really enjoying my time in Macao, and I have already met many dynamic people at UM. My hobbies include playing lacrosse, rugby, skiing, and film. I also love to eat, and I have quickly learned that Macao has some of the best food in the world. In my spare time I would like to direct a documentary film about Macao. I have had a great couple of months in Macao, and I am looking forward to learning more about this fascinating region.

Samantha Chen



I am a Chinese American from the San Francisco Bay Area. I graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in Anthropology and Human Biology and subsequently taught creative writing to

immigrant children for one semester. My

goal is to bring my love of literature and language to students at UM, as well as a personal perspective on what it means to be Asian-American. I hope to master Cantonese while I am here and come away with a definitive understanding of daily life and local identity in Macao.

Jennifer Lin



I grew up in a bilingual Chinese-American family, but my first trans-Pacific flight was moving to Macao in August! I graduated with a double major in neuroscience and history of medicine

from Yale University, where I also spent two summers assisting international students who came to study ESL. I look forward to introducing UM students to many facets of American culture and different genres of literature through holiday celebrations, a book club and other activities. I also hope to improve my Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese), study traditional folk dances, and learn more about Chinese medicine.

Susan Pei



An irresistible combination of wanderlust, love of teaching, and desire to explore my Chinese heritage compelled me to apply for a Fulbright grant as an ETA in Macao. I am grateful

and excited to pursue one in Macau, where I am currently having a blast teaching English at UM, sharing American culture with students, playing badminton, and honing my Chinese (and adding to my and Jen's growing collection of Chinese dictionaries—current count: 7). I am also enjoying the great food in Macau, having sampled local gastronomic delights .

CREW: Centre for Research and English Writing, ELC, University of Macau

CREW helps hundreds of UM students each semester to improve their English. The hard-working Coordinator, Alice S. Lee, is assisted by five graduate assistants, as

pictured below. Melody Feng likes to read books and play the piano, Karen Kun reads novels and prose, Azita Kuok is writing her thesis on literature, Tom Wang is interested in European studies, and Carol Wong is pursuing graduate studies in translation.



The CREW: Tom Wang, Karen Kun, Carol Wong, Alice Lee, Azita Kuok, Melody Feng

This semester, CREW tutors facilitated more than ten writing and academic study skills workshops on various topics, including APA/ MLA documentation styles, basic essay structure, avoiding plagiarism, Internet research, CV writing, and presentation skills. The workshops were attended by 113 students. The workshops "Presentation Skills" and "How to Avoid Plagiarism" were the most popular among students. To meet the demand of those who did not manage to attend some of these workshops, CREW created an "on-demand" system whereby students could organize themselves into groups of five and choose a CREW workshop as well as their preferred workshop time slot, and many students have taken advantage of this system.

CREW's one-to-one consultation is another featured service. Tutors assisted 77 undergraduate students with their English writing through individual consultations by offering advice on different aspects of writing, such as drafting, organizing, researching, and referencing. Most students found consultations helpful and educational, and would return for more assistance. One

student remarked after a consultation, "Really grateful to have this experience and help from CREW."

CREW also offers a Chatroom for students and Admin Table for UM administrative staff to practice spoken English. All the attendees enjoyed chatting with the tutors in a relaxing atmosphere and meeting new friends while practicing English at the same time. Topics in both sessions are diverse and interesting, covering university life, travel experiences, job interviews, current affairs, etc.

In addition, CREW assisted at the ELC's English Festival in November by hosting the Games Corner, where the tutors played various American games with the students. The participants enjoyed games such as "Taboo," "Bananagrams," and "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" while learning new vocabulary and experiencing American culture at the same time.

CREW's annual magazine, CREWzine, will be published next semester. It is a publication of students' writings, including short essays, poems, fiction, photo essays and jokes. Students are encouraged to

submit their work and are welcome to come to CREW for inspiration.

If you want to chat in English, if you need help in the writing process, if you are

interested in the workshops, if you want to have your writing published, simply visit CREW on the ground floor of the UM library, or email them at crew@umac.mo.

Administrative Staff Win 3rd Prize in "Let's Seed to Seek Happiness"



The prize-winning plant

The ELC Administrative Staff won 3rd Prize at the UM Healthy Week 2009 for the "Let's Seed to Seek Happiness" Planting Programme. It was the first time for us to participate in this activity/competition.

It's Not Hard to Live Healthily!

The ELC General Office, with the help of the CREW graduate assistants, designed an exhibition board on the topic of "Healthy Life Style" to promote and spread the message of health for "Healthy University Week 2009," which was held from 16 to 21 November 2009. The design used sharp colors with strong contrasts to depict the difference between healthy and unhealthy life styles. A yellow background and colorful pictures represented the happiness of living healthily; while a black background and black-and-white pictures represented the opposite and warned of the diseases that can be caused by an unhealthy life style. This simple yet eye-catching and informative exhibition board was admired by many people. Thanks to our wonderful

Administrative Staff: Ming Cheang (ELC Functional Head), Tenny Chan, Fanny Chan, and Eric Lam.



Exhibit to encourage healthy habits

Thanks for reading our ELC newsletter!