**Letter from the Chair**

Aloha! Come and get on the bus! You can see in the photo below current TESOL students having fun at the TESOL Conference in Portland, Oregon in March, but a career in TESOL really can take you many different places around the world. For example, while working on another project, I figured out I had studied with or taught students from at least 88 different countries! How fun.

We love to highlight what our alumni are doing, so be sure and let us know when you have adventures on the “TESOL bus.” Look and see what your classmates and friends are doing in our newsletter pages.

Also, be sure and keep yourself professionally engaged. Notice, for example, just four upcoming conferences in the Pacific Rim. You can find a list of conferences on the teso.org Website. Look under the “Attend & Learn” section.

Ellen Bunker
Rick “Grammar Guru” Nelson

This year we are losing two of our department faculty. Rick Nelson, after 20 good years of eating lunch in the cafeteria and teaching our students the English language, is retiring from BYUH and moving with his wife to the mainland.
Aubrey
“Wunderkinder”
Bronson

Aubrey is moving to Colorado where her husband Ross will take on new responsibilities at a posh resort called Gateway Canyons (see pic below).


Aubrey taught here for 7 years and was a “founding member” of our Online EIL Development Team, and the originator of our newest course—TESOL 430 (Teaching English to Younger Learners).

Gateway Canyons Resort . . . (Holy Moly!)
Leola Solis ('01) recently completed her Master of Arts in TESOL degree from Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) in Honolulu.

While studying at HPU, Leola was awarded both a Kamehameha Scholarship (from Kamehameha Schools) and a Trustees Graduate Scholarship (from HPU).

Leola chose to take the comprehensive exams, a challenge to any graduate student. She passed, of course, with flying colors. We congratulate her on her accomplishment.

Leola has been a special instructor teaching EIL Courses for us in the ELT Department. She also regularly teaches Freshman English for the English Department where she often has classes full of former EIL students who appreciate her understanding of their language needs.
IN MEMORIUM

Ishmael W. Stagner

1939-2014

“Ish” Stagner was student body president when the first group of 4-year bachelor’s degree graduates finished school at Church College of Hawaii in 1961 (it had been only a 2-year school for several years). Upon graduation, Ish left to teach English at Mapusaga High School (American Samoa), one of the church’s new campuses in the South Pacific. He came back feeling frustrated. The facilities were excellent, but the curriculum and textbooks were not suited to the needs of the learners. He shared his feelings with the CCH president, the Chair of the Pacific Board of Education, and later with Pres. McKay in Salt Lake City. These conversations and others led to the immediate creation of an EIL program at CCH (1963), and later the TESOL major in 1967. Ish became the first Polynesian to earn a doctoral degree at BYU-Provo and soon returned to Hawaii and taught for nearly 20 years here at BYU-Hawaii before becoming a specialist for the Alu Like Inc., a nonprofit organization which assists Native Hawaiians in their efforts to achieve social and economic self-sufficiency (scholarships, professional training, etc).

In addition to his academic career, Bro. Stagner was also an avid Polynesian dancer, (he being one of the few male Hawaiian dancers in the 1960’s, when Hula had lost much of its popularity) and worked tirelessly to write about and honor the major hula instructors, chanters and composers of the early 20th century. He was particularly proud of the major influence LDS members played in the preservation and continuation of Hawaiian music and delivered a major paper on the subject at the 2003 Mormon Pacific Historical Society Conference.

If not a “man for all seasons,” he was at least a man of many. We honor him for his accomplishments, and express our condolences to his family.
In March at our annual Graduation Banquet, we honored thirty-three TESOL and TESOL ED students that will graduate during 2014. That was the largest group we have had in quite a number of years. We were pleased to have such a large group of graduates! You can see they filled up the front of the room in the Aloha Center.

You can tell TESOL majors are always serious and reserved (below).
Nancy Tarawhiti joins the ELT department most recently from her studies in New Zealand at the Auckland University of Technology where she has been working on her PhD in Second Language Teaching. Sister Tarawhiti is a native of New Zealand and a BYUH alumna. Upon completing her BA in Business at BYUH, she worked in a variety of jobs in New Zealand including Air Traffic Control and, later, ESL Teaching. She completed a MA TESOL from BYU Provo in 2005 and worked for three years as a full-time instructor and Executive Council member at the BYU English Language Center (ELC). During her time at the ELC, she worked along side two other current ELT faculty members: Brother Wolfersberger and, later, Brother McCollum.

Sister Tarawhiti's former experience as a writing specialist and student life coordinator has made her sensitive to the challenges ESL learners face in English-medium universities. This led her to investigate ESL learners' writing difficulties in her doctoral research. Sister Tarawhiti joined the BYUH faculty in Winter 2014 and has been applying her research to the Academic English classes in the EIL program. We are grateful to have her experience and enthusiasm as part of our ELT team!
Another good experience was had by the eleven students who traveled to Portland, Oregon for the annual TESOL International Convention in March. (The five faculty members had a good time, too!) The weather was very rainy, but it helped that our hotel was right across the street from the Convention Center. Perhaps the most frightening experience was when we had an hour or two of bright sunshine and the Oregonians around us had forgotten what that bright light in the sky actually was.

Those who went had a wide variety of positive comments to make about the plenary sessions, workshops, papers, and publisher’s displays (and all the other activities in those three very busy days). They experienced, as in other years, a deepened appreciation for their become TESOL professionals and their rea-
nes to do what they are training to do. Students always leave such a positive impression on those they meet at the convention itself and in the city.

We had our usual LDS TESOLers night, once again at a Greek restaurant, and a good time was had by all. Our two Filipinos actually enjoyed the rice so much that they returned the next day! And would you believe that the restaurant was only a short block away from Voo-Doo Donuts. That made up for the rain.

This annual professional gathering continues to be an energizing and good experience, and I hope you will be able to attend them as your career progresses.

**TOP RIGHT:** Amy, Juan, Seon, and Mike striking the Zoolander pose. Portland Convention center in the background.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Dinner at Alexis Greek restaurant, a whole floor to ourselves.
The TESOL Society Club has three or more activities every semester. Our activities are to increase the member’s knowledge of TESOL and how to be more successful when we graduate from Brigham Young University-Hawaii. In the Winter Semester 2014, we did 3 activities which included an English Game Night for EIL students, a forum to educate other students in different majors how to obtain a TESOL certificate to be more marketable after they graduate, and a service project planting pineapples for Give and Take to support a good cause for students. The members of the club only pay three dollars to sign up for the TESOL Society Club and they gain valuable knowledge to make them better TESOL teachers and the activities provide food also. The most successful activity we have had was recently in May, 2014. We arranged to have mock interviews to give students the opportunity to know what it might be like to have an interview after they graduate. There were three professors who had different job categories they would use to interview the students. There were three stations that the students rotated through. The first station was interviewing for an English program at a university in the United States, the second was to get a job as an online teacher, and the third was to get a job overseas. Afterwards we discussed what we did well and what we could have improved on. This gave us a little taste of what it was going to be like when we interview for jobs after we graduate. This activity was a great success and a lot was learned from those who took advantage of this opportunity. We look forward to upcoming activities.

Amy Dilg, TESOL Society President
LEFT: Mahana and Destiny, check out the gardening footwear.

BOTTOM: TESOL Society students having fun planting pineapples for the Give and Take project.
We are always glad to have our students present at the Hawaii TESOL Conference. They represent the University and all you alumni well.

**Angela Whisler** and **Michelle Stacey** presented this year.
Each year we have an increasing number of student internships in the TESOL program. Some are TESOL BA and TESOL Education majors, and some are working on a TESOL Certificate. Majors are required to do an internship, but Certificate candidates can do one as an option.

This summer we had 22 interns traveling to many different destinations, and thanks to the Yamagatas contribution to the University, airfare and some other expenses are paid. This makes it possible for learning experiences to be obtained in very diverse locations. Certainly Asian destinations are the most popular, and this year interns have been or will be in Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia. But others are going to Australia, Dominican Republic, Italy, Spain, and even UTAH! Two have found internship opportunities right here in Laie. Political unrest has taken Thailand off the list for this year, but we hope the situation improves quickly since those who have gone there have had very impressive experiences.
Many resources are available in the Language and Speech center that can help to enhance your English grammar skills, improve your pronunciation and presentations. Tutors are available most weekday afternoons and evenings. Can you tell that these tutors are serious about preparing to help anyone who needs it? Can some of you graduates find yourself in this picture?
Congratulations
Graduates!

Jeane (Mahana) Brusuela Arandia
Destiny Calvario
Lei Chen
Sung Hei Cheng
Elisabet Chew
Seon Choi
Tsai Tsen Chu
JuliAn Cottam
Eseul Jang
Dongwook Kim

Haesook Kim
Jeong Yeon Kim
Sam Kin Ching Kwok
Ji Min Lee
Sesi Liningsih
Aurora Lynn Mortensen
Briana Ashlyn Petersen
Juyeon Seo
Nana Tanaka
Kit Wa Tong
Bailey, Caprice ('01) is helping BYU Idaho with their online ESL Start classes (Pathways), working as a supervisor.

Danshita, Hiroki ('07) just received an “Outstanding Educator Award” from his high school’s PTSA organization in Issaquah, WA. Nice work, Hiroki!

Fairchild, Damon ('02) recently completed his Master's Degree in Educational Technology and is currently working for Expedia and is dedicated to improving performance through training. He said that there is no doubt that the coaching and mentoring skills that he uses on a daily basis are drawn from the wonderful foundation built during his undergraduate work in TESOL. Damon also plans to begin work as a PhD candidate in the fall of 2015 and says he’d love to one day teach at BYU-Hawaii.

Katzoff, Julie ('04) just started her new job as an International Admissions Evaluator at the University of Houston at Clear Lake. Be nice, Julie!

Ledge, Ryan ('08) after completing a TESOL MA at BYU Provo, moved with his wife, and two daughters to Chiba, Japan. He currently is an assistant professor at Kanda University of International Studies.

Pollard, Jim ('96) received a nice surprise recently. He was recognized as the students’ favorite teacher at the S.K.H. Kowloon Bay Kei Lok Primary School for the 2013-23014 school year. Go ahead and take the rest of the day off, Jim!

Ramsay, Erik ('09) was just promoted to the rank Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, maintains a 2+ on the FSI in 2 dialects of Arabic and was recently awarded the John A. Levitow Award for demonstrating the highest degree of excellence as a leader and a scholar. Congratulations, Erik.
Shewell, Justin (’00) is on the editorial board as a reader for the Asia TEFL Journal and is the incoming chair of the TESOL International Association Awards Committee. We appreciate the work Justin does within these professional organizations.

Sinkovic, Emily (’12) just returned to BYU-Hawaii! . . . this time as a faculty member! She just finished her Master’s Degree in Conflict Resolution at the University of Oregon, and is on a 1-year contract to teach for the David O. McKay Center for Peace Studies during Prof. Chad Ford’s sabbatical.

Stackhouse, Megan (’13) just completed her internship in Spain. She was fortunate to teach children, teens and adults and worked with only non-native English teachers. Her host family experience helped her to be completely immersed in the culture. She is hoping to attend graduate school in the near future, possibly in Provo.

Stephan, Rebecca (’13) just got hired by Internexus in Utah. (She drove all the way from California to Utah for the interview!)

Tsuda, Nobuo (’83) recently completed the prestigious ETS ibt TOEFL Propell Training course and is now one of only 4 ETS-approved TOEFL IBT Propell Facilitators in Japan. He and his 3 colleagues will periodically travel around Japan giving one-day professional development workshops designed to help English-language teachers meet the challenges of teaching English to students and preparing them for the TOEFL test.

Uhila, Sia (’08) is no longer teaching English at Liahona H.S. but is now with a UN-funded non-profit organization that works with the Parliament in Tonga facilitating programs that improve opportunities for people and address quality of life issues throughout the kingdom. She said she loves the opportunities she’s having to travel throughout Tonga and the Pacific, visiting with people and community organizations, and trying to make a difference.

Wilson Medlin, Jessica (’01) is teaching 7th grade social studies and also teaches a Pathway ESL course at BYU Idaho Online.