From the Chair

Well, summer has finally arrived and most of us have scattered to the four corners of the earth . . . on vacation, internship, or new career.

Ellen Bunker, our Department Chair, has been on leave for professional development and has been enjoying travelling and writing in various places around Europe. We look forward to her return in late July for the beginning of our Fall semester on August 1st.

During these past 6 months since our last newsletter, we have enjoyed a number of events (detailed in the pages that follow) and look forward to the new school year ahead. We say goodbye to Robb McCollum, who has accepted a position with Reading Horizons in Utah and congratulate Leola Solis . . . Robb’s replacement as Coordinator of our EIL program.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to our recent graduates and, as always, look forward to opportunities to hear from all of you.

With aloha,

Mark James (Acting Chair)
NEW EIL Coordinator

Leola Solis has been named the new Coordinator for the EIL program, following Robb McCollum’s announcement regarding his new job at Reading Horizons in Utah. We wish Robb and his family all the best.

After four and a half years with the ELT Department, Brother Robb McCollum has accepted a new position with Reading Horizons, a literacy education company. Brother McCollum will work as a Curriculum and Testing Specialist, and will primarily be responsible for the Reading Horizons Elevate software which is designed for learners in middle school through adult ESL.

During his time at BYUH, Brother McCollum has collaborated with the EIL faculty to develop a new curriculum for the Academic English core classes, the Academic Writing Patterns course, and various other curriculum and testing projects. “I really enjoyed learning from my colleagues and am confident that they will continue to improve the quality of the EIL program and its mission to develop autonomous English language learners. I was also energized by the ELT Department’s efforts to encourage all BYUH faculty to support English language learning beyond the EIL classroom.”

Leola is the newest full-time faculty member of our department, but a long-time adjunct instructor for both ELT and English Depts. We appreciate her willingness to lead and serve in this important position. A nice article appeared a couple weeks ago about her in the Ke Alaka‘i, which we reprint here:

For Leola, TESOL is a family tradition

Leola Solis, BYU-Hawaii EIL director, said she found her love of English under her mother’s influence. Her mother, Ana Kahililani (LaBarre) Moleni, was among the first group of TESOL graduates in 1969 at the then Church College of Hawaii. Ana met and married Leola’s Tongan father, Siaosi Moleni, and they moved to Tonga where they raised nine bilingual children.
Cont. TESOL is a family tradition

Once Solis came to BYUH and learned about TESOL, she said she saw how her mother’s TESOL education had influenced how she raised her nine children.

“Because she was a foreigner in Tonga, and because she was a TESOL graduate, she understood how important English was,” Solis said. “So she had a rule: English in the house, and Tongan outside. We were raised speaking English, and I think that is one of the reasons all of us children—there are nine of us—speak English and Tongan equally well.”

Solis said there was a small disclaimer to her statement. “It is closely tied to personality.” She said the introverts in her family spoke English better than Tongan, while the outdoor-loving, rambunctious ones spoke Tongan better than English. “My younger brother actually had to go through EIL because he spoke Tongan more,” she said.

When Solis came to study at BYUH after graduating from Liahona High School, where her father was the principle, she chose to major in English. “My mom read all these books. I read books. I thought, 'I'll go with English,' because I didn't know there was such a thing as TESOL.”

She discovered TESOL two years into her education and decided to minor in it, keeping her English major. “What is interesting is that all my papers I wrote in my English classes all had to do with the English language,” said Solis. “My final paper was on ‘English, the language of power.’ One of my favorite classes was ‘History of the English Language.’ I wrote another paper on semantics. I thought, afterwards, ‘Wow, I was really preparing myself for TESOL,’ because those subjects are more TESOL subjects. I don't think I wrote anything on analyzing poetry.”

She attributes much of this interest to her mother. “I look back now and I see all these different things that have influenced me to go into TESOL because of her,” she said. “The first was how she pushed English on us, because she wanted us to succeed. I developed my passion for reading from her. She loved to read. My earliest memories with her are laying in bed, reading.”

She said it was difficult to get books in Tonga, so her mother’s collection was precious. That collection included Shakespeare’s works, Wordsworth, Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer, National Velvet, a set of fairy tales and nursery rhymes. “I read everything in the bookcase that she had brought with her. That, I think, helped influence where I was going to go.”

Where she went was to the world of teaching English. Her husband, Mike Solis, said she has always had a goal to teach at BYUH, even from the time they were freshly married and she worked at Laie Subway to pay the bills.

She explained she was hired by BYUH a year after graduating as a part-time English teacher in 2002, rotating between the EIL and English departments. Her love of teaching solidified during this time.

“I love teaching. I just enjoy having the students, enjoy listening to them talk, enjoy seeing them interact with one another.”

She said she was a part-time English instructor for a decade, loving every minute of it, before she decided to go back to school. She went to Hawaii Pacific University to get her master’s in TESOL in 2012, graduating with it in 2014. “Getting the master's was very interesting because after being a teacher for 10 years, I learned why I did things. The master’s program actually put a name to a lot of the practices that I had been doing already.”
Such practices included using groups and presentations to get students to talk more, which she learned is called the communicative language teaching approach.

She said she recently was told how remarkably obedient BYUH EIL students are in class. One of her HPU professors, Ed Kline, came and observed EIL classes at BYUH. “He said when I would ask them to do something, they immediately did it. And I’ve never really had students not do that in a classroom.” Apparently it takes 10-15 minutes for students to begin in-class assignments at other schools, especially non-universities.

While she was finishing her master’s, Solis said she had some good fortune. “I was very, very lucky. Blessed, lucky? Fortunate? About the time I was finishing up my master’s, two job positions opened up. It was May, and that was my last semester, and I thought, ‘Oh well. Couldn’t hurt. I’ll just put in my application. See where it takes me.’ Part of me was kind of not wanting to get the job because of the extra responsibility.”

Now, she continues to teach EIL and said she wouldn’t change the long path to where she is now. “Sometimes we don’t know where it takes us. I look back and I think: ‘I started out with English, went into TESOL, graduated, started teaching part time, enjoyed it.’ I didn’t have any ambition to change, decided to get my master’s just because, and the job opened, applied, and I got the job.

“So, all these different things just kind of lined up and fell into place. But it wasn’t immediate. I graduated in 2001, 2002 I got the part-time job, and then 2014 I graduated with my master’s. So that’s a long period of time. But I enjoyed that long period of time of being a part timer.”

“I love this department,” she said. “Everyone here works well together. They all are very helpful. I see them all as my mentors.”

**ELT Reaches Major Milestone!**

Congratulations to each and every one of our faculty who helped our department reach the 10,000 “bottlemark” this Spring semester—most of all to our dear leader, Ellen Bunker, who accounted for nearly 3,000 of those “bottles!”
Ellen Bunker Delivers 2016 David O. McKay Lecture

“The BYU-Hawaii Experience from a distance . . . Is it Possible?”

Ellen first taught at BYU-Hawaii in the EIL program from . . . . . . . Prior to returning to BYU-Hawaii in 2006?? Ellen received her Ed.D in 1998 at The Pennsylvania State University in Adult, Continuing and Distance Education. She then consulted on various distance and online projects for the U.S. Military, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, among others.

Soon after her return to campus she became the ELT Department Chair. In this position she has overseen the development of online EIL courses, and the creation of the Center of English Learning (CELL).

In her lecture, Ellen discussed the advantages, disadvantages, and future possibilities of online education technologies. The LSD church wishes that more of its members could improve/further their education but realizes that places on the 3 BYU campuses are limited. The question then is, “can online opportunities bring members the rich instructional experiences in the light of the gospel and develop leadership qualities. Her answer was “Yes and No; It Depends”  If you wish to pursue this teaser, you may access the full lecture here: http://davidomckay.byuh.edu/2016_bunker
Our department Chair, Ellen Bunker, took a 1-semester plus summer leave of absence in order to do some writing. She gained much inspiration while in Italy and is now in Arizona pouring out the ink.
This year 7 of our faculty travelled to Baltimore along with 8 of our students to participate in the 50th TESOL Conference. While there, we all attended a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, visited the Washington D.C. Mall area, ate Maryland’s famous crab cakes, enjoyed the LDS TESOLERs Dinner and learned much about the past, present, and future of TESOL.

We congratulate Neil Anderson, who was recognized at the convention as one of the top 50 most influential professionals in our profession over the past 50 years!
As head of the new Center for English Language Learning, Neil Anderson travelled to Laos and Mongolia once again, offering workshops and training for teachers and LDS volunteers in those two nations. He was joined in Mongolia by Norman Evans, former ELT Dept. Chair, and now Chair of the Linguistics Dept. at BYU-Provo.

Elder Kim Clark, Commissioner of the Church Education System, visited campus and talked with the university ohana about CELL’s role in the new initiatives involving the 3 BYU campuses to create more educational materials and opportunities for church members worldwide.
Here are some highlights of tutors’ experiences this semester:

“One of my students who is from Korea introduced herself to me and said, “My name is Kim. I love meat because I don’t like vegetables. I love lots of meat. I love food, and that’s why I’m happy.” It was the first tutor appointment I laughed so hard. It was the first time I enjoyed the 30 minute tutor appointment. I learned that tutor appointments should be fun and should not be taken too seriously!

“making friends with a student who I didn’t like at the beginning of the semester.”

“This semester, I really loved our weekly training meeting. It was really nice to have both online and offline tutors meeting together. The meeting was more interactive and fun with lots of comments and insights.”

“The best experience has been seeing how students have improved over the semester. At the beginning, I felt that half of our lesson was silence as he tried to find the words he needed, but now he hardly hesitates and is confident with his answers. It is great when students improve and you can celebrate along with their achievements.”

“I remember [my tutee’s] first appointment, she was not confident in her speaking skills, but at the end she was so excited to express herself in English.”

Josh: this wasn’t in my job description...  Hukilau beach day!
The TESOL Society has enjoyed a recent resurgence under the decisive leadership of our new president, Mary Garceau Morton. We enjoyed socials, a presentation by Hawaii TESOL President, Tony Silva, and our very first TESOL Student Mini-Conference, which is now slated as an annual event to be held in the Spring semester of each year. We’re looking forward to many more great things!
Erin Baker presenting on the first ever BYU-Hawaii Reading Competition.

Dr. Troy Cox, Dr. Ray Clifford, Dr. Liying Cheng, and Dr. Andy Curtis sit on Language Testing Panel.
Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Jihu Ju ('12)

For three years now, I’ve been teaching TOEIC prep seminars. TOEIC is one of the most important tests in Korea. Most of my job involves preparing self-made materials for the class and managing my staff members who are assisting students doing their homework and extra assignments.

I am working with my partner, Mr. Park, who makes his appearance on a popular educational TV program as well. We are working as a team. I am in charge of listening comprehension section and Mr. Park is responsible for reading comprehension.

While I was at BYUH, I focused on my speech; in other words, spoken English. That has been my asset so far now that I’m handling all kinds of questions regarding pronunciation, intonation, and listening strategies.

I’m grateful for all the blessings that I’ve been given from BYUH and all the faculty members. Your career always goes with your passion and on-going development, which I learned in one of the TESOL classes. Best wishes to all my fellow TESOL alumni!
TESOL BANQUET 2016
June & February 2016 GRADUATES

Jacob Maris "hanging out" with President Tanner and Elder Hallstrom

Ranitea Fetuani with Ellen Bunker

Deeana Goulding

Samantha Dodson

Not pictured: Chad Park, Chaelin Yu, Kierah Thurgood, Neiufi Pisila, Selmia Nababan

Elizabeth Gonzales with Leola Solis and Amanda Wallace.
Mihyang (Yang) Alwill ('03) still teaches and the DLI in Monterey, CA (in addition to being a real estate Broker!), and recently she let us know of an opening there in their Korean department. She is one of a handful of BYUH TESOL alums who have taught there.

Kari (Ellingson) Vidal ('96) stopped by a week ago while on vacation with her family to say hi to all her favorite professors. Life is still good in Utah. "Kari continues to work as a developer of the TALL program.

Juan Escalante ('15) was recently accepted into the M.A. program at BYU-Provo. Good luck to you!

Daniel Leeworthy ('06) stopped by during his vacation in April to say Hi. He’s teaching and coaching at Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

Melissa Meline ('10) just finished another bachelor's degree . . . this time in Communication Disorders and Deaf Education, and hopes to start graduate studies soon in Speech Pathology.

Ben Tam ('05) and his wife are still doing well with their Montessori early learning school in Macau, China, and emailed to say he is also working on his MBA at the University of Macau. Where do you get all that energy?!