



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**We want to hear what is happening with you!**

PhD students/

Graduates

New Jobs /Careers

Recent Activities

**Email:**

[esol@umbc.edu](mailto:esol@umbc.edu)

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# UMBC ESOL/Bilingual Program News

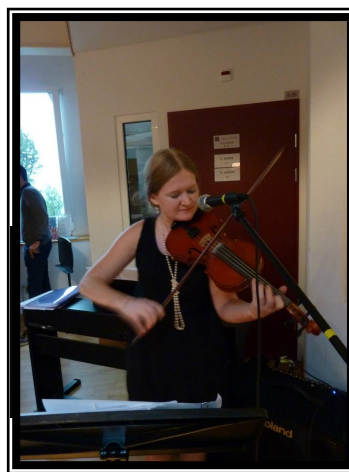
FALL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

## Alumni Updates (continued on page 3)

### Olga Kopiatina (TESOL MA)

Recently, we had the pleasure to hear from one our graduates! Some of you may remember Olga Kopiatina, who graduated earlier this year. (Spring 2013) She returned to her home country of Siberia and was met with multiple job offers! Currently, she is teaching English at the world-famous scientific center Akademgorodok and is amazed by how motivated and talented her student are.



*Olga Kopiatina (2013 graduate)*

Olga said that, "I feel very comfortable and confident teaching them [students].

Indeed, the program at UMBC has done a good job preparing me to be a teacher, a tutor, and a curriculum designer!"

### A message from Olga to program students:

***"You have a great major with job opportunities all around the world and if you ever decided to come to Russia, please visit me in Serbia or come and teach here!"***

## New TESOL Student Corner

Hello everyone! My name is Yu Hao, You can also call me Rita if you like. I come from China and I am a new graduate student to UMBC. My major is Intercultural Communication and I am doing the TESOL Certificate as well. I have experience in teaching English and Chinese back in China and I like teaching very much.

I am taking EDUC 625 this semester and I have learned not only many theories about teaching English, but also many teach-

ing strategies that I can apply in teaching both Chinese and English. I am interested in teaching languages and Dr. Shin teaches useful tools for teaching. In addition, the TESOL program organizes interesting activities like going to the Renaissance Fair and hiking. I am so glad that I am a part of the TESOL program.

**-Yu (Rita) Hao**  
**TESOL Certificate**



*Yu (Rita) Hao and Eva Piera Escriva at the Maryland Renaissance Fair*

# Congratulations to Fall 2013 Graduates!



Lauren Raubaugh and Marissa Mosk gave a short seminar on how to be a better English language learner in an EFL setting while they were teaching at the Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano in Guayaquil, Ecuador during the summer of 2012. Lauren is now teaching in China and Marissa is set to graduate in December.

The following ESOL/Bilingual MA students have applied for graduation this fall.

We wish you good luck in all your future endeavors!

Please keep in touch with the ESOL/Bilingual Program. We love hearing from you!

## MA TESOL

### Graduates:

- Veridiana Alves
- Ada Downing
- Diane Dunlap
- Sora Kim
- Marissa Mosk
- Hyunsun Oh
- Lauren Remenyi
- Emily Williamson

## TESOL Certificate

### Graduates:

- Margaret Colleluori
- Jill Dilandro
- Robert Douglass
- Alyssa Gazarek
- Lois Godboldte
- Rosemary Hsu
- Lawrence Wilt

## ESOL Club News

So far this term the ESOL Club has gone to the Maryland Renaissance Festival and gone hiking. Thanks to those of you who attended – we had a great time! The ESOL Club is here for all TESOL students so your enthusiasm and participation is what makes this club enjoyable.

I hope you all are looking forward to future events!

### Next Event:

### **East Meets West Karaoke**

When: Sat. Dec . 7th

7:30-10:30pm

Where: Meet at UMBC then carpool to Centennial Cue & Karaoke Club in Ellicott City

RSVP to [esol@umbc.edu](mailto:esol@umbc.edu) by Wed. Dec. 4th with your signed liability waiver

Keep an eye out for emails about future events.

We are currently planning for spring term:

- Ice Skating
- Washington D.C. Trip
- Flat Tuesday Meet-Ups

**-Anna Smoot, MA TESOL**



*Current Students  
Youn Hee Lee, Stephanie Eldridge and Ryan Sheldon at the Maryland Renaissance Faire with the ESOL Club*



## Thoughts from Current Students

My name is Kate AlHakeem. I started working on my MA in Spring 2013 in Dr. Nelson's Methods course. Since then, I've switched to being an online-only student because my daughter, Claire, was born on August 14, 2013. Additionally, I moved to Salisbury, Maryland so that my husband could work on his Physician Assistant MA at

UMES. So this year, I am working on my MA and taking care of my daughter. So far, it's been wonderful to have the flexibility the program offers me. I hope to work in a K-12 school after finishing the program. Prior to my move and my baby, I worked in Baltimore City Public Schools for four years as a Spanish teacher.

-Kate AlHakeem, MA TESOL



*Colleen Shaughnessy  
(Alumni)*

*Teaching kickball at a summer camp in Kyrgyzstan*

## Alumni Updates—Continued

### **Colleen Shaughnessy (ESOL MA)**

After graduating in 2006, Colleen worked as an ESL instructor at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin and volunteered at a binational center in Bolivia.

In 2009-2010 she had the joy of working as an English Language Fellow in South Africa and Kyrgyzstan. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Adult Education at Penn State University.

Colleen says, "My MA degree and the professors at UMBC have been instrumental in my professional path post-UMBC and I am deeply grateful to the university and program."

### **Brittany Csar (ICC MA)**

Brittany was a certificate student at the UMBC ESOL Program. She is a full time Spanish teacher at Mountain Christian School in Joppa, MD and has been teaching ESL at Harford Community College for the last 5 years!

### **Susan Fedors (ISD MA)**

Susan was also a certificate student in our program in 1995. She currently teaches ESL at the English Institute at Howard Community College. Though she has taught a variety of courses throughout her career, she greatly enjoys teaching pronunciation.

### **Karen Gibson (ESOL MA)**

At the moment Karen teaches ESL in Prince George's County and is a National Board Certified Teacher Candidate (2013-2014).

### **Karen J. Blinder, PhD (ESOL MA)**

Karen is a very busy alumna in the Maryland area. She is presently teaching at the ELI (English Language Institute at UMBC), Prince George's Community College's Department of Language Studies and the American English Language Program at Montgomery College in Takoma Park. Additionally, she is a part time Testing and Evaluation Specialist at the ELI.

### **Jill Bond (ESOL MA)**

All the way from California, Jill told our program that she is teaching ESL at Berkeley City College, where she teaches a mix of international students and immigrants. In the summer she teaches for the Summer English Language Studies Program at UC-Berkeley. In the future she hopes to earn a PhD in Language, Literacy and Culture or Education Administration.

### **Heather Linville (ESOL MA)**

Still in the Baltimore area, Heather is an instructor at American University. She is also a PhD candidate in UMBC's Language, Literacy and Culture Program. Her research focuses on the ways in which K-12 public school teachers meet the TESOL/NCATE standard's call to be advocates for their English Language Learners.



## ESOL/Bilingual Program

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**We're on Facebook! Search: UMBC ESOL Program**

## Spring 2014 UMBC-Maryland TESOL Graduate Student Conference

**Save the Date: March 1, 2014**

**Calls for proposals will be announced in January**

**The RCLC has a brand new webpage!  
[www.umbc.edu/rclc](http://www.umbc.edu/rclc)**

# Maryland TESOL Fall Conference

This year was my first time attending the Maryland TESOL Conference. I found my first experience to be rewarding not only because of the presentations, but because of the informal conversations with other students and experienced teachers. The conference offered a broad range of concurrent activities, which made it challenging to decide which sessions to attend.

I attended the keynote presentation by Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld and Dr. Maria G. Dove about Collabora-

tive Teaching, as well as three sessions. In the first, representatives from the Esperanza Center exhibited ways of using YouTube videos as a resource for teaching. Another emphasized the importance of integrating basic life skills into language learning. Last was a session devoted to creating intercultural dialogues to enhance English conversation programs.

In addition to the seminars, there was an array of instructional material samples available by ex-

hibitors and even a raffle! At first anxious about the crowd of unfamiliar faces at lunch, I found myself sitting next to a former Maryland TESOL President who shared her experiences in teaching as well as her experiences with Maryland TESOL organization. The conference offered inspiring information for the classroom and beyond and will hopefully be the first of many TESOL experiences.

**-Lauren Bostic, TESOL Certificate**

*"I found my first experience to be rewarding not only because of the presentations, but because of the informal conversations with other students and experienced teachers."*