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SPEAKING OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

BY PATRICIA GODINEZ, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Welcome to a new Fall semester and more uncertainty. It is our hope that despite all the challenges we are facing, you can rest assured that we are here to support you and that we appreciate all that you are doing to keep our department going.

It has indeed been a whirlwind of information and fluctuations these past few months, but we have remained strong and healthy as a department, and for that, I am eternally thankful.

This newsletter is meant to keep you all in the loop as much as possible about the issues that impact us directly as a department. Please share your announcements, insights, and ideas with us as the semester progresses and we will be sure to include them. The newsletters are always posted on our department website.

We will be available to you for office hours in the office as well as virtually and our office hours will be posted and updated each week.

As your Department Chair and Co-Chair, Kevin, Paulette, and I are committed to ensuring that we are in communication with you all and with your students. Please encourage them to stop by our office to share and ask us questions.

We will have a suggestion box at the front desk for students to drop off any insights and questions that may arise.

Finally, please share any special notes and thank you emails you get from students. We are working on a Kuddo Board to display in the department for those messages we get from time to time from our students so that they do not go unnoticed. Stay strong, colleagues.

We are all in this together and we will get through it.

FALL 2021 ESL COMMITTEE

CECILIA CHAN, COMMITTEE CHAIR

Our committee meetings will be on the following dates:

- Thursday, Sept 9
- Thursday, Oct. 14
- Tuesday, Nov. 16
- Thursday, Dec. 9

Future ESL committee Zoom Link:

<https://laccd.zoom.us/j/99126766268>

ENGLISH 100/101/72 COMMITTEE

ELENA TINKER DIAZ AND DINA SZLAREK, COMMITTEE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

This semester we are excited about the possibilities offered by the expanded offerings of English100 as well as the pairing of English 101/72 with FYE. Whether you are teaching English 100 or 101/72 now, you are considering teaching either in the future, or you just want to join us to chat, we invite you to attend our committee meetings!

Committee Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, September 7
- Tuesday, October 5
- Tuesday, November 2

T&L WORKSHOPS

DATA: MAKING THE CASE FOR EQUITY IN STEM

Friday, September 10

10:30-12

Facilitators: Lilit Haroyan, Raymond Oropeza, & Steven Reynolds

Not all students experience our STEM classes in the same way. In this workshop, participants will engage in discussions on the importance of equity issues in STEM, equity gaps in success and retention in STEM fields, and resources for accessing equity data. Participants also will explore teaching and learning strategies to improve equity in student outcomes.

APPLYING GROWTH MINDSET AND COMMUNITY CULTURAL WEALTH: MODELS TO INCREASE STUDENT EQUITY

Wednesday, September 15

10:30-12

Facilitators: Arpi Festekjian & Mandy Kronbeck

Participants will explore the equity gaps that exist at our college and learn how asset-minded practices can help close those equity gaps. The two theoretical models, Community Cultural Wealth and Growth Mindset, will be considered to examine how they can be applied to our teaching and services to foster student success. Participants will discuss effective ways to adopt an appreciative lens when working and creating classroom or office environments that support students as individuals with cultural capital and growth potential.

THE LEARNING PIT

Friday, September 17

10:00-11:30

Facilitator: Elena Tinker Diaz

Teachers light the way and welcome students into their disciplines, but they cannot and should not be the sole source of illumination in the classroom. This workshop will explore how to foster independent learners through normalizing struggle and offering goal-oriented feedback. Participants will examine how these approaches of supporting students through cognitive as well as facilitation strategies can be applied to their own practice.

CULTURE MATTERS: HOW TO SUPPORT CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING

Friday, September 24

11-12:30

Facilitator: Rokeya Rohman

This workshop will examine how to foster culturally sensitive teaching and to understand students through the lens of the cultural contexts that they bring into the classroom. Since culturally responsive teaching practices strengthen student-teacher relationships and bridge the cultural and equity gaps, it is imperative to cultivate this practice into our curriculum and instruction. Therefore, this workshop will create space to analyze and reflect on our own teaching methods and identify several effective strategies to create and support culturally sensitive teaching pedagogy.

T&L WORKSHOPS CAN BE ACCESSED @
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/TEACHING-LEARNING-SERIES](https://bit.ly/teaching-learning-series)

ENGLISH 102, 103, LIT, AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

RAEANNA GLEASON AND LUIS OROZCO, COMMITTEE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

We meet every second Tuesday of the month from 12:10 pm to 1:30 pm.

All are welcome to join us!

Fall Meetings:

- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14

This semester we will be expanding outreach efforts for the English Major, developing new classes around Screen Writing and Literary Theory, hosting a university fair for English majors, and continuing to support our English Majors Club.

We have also created an English Majors Module in Canvas that includes information on the AA-T in English, the English Majors Club, literature course offerings, video of our Alumni Student Panel, and other resources. Please embed this Module into your own Canvas pages in order to introduce more students to our major.

Also, as you develop your Canvas page, we request that you please embed the "English Major" Module that you can find in our English Dept Canvas page. It has resources and guidelines for the English Major, and we would like to expose as many students as possible to increase the number of English majors on campus.

Best of luck in the fall, and please reach out to us with any questions!

ENGLISH 101 COMMITTEE

KRISHANA HODGSON-DE SILVA, COMMITTEE CHAIR

The English 101 committee will be meeting on the last Tuesday of the month during college hour. Please join us to take part in important norming session and discuss best practices for improving retention and completion.

- Tuesday, September 28 from 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 26 from 12:10- 1:30 pm (Norming)
- Tuesday, November 30 from 12:10-1:30 pm

Looking forward to seeing you there!

OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES (OER)/ LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS:

There are several Open Educational resources in the Canvas shell, I highly encourage you to look these resources and consider using them for your class.

Additionally, the Annotated Bibliography and Research Paper can be a challenge for many 101 students, please consider having a library presentation in your class that can help walk students through this process.

The library has excellent MLA Canvas modules that can be imported into your classes, these can also be found in the Speaking of English Canvas shell.

If you have any questions regarding OER please email me.

READING COMMITTEE

LAUREN FIGUEROA, COMMITTEE CHAIR

The following are our scheduled reading meeting dates for the fall 2021 semester:

- September 14th
- October 12th
- November 9th
- December 14th

All meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month except for our first meeting which is the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Meeting times are during college hour of 12:10-1:30pm to ensure there is no conflict with classes. Meeting agenda to come soon. Have a great day and we look forward to seeing you there!

ENGLISH ONLINE INSTRUCTION (EOI) COMMITTEE

MANDY CONCOFF KRONBECK AND GREG MENA COMMITTEE CHAIR AND COCHAIR

The EOI committee will resume its regular meeting pattern--every third Tuesday of the month--beginning in September.

The EOI is a subcommittee within the English Department that focuses on sharing best practices for online instruction and provide support, mentorship, and community for English online instructors.

We will meet at the following days/times during the Fall 2021 semester:

- September 21, 2021 12:10 to 1:30 pm
- October 19, 2021 12:10 to 1:30 pm
- November 16, 2021 12:10 to 1:30 pm

All faculty are invited to attend and to contribute!
[Sign up in the Vision Resource Center.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOLORES CARLOS, OUR NEW SI DIRECTOR!

The English SI Program is currently seeking to hire new SI Leaders for the Spring 2022 semester. You can download application materials using the following links:

- [SI Leader Application Form](#)
- [SI Leader Faculty Recommendation Form](#)

If you are interested in working with an SI Leader, please contact Dolores Carlos @carlosmd@elac.edu

CONGRATULATIONS TO RUTH BLANDÓN, OUR NEW HONOR'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR!

For details about the Honors Program, visit [https://
www.elac.edu/Academics/Programs/Honors](https://www.elac.edu/Academics/Programs/Honors)

LANGUAGE LAB HOURS OF OPERATION AND SERVICES

On campus hours will be
M-Th 9:00 am. – 7:00 pm and
Fridays: 9:30 am– 4:00 pm

We are finalizing the tutors' schedules as some of them are still enrolling in classes, but we will have in-person E.S.L. tutors in addition to online.

Classroom and open lab: We are enforcing a 50% room capacity. Thus, E3-175 (classroom) will only have 25 computers available for use, and the open lab area has 24.

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"BEING IGNORANT IS NOT SO MUCH A SHAME,
AS BEING UNWILLING TO LEARN."

– BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

THE READING AND WRITING CENTER

GISELA HERRERA, DIRECTOR

ELAC READING & WRITING CENTER

FREE TUTORING SERVICES ONLINE & IN PERSON

- 45 MINUTE ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING SESSIONS.
- GRAMMAR, WRITING, MLA & APA WORKSHOPS.

FALL 2021 HOURS

ONLINE HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

IN PERSON HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

* HOURS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO COVID-19 *

CONTACT

(626) 869-8597

OR

(323) 415-4147

LOCATION

E3-220



TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE VISIT
WWW.ELACREADINGWRITINGCENTER.ORG

1301 AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754

SAVE THE DATE: MILESTONE RELEASE PARTY FALL 2021!

FOREWORD FOR MILESTONE 2021

Milestone and I have a very special relationship. I'm a poet, but I wasn't always. I was afraid, angry, and confused with no outlet and no focus. Milestone allowed me to speak, but more importantly, enabled me to hear my voice for the first time. I became a student at East Los Angeles College in 2010, a year after I graduated high school. My twin brother was bombarded with postcards from Ivy League schools, local powerhouses, and other highly regarded institutions. I, received gifts from the military. I found myself in a remedial math class in the winter of 2010—my last chance.

I bounced around between art, music, and architecture before I found, or rather, writing found me. I had no vision or idea of a future besides cleaning the grill at McDonald's and hanging drywall. But that grill was spotless and the drywall, perfect. Between jobs and between trying to navigate through whatever journey I was on, poetry was never far behind. Sleepless nights were accompanied by words I was too scared to ever speak, emotions that were more than shrugs, and reservations protecting what was fragile. It was time.

I dropped out of architecture and enrolled in a creative writing course taught by Susan Suntree in 2012. One assignment was to submit to Milestone. I had no idea what it was, and I definitely had no idea how much my life would change because of it.

I was published. Milestone 2013 published some work of mine.

I was never fortunate enough to meet Carol Lem, who was at the helm of Milestone for thirty years, and whose legacy remains as vibrant today as ever. Her successors, Joan Gurfield, Alexis Solis, Dolores Carlos, and Diane Mannone not only continued Milestone, they offered hope.

When asked to sign up for the release party/ reading for Milestone 2013, I immediately scoffed at the idea. I would never. But life is funny. A year later, I sauntered into Gurfield's office and sheepishly asked if it would be okay for me to read a poem that wasn't in the

journal. She was supportive, excited, and said yes. So, I began to write a poem—a poem that would become the most important piece of writing of my entire life.

Milestone provided me with an opportunity that was equally mystifying and humbling. It was never a dream of mine that I would be face to face with strangers as I screamed, cried, and shook. Yet somehow, on November 26, 2013, my entire life and my entire future converged into those few minutes on stage.

I knew after that moment Milestone had given me something precious, I just didn't quite know what it was.

Eight years ago, I walked onto a stage, and I write this now as the faculty advisor of Milestone with by all graces the opportunity to work with amazing minds and now call my former professors and mentors, colleagues. With a newfound perspective, and a student's heart, I carry hope that Milestone will give generations and generations of students what it had given me—a future.

Milestone 2021 is a collection of work that represents the ELAC community. Work by English majors, STEM majors, artists, engineers, faculty, and staff are forever bound within these pages just as we are all bound to ELAC. It represents the beauty and the ugliness of the Husky family as well as the tenacity and pride of all those who walk these halls.

So now, as people across the world begin to reintroduce themselves to one another, as we honor those we've lost, and as we look toward a brighter future, let us embrace the beauty of art; let us remember the power that we carry each and every day, and let us continue to build and grow our communities. Milestone has a storied past and its legacy thrives with each new class of students. Thank you to everyone who made this issue possible, and as with those who had come before and those to come after, start at ELAC, go anywhere.

—Matthew Mejia, May 2021

Introducing

MILESTONE 2021



Milestone 2021 features work by students, faculty, and staff from all across the ELAC community as well as tributes to Genice Everhart and Carol Lem.

Former and current faculty & staff contributors include:
Amanda Andrade, Anna Morrison, Cory Youngblood, Daniel Lambert, Dennis Sanchez, Giovan Alonzi, Gisela Herrera, Javier Marquez, Jenell Rae, Joan Gurfield, Luis Agregan, Patricia Godinez, Regis Bell, & Susan Suntree.

Join us for the official release/ reading event in the fall.
Date, Location, Time : TBA

Contact Patricia Godinez to get your copy today!