

EPDE Newsletter

News from the *EFL/ESL Program via Distance Education*

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Announcement from DE Coordinator

Registration for the spring semester for returning students will begin on October 22nd, 2009. Authorization is required for all online courses, so regardless of your registration appointment, please request authorization early by emailing deregstr@indiana.edu. Authorization requests will be accepted as of October 19th, 2009. Please be sure when requesting authorization for a course that you include your name, student ID number, the course number, and the section/class number. If you have any questions regarding authorizations or registration, please contact Sara Gibson at deregstr@indiana.edu.



constructivist approach and incorporating technology in teaching, following the examples set by my professors at IU.

Having such responsibility in a leadership position was a challenging and amazing growing experience. I was able to work with instructors from different departments who were at different stages in their teaching career. For some of them, teaching at SEEU was their first teaching job; others had taught for years before joining the university.

The ISC was established in March 2005, under the umbrella of the USAID-financed Higher Education Linkage Project between IU and SEEU. The main goal for setting up the ISC was to create an opportunity for additional SEEU teacher professional development with training sessions in three specific areas: English language, current teaching methodology, and incorporation of technology in teaching (MS Excel, MS Power Point, MS Access, etc and the usage of ANGEL software.)

The methodology workshops aimed to familiarize the SEEU instructors with the current trends in teaching in order to enable them to adjust their teaching methods and promote a more student-centered classroom. We shared ideas about teaching and activities teachers could do to make their classes more efficient and interesting. As much as I had to offer to them from what I learned at IU, I also received new knowledge from them. It was a mutual process: new ideas blended with years of experience in teaching.

To ensure quality education, while retaining the leading role in the country and the region as a whole, SEEU introduced new online course management software (CMT) called ANGEL through the Instructional Support Center (ISC). SEEU was the first institution in Macedonia and the Balkan region that invested in developing and introducing an online environment for learning and teaching through the application of this kind of software. Helping professors incorporate the ANGEL software as part of their teaching set presented some challenges for

My Success Story

Feature Story by Emilija Zlatkovska

I wrote for the audience of the EPDE newsletter several years ago. Back then I reflected on my experience while completing my master's degree at Indiana University (IU) with the School of Education and the new role I acquired at South East European University (SEEU) where I taught upon returning to my country, Republic of Macedonia. I served as a resource to my colleagues and attempted to set an example for teaching by applying the knowledge I gained at IU. I expressed my wish to return to IU in the future to take advantage of the available resources and further expand my knowledge. People say to be careful what we wish for because sometimes our wishes come true.



Not long after my return to Macedonia, in addition to teaching an EFL methods class to pre-service teachers, I was appointed to serve as the director of the Instructional Support Center (ISC) at SEEU. Having background in Language Education with IU's School of Education and taking courses like CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) and TESOL methods and material development, made me the perfect candidate for the position. I was keen on promoting the con-

"I was keen on promoting the constructivist approach and incorporating technology in teaching following the examples set by my professors at IU."

me as the leader of this project. Some of those challenges involved helping them overcome their fear of technology, teaching them the technical aspects of the software and the appropriate methodology for using the software in a blended approach to teaching. After one semester of hard work, the project proved to be very successful. Approximately 88% of the SEEU faculty began using the software.

The ISC project ended in May 2007 marked with a special ceremony where each ISC member gave a presentation on knowledge gained during the eighteen month training program with ISC. Based on predetermined criteria (primarily, a consistent attendance record in workshops and classes, and usage of ANGEL in teaching), laptop computers were awarded to the top 21 members and Certificates to all participants as a final recognition and reward for commitment to the program.

From this experience I learned that knowledge comes in different shapes and from different directions. We need to be open to accept or modify that knowledge and use it accordingly. I realized that challenge is good and makes one seek more knowledge. Working with older and more experienced professors who struggled with incorporating technology as part of their teaching is what challenged me to search for more knowledge and continue to grow in my career. My wish did come true. I returned to IU's School of Education as a doctoral student pursuing my interest of incorporating technology in teaching by promoting constructivist approach. Hopefully upon completing my degree and returning to my country I will continue to serve as a resource for my colleagues and make the task of technology incorporation in teaching less challenging.

About the author

Emilija is a Ph.D. candidate from Republic of Macedonia. In 2003 she was awarded a scholarship that provided her the opportunity to obtain MS degree in Language Education. Upon completing her master's degree she returned to her country where she taught a variety of courses to EFL pre-service teachers while running an Instructional Support Center for in-service instructor training. In 2007 she returned to IU to pursue a doctorate degree. Her research interest focuses on incorporating technology in teaching EFL.

EPDE courses in upcoming semester

All EPDE teaching certificate courses will be offered in the Spring semester.

- L530 Teaching English in Global Contexts
- L540 ESL/EFL Instruction and Assessment Approaches
- L539 Language Foundations for ESL/EFL teachers
- L530 Computer Assisted Language Learning
- L525 Practicum in Language Education

L530 Teaching English in the Global Contexts will be offered for the first time. The course is designed to offer educators a glimpse into the some of the pressing challenges facing English language instruction while investigating evolving definitions and roles for English as a global language. The courses for the EFL/ESL teacher trainer certificate are not yet offered. For more information about the class schedule, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/yz55c6p>. If you have questions about the courses, please email Sara Gibson at deregstr@indiana.edu.

Technology & English Teaching

www.teachertrainingvideos.com

Teacher training videos are screen casts that take teachers through a variety of technologies they may find useful in



Russell Stannard, the creator and manager of [teachertrainingvideos.com](http://www.teachertrainingvideos.com)

teaching. There is a general section for all teachers and a special section of videos for teachers involved with English as second language. The videos have proved popular with around 10,000 teachers worldwide making use of them. Funded through various grants and awards, the free teacher training videos are regularly updated. Additionally, free monthly newsletters provide you with updates and even more free content. Please visit www.teachertrainingvideos.com.



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