Christmas greetings from the Chair . . .

The last 6 months have been filled with much work and accomplishment and celebration. First and foremost we must recognize the presence of our prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, in December. He, and counselor, Henry B. Eyring, came to enjoy a cultural festival put on by over 2000 youth (series of 10-minute clips can be seen on YouTube) and rededicate the Laie temple which had been closed for renovations for 2 years.

We also recognize the accomplishments of our students. Our best wishes go out to those who recently graduated. In addition to giving our students work, several of our faculty recently saw their work published and several made presentations at conferences in Vietnam, New Zealand and Korea. We’ve also worked hard to further the online courses in EIL and revamp the curriculum on both the EIL and TESOL programs.

The next 6 months will surely be filled with many more opportunities. We look forward to the inaugural Alice Pack lecture, which will be delivered in February by Dr. Lynn Henrichsen, member of the Department of Linguistics at Provo and the annual Hawaii TESOL conference which is being chaired by Mark James and held right here at BYU-Hawaii.

As this year comes to a close, we wish to thank you all for your contributions to the department and for all that you do as students, faculty and alumni in fulfilling mission and destiny of BYU-Hawaii. We enjoy our association with you and find great pride in your work and in your lives. We wish you all the best this Christmas season, and pray that the new year will bring you many opportunities for growth and achievement.
The EIL program is ready to shift into a major curricular change in the Winter 2011 semester. After going without them for two years, we are adding supplementary classes back into the program. During the EIL placement meeting that at the end of the Fall 2010 semester, teacher discussion indicated that having a variety of supplementary classes is helpful for targeting specific language needs of students. We are sure that this will be a positive change for students who are working to build their academic English proficiency.

We are also replacing one class at the Advanced II level with four credits of required electives. Students will have one year after finishing the core Advanced II class (EIL 320) to complete these credits. We hope that allowing students to take these classes after gaining some initial experience in GE classes and their major will help them to better understand their own language needs and then address those needs with the EIL elective classes. In the end, we hope that giving students the ability to choose part of the direction of their English study will increase their motivation and, consequently, increase the quality of their academic English learning.

M. Wolfersberger, EIL Coordinator
Several members of the ELT faculty presented at conferences in the last 6 months. Lynne Hansen travelled to Hanoi, Vietnam to present a paper on language attrition with several research associates (George Lo, Eun Soo Kim, and Suwon Lee) at the 2010 Asia TEFL Conference. They were met (and wonderfully hosted) by Lan Ho, who graduated in TESOL a couple years ago and now lives in Hanoi.

In September, Wendy Larson gave a paper (on games for vocabulary acquisition/review) at the CLESOL 2010 Conference in Dunedin, New Zealand. (We should be so lucky!) The paper was well-attended and she was shortly thereafter invited to write an article for their newsletter.

In October, Mark (James) flew to Seoul, South Korea, where he delivered a paper at the Korea TESOL Conference on how to effectively organize and present a conference poster. Highlighting the need for his presentation, the poster session at the conference was cancelled because of a lack of submissions! Mark was also able to meet up with several recent TESOL alumni in the Seoul area.
EIL courses have now been offered online from BYUH since Spring, 2008. The project work has had a major impact on the ELT department here at BYUH and a review of the projects reveals important achievements.

For example, over three hundred students have enrolled for these courses since the first pilot Intermediate II Reading course. The students enrolled in these courses come from nearly all of the countries in our target area in Asia and the numbers are starting to increase in the Pacific.

Five courses are currently available for distance students—Intermediate I Reading, and Intermediate II Reading, Writing, Listening/Speaking, and Church Language.

The new course under development is Intermediate I Writing. The development team includes Ellen Bunker, Yeo Jeong Kim, Leola Solis, Amanda Wallace, Gael Weberg. Yeo is a TESOL student in our program.

The development of the distance education EIL courses has involved many people in the department over the last couple of years, including 6 TESOL majors on development teams and more than 15 students who have worked as online tutors. Two TESOL graduates, Alexis Young ('09) and Amy Colton Gomez ('09), are also teaching online classes.

The project has provided many professional development opportunities for the department. Faculty have presented information about the online EIL courses at fourteen different professional conferences in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Spain, The Netherlands, Thailand, and the United States. Eight of those presentations included TESOL student presenters.

As shown by these examples, the development of online EIL courses has been a major undertaking for the ELT department, but one which has provided many opportunities for both faculty and students.
Inaugural Alice Pack Lecture
February 17th

With the 100th anniversary of Alice Pack’s birth coming in 2011, the department decided to honor her with a new lecture series (annual). Dr. Alice Pack was instrumental in the birth and development of the TESOL major and taught courses from 1966-1980. She, more than anyone, helped to give our program an international reputation. Because of his close working relationship with Alice, Dr. Lynn Henrichsen has been chosen to offer the inaugural lecture.

Lynn taught in our department from 1977-1991, after which he “transferred” to the Linguistics department in Provo, where he was recently the chair. He is the author and presenter of numerous publications and papers. We look forward to hearing of his memories of working with Alice, among other things.
After reviewing much feedback from seniors and alumni, a proposal has been sent up to the Dean’s Council that will result, we hope, in a fairly major change to our B.A.TESOL program. We hope to hear soon from the University Curriculum Committee.

For years, seniors and alumni have been requesting several additions or changes: more grammar, more practice teaching opportunities, some introduction to small business principles, and some instruction on classroom management (particularly with very young learners). In response, we have proposed adding an additional credit hour to TESOL 426 (grammar), and have proposed one new course for the major (TESOL 430-Teaching English to Younger Learners). Aubrey Olsen, who has training and experience with the earliest elementary grades, laid the ground work for this new course.

Regarding the need for some business savvy, thanks to the School of Business folks, we now have a course which we can strongly recommend as an elective: BUS 393 (small business principles for non-business majors). As for increased practical application opportunities, we have made a couple small improvements to syllabi, but this remains our chief concern.

In order not to add to the length of time necessary to graduate, or increase the already difficult task of scheduling coursework, all the advanced methods courses (TESOL 424-430) will enter a pool from which majors will choose five.

Our fingers are crossed as we await a final decision from “upstairs.”
Over the past 10 years, we have had a number of graduates teach for the Defense Language Institutes in Monterey, CA and at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas. Some of our graduates have pursued master’s degrees at the Monterey Institute for International Studies, and the opportunity to teach at the DLI nearby (including their MIIS tuition benefit!) has been a real blessing, especially for our Koreans. In fact, the Korean Department at the DLI in Monterey is chaired by one of our early graduates, Kyu Jung “Amanda” Covell (’80).

ESL instruction is mainly conducted at the DLI in San Antonio, and 2 of our recent graduates, Kim Mason (’04) and Rodger Meservy (’00), have been working there for the past several years and say the employment conditions and opportunities are amazing. In Rodger’s words, “I hope to retire here!” According to Kim and Rodger, there are a number of openings at the DLI in San Antonio at the moment (and for the foreseeable future) and highly recommend working there. According to Kim and Rodger, one of the benefits of working at the DLI is the opportunity to travel to other countries on short or long teaching assignments (see photos).

If you would like more details you may email Rodger (rodgerkun@gmail.com) or Kim (kimmasonry@gmail.com). The minimum requirements are: native-like fluency, undergraduate degree in ESL/EFL; English; foreign languages and one year of professional level experience teaching ESL/EFL to adults, and American citizenship.
Our TESOL majors enjoyed another fun-filled semester. In addition to our seniors enjoying the TESOL 400 Testing & Research class with Bro. James, they organized a trip to Honolulu for the Hawaii TESOL opening social and also enjoyed a barbeque behind TVA. We congratulate Jihu Ju and Rebecca Haymore for their courage--both accepted positions on the Hawaii TESOL Board of Directors. All of us look forward to helping BYU-Hawaii look great in hosting the upcoming annual Hawaii TESOL conference (Feb 19th, 2011).
Annual Fall Poster Session

People tell us the annual TESOL senior poster session just keeps getting better! We had posters on a huge variety of topics and many of them were no doubt ready to be submitted to next year’s Hawaii TESOL conference. (hint, hint!) We hope the underclassmen got a good look at what will be expected of them next year.

We wish to thank, once again, those members of President Wheelwright’s Leadership Council who helped in the judging. We also congratulate Li Mei Low for being chosen as our representative in the Winner’s Circle the following day (Annual BYU-H Great Ideas Conference)
Congratulations Graduates!

Top left to right: 1) Terri Wu (left), 2) Vanessa Martins, 3) HanNa Park (left)

Bottom left to right: 1) Melissa Meline, Yan Kit “George” Lo, 2) Jungyong Kim, Terri Wu, Sonoka Sato, Vanessa Martins, Tomoka Yoshimura
Jeremi & Rebacca Brewer ('08) recently “received” an addition to their family. Congrats! They finished their PhD coursework at Texas A&M (only 3 years after graduating from BYUH--new world record!). They are moving to Mexico City where they will be busy directing their Center for Creating Enterprise.

Tarryn Goodman ('10) finished her studies, and after 6 months in Taiwan (with Naomi Asai ’10), has returned to the US where she now is a 7th grade ESL teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia.

Sayuri Horii ('10) said she enjoyed attending the JALT conference in Nagoya, but was surprised to see that most of the presenters and attendees were gaijin, not Japanese. (She also said the poster session wasn’t nearly as good as ours.) Well, Sayuri, it’s up to you to lead the charge!!

Natsuki Ichikawa ('10) wrote to say that she is now taking coursework in order to obtain the J-SHINE Certificate, which is a fairly popular certificate program in Japan which prepares ESL teachers to work with elementary school-aged children.

Rodger Meservy ('00) emailed to say that he has never been happier. His work for the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas has been very rewarding. In his own words, “I’ll be happy to retire here!” He and his wife recently spent 6 months in Cairo on assignment.

Mafiosamoa Palepoi ('00) said she is busy as TESL trainer for US Peace Corps in Samoa. With her B.A. she is training M.A. people on how to teach in the Samoan context. She advised future TESOL grads to not be discouraged by the challenges faced during their first year of work. “It gets better after that!”

Justin Shewell ('00) returned from the Middle East where he has been earning millions and is now working on his PhD at Arizona State University, in Educational Technology.
Cathy Wong ('04) deserves our highest respect for having finished her PhD at Texas Tech. University. We wish her well as she contemplates her career options.

Urim Yi ('08) just finished her M.A. in TESOL at Provo and looks forward to publishing an article on her thesis results with one of her faculty mentors. Her thesis was entitled, "The Effect of Content Revision Logs and Student-Teacher Conferences on ESL Student Writing."

Stephen Templin ('94) just announced the publication of what he hopes will become a New York Times Bestseller: SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper (St. Martins Press). He's already been contracted to write 2 more novels. Maybe he'll become our most famous TESOL grad ever!