

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to our First Newsletter

BY DR. HESSA ABA ALALAA

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to open the first edition of the ELI Newsletter. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who worked hard to launch this newsletter. I feel proud and privileged to be part of ELI and I would like to say to my colleagues in ELI that your professionalism, integrity, and sincerity are admired and beyond question.

The year is flying by! Summer is just around the corner and much excitement is on the horizon for the ELI. We have had quite a year thus far and we are not slowing down anytime soon. As the program develops, we look forward to hearing from you so that we can continue to improve.

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming symposium event and have a wonderful summer vacation.



Editor's Note

BY HANADI ALSHOGIRAN

As we come to the end of another successful academic year at Princess Nourah University, we thought we would share some wonderful accomplishments with our hardworking team. What better way of sharing this in the form of a newsletter? The English Language Institutes Newsletter is a monthly issue that caters to our teachers and managerial staff. We intend to make it a regular publication and to use it to keep you in touch with news and developments which relate to ELI as well as sharing insights from our own teachers, materials and much more.

Since we want the newsletter to be as relevant as possible to your teaching needs and overall wellbeing, we look forward to hearing your comments on the first issue. ([click here for survey](#)) I hope you enjoy this overview of what happened in our department at PNU over the past year.

Finally, I wish you all a delightful summer and hope that you manage to get lots of rest. I look forward to seeing everyone back in August, for a fruitful new academic year.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	May 1, 2018
EVENT	2nd Semester Final Exam
DATE	May 13 - 16, 2018
EVENT	PNU Annual Symposium
DATE	May 17, 2018
EVENT	End of Year Award Ceremony
DATE	May 31, 2018
EVENT	Happy Summer!



*“WITHOUT
AMBITION ONE
STARTS
NOTHING.
WITHOUT WORK,
ONE FINISHES
NOTHING. THE
PRIZE WILL NOT
BE SENT TO YOU.
YOU HAVE TO
WIN IT.”*



PNU ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

BY ASHWAQ ALJAHLAN &
HODA AHMED

PNU 2nd Symposium,

Theme: "Current Perspectives and Practices in ELT"

Date: 13th-16th of May

Guest speakers & Workshops: International experts in the field/in-house trainers

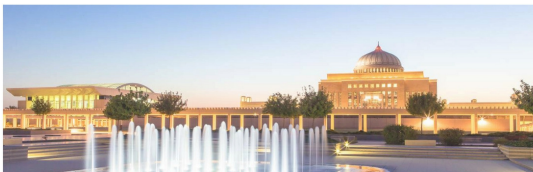
We are committed to the professional development of our teachers, and academic management staff and as a result, we have planned comprehensive professional development opportunities through this year's symposium and we aim to offer a highly practical, engaging and rewarding learning experience with leading trainers/experts in ELT and our own in-house trainers. With this year's symposium, we are hoping to end the academic year (2017/2018) on a high note.

During the week there will be 8 plenary sessions and 42 workshops running simultaneously. We have injected variety into the PD week, by offering 42 workshops and 8 plenary sessions. Every day will begin with a stimulating and informative plenary session followed by a variety of interactive workshops.

The workshops themselves are elective, in that teachers can choose what workshops they are interested in attending but are required to attend at least 6 workshops over the course of the week. Certificates will be given to teachers who are in attendance.

Thursday will be the end of year ceremony in which management members and teachers efforts will be recognized and appreciated.

The Development team hopes you have a beneficial and enjoyable week.



PNU ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

MAY 13- 17

Princess Nourah University English
Language Institute is Proud to
Present its:

Annual Symposium with 4 world-renowned
guest speakers, 4 plenary input sessions, 42
workshops

**To register for the workshops, please click
on the links below.**

[Click here to register for workshops
on Sunday, May 13th](#)

[Click here to register for workshops
on Monday, May 14th](#)

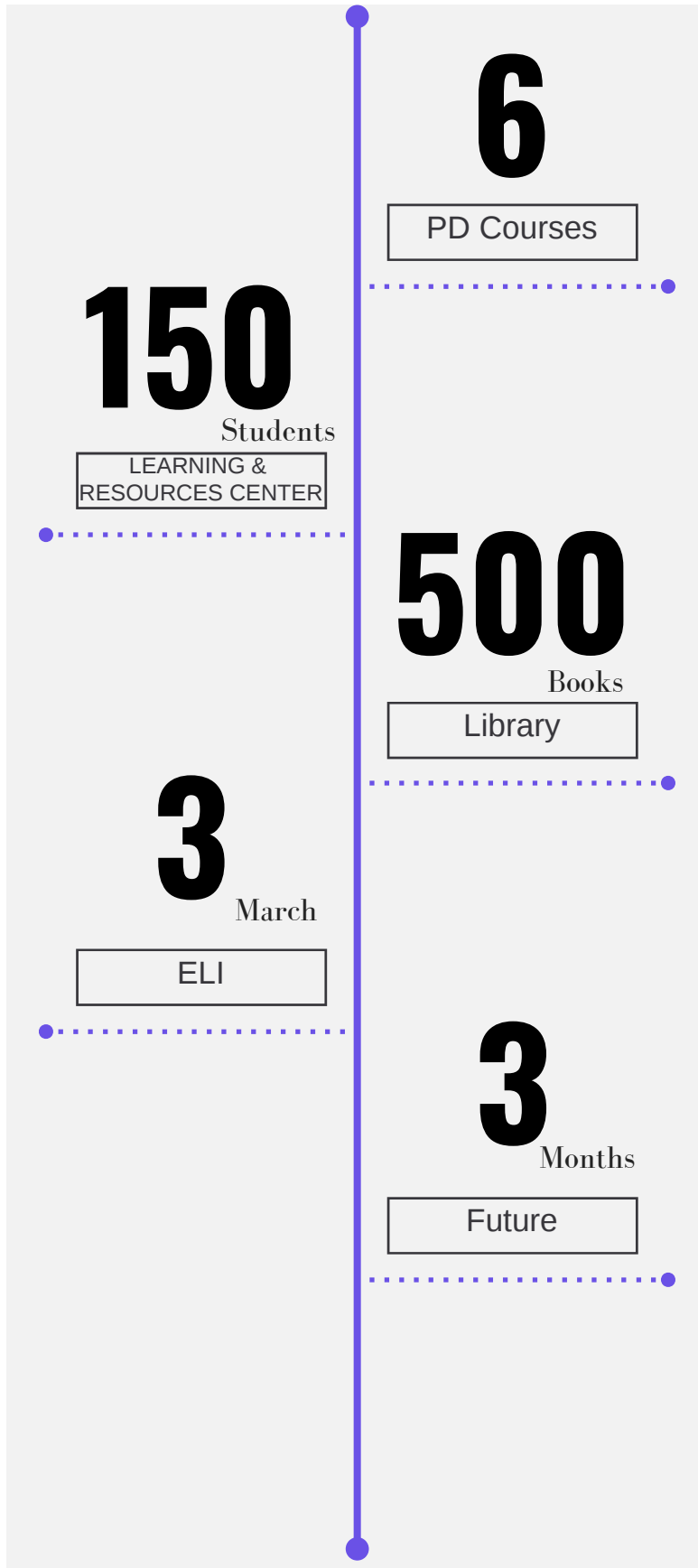
[Click here to register for workshops
on Tuesday, May 15th](#)

[Click here to register for workshops
on Wednesday, May 16th](#)



ELI Highlights

BY MEHVASH ISLAM



This year began on an extremely positive note; with a new management team in place, and a whole host of bespoke training courses for both teaching staff and management, there was a lot going on at the start. As the year progressed, teachers had the opportunity to attend a variety of PD sessions being organized and presented by Train-the-Trainer trainees. In March, the department received its official approval to be called an "English Language Institute", which is an exceptional accomplishment for the University.

The library has now been stocked with books pertaining to English Language Teaching, for teachers to use as resources to help plan lessons. The Learning and Resources Center is now fully operational, and students are invited to take part in the activities and clubs being run there.

The end of the first semester demonstrated that student success was a key part of the success of the program; as the pass rate overall reached 80%. The end of the second semester is coming soon, and the overall pass rate is expected to be a lot higher.

Looking forward, next academic year, the ELI expects to be accredited by the EAQUALS committee for Educational Accreditation in Europe, making the ELI the first internationally accredited program for women in a post-secondary institution.



ELI Pride: Learning and Resource Center

BY MANAL ALMEBKI

With over 100 students joined in, The learning and resource center runs five different clubs which are Conversation Cafe, Skills, Literacy, Media and Self Development. These clubs cater for the talents and interests of our students. Our main goal is to provide students with a structured and supportive space to awaken their interests, develop their talents, improve their language and nurture their passion. The majority of sessions are games and activity based which allow all students to participate no matter their level. Students meet for a one-hour session with academic professionals who provide support and guidance throughout the semester.

Most students join the clubs because they get a chance to meet new people and practice English in a relaxed and informal environment. In short, English clubs are a very valuable part of the English language student experience.

The closing ceremony for the center was delightful. It started with a treasure hunt that was organized by the clubs supervisors. The hunt was followed by a poem written and read by one of the members. Later, the members introduced their corners, and certificates were handed out in the presence of our dean. There was an obvious harmony between our students and their supervisors which can be seen by any observer. This was apparent in the overall atmosphere.



“ *LRC is the place to be there you meet*
Ms Manal, Folu, Naima, Hadiya, Hayat and me
We will paint, write, talk and have tea
Rekindle old friendships and new
and am here for you when you are blue
come morning or afternoon
From Sunday to Thursday
We hope to see you real soon ”



ELI Conference Talk: Eaquals

BY ASHWAQ ALJAHLAN

We were honored as part of the management team in the ELI to have had the opportunity to attend Eaquals annual conference that was open to all language education professionals. The 3-day event offered a rich and stimulating program of professional development for center owners and directors as well as academic staff. The first day was a full-day management training workshop. Friday and Saturday, was a rich mix of plenary talks and practical workshops delivered by external experts and representatives of Eaquals-member institutions. Other than attending the workshops and plenary sessions, it was a great opportunity to network and meet with some of Eaquals board members and communicate with different professionals in the field. We also had a chance to take a tour of the beautiful city of Prague.



ELI Conference Talk: IATEFL

BY HODA AHMAD

I had the privilege of attending the 52nd IATEFL conference in Brighton as a delegate from the University. The conference brought together ELT professionals from around the globe to discuss, reflect, share ideas and to network. The overall theme of the conference which emerged rather organically in plenary sessions and in many of the workshops I attended was one of empowerment.

There was a general acceptance that as practitioners of ELT, our approach should be a holistic one, that individual and collective feelings, perceptions thoughts and preferences matter in teaching, training, material development and in conducting research. That our first task is to question our own positions, beliefs, and perceptions.

In short, the people we deal with matter and have agency, -

our practice ought to reflect that especially within the context of English as a lingua franca. Our task as delegates is to now share what was undoubtedly the best professional experience at IATEFL 2018, to that end, we plan to deliver a 50-minute workshop based on current practices and perspectives in ELT in the upcoming academic year.



OUR EXPERIENCE AS PNU DELEGATES

BY ALAA ALSULIMAN & DANIA ALBUSAIRI

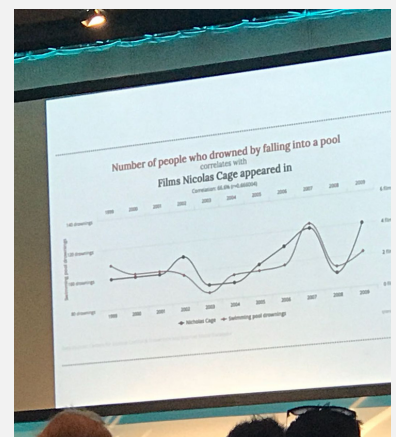
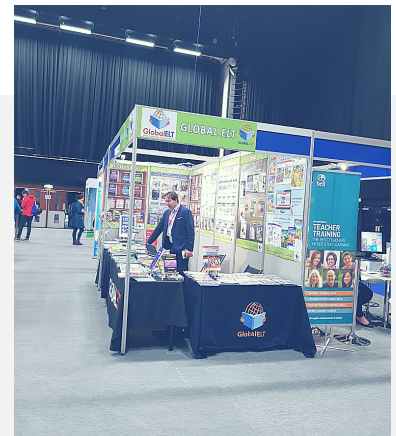
As PNU delegates, we had the pleasure and honor to be part of 52nd IATEFL International annual conference. It offered us the opportunity to meet leading theorists and writers like Scott Thornberry and David Crystal. We also had the chance to exchange ideas with fellow professionals and network on an international level. The conference included a four-day program packed with over 50 presentations. During the day, delegates had the opportunity to choose among various sessions that discussed

different topics and developed recommendations. Topics included: Listening as a constructive process, collaborative writing, pedagogical phonology.... etc.

The ELT Resources Exhibition had over 40 exhibitors and signature events held

by: Pearson, British council and Cambridge. It enabled delegates to view and purchase the latest publications and teaching materials from some of the world's biggest publishing companies.

We are grateful for this enlightening experience, which provided us with the unparalleled opportunity to mix with ELT practitioners from the four corners of the planet & infused us with a burning desire to bring that international dimension into our classroom.



📌 ELI reads: Reflecting on Your Teaching Year

BY SUZY GHOSH*

At the end of another school year, it's tempting to count the days left, wave goodbye to my class, pack up my room, and mentally check out for the summer. I've earned it, haven't I? But as the year winds down, I'm reminded that many of the end-of-year activities I do with my students incorporate some sort of reflection on the year:

- *What did you enjoy learning about the most this year?*
- *Did you achieve the hope and dream you set for yourself in September?*
- *What will you remember most about third grade?*

We encourage our students to reflect on the year and their growth, so shouldn't we as teachers do the same? Whether you've had a challenging year, a dream class that you know you'll remember for years, or a year of ups and downs, I encourage you to reflect on the following things:

Celebrate the successes

When you look back over the year, what stands out? Whether it's the amount of academic progress your students made, a personal connection you made with a particular student, a specific lesson or unit that went better than it ever has before, or something new you tried for the first time in your teaching, take the time to acknowledge your role in those successes.

Appreciate the struggles

One year I had a particularly challenging class. I worked all year on trying to find solutions to the issues that were affecting our classroom community. I planned Morning Meeting activities to try to build student relationships, used role plays to teach how to respectfully interact with each other, and held problem-solving conferences and class meetings with students.

At the end of the year, I was tired—but I realized that in tackling the class issues, I had strengthened my use of these teaching practices and added even more tools to my repertoire.

Set a goal for next year

I had a third grader this year who constantly used the phrase “next time” when she reflected on her work. “Next time I want to try writing a story with more characters,” “Next time I think I'll add more labels to my drawing.” Reflecting and setting a “next time” goal is an important part of professional growth. Did you try something new this year that you want to refine next year? Do have an idea about how to teach a concept differently next year? Do you want to put your focus on a specific area of your teaching? Take a moment to envision what you'd like to do “next time.”

So while you count down the days and pack up your classroom, appreciate all that you've accomplished this year. Enjoy the well-earned break and know that when you come back for a new school year in the fall, you'll bring new knowledge and insights you've gained.

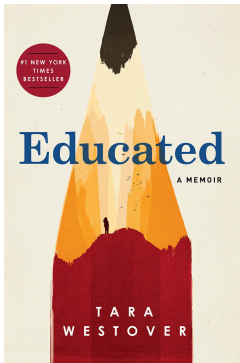
*Suzy Ghosh is a second-grade teacher at Bush Hill Elementary school in Fairfax County, Virginia, and is also a Responsive Classroom consulting teacher. | Source





ELI SUGGESTS: SUMMER READING

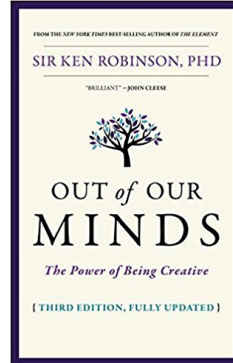
Follow us on [Goodreads](#)



01 Educated: a memoir by Tara Westover

"Westover brings readers deep into this world, a milieu usually hidden from outsiders."—The Economist

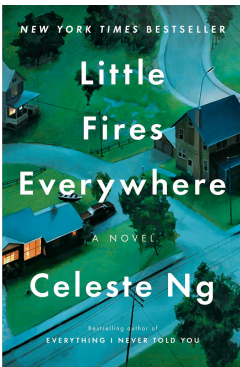
Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by [read more](#)



03 Out of Our Minds: The Power of being Creative by Sir Ken Robinson

"Creativity is critical."

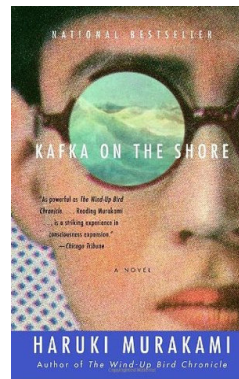
Out of Our Minds explores creativity: its value in business, its ubiquity in children, its perceived absence in many adults and the phenomenon through which it disappears...[read more](#)



02 Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

"I read Little Fires Everywhere in a single, breathless sitting." –Jodi Picoult

From the bestselling author of Everything I Never Told You, a riveting novel that traces.... [read more](#)



04 Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami

"Creativity is critical."

Out of Our Minds explores creativity: its value in business, its ubiquity in children, its perceived absence in many adults and the phenomenon through which it disappears...[read more](#)



ELI SUGGESTS: PODCASTS

MALCOLM GLADWELL
Revisionist History

REVISIONIST HISTORY BY MALCOLM GLADWELL

Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past—an event, a person, an idea, even a song—....[read more](#)



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Inspirational, intimate and disarmingly-unfiltered conversations about living a fully-engaged, fiercely-connected and meaning-drenched life. From iconic world-shakers like Elizabeth Gilbert, Brene Brown, Sir Ken Robinson, Seth Godin and Gretchen Rubin to everyday guests, every story matters. [Click here](#)



STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

How do landfills work? How do mosquitos work? Join Josh and Chuck as they explore the Stuff You Should Know about everything from genes to the Galapagos in this podcast from HowStuffWorks.com. [Click here](#)

Acknowledgments and Contributors

Hanadi AlShogrian, **Editor**

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Dr. Hessa Aba alalaa
Ashwaq AlJahlan

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Ghadeer AlHarbi

We want your feedback! How did you enjoy the staff newsletter? Was there a feature you especially liked in the newsletter? Tell us! Do you have an idea to make the newsletter better? We want to hear from you! If you want to contribute to the ELI Newsletter Please send comments to dpy-ed-nl@pnu.edu.sa