

MAFLT @ MSU

Fall Semester 2017

WANT TO PRESENT YOUR PROJECTS?

Mariela Andrade (anticipated Class of 2018) presented her research on classroom interactions and the lessons she learned.

C J Hague (anticipated Class of 2018) presented his work with technology in the language classroom. C J's work is now on our [showcase page](#) and you can see a summary of his findings [here](#).

Are you thinking about submitting a presentation? What about writing something for publication? Feel free to contact Amanda or Dustin if you are. We are happy to help!

MAFLT COMMUNITY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In Spring 2018 we will welcome another large cohort, with eleven more members joining our MAFLT Community from around the U.S. and across the globe. **Aisha Garged, Abigail Harraden, and Nili Pinhasi** have applied and been accepted after starting their coursework as Lifelong Learners, and **Andrew Barna, Mary Block, Amy Driskell, Jenelle Henry-Blackman, Eda Morlock, Maria Pia Pallero, Kerrah Pyper and David Sceggel** will get started soon. Our new members reside in nine different U.S. states, St. Maarten, and Argentina. Andrew, Mary, Amy, Abigail, Eda, Maria, Kerrah, and David teach Spanish at various levels. Jenelle teaches two languages, Spanish and French. Aisha teaches Arabic, while Nili teaches Hebrew. Look for their bios and photos on our website. Welcome to the program!

LET'S TALK LIBRARY! THE LANGUAGE OF SEARCHING

by Stephanie C. Perentesis, Public Services and Linguistics Liaison Librarian, MSU Libraries

Successful library database searching is really a dialogue—initially between the information seeker and the librarian “coach”—and then between the searcher and the results found. It should be an ongoing conversation, with more focused questions and refinement of topic as the novice researcher learns more and more about what scholars have said. Just like language learning, it's not always a simple, linear process, so let me share some “pro tips” to maximize your effectiveness and success:

Start early. Don't be afraid to contact your “librarian coach” as soon as you have an assignment and a research question. We can brainstorm together how to focus your topic, what keywords to begin with, and where to search.

Negotiate input. Start with the right tools, beginning with the [MAFLT Online Library Guide](#). Here you'll find essential information about the library, finding articles, books, and academic writing and citations.

Search smart. Use features that help you refine your search, such as filters that limit results to scholarly articles, by date, and to keywords and concepts that you may not have included in your original search.

Iterate and reiterate. Searching is not a monologue, but a dialogue—and like any conversation, there's a lot of back and forth. So, don't be afraid to back up to incorporate the new information, keywords, and concepts you discover to improve your results.

Mind and mine those bibliographies. When you find a useful article or book, take a look at the references listed. They can often lead you to a wealth of related and pertinent resources.

So, can we talk? Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Stephanie

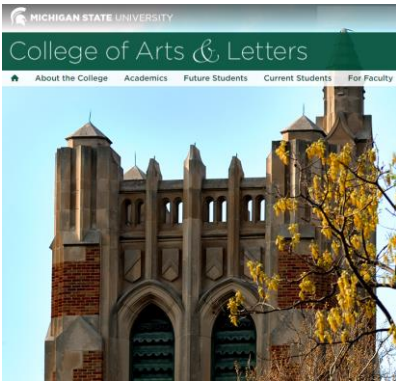
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters



Master of Arts in Foreign Language Teaching

Welcome to the newsletter for the online Master of Arts degree in Foreign Language Teaching (MAFLT) at Michigan State University (MSU). For more information go to <http://maflt.cal.msu.edu/>.



The MSU College of Arts & Letters (CAL) educates actors, artists, designers, filmmakers, linguists, philosophers, poets, teachers, translators, writers, and much more in a creative, learning, and nurturing environment.

Contact Us

The MAFLT Program

maflt@cal.msu.edu
<http://maflt.cal.msu.edu/>

MSU ID CARDS AVAILABLE TO MAFLT STUDENTS AS WELL

Have you ever wanted to get an MSU ID card? All students at Michigan State University are eligible for one, even those at a distance. The ID office can issue you a student ID by mail. It will not contain your picture, but it will be an official ID with your name. You will need to send an email (from your MSU account) to the ID Office at idooffice@msu.edu. Make sure to include your PID and your NetID. Ask them for a distance learning ID card and they will follow up with you. If you run into any trouble, let the faculty know. If needed, we can walk over to their office and help with the process. For more information on an MSU ID, go to <http://idooffice.msu.edu/contact.html>.

This spring, we offer four courses: Assessment, Culture, Development/Administration, and Foreign or Second Language Acquisition (F/SLA).

SPRING COURSES

This spring, we offer **four courses**: FLT 808 Assessment for FLT, FLT 815 Teaching Culture in FL Courses, FLT 817 FL Program Development and Administration, and FLT 860 Foreign or Second Language Acquisition (F/SLA). These courses are open to anyone interested in these topics and you can view [sample syllabi on the MAFLT site](#). Non-MAFLT students must request an override. For MAFLT students, we also offer FLT 885 Experiential Modules, FLT 890 Independent Study and FLT 898 MAFLT Portfolio each semester. Everyone must request an override from a faculty member to enroll in these courses.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT KENTUCKY TESOL

Dr. Dustin De Felice was the opening keynote speaker at this year's annual TESOL state conference in Louisville, KY. His talk, *Surviving Technology: Finding Your Way with So Many Choices*, was well received. As he noted, we face an overwhelming number of choices in using technology to motivate, assess and engage our learners. He introduced a set of principles that teachers can use to find ways of surviving this technology onslaught and make smart, practical choices for their classroom while maintaining their sanity. Access his slides and useful links [here](#).



FALL GRADUATION

We are very pleased to report that three more students are completing the MAFLT program this semester. **Lan Gao, Mohamed Moghazy** and **Andrew Sewick** have filed for graduation and will complete and share their final portfolios. With these three, we will be able to celebrate 32 graduates since the program started in the fall of 2012. When you graduate, we would love to see you come to East Lansing and attend the graduation events, too! To watch all our graduates who have attended the ceremony receive their diplomas, click [here](#). Students nearing the end of the program are reminded to **file for graduation** in the first week of the semester they intend to complete all program requirements. For more information go to <https://reg.msu.edu/StuForms/GradApp/gradapp.aspx>.

The MAFLT is the largest MA program in the College of Arts & Letters!

NOTES & NOTABLES

Mariela Andrade (anticipated Class of 2018) attended the Foreign Language Association of Virginia (FLAVA) conference this fall, where she was also a first-time presenter. She gave a talk on her research from the FLT 860 F/SLA course from Spring 2017, in which she investigated explicit and implicit approaches to teaching grammar in Spanish. Congratulations on your presentation, which we hope will be the first of many!

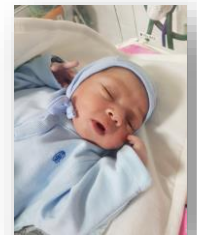
CJ Hague (anticipated Class of 2018) recently presented his work at the TextESOL conference in Houston. His presentation on incorporating technology in the ESL/EFL classroom was well attended, and he received a number of positive comments and feedback from the participants. Much of his work originated from his Experiential Module coursework. Not only did CJ complete his first presentation, but he also met Stephen Krashen. In other news, CJ also married his fiancée, Gaby, in a small civil ceremony in October. They met while he was teaching English in Ecuador. *¡Felicitaciones!*



Carmen Durham (Class of 2016) began her PhD program at the University of Maryland this fall, and she reports that she felt well prepared for the classes and demands of her program thanks to her MAFLT courses. She mentioned that she has much more to learn and improve, but she feels like she has a good knowledge base and rarely feels confused or shocked when the professors mention a theory, research method, etc. The MAFLT is not designed as preparation for PhD programs, but we hope Carmen will have more advice for others who want to try that path.

Sara Eggleston (Class of 2017), who has been teaching French online for several years, began teaching French 1000 at Western Michigan University as an adjunct professor. In addition, she is facilitating *La table française*, which is a conversation class for all students in levels 1000 – 2010 that meets once a week play games and do other activities to develop their listening and speaking skills. She is really enjoying both challenges!

Mohamed Moghazy (anticipated Class of 2017) recently welcomed a new baby boy to his family. Ali Moghazy was born in September in Kazakhstan. *Mabruk (مبارك)* to Mohamed and his family!



Susan Tu (anticipated Class of 2019), who trained in traditional Chinese and modern dance in Taiwan, was invited to be a guest lecturer in Dr. Tze-Lan Sang's CHS 366 Intro to Chinese Culture at MSU this November. During the presentation, she introduced principles and movements of traditional Chinese dance, and audience members learned some basic steps. She also showcased a number of videos from the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre in Taiwan, where she worked as a creative dance teacher for five years. As you can see in the photo, Drs. Amanda Lanier and Dustin De Felice attended the workshop and learned a few poses too! Susan plans to combine dance and Chinese instruction in her Experiential Module.



Watch for our next newsletter, when we take a look behind the scenes at the hit podcast [teawithbvp](#).

Have a story, a news item, or achievement to share with us? Send it along. We'd love to include it in the next newsletter. Send your contribution to maflt@cal.msu.edu.