



ESF (Esperantic Studies Foundation)

Annual Report for 2014

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| PRESIDENT'S LETTER | 2 |
| PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES..... | 3 |
| ESF-enrete & lernu! (www.lernu.net) | 3 |
| edukado.net (www.edukado.net) | 3 |
| NASK (North American Esperanto Institute) (www.esperanto.org/nask) | 4 |
| Interlinguistics Certificate Program | 4 |
| The Esperanto "Access to Language Education" Award | 4 |
| Interlinguistics Support Fund | 5 |
| Research Grants | 5 |
| Conferences..... | 6 |
| Newsletter <i>Information for Interlinguists</i> | 6 |
| OPERATIONS..... | 6 |
| Administration | 6 |
| THE BOARD..... | 7 |
| ADVISORY BOARD..... | 7 |



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The report that follows highlights the many ways that ESF continued its work in 2014 in the areas of Esperanto and linguistic justice. This work includes many of our traditional educational activities, such as the on-line learning site *lernu!* and the North American Summer Esperanto Institute (NASK), both of which continued to be extremely popular in 2014. It also includes a high profile conference in New York on language and equality that was co-sponsored by ESF, as well as a number of small research grants to scholars working on aspects of language policy and Esperanto studies.

We also began working much more intensively in the academic realm in 2014. Dr. Asya Pereltsvaig, a noted linguistics scholar, joined our team as an academic coordinator and immediately began compiling a database of university faculty and graduate students in North America who have research interests in Esperantic studies, including researchers in sociology, history, linguistics, education, literature and many other fields. This will enable us to pursue much more effectively our goal of stimulating interdisciplinary research in Esperantic studies and related areas and we look forward to many exciting results from this project in the coming years.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas on the work that ESF is doing. We rely on the very generous support of our friends throughout the world and we thank you for all that you do.

Grant Goodall
President

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

ESF-enrete & lernu! (www.lernu.net)

Following the decision in 2011 to invest in a major redesign of lernu.net, ESF's highly successful language learning website, work began in 2012 to rewrite the site from scratch with modern technologies, including an all-new course. A prominent Esperanto author, Anna Lowenstein, and a talented Esperanto educator, Birke Dockhorn, were enlisted for writing a new story for the course, accompanied by exercises for practice. The Lernu team collaborated with the author and the educator in an iterative process of writing and editing the contents of the new course. The new course has been calibrated to meet the requirements of the Common European Reference Framework for languages, by an international team of writers, teachers and illustrators.

Work continued throughout 2014 on the completion and editing of the exercises for the new course. The course text and its exercises were checked for linguistic correctness and didactic content by a special committee of the Academy of Esperanto. The old lernu.net site was simplified to improve its operation on its present server, and the database was cleaned up in preparation for a move to a modern new cloud-based server

The new site will also host an extensive multimedia library known as the Mediateko, to which many volunteers contributed content during the year. In another enhancement aimed at beginning and intermediate users, the Lernu reference grammar, Wennergren's Detala Gramatiko, is being translated into the site's three dozen user languages. Work continues on translation of the new course into national languages, and the content of the course has b for

Meanwhile, a new technical platform has been created that will enable users to access a wide and growing range of services for the Lernu community. The ESF-enrete team continued to build its network of international contacts with national and regional Esperanto organizations, to raise awareness of its desire to promote links between the traditional Esperanto movement community of online learners of Esperanto.

[edukado.net](http://www.edukado.net) (www.edukado.net)

The second major web community supported by ESF, edukado.net, was originally aimed at teachers of Esperanto. While the site maintains this original goal, at the same time it is increasingly becoming involved in the direct provision of educational content for Esperanto speakers. During 2014, over 500 new members became a part of the Edukado community, and at the end of 2014 the website had 3796 users from 126 countries and 2.3 million page views in 2014 (which is 353 746 more than in the year 2013). The website continues to offer exceptional quality content through its library (Katalogo), which lists and reviews nearly 500 books, DVDs and other materials for teaching and learning Esperanto; a searchable, edited collection of more than 750 downloadable teaching materials; an up-to-date registry of Esperanto courses around the world; a searchable database of nearly 300 university projects and theses on Esperanto; a collection of around 300 educational videos.

In 2014 the website administrator, Katalin Kovats, has introduced to the Edukado community a new game, RISKO ("Risk"). The game surpassed the expectations and became an instant hit, with a daily average of 100 people playing the game and having a chance to win valuable prizes supplied by individuals, as well as Esperanto organizations and publishers. RISKO brings a significant number of new users to the website, including users

from the countries that until recently didn't have a strong presence at Edukado.net. The site has been active on Facebook, which too helps to bring new users, as well as to keep the current users engaged and up to date on all the activities of Edukado.net.

In collaboration with the World Esperanto Association, the website continues to organize and manage the accredited tests within the Common European Reference Framework for Languages -- the most widely used international standard for testing linguistic competence. As a part of this effort, in 2014, for the third time already, Edukado.net has organized the World Esperanto Exam Day (launched in 2012), with 164 participants in 21 countries, and the website's administrator helped to organize the exams and train assistants. Thanks to the financial assistance from the World Esperanto Association, in 2014 the website expanded its role in collecting sign-up forms, data, distributing calendar statistics, etc. In addition, Edukado.net continues to manage the online training course for Esperanto teachers, RITE, introduced in 2012, which continued to be well attended (in 2014, 42 people from 30 countries have taken the training).

Due to the website's participation in the Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission, for which Edukado.net has received a grant, the website became known also to the non-Esperanto audience.

[NASK \(North American Esperanto Institute\) \(www.esperanto.org/nask\)](http://www.esperanto.org/nask)

ESF's flagship educational program in North America has continued to develop away from its traditional three-week university format towards a shorter and more mobile program. Successful short-format NASKs have taken place at the University of California, San Diego, the University of Dallas, Texas, the University of Victoria, Canada, and twice at William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina. When possible the classes were held immediately before or after the US national Esperanto conventions (in 2014 a combined US-Canadian Esperanto convention). In 2015 the program returned to William Peace University and was joined by the Kino-Teatro-Festivalo which enabled each group to participate in both programs. This arrangement attracted 57 students from North, South and Central America.

The instructional team included Paul Gubbins (Great Britain), Tim Westover (Georgia), Lee Miller (Missouri), and Jennifer Bondelid (Washington State). Hoss Firooznia (New York) organized the extracurricular program and edited the newsletter *NASKa Fasko*. The KTF team led by Charles Mays (North Carolina) and George Baker (California) helped the participants create a short Esperanto film using students from both groups. It is hoped that this type of collaboration can happen again in the future.

Interlinguistics Certificate Program

In 2014, ESF continued to support students in the Interlinguistics certificate program at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. This three-year non-residential program involves short, intensive on-site study sessions in February and September. Courses offered this year included (with specialization in International and Intercultural communication, Teaching of Esperanto, and Esperanto literature on choice) **for the 3rd year students:**

- * Current problems of the Esperanto movement (Humphrey Tonkin)
- * Intercultural communication (Ilona Koutny)
- * Sociological aspects of Communication (Zbigniew Galor)
- * Basic concepts of language teaching and methodology (Katalin Kováts)

- * Methodology of teaching Esperanto (Katalin Kováts, Ilona Koutny).
- * Seminar on Literature (Humphrey Tonkin, Tomasz Chmielik)
- * Diploma seminar
- * Lectures of Humphrey Tonkin, Barbara Pietrzak, Michael Farris

and for the beginners:

- * General phonetics and Esperanto phonetics (Ilona Koutny, Nicolau Dols)
- * Culture of Esperanto (Zbigniew Galor)
- * Literature of Esperanto (Lidia Ligeza, Tomasz Chmielik)
- * Interlinguistics (Vera Barandovska-Frank)

The sessions also included a rich cultural program.

At the beginning of the year, in the second semester of the 3rd year, 8 students from 5 countries (Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary and Russia) were enrolled in the program and 6 finished the program with a certificate after a diploma work and final examination in September.

Twenty six new students from 14 countries (Brazil, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain, Belgium, Iran, Kongo DR, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia Hungary and Poland) began their studies in September 2014.

Esperanto "Access to Language Education" Award

Since 2004, ESF has sponsored an annual award for an outstanding language learning website characterized by ease and range of access, versatility, and breadth. Inspired by the success of Lernu, the award has become a fixture at CALICO, the major North American conference on computer-assisted language learning. In 2015, as in most previous years, the award was presented in person by Board member Derek Roff. The 2015 recipient was Ayamel (ARCLITE Lab, Brigham Young University), a language learning tool that allows users to watch video content and interact with the subtitles <http://arclite.byu.edu/main/?q=node>

Interlinguistics Support Fund

This fund is intended to provide small grants for publications, conferences, and similar activities, and is administered by an international three-person committee independently of the ESF Board. In 2014 the committee was made up of Nikola Rašić (Croatia/Netherlands); Detlev Blanke (Germany) and Christer Kiselman (Sweden). Three grants were issued in this year: 2900 EUR to Alexander Korzhenkov and Halina Goretska for the publication of an encyclopedia entitled *Nia diligenta kolegaro*, 805 GBP to Angela Tellier for a book on the linguist William Collinson, and 2000 USD to Bengt-Arne Wickström and Dr. Michele Gazzola for organizing a seminar entitled "Economics, Linguistic Justice and Language Policy" in March 2015 in Humboldt University, Berlin.

Research Grants

No significant new research grants were awarded in 2014. The ESF Board is in the process of redesigning the Foundation's research in an effort to attract projects that are most well aligned with ESF's goals and which will best contribute to the field of research in interlinguistics, language policy and related issues.

Conferences

The Study Group on Language at the United Nations, in cooperation with the Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems and the University of Hartford, with funding from the Esperantic Studies Foundation, organized yet another successful symposium in New York, the Church Center (777 United Nations Plaza). The topic of the event was Language and Equality. Among the 70 participants were NGO representatives, UN staff, academics, professional translators, members of UN missions, and others involved in language work. The program was opened by H.E. Philippe Savadogo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of La Francophonie at the United Nations, and by Mme. Françoise Cestac, former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN for Conference Services. Humphrey Tonkin, of the University of Hartford and a former president of the Universal Esperanto Association, chaired the symposium. The keynote address was given by Mark Fettes, of Simon Fraser University, Canada, current president of the Universal Esperanto Association, who stressed the importance of language as a factor in international affairs generally and sustainable development particularly. He pointed out how little attention was given by the UN to language issues, leading to a tendency to operate from the top down rather than from the bottom up in much of its work.

Newsletter Information for Interlinguists

As in previous years, ESF provided a small grant to support publication of the hardcopy version of the newsletter *Informilo por Interlingvistoj* (Ipl), published by the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems under the editorship of Detlev Blanke. ESF also hosts the newsletter's web archive: <http://www.esperantic.org/en/communications/ipi/archive>.

OPERATIONS

Administration

Joel Amis completed his fourth full year as ESF's part-time administrator, working an average of 80 hours/month. He worked closely with the Board's Operations Committee, which met bi-weekly (on average) by phone for most of the year. His responsibilities included organizing and documenting meetings, ensuring implementation of Board decisions, keeping track of expenditures and revenue, managing the website, and writing and issuing press releases.

Yevgeniya Amis continues to manage the fundraising efforts and promotional materials. In 2014, \$21,400 were collected as donations for ESF and Lernu.net.

BOARD

The composition of the ESF Board remained unchanged in 2014, with Grant Goodall serving as President, Derek Roff as Secretary, and Anna Bennett as Treasurer. The other board members were Wallace Du Temple, Mark Fettes, Geoffrey Greatrex, Charles Mays, Humphrey Tonkin, and Joel Amis (ex officio). Erin Piatetski was included in board meetings following her appointment as CEO of ESF's web projects subsidiary ESF-enrete.

In addition to monthly teleconferences, the Board met in Victoria, British Columbia, for its annual Board Retreat. The timing and location of the Board Retreat coincided with NASK and the joint Esperanto-USA / Canadian Esperanto Association conference.

As noted under "Administration," the day-to-day management of ESF was delegated by the Board to its Operations Committee, consisting of Fettes, Tonkin, Bennett, Du Temple and Roff, plus Piatetski ex officio.

ADVISORY BOARD

ESF added two members to its Advisory Board in 2014:

Ulrich Becker. Ulrich Becker received his MS in publishing from Pace University (New York) and holds a Teacher's Licentiate Diploma in French and Russian linguistics and literature from Humboldt University (Berlin). He has published fiction in both German and Esperanto. He is director of a publishing company (Mondial, New York), an English-to-German translator, and a founder and past board member (1991–1999) of Gesellschaft für Interlinguistik (Society for Interlinguistics), Berlin. He is also active as a representative of the Universal Esperanto Association at the United Nations.

David Gaines. A graduate of Northwestern University, American University, and Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory of Music (where he earned a doctoral degree in composition), Gaines studied with M. William Karlins, Stephen Syverud, Jerzy Sapieyewski, Jean Eichelberger Ivey, and Robert Sirota. Gaines's numerous awards include annual ASCAP Standard Awards since 2000; First Prize in the 1997 College Music Society Mid-Atlantic Chapter Student Composers Competition; and a First Prize in the Universal Esperanto Association's 1995 International Fine Arts Competition. He has been an instructor for The New School's online Master of Media Technology degree program, for which he created the first Internet college-level music course for credit (on the history of electronic music technology), as well as an adjunct associate professor at University of Maryland University College. Gaines is particularly known around the world as a champion of the international language Esperanto. The "Society and Esperanto" Foundation of Bulgaria named him an Honorary Life Member in 1994, and in 2006 the international organization Muzika Esperanto-Ligo awarded him the title of Honorary President. Esperanto magazine, published in The Netherlands, commissioned him to write their obituary for the distinguished composer Lou Harrison after his death in 2003 (Harrison was renowned for his support and use of Esperanto in his own music).

Other members of the Advisory Board are:

Duncan Charters (Principia College, USA)

Probal Dasgupta (Indian Statistical Institute, India)

John Edwards (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada)



Alvino Fantini (School for International Training, USA)
Normand Fleury (arboriculturist, Canada)
Bonnie Fonseca-Greber (University of Louisville, USA)
François Grin (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
David K. Jordan (University of California San Diego, USA)
Sho Konishi (Oxford University, UK)
Katalin Kovats (edukado.net, Netherlands)
Lee Miller (ASL interpreter, USA)
Arika Okrent (author, USA)
Jonathan Pool (Utilika Foundation, USA)
Timothy Reagan (University of Maine, USA)
Ian Richmond (Université Sainte-Anne, Canada)
Martin Schäffer (Mondo Foundation, Germany and Mexico)
Klaus Schubert (Universität Hildesheim, Germany)
Nancy Schweda-Nicholson (University of Delaware, USA)
Alan Simon (computer specialist, Canada)
Sebastian Tonkin (software specialist, USA)

