

# VolSphere

A monthly newsletter by the Center for Global Engagement

May 2021



In picture, our [Academy for Global Scholars](#) (AGS) students just returned from Costa Rica!

## #VolsAbroad in 2021

The [Programs Abroad Office](#) continues to plan for summer programming and beyond. We are excited to announce that we will have students studying abroad in summer 2021 on all program types - a first since the start of the pandemic. Our faculty-directed programs are specifically taking place in Belize, Costa Rica, and the United Kingdom. We are also happy to share that we will have students participating in a wide range of our online global program offerings.



## UT Doctoral Student Awarded Fulbright Research Award

University of Tennessee doctoral student and Mae Scheib scholar, Jenna Watson received the Fulbright Open Study/Research Award to Romania to continue her research in the field of Anthropology. Watson is studying biological anthropology and currently fulfilling a role

as a graduate teaching assistant with UT's Department of Anthropology. She will conduct her dissertation research, "A Bioarcheological Investigation of Migration, Diet, and Health in Late Medieval-Early Modern Romania" in Bucharest, Romania beginning this October.

[Read more.](#)



## UT Celebrates AAPI Heritage Month

Leading up to May and throughout the month, the Office of Asia Engagement collaborated with various offices and organizations across campus to host and support events to showcase the Asian American and Pacific Islander culture on campus and in the community.

The groundbreaking author and award-winning activist, Helen Zia, held a virtual conversation with the University of Tennessee community about Asian American culture in today's society. As an outspoken daughter of Chinese immigrants, Zia has played a key role in the Asian American movement. [Read more.](#)

[Click here for more events, resources, and information to support the AAPI community.](#)

**English Language Institute**  
Apply today at [tiny.utk.edu/ELISaturday](https://tiny.utk.edu/ELISaturday) or write to [eli@utk.edu](mailto:eli@utk.edu)



Scan the QR Code to apply TODAY



SCAN ME

**Saturday English for Professionals** (9 am – 12 pm)

- Speaking for Business (8 weeks)
- Professional Writing (8 weeks)
- American Business Culture (8 weeks)
- Phonics and Pronunciation (8 weeks)
- Using Google Apps for Professional Success (5 weeks)

**Each Saturday course: \$150**  
**Next Classes Start**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Contact Us  
Email: [eli@utk.edu](mailto:eli@utk.edu)  
Phone: +1-865-974-3404  
Address: UT, Conference Center Building, Suite 120, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

## ELI Saturday Morning Classes Beginning June 5

The English Language Institute at UTK will offer a new selection of 8-week English for Professionals Saturday morning classes beginning June 5. These affordably priced courses are for intermediate to advanced students who wish to polish their English skills. Classes will be held at the English Language Institute.

The 5-week Google apps course will meet one time in person in June, but subsequent sessions will be held online.

Students may apply at <https://eli.utk.edu>



## Announcing Monthly Global Engagement Champion

It is an honor to announce that this month's Global Engagement Champion is Dr. Samara Madrid Akpovo, Associate Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies and Director of the Intercultural and Classroom Culture Research Lab.

Akpovo's research is classroom-based and aims to challenge and deconstruct normative ways of being, feeling, and knowing with children and adults in diverse social and cultural contexts. Akpovo utilizes the Collaborative Online Learning Across Borders exchange program (COLAB) in partnership with the University of Auckland, Melbourne, and Wyoming to engage in intercultural development. Throughout the four years of COLAB, Akpovo's work has been recognized and awarded on numerous occasions including most recently honored with the Frances Speight Clark Faculty Enrichment and Development Award. Akpovo has also received a Global Catalyst Research Grant from CGE and the Office of Research and Engagement.

[Stay tuned for June's GEC article about Dr. Akpovo's global research.](#)

Happy end of the semester! This will be the last newsletter until the Fall 2021 semester! We hope you enjoy your summer, stay safe, and we'll be back in August!



The [Center for Global Engagement](#) provides leadership to strengthen the university's global reach and impact, foster international and intercultural awareness and understanding, assist faculty to internationalize their teaching and scholarship, and prepare students to become globally engaged citizens.

To receive this monthly newsletter, [subscribe here.](#)

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