



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY DESIGNED STUDENT BULLETIN



During 2021 ELSPM was awarded a Commonwealth Government grant to upgrade our digital equipment to better reach students online. New classroom computers, videoing equipment and software programs have enhanced our teaching and learning.

In the next few months we will launch a marketing plan aimed at reaching out to pastoral workers all over the world to enable them to both learn and improve their English skills.

## CELEBRATING GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS 2021 SEMESTER 2





**Good morning everyone, My name is Gusty. It is such an honor to be a representative of the ELSPM class of 2021. It's a great opportunity for me to deliver an address on behalf of all the students.**

Twenty weeks ago, precisely on the 19th of July was the first day of this semester, we came here from different backgrounds and cultures, but we all have the same aim which is to improve our English skills, in order to be qualified for our future missions, and now, we are on the last day of this semester.

I am sure that all the students of ELSPM have had great experiences during the learning process throughout this semester. Especially for EAP students, we have passed this semester; all the homework, essays, oral presentations, discussions, other assessments, and we have just finished our 2000-word essay. And we did it, here we are.

At ELSPM we learn more than English skills, we learn cross-cultural understanding, time management, spirituality, and other essentials that enrich our religious life. Despite all the hard work we have been through, they made us tough and gentle to face the real world we are going to face in the next chapter of our life. And as I always believe: we have been united into one as ELSPM family, where we shared our richness and so many good things.

Every end has a new beginning. Today might be the last day for some of us as students in ELSPM, but I believe our learning will actually start from today. Now, here we are. Done with this semester! Congratulations! Well-done to all of us! Now is the time to move on to go to the next stage, going out and lighting up the world, speaking English and using whatever you have learned at ELSPM to serve people. Remember, our best work and struggles here will never fade away.

My friends, some of us will be staying for next term, some will study at YTU, some will leave Australia. Wherever you are, please remember and pray for each other. Our time here together in ELSPM will not be remembered by good grades, or excellent essays, or brilliant presentations, but by our relationships. You became a part of my journey, and I also become a part of your memory.

At this special time, on behalf of all the students, from the bottom of my heart I would like to express our gratitude to our teachers: Jeff, Mary, Jackie, Robyn, and the two Margarets, for all you have done for us.

Thank you very much for working so hard to make the plan fit for us. This semester is another special semester due to COVID 19, some of us cannot come to Australia to attend the classes and have to join online classes from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia, so we have different time zones, but all of you tried your best to arrange the time, timetables and classes that can suit everyone.

Thank you for the creative lessons and topics that you gave us in the classes. You had to work hard to convey not only English skills but also technological skills, and even harder because you sometimes handled both offline and online classes at once. And on behalf of online students, we specially thank all the teachers for always being here to support us. Even though we couldn't be present physically in the classes, we always received your love and care, so we didn't lose any important things.

Our special gratitude also goes to Ian, our dear student counsellor. We thank you so much for your company, every month or every two months when we had a chance to talk to you. You always listened to our feelings, emotions, difficulties and joys with patience and a generous heart.



We thank you very much, our dear Fr. Michael, even though you are in Sydney, your heart is fixed in ELSPM. Thank you for coming to us every Friday to do the Gospel sharing. We like very much the way you explained the connection between the first reading and the Gospel in the Sunday readings. And I know that I especially enjoyed the last session you gave us on exegesis.

Our gratitude also goes to all our tutors; Fr. John, Jeff, Helen, and Bernard. Thanks for sharing your talents, care and love for each one of us. We can feel God's generosity in each of you.

And to Fr. Kevin, even though you are not in ELSPM physically, but we believe you are always here spiritually and we are in your prayers and thoughts. Thank you very much.

I want to also express our gratitude to our congregational leaders and community members who allow each of us to study in ELSPM. Thank you for your support in its many forms, for your encouragement and for your understanding. Hopefully what we receive here, can also be useful in our further work and service in the congregation.

Once again, on the behalf of ELSPM class of 2021, congratulations to EAP class, intermediate class, and pre-intermediate class. Congratulations!

I wish you all the best, Gusty



## ACADEMIC MANAGER'S ADDRESS GRADUATION DECEMBER 2021



**Good morning Vietnam, Japan, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Iraq and good afternoon Australia.**

Today marks my 11th Graduation ceremony and as Tai told us earlier our 4th online. Despite the constant challenges we have been able to continue to grow and learn. Many of you have expressed your joy at reading the Student Bulletins and getting to know, not only the students but also the Staff at ELSPM. Thanks Fr Kevin, Margaret Hughes and all who have contributed to spreading the news.

Steering the ELSPM ship through the stormy waters of the past semester has not been easy. The pressure of lockdowns increased, technical problems abounded, and the sheer isolation of learning through a computer in one's room at home, took its toll on everyone. We all ducked last Monday when an earthquake hit Indonesia and Krisna disappeared off the screen, under his desk and Gusty disappeared completely. We rejoiced when Sawako gave us a bird's eye view of the Olympics in Tokyo and when Eileen captured the early morning rainbows in Melbourne. We prayed and cried together as Sheikh buried 29 of his parishioners in one month because of Covid. We marked vaccinations days and sympathised with each other's sore arms and headaches. Our world became smaller as we checked the weather each day in all the locations our students zoomed in from. What held us together was the common goal to get through, to succeed, and there was also lots and lots of laughter. Sometimes from the mistakes we made in English but more often from the sheer joy of being together.

In July we received a substantial Government grant to help with digital technology. It has been a demanding 5 months of meetings, planning and purchasing and it is with only a little trepidation that I can announce ELSPM has entered the digital world of education with some amazing new equipment – touch screens, laptops, iPads and videoing equipment. All very well, but what will really make the difference will be our ability to reach students outside our time zone and provide remote online courses both in English for Academic Purposes and short courses for those in Ministry.

**The ELSPM ship will enter new waters, and hopefully it will be smooth sailing.**

While I might steer the ship, you all know well that without the inspiration and guidance of the Board of Directors, the amazing, resilient Staff, and a small but extremely competent group of volunteers our ship would be in trouble. Their encouragement and support keeps us afloat. However, our travels would be useless if we didn't have the passengers, precious cargo, supplied by the most amazing religious congregations and Christian groups who have worked closely with us, recognising not only our ability to teach English but as importantly, our ability to provide a formative, community experience aimed at strengthening vocations and enabling ministry.

**It is truly a privilege to work with each and every one of you.**



The Staff will have a chance to gather next Monday to say thank you to Fr Tom and the Board, and Robyn for her 5 ½ years of dedication to ELSPM. To thank Ian for his amazing work as our Student Counsellor and the class teachers, Mary and Marg, Jeff and Jackie. We will welcome two new Staff next semester. Two thirds of our students will return to continue their studies and we will welcome a small number of new students. The borders are open, students are receiving visas and tickets and I can tell you, the welcome mat is out. Our classes will continue to be blended, no one will be excluded. The challenges that lie ahead, whether they be storms, high tides, reefs or still waters, the ELSPM ship will continue to sail the seas of English in the Pacific and South East Asia. And the fleet will grow as we reach out in the digital world to Europe, Africa and South America.

Thank you for being part of the journey.

Sr Margaret

Graduation video

<https://youtu.be/PkzW1VApiRc>





## FAREWELL TO OUR FRIENDS

At the end of last semester we said "Goodbye" to:

Tri CP and Gusty SVD who begin their studies at YTU

Vera SsPS, Weina FMM, Sawako FMM and Mariana SJMJ who all take up ministry activities

Tuan Anh who will spend sometime with his family in Vietnam

Li-Li who hopes to come to Australia to continue her studies in spirituality and Robyn Brice, after 5 years teaching at Intermediate and EAP.



## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND STAFF

Over the next few issues we will introduce the new Staff and Students. While most are online, as the Australian borders open a number of students will arrive in Melbourne to complete their studies here. In the meantime ELSPM will continue with blended classes.

For the first time we have introduced a new course of General English, at the Advanced level. This is to cater for the students who have finished EAP and cannot yet begin their next level of study. You will see some of their initial work in the pages to come.



## News from afar

Dearest Margaret and the staff of ELSPM,

It is really beautiful time to express my gratitude to you all from my heart. I often think of you and pray for you. This season of blessings and graces, wishing you, family members and friends are full of love, Joy and peace.

My life in Sénégal from May 2019 up to now is going well I could say, just as simple as the local people around. We share our lives, hopes, joys as well as our challenges and difficulties as we journey together.

Please send my greetings to Fr. Kevin, Mary and those are present at ELSPM

Be united with you all in spirit and prayers

With lots of love

Maria Sen, Rndm



Sen is one of our many students and past students helping out during the Covid-19 pandemic



## COMING OUT OF COVID REFLECTIONS - ADVANCED ENGLISH

### VIETNAM, RISE AND MOVE ON!



We have walked through dark night  
 Economic growth decreased  
 Society became jumpy  
 Students had no class  
 Laborers worked hard  
 Doctors and nurses couldn't rest  
 We saw worried faces around  
 We were scared of the number of cases uncounted  
 We wiped tears on orphans' faces  
 We consoled each other "let's pray"  
 A noose wrapped around our neck  
 A black curtain covered our land.  
 We have applied some measures to prevent  
 Social distancing is controlling infection  
 Treatment's reducing mortality  
 Vaccination's creating immunity  
 Vietnam has touched victory  
 The border is opened We take off our burdens.  
 Many countries are still worrying about the pandemic  
 Vietnam is ready to welcome new ages  
 Spring has come in our homeland  
 Joy and happiness are returning in our hands  
 Even in the darkness there is light. Time flies  
 Pain and suffering are healed  
 Dawn appears and light shines  
 Shadow no longer covers our land  
 Vietnam, rise and move on!  
 Hold our heads up and sing our song!

*Tai*





## COMING OUT OF COVID REFLECTIONS - ADVANCED ENGLISH

I Dear Vietnam,  
 How many days have passed?  
 All my people have come together.  
 We're determined to push back the virus,  
 Even though it's tough, we'll go through it together.  
 Hey Vietnam, let's do our best.  
 Then, on the day of victory, we'll wave goodbye.  
 We're proud to be Vietnamese.  
 Very resilient, despite all the hardships and bravery.  
 Hey Vietnam, let's do our best.  
 Victory Day, we'll wave goodbye.  
 Will there be no more sad days?  
 Tomorrow, there will be a bright Vietnam.

*Thoai*



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

### JANUARY



**Robyn - January 15**  
**Tom - January 15**  
**Nang - January 16**  
**Jackie - January 17**

### FEBRUARY

**Ca - February 8**  
**Elizabeth - February 11**  
**Kinh - February 19**

### MARCH

**Yegi - March 2**  
**Dung - March 15**  
**Vi - March 16**

