



# *Our history and future impact*

In the late 1970s, the University of Tennessee welcomed an increasing number of international students in need of English support. ELI's first director, Dale Myers, drew inspiration from his experience at an American Center in Lebanon, and wanted to bring this language support to campus and beyond. The Continuing Education unit initially ran ELI, which later found its home in the Center for International Education, now the **Center for Global Engagement**, on Mountcastle Street.

Under the leadership of Jim Hamrick (2002-2020), ELI's reach expanded to provide an intensive English program serving students, scholars, and professionals. Jim orchestrated a move to the **UT Conference Center**, ensuring ELI could deliver language education in a modern, spacious, and technologically updated environment.

During a global pandemic, Em Chitty served as interim director, continuing to provide language support for local and international students and creating several innovative programs.

In July 2023, Todd Beard began as director to lead ELI into its next chapter. As the educational landscape evolves, the ELI remains nimble, offering online language learning opportunities, forging new international partnerships, and shaping a future that will sustain **vital programming for the University of Tennessee**. The ELI's future is undeniably bright, with a rich history as the foundation. Having served nearly 10,000 students throughout its history, ELI has been a bridge for international students on their English-learning journey.

We invite you to be a part of the next 45 years of this incredible journey!