



Becoming a Writer

By Susan L. Niemeyer (1994)

Back when I filled out my application for DEIL, I included writing as one of my lofty future career goals. I didn't have any concrete plans, but it sounded good at the time.

Then, after two years of teaching at Yonsei University in Korea, I sat down one long winter break with pencil and paper in hand and decided that it was the time to begin fulfilling this dream. I started by simply brainstorming a list of topics.

First on my list were book reviews for the Briefcases column in *TESOL Matters*. Because of their brevity (150 words), I quickly turned out a half-dozen and enjoyed seeing them appear from time to time.

Having gotten my feet wet, I next began writing about successful class activities for regional publications. These included an article inspired by a writing class for a *JALT* newsletter and a how-to piece on teaching with music for the *Korea TESOL Journal*.

These modest successes gave me the confidence to try further afield, and my second submission to the *TESOL Journal* was accepted. This article described an oral skills teaching unit which Mika Ishizuka (1994) and I had initially created for Mrs. Pearl Goodman's practicum class and which I had subsequently refined in my classes at Yonsei University.

Up to this point, my articles had all been

less than a thousand words in length. At the 1997 KOTESOL National Conference, I attended a presentation given by a graduate student who described a textbook she was writing. As I listened, the thought occurred to me, "If she can contemplate writing a book, why can't I?"

That night, as I lay in bed, the inspiration for a writing textbook hit me like a bolt of lightning. Turning on the nightlight, I filled pages and pages of notebook paper outlining the book's philosophy, content, and organization. I even went so far as to draw thumbnail sketches of the layout of each chapter. This was all in one night. Three weeks later, I had completed an initial draft of the first chapter.

Three years later, I have written over 140 pages and piloted my textbook in three writing classes. I wish I could report to you that it is now in print but the birth of my son, a new position at Seoul National University, and then a move to Los Angeles this summer, not to mention other writing projects, have delayed me.

When I joined Seoul National University's faculty in the spring of 1999, several professors were already involved in writing two lab guides for the *Crossroads Café* video series. Rosa Shim (1991), my colleague and fellow DEIL alumna (see *DYI*, Fall 1996), asked me to contribute the pronunciation component. With the generous



Susan Niemeyer teaches ESL in Southern California at El Camino College, American Language Institute, and Nissi Media, her husband's company.

assistance of Dr. Wayne Dickerson, I mapped out a complete pronunciation course spanning the 26 episodes. I particularly enjoyed creating lessons based on Professor Dickerson's PPS (Primary Phrase Stress) patterns. Peggy Wollberg (1998) also served as an editor and writer for the two texts, which have been published by Thomson Asia ELT.

The following semester, I was invited to write articles for the *Chosun Ilbo*, the most widely read newspaper in Korea. For my twice-weekly column, I composed humorous vignettes based on breakdowns in communication resulting from Konglish (Koreanized English). These articles have just been compiled in a book published by the newspaper's press.

Although my family and I have just moved to California, the editors at the

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Greetings From the Director

Dr. Numa Markee

I hope that you have all had a pleasant holiday season and that you are now well rested and looking forward to a productive new year.

As you know, DEIL is going through a number of important changes at the moment. After many years of dedicated service, Tom Gould (1978) is retiring at the end of this academic year as the Associate Director of the IEI. I am sure current and past students and faculty will join me in thanking him for his many contributions to the IEI and in wishing him the very best for his retirement. We also look forward to identifying and hiring his successor. This person will be charged with building on the foundations of excellence already laid by Tom.

There are also some important changes happening within the DEIL faculty. We have been fortunate to be able to welcome Professor Cathrine Berg, who joined DEIL as a faculty member in Fall 2000. Professor Berg is a writing specialist (see Faculty Update). DEIL was also given permission by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to search for a new faculty member specializing in Second Language Acquisition studies. At the time of writing, we have a healthy number of applicants for this position and anticipate making an offer to the successful candidate in Spring semester 2001. This will mean that DEIL will have the largest faculty it has had for several years, enabling us to offer a broader selection of elective courses than in the recent past. This obviously promises well for the long term future of DEIL as an academic unit.

As for changes in the office, we gave a farewell party for Cindy Giertz, our Administrative Aide for fifteen years, who accepted a promotion to another unit on campus. And we welcomed Jan Davis, Staff Secretary, recently from the IEI, and before that from Slavic, to handle the daily management of our busy office. Drop in and say hello to her.

Best wishes for the New Year!

nppm@uiuc.edu

Niemeyer, *cont. from page 1*

Chosun Ilbo Press have invited me to write another "Konglish Clinic" book, which I am currently developing with a Korean colleague.

Five years have passed since I first sat down and contemplated writing. Since then, my writing has appeared in various journals and in two published texts, with two additional books in the works. To fellow DEIL alumni who may have contemplated writing, I simply suggest that you reflect on your experiences as a teacher, gain confidence with manageable articles, and gradually build up to longer works. You can do it!

susanniemeyer@social.rr.com

Faculty Update

We welcome the newest member of the DEIL faculty, **E. Cathrine Berg** (Ph.D. - University of Pennsylvania, 1997), whose areas of expertise include second language writing, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, language planning, and TESL/TEFL methods.

A native speaker of Swedish with a wide range of university level teaching experience, she has much to offer MATESL candidates taking the methods and materials course, the TESL practicum, the reading and writing course, and her special electives. Welcome to the DEIL family!

ceberg@uiuc.edu

Alumni Update

Sandy Elbaum (1972) has just finished the third edition of her three-volume series *Grammar in Context* with Heinle and Heinle Publishers. Sandy has been teaching ESL at Truman College in Chicago for the past 20 years. To find out more about her textbooks, check out this Web site: <http://eslgrammar.heinle.com/gic/index.html>.

SELbaum@ccc.edu

Judy Gernant (1974) is teaching at a small women's junior college in Osaka. Over the years she has made many audio and video recordings for the publishers of American English pronunciation textbooks.

jkgernant@hotmail.com

Catherine Hanus-Zank (1975) is one of 14 Miami-Dade Community College professors to be awarded a 1999 MDCC Endowed Teaching Chair. Congratulations!

Tom Heenan (1978) is living in North Conway, New Hampshire (his daughter Talullah's home) where he manages a local tourist attraction, an eatery/pub. He hopes to get back into ESL nearby.

koochieku1@yahoo.com

John Turek (1978) works for the U.S. Embassy, where he is the Regional English Language Officer for Jordan, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon. He is on the selection committee for the Director of the U.S. Embassy Teaching Program.

jturek@usembassy-aman.org.jo

Naomi Jakobsson (1979) is the Executive Director of YWCA at the University of Illinois. *jake1938@home.com*

Ana Torres-Jusino (1979) is a full professor of English as a Second Language at Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, Connecticut. She is also advisor of the Multicultural Club there. She is happily married and has two children: Kaity (17) and Jaime Luis (16).

NK_Jusino@apollo.comnet.edu

Satoru Ikeda (1985) is working in the English and American Literature Department at Tamagawa University in Tokyo. He is a Full Professor of American Culture and has published *The Guide to American Culture* with his colleagues and has translated two books: *Markie and the Hammond Cousins* by Wanda M. Yoder and *The Dent Atlas of Jewish History* by Martin Gilbert.

iqueda@bg.mbn.or.jp

Craig Kelly (1985) has moved back to the U.S. after spending 15 years overseas. He is living in Rocklin, CA and is holding down two jobs: a full-time job as a Research Analyst at Sierra College and a half-time job teaching at American River College. He is readjusting to life in the U.S. and has two children—Eliot (16) and Vincent (13)—who are experiencing life in North America for the first time. *ckelly1@cwo.com*

Jelena (Beochanin) Naim (1985) has settled in Atlanta, Georgia where she and her husband (Rashid) teach at Georgia State University. Jelena (known as Ellen during her DEIL days) was recently promoted to Lecturer at GSU's Intensive English Program. She has four children: Amir (13),

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Alumni Update, continued

Aliya (10), Iman (7), and Hamza (2). She would love to hear from former classmates. jbnaim@hotmail.com

Wendy Hyman-Fite (1986) has taken a new position at the University of Missouri—St. Louis as Manager of Instructional Development for the Microcomputer Program. She jokes that she is working in Computer as a Second Language teacher training instead of ESL. whyman_fite@hotmail.com

Ella Ozier (1987; Ph.D. Linguistics 1991) and her husband, Kent Johnson, celebrated the birth of their son, Theo Bradley Johnson, on January 25, 2000. He joins his older brother Byungchun, who is 16. Ella is a Project Manager with Compuware Corporation in Milwaukee where she specializes in process improvement and knowledge management systems. ella_ozier@compuware.com

Kevin Curry (1988) is working at the University of Kansas in Continuing Education, where he helps put on conferences and short courses. k Curry@ukans.edu

Susie Sullivan-Tuncan (1988) has resigned from her full-time position at University of Missouri and is looking forward to spending more time with her three children. She will continue to work part time for the Intensive Program as a coordinator for their Conversation Partner and Thank-giving Homestay programs. iepsusan@showme.missouri.edu

John Levis (1989) is an Assistant Professor in Iowa State's TESL/Applied Linguistics program where he specializes in ESL/EFL pronunciation and oral communication methodology. jlevis@iastate.edu

Eunha Jung (1991) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Northeastern State University at Tahlequah, OK. Her husband, **Gene Hennigh** (1996), is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the same department, teaching composition while composing his first novel. jung@mail.nsuok.edu, hennigh@mail.nsuok.edu

Debbie (Barks) Smith (1991) married Brian Hendee Smith in June, 1999. They are now the parents of Zachary David, born in May. Double congratulations! In August they moved from Michigan to Seattle, WA. dbarks@umich.edu

Loretta Levine (1992) retired from Southern Illinois University and is now living with her daughter in Carlsbad, California. She enjoys sewing, gardening and soaking up the California sunshine on her morning walks. lmlevine@earthlink.net

Joy Garling Prud'homme (1994) is now Assistant to the Director of International Admissions at UIUC, a new position responding to the three-fold increase in international undergraduate admissions. She will implement a new database to track these applications. garling@uiuc.edu

Lynn Hofstad (1996) and her husband recently moved to a new apartment in Rolla, Missouri, where she has been enjoying an array of birds in her backyard. lhofstad@hotmail.com

Jay Wittmeyer (1996) is working in community development in Nepal with the Mennonite Central Committee. He also teaches English on the side. He is married and has a three-year-old girl and a one-year-old son. jaysarah@wlink.com.np

Julie Kim (1999) is working at Hewitt Associates in a Northeast suburb of Chicago. She specializes in retirement benefits and has been able to use her teaching skills to train fellow employees. She is also teaching Sunday School for 1st and 2nd graders at the church she attends. jhkim@hewitt.com

A Fond Farewell

For years we have advertised, on page 4, the spring advent of the Pragmatics and Language Learning Conference hosted by DEIL and the IEI and organized by Professor Larry Bouton. The conference this year was the last...at least for now.

After fourteen years, the event that attracted travelers from a multitude of countries and involved MATESL candidates, DEIL graduates, and many, many others has closed its doors in large part because of the retirement of Professor Bouton.

Over the years, the conference grew in stature and significance as one of the only gatherings devoted entirely to the research of pragmatics and the pedagogical ramifications of that research. Each year, a rich selection of papers from the conference was published in a monograph series, edited by Professor Bouton.

There is the hope that other institutions, perhaps in a rotating fashion, will carry on the tradition begun here. But at this time, it is only a hope. ■

Scott Simpson (2000) is a preceptor at Harvard in their Institute for English Language Programs. He enjoys living in Cambridge. ssimpson@fas.harvard.edu ■

Changes to the E-Mail Directory

Besides those noted in Alumni Updates, the following changes in e-mail addresses have come to our attention since the last listing. Please continue to inform us of your new contact information.

Carder, Jennifer
Chuang, Shun-Ling
Collett, Kelly
DellaFave, Damon
Dickerson, Lonna
Grant, Meredee
Jones, Juliet
Juzkiw, Irene
Kahn, Nafisa
Kaiser, DJ
Kickert, Kimberly
MacLellan, Philip

carder28@hotmail.com
chuang@nationwide.com
kcollett@uiuc.edu
dellafav@yahoo.com
Lonna.J.Dickerson@wheaton.edu
grant1@students.uiuc.edu
julietmjones@yahoo.com
juzkiwi@missouri.edu
nhakhan@hotmail.com
kaisersanders@hotmail.com
KickertK@culver.org
maclelln@mail.kobe-c.ac.jp

Alumni Authors

Have you written or co-authored a book in our field? Would you like to widen your audience and be an inspiration at the same time?

The *DEILing You In* staff is organizing an exhibit and permanent display of books written by DEIL alumni authors from all over the world. The exhibit will be in April, 2001. We are really proud of you, our alumni, and the contributions you are making to our profession. Surprisingly, however, not enough of our alumni and certainly not many current MATESL candidates know about the creative work you have done.

The size and impact of this exhibit and display will depend on you, as we are soliciting copies of your book(s). (Our library cannot buy these books as its acquisitions are almost exclusively free copies from publishers.) After the exhibit, the books will go into a permanent, Alumni Authors area in our DEIL departmental library for all to see what you have produced. In addition, the spring 2001 issue of *DYI* will list the contributions to the April exhibit so that more than 1000 DEIL alumni will know how our graduates are affecting the quality of instruction and understanding in our profession. Please be a part of this special effort to honor you, to promote your work, to help our departmental library, and to inspire current candidates and other alumni to follow your good example.

Please mail your books to *DEILing You In*, care of Wayne Dickerson, DEIL - 3070 FLB, 707 South Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801. Thank you!

From the Editor

Although musical chairs has been playing in the Director's office the last two years, we on the *DYI* staff try to provide continuity and keep you up on happenings here in DEIL and beyond, with your fellow graduates around the world. Thank you for your updates. Remember you can send your changes of address and news to us either by e-mail or on-line at <http://www.deil.uiuc.edu> (click on Alumni, then on Alumni Update Form). Keep 'em coming! It's always good to hear from you.

I want to say a special thank you to three who have assisted me in getting this issue on the road even though we still have no *DYI* editor: Susan Niemeyer (1994), now in California back from a long stint in Korea, and Patti Watts (1994) and Darendra Borgers (1996), both here on campus.

I hope to see you at TESOL in late February and early March.

dickerson+DYI@uiuc.edu

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Consulting Editor Wayne B. Dickerson
Editorial Support Darendra Borgers
Patti Watts

DEILing You In

Division of English as an International Language
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
3070 Foreign Languages Building
707 S. Mathews Avenue
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