



Bringing American Culture to Japan: An Interview with Satoru Ikeda (1985)

Patti Watts with Satoru Ikeda

PW: *Bring us up-to-date on your life since you graduated from DEIL.*

SI: It's already been 16 years since I left Urbana-Champaign. Since that time, I have traveled to many places, including return trips to Urbana-Champaign, to search for materials not only for teaching but also for writing and translating. At present I teach American Culture, not ESL, at the undergraduate and graduate level at Tamagawa University. As for my work in ESL, I serve as editor for the VISTA English Series, a textbook published by Sanseido Publishing Company for the elementary level of senior high school students. This series sells quite well and is ranked as the second best here in Japan almost every year. In my work, especially as an editor, many things I learned in the MATESL program, from the fellow students in my classes as well as the faculty, are still really helpful.

PW: *What led to your change in focus from ESL to American Culture?*

SI: The reason why I changed my emphasis from ESL to American Culture after I came back to Japan is that Mr. **Craig Kelly** (1985) (who is now teaching at American College, Sacramento, California) drove me to Arcola and Arthur, Illinois on one Saturday in the

fall of 1984. I saw the Amish for the first time and was so much impressed with their way of life that I became determined to study them, not ESL. Sorry! As soon as I made this decision, I started researching the Amish, even while I was still a student of DEIL.

PW: *That Saturday seems to have led to a fascination with the Amish that changed the direction of your life. Tell us how you came to translate books about them.*

SI: While writing the results of my Amish research, I happened to find *Proud to be Amish* by Mildred Jordan in the Main Library. The book had been written primarily for American children to understand the Amish way of life. I was determined to translate it into Japanese for Japanese children, mainly because I was convinced that the story could give them a chance to think about their situation: at the age of eight or nine, most of them are forced to attend "cram" schools so that they will be able to pass the entrance exams of a prestigious school. I wanted the Japanese children and their parents to realize how significant it would be to keep their tradition rather than seeking something new and convenient.

Immediately after I returned to Japan in the



Since graduating from DEIL, Satoru Ikeda dived head first into a career as a professor, editor, translator and author.

fall of 1985, I published the translation. It sold and still sells well, about which I am happy.

PW: *That's a wonderful story about having the vision and initiative to follow your dream. What happened after you published your translation?*

SI: To my surprise, I realized that publishing a book is just like taking drugs (though I never ever do that sort of thing). I really wanted to publish **another** book, though I knew it would take a lot of time and energy. I told Simul International Press that I wanted to write a book about the Amish. I still remember that I burst into laughter when I was asked if the Amish were a cult group. In those days no one in Japan knew anything about the Amish. That was lucky for me. I

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was able to publish *The Amish: Simple and Plain Life*. It sold well and still does so. As a result, I was profiled in the newspaper *Weekly Readers*. This fact stimulated my vanity! In addition my book was reviewed in *Sankei Shinbun*, one of the newspapers here. I received a lot of letters, both admiring and critical, from readers. I was also invited to a conference called Lyceum, which is held in Yokohama (as well as Tokyo) a couple of times a year to talk about the Amish. There, I was asked to write another book on the Amish culture. I had then determined, however, to write about the Hutterites, who are historically in the same stream as the Amish. I haven't done it yet, though, because I've been asked again and again by publishers to write a book about American culture and translate some other books about the Jewish people. I am very sure that one chance of publishing a book gives birth to another chance, if it is a good book.

PW: You really have had a lot of wonderful opportunities and experiences. Do you have any advice to offer alumni who are interested in translation or writing?

SI: Although it requires a great deal of endurance as well as time to write a book or even an article, nothing is more precious than the fruit of long endurance, especially to the person who has produced the fruit. I guess whoever produces the fruit wishes to produce another. This, however, might not

be understood without experience. Another way to say this is that those who do not make mistakes are those who do nothing. We should not be afraid of being criticized. I would say that we should be careful not to become a dilettante. If we enjoy what we are interested in, we should analyze why we enjoy it and write the results of our analysis. Writing is a kind of habit: it's a kind of drug in that sense.

PW: And what is the current state of your habit?

*SI: I think I am not able to live even a day without reading or writing. I mean I have acquired the habit of writing, no matter what it is I write. Recently, *The English-Japanese Student's Dictionary of U.S. History*, for which I worked as a chief editor, was finally published by ALC Press. I am now translating *American Muslims: The New Generation* by Asma Gul Hasan into Japanese with my young friends. It will be published in January 2002.*

PW: Thank you. We wish you continued success.

SI: Thank you for giving me a chance to talk about what I've been doing since I left Urbana-Champaign. I hope DEIL will be more prosperous than ever and that DEIL alumni will get in contact with me.
ikueda@bg.mbn.or.jp

Alumni Update

Glenn Deckert (1970) is a Fulbright scholar this spring in Qatar, studying communicative language teaching in an Arabic setting. He is on sabbatical leave from Eastern Michigan where he is an Associate Professor of ESL/TESOL in the Department of Foreign Languages and Bilingual Studies (known as FLABS!). He's still doing TESOL teacher training and ESL teaching of international students.

fla_deckert@online.emich.edu

Laurie (Muhs) Chaker (1974) has moved with her family to the DC area, where she is teaching elementary ESL and French Immersion (math and science, 6th grade) in Fairfax Co., Virginia. She's amazed at how many DEIL alumni are in the same area. *achaker@asce.org*

Sister Louis Goulet (1976) was delighted to be back in Urbana this summer to brush up on her English. She lives in Quebec where she does pastoral work and is a superior of fifteen sisters of her order.

Joanne Marino (1978) is now totally involved in K-12 ESL. She is the lead ESL teacher for her county school system and frequently provides teacher training for counties across North Carolina.

MsJGMarino@aol.com

Ibrahim Jodairi Salimy (1978) currently teaches different English courses at the BA and MA levels in the English Department at Tabriz University in Iran.

jodairi@tabrizu.ac.ir

Georgette Jabbour (1980) is a member of the English Department faculty at New York Institute of Technology, where she teaches ESL composition and a new course in multicultural literature. She will also offer "Linguistic Theory and Language Development for Teachers" for the School of Education.

gjabbour@iris.nyit.edu

Mayrene (Mimi) Bentley (1983) is a professor in the English department at Northeastern State University of Oklahoma. *bentley@nsuok.edu*

Jungok Bae (1993) is now Dr. Bae, having completed her Ph.D. at UCLA this past summer and is now in job-search mode. Good luck, Jungok!

jungokb@yahoo.com

Shawn Harrison (1993) lives in DeKalb with his wife, Lauran, and their two

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Faculty Update

We are happy to announce the addition of **Kim McDonough** to the DEIL faculty. Welcome, Kim! Kim did her doctoral work at Georgetown University in applied linguistics. She's had extensive ESL/EFL experience in the States and in Thailand. Her research specialty is in second language acquisition theory as studied in the language classroom. She teaches EIL 311- ESL Methods and Materials, EIL 389 - Theoretical Foundations of Second Language Acquisition, and a seminar in her area of specialization.

Faculty Favorites

Do you remember struggling to get through the articles and books on the reading list as you studied for comprehensive exams? Now, *DYI* is assembling a new list just for alumni. This time around there's no pressure though: peruse the list of recommendations from current faculty members and find a book or article that intrigues you. No test. We promise.

Dr. Irene Koshik, Specialist in Conversation Analysis

My favorite book on language use, or language and social interaction, for TESOL teachers is Nessa Wolfson's (1989) *Perspectives: Sociolinguistics and TESOL*, Heinle & Heinle. I like it because it's easy for students to understand, the writing is engaging, it presents students with important information about many different aspects of language use, and it relates each area explicitly to TESOL. Unfortunately, it's out of date in some areas and also, I think, out of print. One other major problem is that Wolfson's discussion of conversation analysis is full of misunderstandings and thus unreliable. But except for the discussion on conversation analysis, it's still worth reading for the principles in it if you can get a copy. The next best book I've seen on language use, written specifically for TESOL teachers, is a collection edited by Sandra McKay and Nancy Hornberger (1996), *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching*, Cambridge University Press. It covers a wide range of perspectives, written by experts in those areas, and each one is related to language teaching. But the book may not be as readily accessible for those without a background in language use or sociolinguistics.

Fred Davidson (1981), Language Testing Specialist

My recommendation would reflect a lot of the reading and study I have been doing over recent years, which is superficially not related to TESL. I have been reading in general philosophy and in philosophy of education: I recommend the pragmatists: John Dewey, William James, and Charles Sanders Peirce. In particular:

James' *Pragmatism*, Harvard University Press

(can be found online at: http://paradigm.soci.brocku.ca/~lward/James/James1_toc.html)

Peirce's "How To Make Our Ideas Clear" and "The Fixation of Belief"

(can be found online at: <http://members.door.net/arisbe/>)

The former is a long monograph often published as a stand-alone book. The latter two are articles.

Both are reprinted widely and available online. I find that the philosophical school of pragmatism has much to say about the reality of any form of education, including language teaching. Pragmatism causes us to think about the consequences of our action because the definition of a thing (to a pragmatist) is its consequence. This is particularly relevant to testing. We see an increasing attention to consequential evidence of validity — a.k.a. backwash. In short, I think that pragmatism may be a philosophical basis for modern test validation.

Cathrine Berg, Writing Pedagogy Specialist

An excellent book in the TESOL field is *Teaching ESL Composition: Purpose, Process, and Practice* by D. Ferris and J. Hedgcock (Lawrence Erlbaum, 1998). I recommend it to anyone who teaches L2 writing because it connects theory with practice and does so in an easy to understand way with lots of concrete examples.

Alumni Update, continued

daughters, Katie and Ruth. After several years of teaching ESL in New Jersey, he landed his current job as an editor at Tyndale House Publishers in Carol Stream.

sah@tyndale.com

Diana Steele (1993) earned her Ph.D. in Education last May and is now working at UIUC's Division of Measurement and Evaluation, where her primary responsibilities lie with the freshmen placement and proficiency exams. She is happily settled in Champaign with her husband and their two salt water aquariums.

dmsteele@uiuc.edu

Mika Ishizuka (1994) is a full-time lecturer in the Division of English Language and Culture at Caritas Junior College in Tokyo, a small two-year college founded by a Catholic convent in Quebec.

PXS01447@nifty.ne.jp

Kathleen (Schirra) Moon (1994) is enjoying being a mom for Laura (2 1/2) and Eric (3 months) and part-time teacher at the Crossroads Conversation School and English Language Institute, both associated with Oregon State University.

moon@prolog.net

Maria Snarski (1994) and **Portia Williams** (1995) had their reunion in South Africa last month and sent a picture to prove it. Maria was in Mozambique, and Portia was in South Africa; they first met each other in Albania in 1996.

miasnarski@aol.com,

pwilliams@za.peacecorps.gov

Joonmi Hwang (1995) is a Texan! She moved to Houston where her husband teaches at Rice University.

joonmi@hanmail.net

Haejin (Ha) Patton (1995) is being a super mom these days with Caleb (27 months) and Michaela (10 months). But you will have to come to Champaign to see them! *haejinjoe@bigfoot.com*

Cindy (Connolly) Sandoval (1995) had a busy two years in Honduras: She married Hector Sandoval, had her daughter, Sara Sohia, and did part-time EFL tutoring. She and her family have now settled in the Washington, DC area where she teaches ESL to kindergartners in the Arlington Public Schools.

Lynn Hofstad (1996) and family are homeowners! She is currently teaching ESL

at Spring International Language Center at the University of Arkansas.

lhofstad@hotmail.com

Su Liu (1996) is studying for another degree in Management Information Systems at Kansas State University, caring for her two children, and teaching Chinese to travelers at KSU. She reports having a wonderful trip back to China with her whole family this past summer.

sli8989@ksu.edu

Paul McCabe (1996) and **Srisucha (Bisalbutra) McCabe** (1996) now have a houseful - twins, Acacia Raiwynn and Jasmine Eiryn, born on October 19 in Alexandria, Virginia. Congratulations twice over! Paul teaches in the Arlington Education and Employment Program, and Srisucha works for TESOL as an Education Programs Coordinator. *srisucha@go.com,*
pmccab@msn.com

Susan (McDonagh) Amaya (1997) had a June wedding. Congratulations! She and Jose live in Bethesda, Maryland. Sue works for Arthur Andersen in the Common Language Program, where she designs, develops and delivers English language training for the firm and does consulting for their offices in North, Central and South America. She likes the area but is uncertain about her future in a downsizing company. *sm_amaya@yahoo.com*

Eric McCune (1997) reports that Adrian arrived in June to join his sister, Mariana (now 3). Eric works in the semiconductor industry. He and his wife, Sonia, also run a business on the side teaching corporate Spanish.

esmccune@hotmail.com

Steve Song (1997) worked as an ESL teacher at the secondary level and as a youth counselor. Now he's pursuing a doctoral degree in Human Development and Psychology, with a focus on immigration and cultural anthropology within the field of education. He says he's enjoying Cambridge.

steve_song@gse.harvard.edu

Yuko (Nozawa) Barnes (1998) suffered a tragic loss this past summer. Her husband, Ben Barnes, died unexpectedly of congestive heart failure. Yuko and her baby, Chikako, stayed with **Christine Gozdzia** (1999) for a while. We extend her our deepest sympathy. *yuko-ben@shout.net,*
gozdzia@uiuc.edu

Serene Chan (1998) is a very new bride, having gotten married 1 January 2002 to Chi Wing Hau. A hearty congratulations! She is currently a lecturer of English at the Community College of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies of the University of Hong Kong.

serene_c@yahoo.com

Stacia Steward (1999) and Brian are living in Ames, Iowa, where Brian is an Assistant Professor at Iowa State University. They celebrated the birth of their third son, Simeon in October. In addition to being a full-time mom to Simeon, Timothy (4 1/2) and Benjamin (2 1/2), Stacia volunteers as an ESL teacher for a group of post-docs and spouses of students. *bsteward@istate.edu*

Karen Aiello (2001) is excited (and a little scared) to be teaching 9th grade English in a small rural high school in England, Arkansas. Although they have no ESL students yet,

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DEIL Alumni Authors Library Collection

DEIL and the librarians of the DEIL Helen Brennan Memorial Library wish to express their great thanks for ongoing contributions of books authored by DEIL alumni. These books are displayed in the DEIL library and are available to all MATESL candidates. Periodically, alumni books are shown in a public exhibit. Special thanks go to **Harumi Nakamura** (1969) (*nakamura@teleline.es*) and **Heidi (Shetzer) Helfand** (1997) (*heidi@expertcity.com*) for the following books.

Nakamura, Harumi. 1996. *Introduction to American English and Basic Theory and Practice of its Pronunciation.* Kinseido Press.

Warschauer, Mark, Shetzer, Heidi & Meloni, Christine. 2000. *Internet for English Teaching.* TESOL.

Update *cont'd from page 3*

Karen sees how many of the things that we do in ESL can be readily adapted to regular English students. kaiello@hotmail.com

Jennifer Chien (2001) now holds a lecturer position at Southern Taiwan University of Technology only a ten-minute drive from home! She is teaching freshman English but may return soon to the States to begin doctoral work.
jennifer61801@yahoo.com

Woo-Mee Lee (2001) is teaching and having fun at the Foreign Language Institute at Yonsei University in Korea. Helping on the fun side are **Julie Lee** (1997) and **Mark MacLean** (1997) who are also teaching at Yonsei. woomeelee@hotmail.com

William Sun (2001) is teaching English in a senior high school in Taiwan. He says, "It's been great being a young teacher with lots of teenagers around."
williamsun@ms36.url.com.tw

Olivia Szabo (2001) is an adjunct faculty member at Seattle Antioch University, teaching SLA theory and language teaching methods to undergraduate students

working on their teaching certificates in Liberal Arts. Being in the Pacific Northwest, Olivia enjoys hiking and biking as well as spending her weekends discovering Seattle.
oszabo@hotmail.com

Duangrudee (Petch) Techa-intrawong (2001) is teaching English for the Department of English at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Right now she is handling an English composition course and one in her favorite area, pronunciation.
thepetchy@hotmail.com

MiJung Oh (2001) is pursuing Translation and Interpretation at Monterey Institute of International Studies in California.
ohmijung@hotmail.com

Rebecca Turner (2001) is now teaching kindergarten through 2nd grade ESL in Charlotte, NC, and will soon be teaching low-level ESL classes for the parents of some of her students! beckymk1@hotmail.com ■

From the Editors

In this issue, we hear from Satoru Ikeda, a distinguished DEIL graduate, whose passion for English and interest in American culture led to a career as an author and translator.

Those of you who are looking for some good professional reading will find helpful recommendations in our new Faculty Favorites column, which we plan to continue in future issues.

We're always delighted to hear what you are doing. You can send your news and/or change of address to us in two ways: by e-mail (dickrson+DYI@uiuc.edu) or through the internet (<http://www.deil.uiuc.edu>). The national TESOL conference in Salt Lake City is fast approaching. If you attend, make sure to check for news about the DEIL reunion. We hope to see you there.

Best wishes and stay in touch!

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