



Teaching Pronunciation Online?

Carolyn Quarterman (1989)



Carolyn Quarterman is an ESL lecturer for the Foreign Languages department at North Carolina State University.

Can pronunciation be taught effectively online? This is often the question (along with a doubtful look) I get when I tell someone that we have an online section of our American English Pronunciation course at NCSU. We developed the online course with the idea that it would appeal to students on campus, in the community, and beyond who wanted to improve their pronunciation but were unable to attend on-campus classes due to schedule conflicts or distance. I, too, had my doubts when I was first approached about developing such a course. However, after teaching the online version of the course

for three semesters, I can say with confidence that it can be very effective!

The course is set up in WebCT Vista, a Learning Management System, and makes use of Wimba voice tools, the ElluminateLive! virtual conference room, narrated presentations (in Adobe Breeze), video clips and some interactive Flash activities. Students log in each week to the WebCT course site to find the week's assignments and then work on the tasks assigned throughout the week. They work in the course textbook with CDs, watch and interact with video clips and narrated slide presentations, make homework recordings, take quizzes and exams (via WebCT and the virtual conference room), and attend office hours. Perhaps the best way to describe the effectiveness of the class is to list the most frequent concerns of students and explain how we address them.

1. "I need face-to-face interaction. The teacher and I need to hear and see each other." Students have regular contact and interaction with me, through e-mail, homework/feedback recordings, and office hours. They record their homework on Wimba voiceboards (similar to a discussion board but with audio capabilities) every week and get recorded feedback from me. I also meet once a week with students in groups of four for a "virtual" office hour in an Elluminate Live! conference

room, during which we can speak to one another, ask and answer questions, and practice the pronunciation topics covered. In the conference room, students can see my face (I use a webcam), and we all can manipulate a whiteboard, PowerPoint slides, and websites as we practice and discuss. They can see other students who have a webcam. Students also see me in the welcome video and in instructional video clips introducing and modeling various pronunciation features.

2. "The class will feel impersonal with no social element." The first week of class I ask students to e-mail me a photo and a short bio, which I use to make a bio page that all the students can read. Students can thus know who their classmates are—their appearance, their majors, home countries, and their hobbies and interests. In addition, they post short self-introductions for the first voiceboard recording of the semester, and respond to at least two other students' introductions. During office hours, I try to include some activities in our structured practice that give them an opportunity to share information about themselves and their lives. As a result, students have a sense of being part of a class and especially get to know those who share the same office hour. One group bonded so well that they arranged to have a meal together near campus when the

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semester ended!

3. "Online instruction will be boring and I'll get less individual feedback." Students get a lot of personalized feedback—on their initial diagnostic recording, on their weekly recordings, in office hours, and following quizzes and oral exams. To make activities more interactive and interesting, embedded self-quizzes in the narrated presentations and interactive Flash activities give students immediate feedback on their understanding of the topics presented and help keep them engaged.

4. "The technology will be complicated." While some students are unfazed by technology or even look forward to trying out the voice tools and virtual conference room, there are some who worry about the complexities of the tools and whether they will be able to use them. To help them overcome their qualms, I introduce the different technologies gradually the first two weeks—giving assignments that require

accessing activities, presentations, making recordings, and meeting in the virtual conference room. For the local students, I offer an optional session in the computer lab to give them an orientation to the tools. In addition, if students run into difficulty, we have a university technology hotline (contacted via e-mail) and a special phone number for technological help with the virtual conference room. Any problems that have come up have been solved by these services or were only temporary. Of course, the more technology involved, the more chance there is of something going wrong. I assure students that if something happens and they are unable to access a quiz, an activity or office hours, to simply let me know as soon as possible. They will not be penalized for technological mishaps but need to keep me informed.

The feedback from students taking the course has been positive. There are some who feel they still prefer the on-campus

style class but feel that they learned a lot from the online version. Others praise the flexibility of the course and the fact that they could do it from home, and some really enjoy trying the new technology. As a teacher, I would say the course is no less time-consuming than an on-campus one; in fact, sometimes it is more time-consuming (there was a lot of time up front developing the materials and getting familiar with the technology). In addition, some students need a lot of encouragement at the beginning to stay on track with the assignments and feel comfortable with the technology. However, it has been a good and challenging experience creating materials and activities for a different class format. Moreover, the materials developed for this class can also be used to supplement my on-campus classes, offering additional practice and review for those who need it or have missed classes. ■



Alumni Update

Minoo Varzegar (1971) writes that she was appointed as the Director of the Program in American Language Studies of Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. Congratulations, Minoo!
Varzegar@aol.com

Reza Nilipour (1972) is still an active professional. She was recently a guest professor in the prestigious European Masters in Clinical Linguistics program (in Potsdam University in Germany), where she gave talks on neurolinguistics and bilingualism and advised students on their projects.
rezanili@yahoo.com

Laurie (Muhs) Chaker (1974) is still teaching elementary school in Fairfax County, VA where they have many ESOL students, mostly Spanish speaking born in the US. She says, "There's never a dull mo-

ment." *Laurie.Chaker@fcps.edu*

Carmen Zuñiga Dunlap (1974) is still at Cal State Fullerton in her third year as the associate dean in the College of Education. She just published a book, *Success with English Language Learners* for new K-8 teachers. *czdunlap@fullerton.edu*

John Kostovich (1976) is a full-time tenured instructor in the Department of ESL/Foreign Languages at Miami Dade College, Hialeah Campus, in Florida. His specialty is pronunciation and speech assessment of EAP students. Before settling in Florida, John taught in our Tehran, Iran program, then went to Cairo, Egypt, Bucaramanga, Colombia, Mexico, and finally to the great State of Texas. *jkostovi@mdc.edu*

Linda Reingardt (1977) writes, "I continue to work as a consultant—ESL specialist—in the Writing Center and to teach academic courses in the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh. I also work as a freelance editor when time permits. I

expect to move back to northern Illinois in the near future, and will be looking for jobs in the suburbs west of Chicago." Contact Linda if you have ideas for her.
mrgdrdt@pitt.edu

Kristi (Hillbom) Lukens (1978) is currently a freelance editor for a prominent medical reference publishing company. She says, "I am writing the pronunciations for a medical dictionary." Wayne hopes the 388 phonology class is helping!
klukens@wowway.com

Nuchamon (Stitnimankarn) James (1979) says, "I'm currently an adjunct professor at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. I'm in the process of writing a grammar book." That's no easy job. Best wishes!
nuchnbill@aol.com

Pat Owens (1979) has had a peripatetic career, starting with the Iran before the Ayatollah, then Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Japan, China and Indonesia. In recent years, he's returned to the midwest.

In 1989, his wife died, and Pat has been working in Chicago as a copy editor and occasional copy writer and living with his 11-year-old daughter Delilah in Munster, Indiana. powens@fcb.com

Pam Patti (1979) was evacuated from Beirut, Lebanon, last summer. "This was my second evacuation from the Middle East; the first was from Tehran, Iran in 1979." She will leave in early September to teach in Rabat, Morocco. pattie7@yahoo.com

Shikaripur N. Sridhar (1979), known to most of us as Sridhar, is now Professor of Linguistics and India Studies, and Chair of the Department of Asian & Asian American Studies at Stony Brook University, NY. That's a lot of work but offers many opportunities, too. Best wishes!
s.sridhar@stonybrook.edu

Jan Moy (1983) reported the death of her classmate **Ida Luhukay** (1982) in Singapore the last week of July after waging a courageous battle with advanced-stage cancer. She was teaching at a university in Jakarta. She leaves behind her husband of 30 years, Joseph, and children, Ruth and Michael. JaniceMoy@cs.com

Kirsten Schaezel (1984) wrote in to say, "After nine years of living in Asia, my husband and I returned to the States last year and are living in Washington, DC. I'm working at the Center for Applied Linguistics, the Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. We do teacher training in 24 of the "new immigrant" states and help states design professional development plans for their teachers of adult ELLs. It's very interesting work and I'm enjoying it!"
kschaetz@hotmail.com

Liz (Meija) Siler (1985) is the ESL Specialist in the Department of English at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. She's written several ESL textbooks (*American Picture Show*, *5 Star Films*, and *102 Very Teachable Films* (all by Prentice Hall originally) under the name Elizabeth Mejia. She's married to an artist and has two children, Pam Mejia (age 21) and Brian Siler

DEIL alum-list

A couple of years ago **Stephanie Hanson** (2006) started the DEILALUM listserv to connect DEIL alumni and current DEIL students. (See the last issue of DYI for details.) At the moment, **Amanda Huensch**, a current MATESL candidate, is manager of the listserv.

Another effort to connect alumni with each other and with DEIL faculty was begun recently by **Sharon (Pyun) Yoon** (2004). *Always Illinois* is an online community initiated by the Illinois Alumni Association. Sharon began a group called DEIL (MATESL) Alumni. If you are interested in registering with the group, go to <http://www.uiuc.edu/alwaysillinois> and follow the instructions. Once registered, click on the Group tab and then on Find Group. Enter DEIL (MATESL) Alumni or scroll down through the groups to find ours. Thanks, Sharon!

s_l_hanson@yahoo.com, huensch@uiuc.edu, ssyoon@uiuc.edu

(age 11). elizabethsiler@gmail.com

Paulette Koubek-Yao (1986) now teaches ESL full time at Pasadena City College in CA. That and her two children, 6 and 4, keep her busy. She enjoyed visiting her classmate, **Masako Suzuki** (1986), when she and her family were in LA recently.
pauletteyao@yahoo.com,
hamasuzuki@msn.com

Tim Collins (1987), associate professor at National-Louis University, Chicago, just finished his year as a Fulbright Scholar for 2006-2007. Tim worked in the Teacher Professional Development Center of the Ministry of Education in Taiwan where he was responsible for conducting staff development in a region of northeast Taiwan.
Tcollins@nl.edu

Ella Ozier (1987) was recently appointed Director of Claims Product Management for a company that supplies building cost information to property and casualty insurance companies in the United States and Canada. She and her husband, Kent, live in Pewaukee, WI, just outside of Milwaukee.
ellao@wi.rr.com

Hsiu-Ju Lin (1991) is Associate

Professor and Chair of the Department of Applied Foreign Languages at Chaoyang University of Technology in Wufeng, Taiwan. It's a tremendous job, but she says she's doing her best to manage all the different jobs. hjlin@cyut.edu.tw

Chongmin Lee (1992) is visiting UIUC for a year with her husband and is taking in on-campus opportunities to grow. For the last five years, she has been director of the Research Institute for English Education, Sogang University Foundation, Seoul, Korea, where she has developed textbook materials and texts for use across Korea. She's also been an ESL instructor at Sogang University. cleel222@gmail.com

Maria Snarski (1994), a U.S. Foreign Service Specialist, back from two years in Turkey, was on campus last month, discussing the role of Foreign Service Officers and Specialists to promote mutual understanding through cultural outreach programs.
miasnarski@comcast.net

Volker Hegelheimer (1995) can't get away from UIUC. **Carol Chapelle** (1979), **John Levis** (1989), and Barb Schwarte (who took many DEIL courses while at UIUC and

is past president of TESOL) also work at Iowa State University. Last summer, Volker was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. A career milestone! Congratulations! He and his wife, Bellinda live in Ames with their three children, Michael (10), Sabrina (8), and Melina (6). *volkerh@iastate.edu*

Leslie Hammersmith (1996) continues as Director of Educational Technologies in CITES at UIUC, helping faculty and instructors use educational technologies more effectively. Since her last update, she's gotten married to Sven Johnson and moved to the country. 'We are now 30 minutes from campus, but have 5 acres covered with beautiful trees. The house is an old farmhouse from the early 1800s with many updates. It is an idyllic country life. I even have a barn to bring my two horses home.' *lkhammer@uiuc.edu*

Tim Noble (1996) received a full scholarship, covering all his tuition for further graduate studies at Regent College in Vancouver, beginning in Fall 2007. Best wishes to you, **Brenda** (1995), and the boys, Nat and Pete, as you make the move from Thailand. *NobleTB@omf.net*

Jaana Thorarensen's (1996) life has been full of children. Her son is now in college; her daughter is a high school sophomore, and her youngest son is in second grade. As a result, Jaana has started teaching high school full time. She also teaches ESL at St. Charles Community College (Cottleville, MO). 'Teaching and taking care of my kids keep me very busy.'

athorarensen@msn.com

Alison Kitzman (1997) reports that she's now tenured in the Foreign Language Department at Kinki University in Osaka, married to a colleague from Chicago, and feels that her career is taking off. That's always good news to our ears. *abkitz@yahoo.com*

Carlos Gabriel del Moral (1998) reports that after finishing his doctorate here at UIUC, and recovering to some extent from hearing loss, he's been teaching linguistics

and writing courses at Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, and contrastive grammar and oral English at Aconcagua University, both in Mendoza, Argentina. His students are prospective EFL teachers and translators. *juancmoral@uolsinectis.com*

Christine Gozdziaik (1998) got married in June of last year. Since then she's become the Director of International Programs (study abroad) and Honors for the College of Business at UIUC. Congratulations on both counts, Christine! *gozdziaik@uiuc.edu*

Dan Kim (1999) lives with her husband in Pittsburgh, PA, where she is working on a book based on her recent doctoral dissertation to be published next year. As of April, they have a new member in their home. Congratulations to you on the birth of your daughter, Claire! In January the family moves back to Korea where Dan's husband will be professor of mechanical engineering at Sungkyunkwan University. *dkirene@gmail.com*

Rungruedee Naratreegul (1999) Nice reports that she recently took a job with Dow Chemical Thailand as Department Head for Public Affairs. Congratulations, Nice! Dow is investing heavily in new construction in Thailand, and it's Nice's job to smooth the way for this construction with the local communities. Nice also recently gathered all the UIUC grads in Bangkok for a reunion. What fun! *naratree@hotmail.com*

Jen Carder (2000) writes, 'After teaching in the public schools in Minnesota for five years, I have recently moved back to Illinois. I am currently teaching ESL at Maine West High School in Des Plaines. I love my job more than I thought possible. When I'm not teaching, I keep myself busy with hockey and various other activities. I recently took up the competitive sport of stair climbing. I am really happy to be back in Illinois so I can be closer to my family.' *carder28@hotmail.com*

Barbara Schoeder Jensen (2000) and her husband, Kurt, are enjoying the arrival of the newest member of their family, Liam. Congratulations, Barb! When not on

mommy-duty, Barb is also working on a prep book for the speaking component of the new TOEIC for The University of Michigan Press. *barbaram@princeton.edu*

Kate Hahn (2000) and Dave welcomed their son, Thomas, into their family this spring and also moved into their first home - two big jobs at once. Congratulations to you both! *khahn7@mac.com*

DJ Kaiser (2000) finished his MA in Drama and has been awarded full funding to continue on for his PhD in Comparative Literature with an emphasis in Drama at Washington University, starting in the fall. He says, 'Although I'm not in the TESL field anymore, I definitely am using so many of the skills [I learned during the MATESL years] in what I do.' Good show, DJ! *kaisersanders@hotmail.com*

Yung-Hui Chien (2001) received another MA last April, this one in Human-Computer interaction, from the University of Michigan, and entered a doctoral program there in Literacy, Language and Culture. Academic pursuits and a one-year-old daughter keep her very busy. *yhchien@sbcglobal.net*

Marilena Draganescu (2001) now lives in Baltimore with her husband who teaches at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she begins a doctoral program in Language, Literacy and Culture in the fall and also teaches international graduate students. *mari_draganescu@hotmail.com*

Omar Nunez-Mendez (2001) reports that the social unrest in Oaxaca was so severe in '06 that many businesses closed, including his own language institute. He's now reopened his institute, but in addition, has founded a non-profit organization focused on preserving indigenous languages and developing literacy in Oaxaca. He intends to combine this with courses and workshops related to language and Mexican culture. *nunezmen@fulbrightweb.org*

Olivia Szabo (2001) and her husband, Mark (now a librarian at MIT), moved to Boston not long ago. Olivia is teaching

in Boston University's CELOP (Center for English Language and Orientation Programs). To top that off, their daughter, Gaia Rozália, was born on January 9. Multiple congratulations are in order! And best wishes on juggling home and job!

oszabo@hotmail.com

Yamile Adames (2002) works in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the Political and Communications Officer for the Canadian Embassy.

yamileadames@gmail.com

Theresa Ferguson (2002) and her husband, David, became parents this year. Their daughter is Gwyneth Ann. More congratulations! The family lives in Sacramento, CA. *tafergus@yahoo.com*

Jungtae Kim (2002) finished his Ph.D. at UIUC in 2006 and returned to Korea where he's been teaching a wide range of SLA, testing, materials development, and EFL courses at four different colleges in Korea. That sounds like a really hard life. Power to you! *kim.jungtae@gmail.com*

Stephanie (Towner) Ngom (2002) will spend this academic year in Senegal with her husband, Fallou, who won a Fulbright award. In May they welcomed their second daughter, Marieme, to their family to join their first daughter, Mame Diarra. Congratulations! *Townerngom@yahoo.com*

Bruce Norris (2002) works for the Center for Teaching Excellence at UIUC but has become an aficionado at all things having to do with pronunciation. He teaches ESL at a private institute in town, and the rest of the time, he tutors in the Union Courtyard. *benorris@uiuc.edu*

Stephanie (Yopp) Dewing (2003) and her husband are thrilled with their first child, Zachary Stephen, born in February. She says, 'I'm working on my PhD at the University of Colorado in Denver in Educational Leadership and Innovation. This is my second year.' *syopp@hotmail.com*

Katia (Mello) Paiva (2003) says that 'My MA from DEIL opened doors to me in Brazil. I have had the chance to put into

DEIL Award Winners

2007

The DEIL Peter Strevens Award for Academic Excellence

Hee Sung (Grace) Jun

The DEIL Mary A. Hussey Award for Excellence in ESL Teaching

Amanda R. Huensch

The DEIL Peter Strevens Award for Excellence in Teaching in the IEI

Ulugbek E. Nurmukhamedov

*Graduation with Distinction**

David J. Bartsch

Yen-Tzu Chang

Hee Sung (Grace) Jun

**Two different achievements qualify a person for this honor. The first is a grade of HIGH-PASS for the whole comprehensive examination. The second is a grade of PASS for the whole exam and a perfect 4.0 GPA for all courses taken in the MATESL curriculum.*

practice some of what I learned at DEIL. At the moment I teach English teaching methodology and a teaching practicum at a college in Goiania, my city. Much of what I do in my classes are based on the good examples I had at DEIL. I miss DEIL very, very much!' *katiavello@hotmail.com*

Emily Rebro (2003) is living in Tucson, AZ, hoping to use her K-12 ESL endorsement or find a better opportunity. Best wishes, Emily! Look for her at the New York TESOL. *erebro@yahoo.com*

Misty Ferguson (2004) has been teaching ESL and Spanish at Danville High School in Danville, IL. *wetexn4@yahoo.com*

Reiko Takeuchi (2004) is in her third year of teaching English at a public high school in Japan. She says it's not easy but it's enjoyable. *frake_xx@hotmail.com*

Sharon Yoon (2004) is now Associate Director of MBA Student Services in the School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis. *sharonyoon@wustl.edu*

Isabel Yajiao Deng (2006) writes from Beijing to say that, after getting settled,

she's teaching an ELT methodology course and a content course at the Institute of Online Education, Beijing Foreign Studies University. *ydeng2@uiuc.edu*

Emily Hager (2006) has been busy as an academic, teaching Historical and Modern Linguistics at Greenville College (near St. Louis), a writing and culture class for international students, and a composition course for freshman. She's also been subbing for a teacher at SIU-Edwardsville and working for a non-profit adult ESL program in St. Louis. *eahager@hotmail.com*

Stephanie Hanson (2006) is teaching English (mainly speaking and pronunciation) in the International Teaching Assistant Development Program at Cornell University. Since she has her summers off, she's been traveling in Central and South America. *s_l_hanson@yahoo.com*

Yesun Jun (2006) was married in Korea last August. She and her husband live in Savoy, IL. Yesun volunteers as an English and Korean teacher these days. Congratulations to you both, and thanks for the beautiful picture of your wedding!

From the Editors

jyesun@gmail.com

Justin (Jinhong) Kim (2006) is in a doctoral program in Human Resource Education at UIUC, having completed a second MA in that same department.

kim76@uiuc.edu

Miriam (Nibly) Ladner (2006) is teaching ESL at Parkland College and says that she loves it there. She'll be in the C-U area until her husband finishes his doctoral work. *nibley4@hotmail.edu*

Lifeng Yang (2006) is now settled into her doctoral program in marketing at Ohio State University. *yang.1111@osu.edu*

Carolina da Cunha (2007) will enter Teachers College, Columbia University for doctoral work when she and her husband return from London. Congratulations on your acceptance! *dacunha2@gmail.com*

Hongli Li (2007) will be entering doctoral studies in Education Psychology at Penn State in the fall. Congratulations, Hongli! *hli24@uiuc.edu* ■

Greetings from Urbana-Champaign! As we write, Fall semester is getting underway at the University of Illinois. Our 2007 entering class numbers a whopping 30! (We like to keep it around 25.) For the first time in many, many years, half are domestic students and half are internationals. (Our usual split is 40%-60%.) Among the internationals, we have our first two Palestinian students, and our first student from Uruguay. The rest are from China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. This 2007 class is significant in a more momentous way: They are the last to enter as DEIL MATESL candidates. The next class (Fall 2008) will enter as Linguistics students. The degree won't change, only its home department. With the merger of DEIL and Linguistics, DEIL will disappear.

Our feature article by Carolyn Quarterman focuses on change as well. With continu-

ing technological advances, many ESL professionals will be called—ready or not—to teach online. Thanks to Carolyn for sharing her experience at the forefront of cyberteaching with us.

With no DEIL, what shall we call our newsletter after that? We invite you to share your ideas and let us know what you are doing. You can send your updates and ideas for the new newsletter's name to:

dickrson+DYI@uiuc.edu.

Best wishes and stay in touch!

∞

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