

# DEIL *The Newsletter for Alumni* LING YOU IN

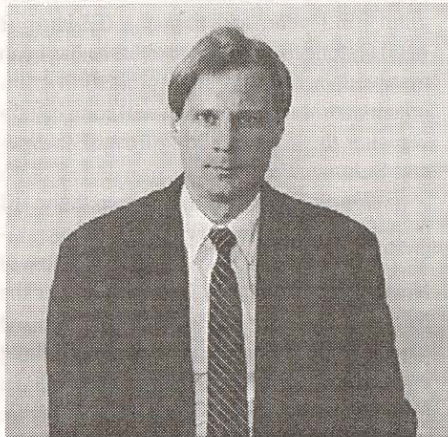


Spring

Division of English as an International Language

1994

## Alums report on teaching English in Japan



Neil Heyen, who graduated from DEIL in 1982, works long days teaching business English at Sumikin-Intercom in Japan.

### **“The demand for business English is enormous”**

by Neil Heyen

If you're interested in working in the business English field, then I can think of no better place to work than Japan. The demand for English in business is enormous here despite the fact that most university-educated Japanese have spent 10 years studying English before starting their work life.

Probably the best place to work is in an “in-house” program of a major company, such as where I work at Sumikin-Intercom. Working conditions tend to be better and you have a better chance of becoming involved in materials development and course

design. There are a lot of language schools which do send instructors out to businesses but the work tends to be less demanding, often just following a prescribed syllabus or book.

The job does have its trials, however. Be prepared to work long days as businesses tend to have classes in early morning and evening, so 12-13 hour days are not uncommon (and shorter vacations than schools and universities!). Also, Japanese businesses tend to be less focused on what they want their students to study (and needs analysis is not always possible) so patience is needed when setting up a program. Finally, the students themselves have been subjected to many years of grammar translation in the

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### **“In Japan, as in the United States, having graduated from a prominent university is a definite plus”**

by Marion M. Friebus

In Japan, as in the United States, having graduated from a prominent university is a definite plus. Because I teach at a university, most of my colleagues know and respect the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This certainly opened a lot of doors for me, but it also established certain expectations as to the quality of my work. Fortunately, the MATESL program at UIUC more than adequately prepared me for my job.

Some of the faculty members at Obihiro University have told me on several occasions that they believe the American

system for training teachers is better than the Japanese system. They base this belief on my performance. Both the head of the English Department and the Chair of the Liberal Arts Division have expressed their pleasure at the fact that I was able to walk into my job and begin teaching complete lessons immediately. For this, I have to thank Mrs. Goodman, John Levis, and all the wonderful people I worked with in the IEL. I draw on the knowledge and skills I attained while in the MATESL program on a daily basis.

Being the only foreign faculty mem-  
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Marion Friebus, who graduated from DEIL in 1992, is considered Obihiro University's “resident expert” on English grammar, culture, and language acquisition.

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## Greetings From The Director:

**Dr. Eyamba G. Bokamba**

We have just concluded another successful academic year that was full of challenges and promise. Of particular interest to you here are the revisions of the curricula, the results of the External Review Committee's evaluation, and the awarding of forty-four MATESL degrees--the largest graduating class ever!

There has been an ongoing revision of different aspects of the MATESL, ESL, and IEI curricula during the last two years. This work became the major focus of our effort this academic year, and has yielded a number of positive results thus far.

In our ESL Program, the graduate courses series have been up-graded to the 400-level, with modifications in content as well. Similar changes have been undertaken in the undergraduate ESL series. Plans are also under way to add two courses for International Faculty analogous to those for International Teaching Assistants.

Revisions in the MATESL program have focused on credit and content changes in the core courses. After extensive discussion, the Curriculum Committee has agreed to raise the credit for most of our courses from .75 unit to 1 unit. This change will necessitate an increase in the number of units required (now 10) to obtain a MATESL degree. DEIL is also seeking the cross-listing of one of its popular courses, EIL 389: Theoretical Foundations of SLA, with several units within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Our practicum courses (EIL 311/312) have undergone further streamlining in the past two years.

The IEI has piloted five new courses for advanced students this semester, including: "Seminar in Academic Reading & Writing", and "Seminar in Academic Listening & Speaking". Their general curriculum is also undergoing refinements similar to those in the ESL program to accommodate the ever-increasing number and variety of learners.

Other developments of note include the appointment of Professor Emeritus Ayo Bamgbose, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, as George A. Miller Visiting Professor in DEIL, and in sev-

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# Faculty Update

**Maggie Courtright** (1981), who has been back at the U of I for the last nine years after a three-year hiatus in China, reports, "I came back in 1985 to go to a friend's wedding, and have been here ever since. (That friend now has three children, the oldest of whom started kindergarten this year.) I was about ready to leave in 1989, when I decided to start a Ph.D. program in SLATE, so who knows when I will get out of here. I'm still aiming to beat the kindergarten to graduation, but then, the best laid plans of mice .... I do manage to have lunch about once a week with my old classmate Yuko Kanai (who also left and came back) and Yoline Chandler (who never left). And another old classmate, Fred Davidson, is on my committee. Do all roads lead back to Champaign-Urbana?"

**Thomas Heenan** (1978) is back at the UIUC with a 50/50 appointment in DEIL and the Office of Instructional Resources. It's "amply stimulating and rewarding," he says. "I love it!" Heenan, who will be applying to a Ph.D. program here in the fall, recently completed a major editing project on Japanese business language/culture to be published by National Textbook Co. Says Tom, "[I'm] still consulting in Chicago and still single - gee, is there a cause and effect thing going on here?"

**Anna Kasten** (1985) has had a va-

riety of experiences since she left DEIL. She taught English at the National Institute for Fitness and Sports in Kagoshima, Japan, from 1985-1987. Then, she returned to the States to the University of California-Irvine Extension Program, where she taught ESL in their Program in ESL. In 1990, she went abroad again, this time to Caracas, Venezuela, where she taught ESP (reading comprehension) at Universidad Simon Bolivar. In 1992, the U of I hired Anna to teach in the English Department's EOP Rhetoric Program for 1 year, and then the IEI had the good fortune to snag her back! She has been involved in the oral communication component, administration, and will soon be taking over the coordination of the IEI's Special Summer Programs.

**Doug Mills** (1986) returned to the IEI three years ago after a five-year hiatus. After finishing the MA, he taught for a year at North Park College in Chicago, and at the National College of Education, where he worked in the computer lab. In 1987, Doug and his wife Kim studied for a year in Sete, France, and then were off to Fez, Morocco, where they stayed for three years, until 1991 Doug taught at the American Language Center in Fez. Now, Doug is the Coordinator of DEIL's LinguaCenter, and has also been involved with the IEI's structure component. Doug and Kim had their first child, Daniel, in 1989, and then became the proud parents of twins, David and Jason, in 1992.

## Friebus *continued from page 1*

ber, I am regarded as the resident expert on English grammar, American culture, language acquisition, and sometimes even computers and e-mail. Every year, I am asked by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (a subdivision of the Foreign Ministry) to teach Japanese to participants of a three-month conference. I am also asked to teach English conversation to members of the City Hall and university personnel.

For these courses, I created task-based lessons not unlike those we learned about in **Numa Markee's** EIL367. This type of lesson turned out to be a revitalizing breath of fresh air to my students, who were all dreading a return to the old "drill and kill" English lessons of the past.

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"The MATESL program at UIUC more than adequately prepared me for my job."

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Of course, teaching isn't the only aspect of my job. I am often invited to speak at community functions, and asked by fellow faculty members to speak at social events or to participate in lecture series. This,

and the fact that I tend to stand out in a crowd, have made me a somewhat *famous person* in Obihiro. The good side to this is that I get introduced to a lot of people with prestige, such as Dr. Donald Keene, a renowned "Japanologist." The bad side

of being semi-famous is that I always have to keep in mind that my behavior reflects not only on me, but on Obihiro University the University of Illinois, and ultimately, the United States of America. The good far outweighs the bad, though, and I'm having a great time in Japan.

# Alumni Update

**Shioji Adachi** (1984) is doing well in Japan with a two-year-old daughter named Saika.

**Christopher Alonge** (1993) is teaching ESL at the junior high level in the New York City school system. "It's been quite an experience," says his mom who recently leaked his whereabouts to DYI editors. She is also happy to report that Christopher married another DEIL graduate, **Takane Suzuki** (1989), last June. She works for Peat Markwick Mitchell Inc. and they are expecting a baby in August!

**Gail Blaauw** (1993) is teaching ESL at Austin Community College and the Austin English Academy in Texas. "Most important, David and I are expecting our first child in March."

**Shao Joyce Chin** (1992) is currently working in the Language Training and Testing Center in Taipei.

**Marilyn Larink German** (1989) and her husband, Jeff, are living in Bangkok, Thailand, where she teaches persuasive writing at Thammasat University. They have a two-year-old son named Stephen and are expecting baby number two in May!

**Satoru Ikeda** (1985), who is still teaching at Tamagawa University, visited Arcola and Arthur, Illinois last summer as part of his research on the Amish people. His daughter, Aya, is currently an AFS exchange student in the U.S.

**Alison Jacobs** (1974) says "I am an international flight attendant for United, based in Chicago. Off the job, I help my husband Pietro rehab our 100+-year-old house, 'Our Lady of Perpetual Construction.' I am also learning Italian to enable me to speak with my in-laws."

**Eiichi Katsuno** (1969) is teaching English at Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School in Tokyo. Eiichi, who is married with a 19-year-old daughter, Junko, at Aoyama Gakuin University, says "Luckily, both my wife and daughter are interested in English." His wife, Yoshiko, reads Virginia Woolf, and Junko is going to major in English.

**Craig Kelly** (1985) is now living with his family in Tokyo and teaching at Showa Women's University.

**Pamela Kennedy** (1985) is now married with three children and teaches ESL at a community college in East Hampton, MA.

**Kyung-Suk Kim** (1987) is a full-time lecturer at Sun Moon University in Korea.

**Kathy Larson** (1983) who has taught

ESL at several Chicago-area universities since graduating, now does workplace ESL teaching in a factory in a Mexican area of Chicago. She also does consulting in curriculum design and teacher training for community-based organizations. Kathy says a stint as administrator of an ESL program gave her a taste of administration's exciting challenges and frustrations. But, part-time work is the ticket now, as she enjoys home life a lot with two boys, Ian (6) and Colin (3) and bread baking (at least once a week!), and a lot of peaceful, unhurried time.

**Ishii Shigeko Maekawa** (1976) teaches English part-time at Chubu University in Japan.

**Hiroko Matsuura** (1985) teaches at Kaetsu College in Japan. She has attended a number of TESOL Summer Institutes and this spring, presented a paper with **Reiko Chiba** (1984) at the World Englishes Conference in Urbana.

**Heather Music** (1993) is teaching with the English Language Institute (California) at the Vietnam Maritime University in Vietnam. She is a curriculum expert and teaches full-time. On her departure from DEIL, Heather said she is part of the first team (group of teachers) in her organization, and in the fall, "our team will split up and go to different cities and we'll train new teachers who'll be with us." She will be back in the states for 4-5 weeks this summer.

**Susan Niemeyer** (1993), who just began her life outside DEIL, says "After many delays, I finally arrived in Korea in early February with enough time to enjoy a long-awaited reunion with [husband] Jung-Hwan before school began. I'm getting settled into my new job as Instructor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Yonsei University—a beautiful campus—where I teach pronunciation, beginning conversation, and freshman English. I must say I feel basically well-prepared. Although I enjoy being in Seoul, I do miss my friends at the U of I!"

**Janie Swartz Peck** (1981) says "For the past two years I have been an associate professor at Colorado Mountain College. Since moving to Steamboat, I have married an astronomy/computer professor and we spend our time backpacking in the summer and skiing in the winter. I teach courses in English composition, mass communications, cross-cultural communications, speech and

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## Greetings *cont'd from page 2*

eral other campus units. Four other visiting scholars also spent the academic year in DEIL: Dr. Elizabeth deKadt, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa; Mr. Young-Suk Kim, Hyeosung Women's University, Seoul, Korea; Dr. Nina Kopatcheva, Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarus; and Prof. Chang Sub Song, Han Nam University, Taejon City, Korea. Needless to say, DEIL remains a major attraction to international scholars in the field.

Perhaps the most critical development in DEIL this past year was the appointment of an External Review Committee by LAS to objectively and professionally assess DEIL as an academic unit. The basic charge of this committee—the first ever since DEIL's establishment in 1971—was to ascertain its strengths, weaknesses, and to offer suggestions for future directions. The committee consisted of four members: Prof. G. Richard Tucker, Carnegie Mellon University, Chair; Prof. Joan Morley, University of Michigan; Prof. Armine Mortimer, UIUC; and Prof. David Swanson, UIUC.

Overall, the Committee gave DEIL a favorable review, recognizing its high ranking (4th or 5th) in the nation, significant contributions to teaching and service at UIUC, and the scholarly achievements of its faculty. The Committee recommended that an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in SLA be seriously explored and that the Division not be merged with any other unit.

Dean Jesse Delia has reviewed and accepted the committee's report. He has indicated that he will work with us in pursuing the various recommendations within the contexts of the proposed *LAS Financial Plan 2000*, which targets DEIL for some faculty and staff reductions, beginning with FY 1997. We are very much encouraged by the External Review Report and will continue to forge ahead with our internal reshaping of the academic programs.

## Heyen *cont'd from page 1*

schools so simply getting students to speak up in class can be quite a challenge.

However, if you find a good position, you may find yourself staying as long as I have (close to 12 years). Unfortunately, good positions are becoming harder to come by due to the prolonged recession in Japan with many companies reducing their language programs and hiring part-time instead of full-time instructors to reduce their labor costs. Hopefully, though, by next year the economy should start improving and with it the supply of good, full-time teaching positions in business.

Neil Heyen recently co-edited and co-authored the *Longman American Business English Skills* series.

## Alumni Update *continued from page 3*

ESL, depending on the semester."

**Frank Sauder** (1984) is now living in Roanoke, IL after spending almost 10 years in Japan. He found a wife (a little birdie told us) and has been blessed with three children.

**Sophia Ikeada Shang** (1984) has been teaching in Japan for ten years. She is currently working with future English teachers at Kagoshima Women's College. She has a son, Makoto, who is almost two years old.

**Tadashi Shiozawa** (1984), who teaches English in the Dept. of International Affairs at Chubu University, says DEIL MATESL graduates won't be alone in Japan, as he meets a U of I graduate at almost every conference he attends. But he likes the company and says he "thoroughly enjoys his work." Tadashi also writes that his school is the location for the headquarters of the Language Laboratory Association of Japan. "We get the newest info about teaching foreign languages using technologies," he says. "We also have a computer-assisted self-instruction room like the one [DEIL] just made."

**Pathé Sow** (1990) has been teaching English at Mississippi Valley State University, which he calls "a pleasant, quiet place,"

since August.

**Roberta Stock** (1971) recently opened her own company, Q-Multimedia, which develops multimedia programs in many subjects. Roberta, who is a professor at Tel Aviv University, says she has been involved in computer assisted instruction since her PLATO years at the U of I.

**Trisni Sugianto** (1983) has been teaching English, mostly for TOEFL preparation purposes, to researchers and university staff who plan to pursue graduate degrees at universities in the U.S. She has also taught Indonesian to foreign experts working in Indonesia. Says Trisni, "I find my work very rewarding."

**Jim Vanne** (1979), who is currently working with computers and specializing in local area networks (LANs), will soon return to the U.S. along with his wife Janet after 15 years in Canada.

**Emily Wee** (1993) says "I work in the Intensive English Program at the University of Missouri and TA at the Program of Communicative Disorders, the program in which I am enrolled for a Ph.D. I am happily married to a stressed out medical student (Robin Lin). As for my free time... What free time?!"

## From the Editors

Thanks to everyone who has sent in updates about themselves, about their friends, and a special thanks to all those who have sent in pictures. We appreciate the effort, and enjoy getting updates on you all. We'll try to use all the cards, letters, and pictures that we can. As you can see with this issue, our intention is to feature an alumni in each edition, but we need your help. Remember, this is your newsletter, so we encourage you to use it to communicate with fellow DEILers about a variety of topics.

Here's an alumni update for everyone that is hot off the presses: Diane Eagle, Associate Editor of *DEILing You In* (but not for long), has accepted an offer to be Academic Director at the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano in San José, Costa Rica. She will be leaving her adopted hometown of Champaign-Urbana on June 15, and will start her new job on July first. Diane will miss all of her friends here, but is looking forward to a challenging new position. If you know the way to San José, please visit Diane!

Editor ∞ **Portia Williams**  
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### DEILing You In

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