

# DEIL *The Newsletter for Alumni* LING YOU IN



Spring

Division of English as an International Language

1996

## How Far We've Come: DEIL/CALL

by Doug Mills (1986)

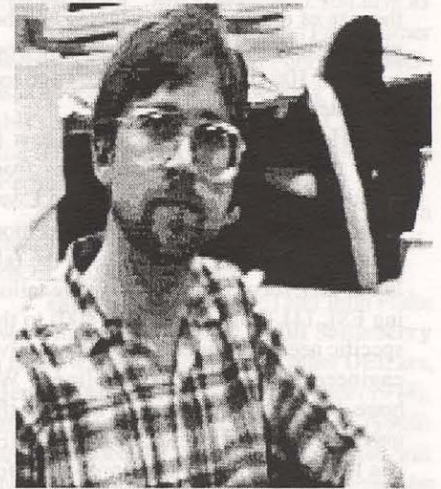
When I began my Masters degree in the Division of English as a Second Language (DESL) in 1984, I had never used a personal computer in my life. Of course, I was not alone. Even the Division didn't have a computer then. By the time I graduated in 1986, the Division had purchased two computers—one for administrative use and one for graduate faculty use.

My first hands-on experience with PCs was when I took a summer course with Dr. Robert Hart of the Language Learning Lab. We studied principles of effective Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), learned a programming language on the original generation of PCs, and labored for hours creating, testing and recreating computer programs that presented simple grammar information and tested students on

it. That was the summer of living in the computer lab.

Dr. Hart offered a follow-up class the next semester in which we used more powerful computers. They were faster, had more memory, and contained "huge" 10-20 megabyte hard drives in addition to two 5 1/4" disk drives for those big floppy disks that can almost be sold at antique stores now. I enjoyed these courses and learned enough to develop some software to help analyze word-processed documents for my thesis research.

After graduation, I left Champaign-Urbana and worked a year in Chicago at the National College of Education where I directed an ESL computer lab with its "drill and kill" software. From there I went to Morocco for three years to work in a  
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Doug Mills is DEIL's LinguaCenter and CALL Coordinator.



Jenny Derksen serves as the Japan American Society language coordinator in Ithaca, New York.

## Continuing Education in Cyberspace

by Jenny Derksen (1988)

All of us have had students who finish our courses but want to continue working on their English. Particularly for those who must return to their countries, it may be hard to find the help they need. Now, thanks to technology, there is a way for teachers to help these students continue their studies. The technology is e-mail.

A number of eager students from my former classes at Cornell University and the Japan American Society found it difficult to keep up with their English after our formal work together ended. They were scattered far and wide—Hungary, Austria, Japan, Germany, and even the Ithaca area. For these students I began an e-mail English group.

Six of these are actively involved; two others participate when they can. They all have TOEFL scores above 575 and are currently working professionals. I maintain this e-mail English group at no charge to the students.

The English lessons I send to the students are primarily on small points of grammar and vocabulary, but they also include readings and writing assignments. From the teacher's point of view, the easiest lessons to use in this project are on vocabulary and grammar topics because they are, as always, easy to write and correct. They also require little interaction between students. Students discuss the  
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## Greetings From the Acting Director

Dr. Larry Bouton

It was great to see so many of you at TESOL this spring. The reunion was particularly invigorating—always an occasion to look forward to. I hope even more of you can join us for TESOL in Orlando next March.

May graduation brought to 40 the number of DEILers who have qualified for *DEILing You In* this year. Soon, however, the size of our graduating classes will begin to shrink. We are slowly dropping from a high of 106 students three years ago to a mandated target of 70-75.

However, we are doing our best to keep the variety of our programs from shrinking, too. Our first interns to Costa Rica will soon be leaving, and two more students from there will join us in the fall. In our ESL service program, we are tailoring ESL 111 (now called ESL 400) to the specific needs of students in business, civil engineering, and other disciplines. We hope to take our materials beyond the university to the market place. And the IEI is a lively place, too. The enrollment for the past year has been as high as at any time in the past, making it possible and desirable to open up three new internship positions for recent DEIL graduates.

Finally, many of you have told me how much you enjoy receiving *DEILing You In*. Thanks for mentioning it. Sadly, our international journal, *IDEAL*, did not survive the squeeze on our budget and faculty resources. It was discontinued this spring after 10 years. While there is no similar danger ahead for *DEILing You In*, we would like to make this publication self-supporting so that funds now used here can go elsewhere. The other day I learned that some 86 DEILers have contributed to the LAS Alumni Fund over the past 5 years! Unfortunately for us, nearly all of that money stayed in the LAS office because it was given with no special instructions. If you are so inclined in the future, please tell LAS that you would like your contributions to go to DEIL, or even more specifically, to *DEILing You In*. We certainly appreciate your generosity. In the meantime, we'll keep dealing you in by sending this newsletter your way, hopefully just a bit better each time. Happy summer to you all!

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## Derksen *continued from page 1*

homework, either in person or on line, and my input is not required. Readings take more time because I type them all in. I also choose readings that will promote discussion. Again, this leads to students wanting to post their comments in perfect English and asking me to help them rewrite their contributions. If I send them a two-page reading and four students send back some discussion for me to help them revise, the work quickly multiplies.

The final type of lesson I send to these students is on writing paragraphs, essays or letters. It has been a challenge not having access to the traditional "red pencil" in e-mail to highlight, underline, or write in the margins. However the group has developed a system so that I can mark their essays and comments. In general, I read their writing, mark it, and then write extensive comments at the end, using examples from their essays. If I change something in a student paper, I put asterisks around the change. If I feel that the student needs to make the change himself, from small errors to complete reworkings of a passage, I put parentheses around the part that needs improvement. Since these students are fairly advanced, they usually can discern the problem and change it without my input. Occasionally students will ask for help with a specific point or sentence. These are easy to comment on and return to the student. Students rewrite their assignments at least once before I post them to the group. Naturally, students read these essays and can then discuss their content or structure. If they do, then the revision cycle begins again.

As a caveat, note that the volume of work can become daunting. Perhaps I need to be more efficient at marking papers. I also need to convince the participants to post their discussions directly to the group, rather than have me help them revise their comments first. This would reduce my work, provide less dependence on the teacher and stimulate more student-to-student interaction.

Despite these minor difficulties, the e-mail English group is a great opportunity for me to communicate with students through writing. With most of this group living in different countries it is the only way we could communicate on a regular basis. Most importantly, the students seem to enjoy the group, the interaction with me and with each other.

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## Mills *continued from page 1*

private language center. During my last year there I was involved in developing some software for advanced students based on what I had done for Dr. Hart's courses.

In 1991 we returned to Illinois, back where I'd started, except that now the Division was called DEIL instead of DESL. And there were some other notable changes, particularly in the area of computing. Not only were there computers in all graduate faculty offices but also in teaching associate and most teaching assistant offices as well. It was during this first year back that the e-mail revolution occurred. I can still remember Professor Davidson coming down to the IEI Associates' meeting to present the idea and merits of e-mail. It was like Greek to us then, but we and the rest of DEIL soon found it indispensable for the effective operation of our program as well as many facets of student instruction.

However, an even greater movement was already under way when I returned to the Division—greater at least in terms of its impact on my career and on the use of computers in the Division. Through the initiative of Mr. Tom Gould of the IEI and with the guidance of DEIL's Equipment Committee chaired by Professor Fred Davidson, a plan was being developed to upgrade the Division's 16-station, traditional audio lab to a state-of-the-art computer-based multimedia facility. In the fall of 1992, I became the coordinator of a brand-new lab housing 22 powerful Macintosh computers with large monitors. This was my first experience with Macintoshes. But with the help of

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## Faculty Update

Professor **Fred Davidson** (1981) was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations!

**Jane Alsberg** (1995) will continue to work as an IEI Teaching Associate this fall. She will assist **Tom Gould** (1978) with EIL 311, ESL Methods and Materials.

**Lori Chinitz** (1995) is in her second year as the IEI's Oral Communication component leader.

**Teresa Baker** (1996) will be the newest addition to the IEI teaching associate staff this fall.

# Alumni Update

**Ken Bus** (1975) is the director of the international students program at Glendale Community College, Arizona, where he has also set up an intensive English program. He is close to finishing a PhD in higher education administration. Ken met his wife, **Mary Jane Onnen** (1975), in Tehran. She is teaching ESL and bilingual education in an elementary school and also works in an adult education evening program for GCC. They have three daughters, ages 17, 14 and 12, who were born in Saudi Arabia. [bus\\_k@gc.maricopa.edu](mailto:bus_k@gc.maricopa.edu)

**Judith Williams** (1976) writes from Texas about her latest software development, SABRE Concierge, which helps travel agents find information about destinations around the world. She's looking forward to releasing it in Europe. [jjwilliams@leisure.stin.amrcorp.infonet.com](mailto:jjwilliams@leisure.stin.amrcorp.infonet.com)

**Carol (Brownscombe) Boggess** (1977) received her PhD in English and is now associate professor and departmental coordinator of the English Dept. at Mars Hill College, North Carolina. She and husband Sam have a daughter, 12, and a son, 10. [cboggess@mhc.edu](mailto:cboggess@mhc.edu)

**Mayrene Bentley** (1983) completed her doctorate in general linguistics at Indiana University in December 1994. She is presently teaching linguistics and Swahili at Michigan State.

**Anna Kasten** (1985) had the pleasure of returning to Japan this spring as Special Programs Coordinator for the IEI. Proving that it's worthwhile to stay connected with your MATESL friends, Anna enjoyed the hospitality of MATESLers all over Japan. In Tokyo, she stayed with **Satoru Ikeda** (1985) and family. **Reiko Chiba** (1984), **David Malatesta** (1994), and **Vicky Bolos** (1993) showed her around Asia University, and she met with **Hiroko Matsuura** (1985) at Kaetsu Women's College. In Kagoshima, southern Kyushu, **Sophia Shang-Ikeda** (1984) and her four-year-old son took her to visit the local volcano and sing *karaoko*. [a-kasten@uiuc.edu](mailto:a-kasten@uiuc.edu)

**Dorothy (Romack) Neumann** (1987) is teaching beginning ESL at Urbana Adult Education and doing consulting for the Adult Learning Resource Center.

**Jenny Derksen** (1988) and husband Richard have a third son, Matthew Richard, born on June 5. He joins two brothers, ages 6 and 4. [rcd1@cornell.edu](mailto:rcd1@cornell.edu)

**Dennis Keefe** (1991) is returning to

UIUC this summer to direct an MBA-Preparation Program that he designed for international students. He has been working in France for the past few years. [dekeefe@lenet.fr](mailto:dekeefe@lenet.fr)

**Chong-Min Lee** (1992) is a research member for the Institute for English as an International Language at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea. Chong-Min works in a division which is developing a new educational approach for Korean children.

**Anne Berry** (1992) continues to love living in Madrid. She is one of the founding members of a cooperative school where "the teachers have to do everything"—recruiting students, hiring teachers, developing new courses, answering telephones. Anne says: "It's really exciting because we have the opportunity to create the teaching environment that we think is best." [fjimenez@lander.es](mailto:fjimenez@lander.es)

**David Broersma** (1994) and wife Kathy are happy to report the birth of their fourth child, Alison Maria, born in April. David has recently been awarded a dissertation completion fellowship to complete his thesis in the SLATE PhD program at UIUC. [broersma@uiuc.edu](mailto:broersma@uiuc.edu)

**Brian Phillips** (1994) has the urge to travel and will take a leave of absence this fall from Champaign Central High School to teach at a private school (K-12) in Ankara, Turkey. For those of you who know Turkish, he says: "Affedersiniz, benim patates nerede?" [briphil@uiuc.edu](mailto:briphil@uiuc.edu)

**Maria Snarski** (1994) and **Joelle Uzarski** (1992) had a laughter-packed reunion at the southwestern tip of Africa in March. Maria is approaching the end of a two-year English Teaching Fellow position with USIA in Cape Town. Joelle recently completed a two-year contract with the American-Brazilian Binational Center in Sao Paulo. [maria@edunet.pentech.ac.za](mailto:maria@edunet.pentech.ac.za) [joelle\\_uzarski@prodigy.com](mailto:joelle_uzarski@prodigy.com)

**York Weatherford** (1995) is teaching at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan. [yuko@aol.com](mailto:yuko@aol.com)

**Silvia Sobral** (1995) has been accepted to do a PhD in Spanish at UIUC. Until the fall, you can write her in Madrid at: [100712.626@compuserve.com](mailto:100712.626@compuserve.com)

**Cathy Wesolek** (1989) and husband Jeff Stueve are proud parents of their second son, William Wesolek Stueve, born in April. Cathy works on curriculum and coordinates the reading/writing component in the IEI. [cwesolek@uiuc.edu](mailto:cwesolek@uiuc.edu)

**Amy Holland** (1991) is back at UTUC after teaching in Germany for four years. She is working on a PhD in Linguistics. [aehollan@uiuc.edu](mailto:aehollan@uiuc.edu)

**Marina Laso-Taylor** (1995) is teaching full-time at a private university in Madrid. She writes: "It's a ton of work, but I love it!" Marina is also enrolled in a PhD program in Linguistics at the Complutense University. She'll be back in C-U this summer to teach in the Konan University Special Program. [taylor@eucmax.sim.ucm.es](mailto:taylor@eucmax.sim.ucm.es)

**Melissa Miller** (1995) and Paul Reimer were married in Urbana in February. Melissa is teaching reading/writing in the IEI this summer. They will move to Chicago in the fall, as Paul has a post doc in physics at Fermi Lab. [melissam@uiuc.edu](mailto:melissam@uiuc.edu)

**Cheryl Moen** (1995) is an English instructor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Branch.

**Tabitha Nissley** (1995) and John Plake were married on June 22. **Jill Saulsberry** (1994) was a bridesmaid, and other DEILers, **Jenny Czajka** (1993), **Seran Delice** (1994), and Wayne and **Lonna Dickerson** (1968) also attended the wedding. The couple will be living in Springfield, Illinois, where John is a pastor.

**Juan Pedro Rica-Peromingo** (1995) presented a paper at TESOL in Chicago and enjoyed the Illinois reunion. He is teaching at a private school and working on a PhD in Madrid. [juanpe@eucmax.sim.ucm.edu](mailto:juanpe@eucmax.sim.ucm.edu)

**Dinah Armstead** (1996) will be staying on campus to work in the Office of Minority Student Affairs as Assistant to the Dean. [darmstea@uiuc.edu](mailto:darmstea@uiuc.edu)

**Leslie Hammersmith** (1996) is happy using all of her talents in her new administrative job as Program Coordinator for the Tutorium in Intensive English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. [lhammr@uiuc.edu](mailto:lhammr@uiuc.edu)

**Jung-mook Kang** (1996) is currently serving in the Korean Army as an administrative military private. He works in the Korean National Defense University, which is operated by the Ministry of Defense of Korea.

**Paul McCabe** (1996) has a position teaching at the American Language Center in Jakarta, Indonesia.

**Timothy Noble** (1996) is teaching in Thailand. He and **Brenda Baker** (1995) are engaged to be married in October in Ontario, Canada. [ling2@ksc8.th.com](mailto:ling2@ksc8.th.com)

## Mills *continued from page 2*

research assistant, Mr. Rosli Hassan (now Dr. Hassan), who provided technical support for the lab, I soon grew quite comfortable with the world of Macintosh. When the lab was dedicated in August of 1993, it was christened "the LinguaCenter."

Over the past four years, my professional development has been intricately entwined with the development of the LinguaCenter and its use. I've enjoyed a magnificent opportunity for on-the-job training and professionalization. Perhaps the single most significant development since the LinguaCenter opened has been the phenomenal growth in popularity of the World Wide Web. We joined the Web revolution in early 1995 with the establishment of our own LinguaCenter server. By the fall, about half of all classes held in the lab were making

use of the Web. An increasing amount of our attention is fixed on making use of Web-based resources. As a consequence, we have established ourselves rather securely in the niche of guiding ESL students in their use of authentic materials available on the Web (as opposed to other ESL Web sites featuring exercises, etc. specifically for ESL students).

DEIL and I have come a long way in our use of computers since 1984—and a lot of that distance we've traveled together. As for the Division, it now has over 60 computers, all with access to the Internet. They have become central to the work of the faculty, staff, and students. As for me, I continue to enjoy the many opportunities for challenge, professionalization and growth that working as DEIL's CALL Coordinator affords me.

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CHECK US OUT ON THE INTERNET!!  
URL: <http://deil.lang.uiuc.edu>



## Grad Student Awards 1996

The Division is pleased to announce the recipients of the graduate student awards for 1996. Each receives a certificate and a cash award of \$100. Their names will be engraved on a plaque in the Division office.

The awards and their recipients for 1996 are:

The DEIL Peter Strevens Award for  
Academic Excellence

*Jane Alsberg*

The DEIL Peter Strevens Award for  
Excellence in Teaching in the Intensive  
English Institute

*Heidi Shetzer*

The DEIL Silver Anniversary Award for  
Excellence in ESL Teaching

*Silvana Dushku*

DEIL is enthusiastic about the valuable contributions these individuals have made to the Division, and to the field of EIL.

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

### Attention: DEIL Alums

You can keep posted on opportunities in TESL/TEFL jobs by subscribing to the DEIL Job list.

Address a message to:

*listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu*

The message should read:

*sub dps-l@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu*

### DEILing You In

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