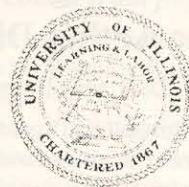


DEIL *The Newsletter for Alumni* LING YOU IN



Fall *Division of English as an International Language* 1994

Career options abound for DEIL alumni

Going abroad? Try volunteering for the U.S. Peace Corps

by Maria McCormick

"Is fast food the enemy of nutrition?" When I arrived in Sichuan Province as a member of the first Peace Corps group to enter China in June 1993, I did not realize the Chinese wanted answers to questions like this one. Over the next several months I would often be confronted with similarly bizarre questions.

This first Peace Corps group is made up of fifteen volunteers serving at five colleges in the province: three teachers colleges, a medical school, and a veterinary school. I was sent with three others to Leshan Teachers College in Leshan, a city of approximately six hundred thousand people one hundred miles south of the provincial capital Chengdu. The college offers a three year program of study which trains students to

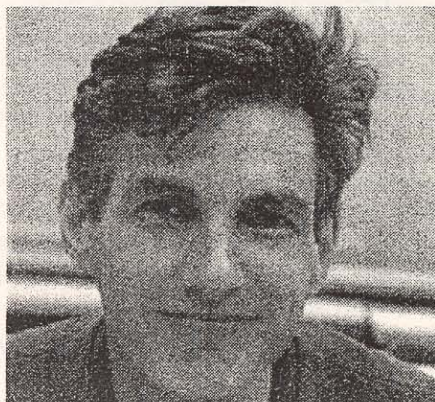
be rural middle school teachers. The government pays for their education, and in return they must teach, usually in their hometowns, for three years. The English Department also offers a Business English school to paying students. The two sections together comprise three hundred students.

Being home to the largest Buddha in the world, Leshan is a popular Asian tourist destination. The college is taking advantage of this by expanding the business English division and focusing on tourism English. I teach 12-14 hours a week with 30-45 students per class. I have taught business English, Listening/Speaking, Reading, and Writing classes. In addition to requiring these core courses, the department is liberalizing the curriculum by offering elective



Maria McCormick, who graduated in 1993, was among the first Peace Corps volunteers to go into China.

courses to the third year students taught by Peace Corps volunteers as well as interested
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Tom Heenan, a 1978 graduate, has taught and consulted in Japan, Iran and the U.S. and has had his own ESL consulting business for seven years. He is now a Teaching Associate in DEIL.

Staying at home? Try starting a consulting business

by Tom Heenan

Why is consulting a viable opportunity? Business organizations demand clarity, quality, and efficiency in their communication. For example, a multinational company operating in Japan recently budgeted over \$30,000 to provide language and culture training for an executive they intended to relocate from the home office to Tokyo. It sounds high until one considers that the same company failed to train his predecessor, and the failed relocation assignment cost the company close to \$500,000 in terms of real expenses, time lost, and face lost. Companies like this one are in great need of your expertise, but how do you make

yourself and your services known?

The first step is to identify companies that need your help. Perhaps there is a growing ethnic workforce in your area or a company that is expanding overseas and thus relocating personnel abroad or bringing foreign personnel to your area. Check with local Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations to determine which companies are good prospects.

Remember, the golden rule in sales is to know your audience. Find out what organizations are doing: Where are they selling? What are they selling? What are the de-

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Greetings From The Acting Director:

Dr. Larry Bouton

Hello to all DEIL grads out there. The fall semester is almost over, classes have ended, and exam week has begun. The winds are blowing, and this morning a few flakes of snow fall as a harbinger of what will be coming in the near future. The bright side is that we will all soon be leaving for whatever part of the world makes us relaxed and happy and comfortable. We hope that those same words can describe you, too.

You may not know that Professor Bokamba had a near fatal accident this summer as he was driving to Cedar Falls to take part in the TESOL Summer Workshop at Iowa State University. His car left the road and rolled over several times, but he was lucky that an off-duty paramedic just happened to be there at the right time. As you can imagine, recovering from such an accident takes time, but he has been working hard at making a complete recovery and has slowly been gaining his strength.

In his place, I have taken over the day-to-day administration of the Division this fall, and we have involved ourselves in some interesting projects. The first was to introduce ourselves to the new Dean of LAS. He spent 3 1/2 hours with us talking with faculty and students and visiting the LinguaCenter. He was sufficiently impressed, and he encouraged us to apply for space and funding to enlarge the LinguaCenter. The purpose would be, on the one hand, to provide a room in which ESL and IEI students can practice their oral English without competing with those who need quiet in order to work. At the same time, the enlarged laboratory will make it possible for more classes, both ESL and EIL, to take advantage of the computer for various pedagogical purposes. We are waiting now to hear whether our proposal will be approved.

In the area of curriculum, we have enlarged the set of core courses to include a course in the teaching of Reading and Writing in the ESL classroom. And we have modified the comprehensive examination accordingly. Students may also use their electives to specialize in a wide range of areas.

Although Pearl Goodman retired two years ago, she agreed to come back and teach

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Faculty Update

Steven Lund (1990) spent two years in Chile as an English Teaching Fellow with USIA (United States Information Agency) after finishing the MATESL program. Working as a consultant to the five largest American language and culture centers, Steve spent a lot of time traveling from place to place doing teacher training and materials development. His favorite spots were Santiago and the coastal area of Vina del Mar. In 1993, Steve returned to the IEI as a Visiting Teaching Associate, taking over the coordination of the Listening/Speaking component. Ever the professional, Steve has been keeping himself busy working on NAFSA and TESOL presentations and is looking forward to shar-

ing some of his Chilean experience when he presents a paper on teacher training overseas at TESOL '95 in Long Beach. Steve has a "social" side to him as well: IEI students find he is a regular at "ConvoTable," and he enjoys being a member of the Illini Union Faculty-Staff Social Committee. Rumor has it he makes great margaritas, too!

Lillian Kutz (1990) began the MATESL program after teaching at a private language school in Chicago and spending a summer in China. As a graduate student, she taught a variety of courses in DEIL and the IEI and then stayed on with the IEI for a one-year internship that has developed into her current position as a Visiting Teach-

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Chinese teachers. Because of these reforms, I have been able to teach such courses as American Education, Intercultural Communication, Methodology, and Second Language Acquisition.

The most rewarding aspect of my experience has been the students. Most have not chosen to come here, but have been assigned by the government. As teaching in China brings both a low salary and low status, the majority are not interested in becoming teachers. However, their curiosity, intelligence, and motivation for learning English in hopes of some day pursuing other career options make them bright and active in the classroom.

On the other hand, the greatest challenge I have faced has been getting them to recognize their own progress. Although they are not satisfied with Chinese teaching methods and are open to new approaches, they sometimes feel the Western approach is no more successful. After a semester of pair and group work, jigsaw and information gap activities, role plays and discussions in a Listening/Speaking course, my students told me they wanted "more listening and more speaking." They felt that because I had not asked them to memorize texts or listen to tapes, they were not learning. I remedied this problem by giving pre- and post-lesson tasks to illuminate their improvement and by implementing more strategic uses of traditional Chinese methods.

In addition to teaching, my duties include giving public lectures and "free talk" conversation at the "English Saloon," a

cafe built to provide a casual atmosphere for English practice. Because of the emphasis on tourism in the area, I have translated and edited brochures and videos on the sights and sounds of Leshan. With the other volunteers I taught a five week continuing education course to rural middle school teachers. I have also given short presentations at various language teaching conferences held at the college.

Being a member of Peace Corps, rather than an independent teacher, adds both advantages and disadvantages to the job. Many Chinese are impressed and appreciate that we accept such low salaries and are paid by the American government rather than the Chinese colleges. However, we also provoke suspicion. The Peace Corps was once promoted by the Chinese government as a propaganda agent for capitalism and the American government, making social relationships difficult for us to develop. But we also receive advantages such as meeting the ambassador and heads of the Chinese Education Commission, as well as coveted invitations to Thanksgiving dinner at the Consulate in Chengdu.

I am confident in my skills and ability to successfully handle all challenges I encounter at the college. I believe my education at DEIL, with its emphasis on flexibility in methodology in the face of classroom-specific situations, is largely responsible for this. My first year here has given me valuable experiences and insights, and I look forward to the second year being even more successful. Of course, visitors are always welcome!

Alumni Update

Norhaiyati Abdul Muin (1988) currently works as a Language Coordinator and Lecturer at the Kelantan branch of Mara Institute of Technology in Kota Bharu, Malaysia. In 1990, she married Ahmad Nadhri Muhamad, an alumnus of Western Illinois University, and in 1993 they had a son, Muhamad Faiq.

Kathy Abraham (1991), who has moved from Urbana up to the suburbs of Chicago, is teaching ESL at one high school and two elementary schools in the Naperville School District. Her husband Daniel has a position at Argonne Laboratory.

Susan Rahmatian Amirloo (1976) is teaching at the Teachers Training University in Tehran, Iran. Susan, who is married with two daughters, says "I never forget the good time that I had in Illinois. If there is anything I can do for you from this part of the world, please let me know!"

Shun-Ling (Sharon) Chuang (1993) is now living in Madison, WI where she is married and—according to our records—still looking for a job!

Don Cruikshank (1975), has been at the Chinese University of Hong Kong since January '93 as the composition program and writing-across-the-curriculum coordinator. Don reports that he is enjoying working with former DEIL professor Lyle Bachman, new Chair of the English Language Teaching Unit, doing "outreach" with other departments, and developing ESP courses. He and his wife Debra have a 3 1/2 year old son, George and a daughter, Catherine, who was born in Hong Kong a year ago.

They hope to return to the U of I in June '96. Don says that Hong Kong is great,

and if you're looking for a change of scenery, check out the various universities there!

Steven B. Fowler (1978) is a Software Publications Manager at SDRC in Milford, OH. He is married with a 12-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son.

Sona Janjigian Jones (1975) is teaching ESL parttime for the Tenafly Public Schools in New Jersey. Sona, who is married with three daughters, reports that her oldest will be graduating from high school this year, while the middle girl will be a senior next year. Her youngest is in 7th grade.

Huei-Chu Kong (1986) is an Instructor at the Ming Chuan Business College in Taipei, Taiwan—and still single!

Pamela Eileen Pattie (1979) continues to teach English to first-year students in the College of Arts and College of Education and Islamic Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. On her January breaks, Pamela travels to India, and when she's not travelling, she's busy doing watercolors.

Richard Bruce Rickard (1978) is now running his own computer consulting business in Vancouver, Canada. And, he says, any DEILers who need computer help will be given preferential rates! Before becoming an entrepreneur, Richard spent six years with the Language Centre of Kuwait University. It was there that he fell in love with both computers and his wife, Barbara, "a German-born ESL teacher who is also quite an impressive language learner." They have two daughters, 9 and 11, who were born in Kuwait, and a son, 4, "who is the only native-born Canadian among [them]."

continued in next column

Greetings *cont'd from page 2*

the practicum for just one more year. Laura Hahn is also back as her Teaching Assistant. It seems like old times!

Those are some of the highlights of our fall, but how about yours? Write to us and let us know what you are doing. It is always wonderful to hear from you. Out of sight is definitely not out of mind!

Faculty *cont'd from page 2*

Lillian has been the coordinating Associate. Lillian has been the coordinator of the Listening/Speaking component, and her latest venture has been developing the Current Events course in the "new" IEI curriculum. She comments that "current events bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world, taking advantage of students' interest in what's happening outside the classroom and using it as a springboard to improve their English." In the "real world," Lillian enjoys organizing activities for internationals at her church, and she even teaches a conversational English class on Friday nights. Now that's dedication!

Alumni *continued*

Suthirat Sritrakool (1986) is working as an English Lecturer at the Chulalongkorn University Language Institute in Bangkok, Thailand. She is married with one daughter.

Claire Vossbrink (1983) taught EFL at ACHNA Centro Cultural Hispano-Norte Americano in Madrid for 8 years before deciding to stay home (in Madrid) and raise her daughter, two-year-old Akemi Luisa Herráez Vossbrink.

ALUMNI UPDATE FORM

Please return to: DEILing You In (address on back or e-mail Dr. Dickerson at dickrson@uiuc.edu)

Name: _____ (Maiden) _____ Year of degree: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address (Update if necessary): _____

Addresses of other DESL/DEIL graduates you know: _____

News (Use this space to tell us what you're doing, both on and off the job): _____

Heenan *continued from page 1*

mographics of the work force? After you have done your homework, find out whom to contact. In larger companies, this may be the director of training. In smaller companies, it may be a sales, R&D, manufacturing, or international division manager who handles the language training needs of his or her staff. Contact this person by letter and follow up with a phone call to learn more about the company's language training needs and to share your ideas and experiences.

If you get a meeting, practice active listening. Probe for details about the company's current problems, solutions, and goals. The sale of your training services will depend on how well your customized training proposal reflects the manager's concerns and goals. Follow up immediately with a thank you letter in which you indicate your interest in the company's situation. Develop a thoughtful proposal in a timely fashion and call for another appointment to discuss it. My first contract was awarded only after some 10 meetings over an eight-month period during which ideas were continually developed and refined.

As you develop a working relationship with a company, remember these four

basic rules of business behavior: be prompt, be thorough, deliver on what you promise, and keep communication channels open at all times. Early in my career as a consultant, I lost a \$15,000 contract because I assumed it would be OK to deliver a proposal on Monday morning instead of Friday afternoon as promised. On that Monday morning I was told that the contract had been awarded elsewhere because I had failed to have the courtesy or sense to call and explain the delay. That blunder still stings today, but I pass it along to you in hopes that you may avoid making the same mistake.

To extend that caveat, make feedback a habit in your dealings with everyone involved in the project at every stage; the people you train need it, and the people you train for will appreciate having progress reports and opportunities for input into problems as they arise. After a project is completed, assess your work through some means such as an interview or evaluation questionnaire. Feed the results back to management with commentary on ideas for improved service in the future. In the consulting world, dependability and honesty are the keys to longevity.

From the Editors

With this issue of DYI, we bring you something new! The alumni update form (on page 3 of this issue) now has a place for your e-mail address. This means that everybody can now keep those cards, letters, and electronic messages coming!

Now here's a message for you. Anna Kasten (1985) has joined the staff of DYI, replacing Diane Eagle who moved to Costa Rica in July. Anna, who has taught university EFL in Japan and Venezuela, returned "home" to the IEI last fall. This summer she took over the coordination of the IEI's Special Summer Programs. Anna says, "I love keeping in touch with friends and colleagues all over the world—working with the newsletter will let me help others do the same."

On a sadder note, Portia Williams, who joined the staff of DYI last fall, will be moving to Washington, D.C. this spring to conduct research for her Master's thesis. Portia says that she will miss editing the newsletter, but more importantly, she will miss corresponding with all of you!

Editor	∞	Portia Williams
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Consulting Editor		Wayne B. Dickerson

DEILing You In

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