



# DEIL *The Newsletter for Alumni* LING YOU IN

Fall

Division of English as an International Language

1995

## From Cornfields to Costa Rica Diane Eagle (1989)

by Diane Eagle

Before I took over as Academic Director at the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano in San Jose, Costa Rica, I really did not have a very clear picture of the country. So I went to the library and found out all I could about my new home; however, no book can ever truly prepare you for the experience of living in a different country.

Costa Rica is truly a spectacularly beautiful country, and I have done things here that I have never done before: white water rafting, hiking and camping in the rain and cloud forests, taking hot air balloon trips over coffee fields, exploring the rain forest canopy in a tram, horseback riding to hidden waterfalls, communing with exotic tropical rain forest animals, and sunning myself on some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. I was never really much into nature before I came here, but to not take advantage of all the natural splendor that Costa Rica has to offer would indeed be a sin. Tourists flock to this country not for the history, not for the souvenirs to take back home, and not to see ancient ruins; tourists come to Costa Rica to drink in its natural beauty. All this has been quite a change for a girl from the Illinois cornfields!

But of course it is my job that enables me to even be here in the first place. Being the director of a department with over 3,000 students and 80 teachers has been a challenge, to say the least. In fact, the first few months that I was here, I really wondered

what I had gotten myself into! Of course, things settled down, and I feel comfortable now with my responsibilities.

What makes the Centro Cultural such an interesting place to work is the fact that we are a cultural center, and not just a place to learn English. The Centro boasts a theater, art gallery, and a library. The Academic Department has several different programs, among them: Regular English, Youth English, Executive and Professional English, Extension English (given at the work site), the Executive Bilingual Secretarial Program, and the Spanish for Foreigners. I feel that I have grown tremendously as a professional in the time that I have been in this position,  
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*As Academic Director of the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano in Costa Rica, Diane Eagle has established an intern program with DEIL and the Centro.*

## Building Bridges in Vietnam Heather Music (1994)

by Heather Music

I came to Vietnam in the Spring of 1994 to help establish the English Language Institute's program and teach at Vietnam Maritime University in Haiphong on ELI's original team of four teachers. There were very few American teachers in Vietnam at that time. Then we split up to lead teams in other cities. I went to Dalat University in the central highlands of former South Vietnam to teach for a year. Great experience! That university lost most of its teachers af-

ter the war — either they emigrated or were punished for their involvement with the southern army — and they are very open to the ideas of trained foreign teachers.

Since I plan to be in Vietnam for a while longer, I decided to "do it right" and get formal language training, so I'm studying at Hanoi Foreign Languages College for two years. Unfortunately, my teachers' methods leave much to be desired. They teach Vietnamese in much the same way

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## Greetings From the Acting Director:

**Dr. Larry Bouton**

Seasons greetings to all of you out there. We hope that 1995 has been a good year for each of you. It has been a good year for DEIL.

Numa Markee was promoted to associate professor last May and given tenure, so that we will have the strength and expertise that he provides us for a long time to come.

The DEIL Placement Service is well off the ground. There is such a variety of positions in so many different places that are looking for DEILer's to come and work for them. As a DEIL grad, you are welcome to take advantage of the Placement Service. Simply contact June McDonald using the form on page 3 of this newsletter or send her an e-mail (junemcd@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu).

Our internship agreement with Costa Rica is also off and running. Two teachers from the Binational Center in San Jose are here as MATESL students this year; two more will come next year. At the same time, we have just selected two DEIL students from an excellent set of candidates to be interns down there beginning next fall. Also, another DEILer will attend the University of Oulu in Finland, and we will host someone from there as well.

And one more bit of news: we have recently begun to investigate whether DEIL should give greater emphasis to English for Special Purposes — both in the workplace and in the academic community. Anne Lomperis (1976) and Linda Mrowicki (1972) have been helping Numa Markee, Tom Heenan (1978) and me work out an MA specialization in English in the Workplace.

In short, DEIL is still an interesting place to be. But as we take on new challenges, we know that there are some of you out there who have gained considerable expertise in various aspects of our field who could help us decide where we ought to be moving and how we should get there. So keep in contact! Let us know any ideas that you have come up with that might help us. And just as important, let us know where you are, what you are doing, and how we can help you.

Happy 1996! I hope it will be a great one for each of you!

## Music *continued from page 1*

they teach English — piling on vocabulary and structures with very little practice. What sympathy I am gaining for my own students!

I moved to Hanoi because standard Vietnamese is spoken here and also because I am working with the Ministry of Education and Training as the editor for our new journal, *English Teaching: An ELI Journal for Professional Development*. This journal will focus on assisting Vietnamese and foreign English teachers at the tertiary level here in Vietnam.

Overall, the need is great for EFL professionals. Foreign EFL professionals tend to come and go these days, doing a short seminar and then hopping on a plane. But for those who will commit to a longer stay, there are incredible opportunities to have an impact on English language teaching here. For example, last month I had a meeting about our journal with the director of the foreign languages department at Hanoi Foreign Languages College, the premier Vietnamese university for studying foreign languages. When he discovered that I had an M.A., that I'd been teaching in Vietnam for nearly two years, and that I plan to stay here for a while, he nearly fell over offering me a position to teach in Vietnam's only M.A. in TEFL program! Sounds exciting but my commitments won't allow me to do so right now...

For those who are concerned about the safety of Americans here, I can only say "there is absolutely nothing to worry about!" I've lived both in the north and former South Vietnam and have always been welcomed with open arms. This is an incredible opportunity to help heal the wounds of the past and build a bridge between our two countries.

Can you believe I live with a Vietnamese family in an old village just behind Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and around the corner from a downed American B52??! In fact, my favorite Vietnamese teacher is a former soldier who shot down such planes. Last summer I shook hands with Secretary of State Warren Christopher after he announced the establishment of an embassy here... It's a new day in Vietnam and it's exciting to be here. ■

*Editor's note: Heather sent this article to us via e-mail. She can be reached at: bbistu@netnam.org.vn*

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and am learning more about myself and my abilities every day.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the debt of gratitude that I owe DEIL and especially the IEI, who have been instrumental in preparing me for such a responsible position. DEIL provided me with the sound theoretical framework and the IEI the practical experience I needed to assume such a position. I am grateful that they placed their trust in me by employing me for so many years.

I am proud of many accomplishments that I have achieved in the Academic Department, but I am most proud of the new intern program that I have established with the Centro and DEIL. And I am equally proud to say that, thanks to the consulting visit of Doug Mills, LinguaCenter Coordinator, the Centro will soon be acquiring a state-of-the-art computer lab.

Although I will be leaving the Centro in December to pursue other paths, I do consider this chapter of my life to have been a very beneficial one and am grateful to have spent a year and a half of my life here. The Centro Cultural Costarricense Norteamericano has been a great place for a gringa like me to work! ■

## Faculty Update

Professor Numa Markee was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations!!

Laura Hahn (1986) and David Broersma (1994) are teaching the EIL 312 Practicum in TESL (formerly 301/302) this year.

Jane Alsberg (1995) joined the Intensive English Institute Teaching Associate staff this fall as the coordinator of the Listening/Speaking component.

Professor Fred Davidson's (1981) book, *Principles of Statistical Data Handling*, will be published this spring by Sage Publications.

### Attention: DEIL Alums

Send us any information you have on jobs for our June grads.

And don't forget YOU can use the DEIL Placement Service, too.

# Alumni Update

**Korkeo Sarsithparkas** (1974) sends greetings from Thailand where she is working as an English Lecturer at Chiang Mai University.

**Alicia Leonhard** (1976) got a law degree and an MBA at the University of Hawaii in 1993. She now works at the Bankruptcy Court and hopes to form her own law firm and business consulting practice. She has also started a small business breeding Doberman pinschers and Pomeranians (!). She writes: "I loved my ten years as an ESL teacher. . . which gave me the capability to relate to the people of the diverse cultures of Hawaii."

**Jeffrey Bright** (1977) has started his tenth year as Literacy & Adult Education Director at the Albany Park Community Center (Chicago), a not-for-profit community-based organization that serves 1,000 learners per year. Jeff has been active lobbying state and local government for funding and organizing towards greater professionalization in ESL teaching. He and his wife Elzbieta have a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter.

**Linda Reingardt** (1977) is supervising TAs in the English Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh and working on a PhD in Critical and Cultural Studies. She spent 1991-1992 in the Czech Republic as a USIS ESL/EFL Teacher Training Fellow.

**Carol Knipscheer** (1979) is the director of the Intensive English Program at the University of Central Arkansas. She is ac-

tive in ARKANSAS-TESOL, and writes that she and her family vacationed in Europe this summer.

**Diane Sarkarati** (1979) writes from the Los Angeles area, where she teaches high school science (switching from ESL five years ago). She is married with two children, ages 10 and 14. In her free time, she goes on nature hikes in the canyons and mountains.

**Kathleen Burke** (1982) has been working in the Middle East for thirteen years — Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. When she's not travelling, she keeps busy with sports, horse and camel riding, camping, and cultural events.

**Katherine Suda** (1982) is back in Japan after five years in Hawaii. She is teaching part-time at her children's (Sarah - 9, Huck - 7) school.

**Sharon Getter** (1985) was back in the States this fall after ten years in China. Six years were spent in Tibet as coordinator of an English training center. She has written a beginning level textbook geared specifically for her students, and is looking forward to returning to the center in January.

**Doug Mills** (1986) and wife Kim are proud parents of a girl, Abigail Joy, born June 27, 1995.

**Changsongklod Gajasen** (1987) sends greetings from Thailand. She has recently become interested in exploring how Thai students understand conversational implicature in American English and hopes

to conduct a study on this topic.

**Satomi Takahashi** (1987) recently defended her thesis for her doctorate at U of Hawaii, Manoa, under Gabriele Kasper.

**Carolyn Quarterman** (1989) is working for Proctor & Gamble Far East in Japan as a language/culture trainer. She lives near Kobe and writes about the earthquake last January: "Although quite shaken up (literally), I and my apartment building were all right. . . Our company was quite affected. . . but none of P&G's 2,600 employees' lives were lost."

**Laurie Blakely** (1990) is the new Director of International Programs at McKendree College in "picturesque" Lebanon, Illinois. She runs a small intensive English program and a study-abroad program. Laurie is very interested in networking with DEILers abroad and in the U.S. — contact her via e-mail at: [lblakely@a2.mckendree.edu](mailto:lblakely@a2.mckendree.edu)

**Nobuko Chikamatsu** (1990) is now teaching in a tenure-track position in the Department of Modern Languages at DePaul University in Chicago.

**Steven Lund** (1990) left the IEI this summer for warmer weather in Yuma, Arizona. He is professor/coordinator of ESL Programs for Arizona Western College, overseeing around 200 ESL students and 20 faculty members. Steve says that his job requires a lot of PR work — visiting local clubs, representing the college at community functions, etc. Look for him as a *continued on page 4*

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## ALUMNI UPDATE and DEIL PLACEMENT SERVICE REQUEST FORM

Please return to: *DEILing You In* (address on back or e-mail Dr. Dickerson at [w-dickerson@uiuc.edu](mailto:w-dickerson@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 are you doing, both on and off the job):

Please check the following to assist the DEIL PLACEMENT SERVICE:

Please contact me. I have information on positions in my institution, region, country, etc.

I will write or e-mail the DEIL Placement Service about any positions that I know of.

(e-mail June McDonald at [junemcd@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu](mailto:junemcd@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu))

Yes, give my address/e-mail to MATESL students seeking a position in my country, state, or institution.

Here are addresses to contact on available positions (write on back or attach separately).

## Alumni Update *continued from page 3*

presenter at TESOL in Chicago! He'd also like to hear from you on e-mail: [aw\\_lund@awc.cc.az.us](mailto:aw_lund@awc.cc.az.us)

**John Nelson** (1990) is still in Madrid at the International Institute. He's tenured and is teaching advanced grammar, writing, and TOEFL prep courses. He writes via e-mail that "Madrid is still a great place to live even though it's become very Modern European in the last ten years." You can send him a message at: [101234.2547@compuserve.com](mailto:101234.2547@compuserve.com)

**Joy Garling** (1994) is teaching at Seattle Community College. She writes that she enjoys watching the sunset over the Olympic Mountains every day that it is clear ("which is not very often"). She also spends a lot of time in cafes drinking coffee!

**Brenda Baker** (1995) is happy to be back in Thailand as a language supervisor for Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

**Mike Groen** (1995) is working with the USIA in Wittenberg, Germany. He's training former East German teachers of Russian as a Second Language to now teach ESL. All reports are that he loves what he's doing!

**Volker Hegelheimer** (1995) got married twice this summer (to the same lucky

woman, Bellinda, a grad student in Linguistics at UIUC) -- the first wedding was in Champaign, and the second was in his hometown of Neumarkt, Germany. Volker is working on his PhD in Educational Psychology (SLATE) at UIUC.

**Loretta Kreider** (1995) is working at Ohio University in Athens as a first year intern in the Program of Intensive English. She says the adjustment from Illinois to Ohio has been easy due to her teaching background in the IEI and her internship in Spain. And for those who know she likes to dance salsa and merengue, she's even found a bar with Latin music night where she can dance to her heart's content!

**Monika Szumowska** (1995) and husband, Marcin, have a new daughter, Maria Zosia, born July 10, 1995.

### *March Conferences:*

**Pragmatics 3/21 - 23**

**AAAL 3/23 - 26**

**TESOL 3/26 - 30**

## From the Editors

Whether near or far, our alumni network is going strong! We ought to have a great turnout at the "Illinois Reunion" at TESOL in Chicago!

A few alumni have requested e-mail addresses of DEIL grads. If you'll send me a message at [akasten@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu](mailto:akasten@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu), I'll forward you the current e-mail directory of about 80 DEIL grads that Dr. Dickerson has compiled from the database. If you're "connected," e-mail is a great way to keep in touch and "network." Also, watch for the Spring issue of *DYI*, which will feature ideas for using e-mail and computers in the ESL/EFL classroom.

Finally, we'd like to welcome two current DEIL students to *DYI*'s editorial staff: Ray Meredith and Darena Borgers. We are very grateful to both of them for generously donating their time and expertise to this newsletter. Thanks!

*See you in Chicago!!*

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### DEILing You In

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