

DEIL *The Newsletter for Alumni* ING YOU IN



Fall

Division of English as an International Language

1998

To Bangladesh Twice

by Kirsten Schaezel (1984)

Little did I know when I received my MATESL degree that I would live for the next 15 years between the US and Bangladesh. Since then, I have lived in each place twice and am now in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It has been an interesting journey.

I left the U of I to pursue a doctorate in Applied Linguistics at Boston University. While there, I taught part-time at many different education institutions in the Boston area—there certainly is no shortage of them! After passing my exams in Language Planning and Policy Making, Bilingual Education and Second Language Acquisition, my husband, Tom, and I decided to work as volunteers overseas. We both found positions through the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Feni, Bangladesh and, in 1989, began what has become a continuing relationship with the country. Bangladesh is well known for its natural disasters, malnutrition and population problems (120 million in a country the size of Wisconsin). It is an agrarian-based society; however, many families do not have enough land to support all their members, and people have been moving to cities at an alarming rate with the hope of finding work. Despite their difficulties, we have found people to be very warm and friendly, working hard to overcome many obstacles.

While with MCC, we worked and lived two years in a village near a Catholic mission. The church was established by the

Portuguese in the 1500s and all the families in the area have Portuguese names. In my role as "Language Advisor," I taught English to national staff, oversaw the Bangla language study program for expatriates and completed several educational evaluations. While working, I was able to complete my dissertation on "Literacy and Development in Bangladesh." In this study, I examined a popular literacy program to see if its graduates, particularly women, were still literate several years later. Unless their husbands bring reading material home, the women in rural areas have very little on which to practice their newly acquired literacy skills. Interviewing people in outlying areas and traveling by motorcycle in the rainy season to find them provided challenges in addition to the intellectual ones I was facing.

My second experience with Bangladesh began in September 1996, when I returned after Tom accepted a position working on a Tufts University/Micronutrient Initiative project. This time we came to Dhaka, the capital, a city now of 13 million people. For the first two years of this stay, I taught for a year and was English department chair for a year at North South University (NSU), a private, English medium university which began in 1991 with 50 students and now has about 2,000. Before 1991, there were no private universities in Bangladesh. As there are not enough seats in government universities for all students who want to attend, the private universities offer a less expensive



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option than going overseas to get an undergraduate degree. NSU has signed collaborative agreements with several universities in the United States, one of them being the University of Illinois. This means that students from NSU can transfer to the U of I or enter its masters programs and receive credit for courses taken at NSU. Also, the U of I is developing a study abroad program for undergraduates to spend a semester at NSU. This program is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The English Department at NSU offers courses similar to ESL 114 and 115 to strengthen students' writing abilities in English. Last year, the BA in English program was launched. This program allows students to major in English literature, English language or TESL. There is a great shortage of English language teachers in Bangladesh, and it is hoped that the NSU program, the second of its kind in the country, might be able to help alleviate the shortage.

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From the Director

Dr. Larry Bouton

GREETINGS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I hope this fall has treated you well and you are looking forward to the challenges that 1999 will bring with a sense of genuine anticipation and at least a little excitement. How we meet those challenges will determine who we are and what we become in the new millennium.

One pleasant and important challenge that DEIL will face will be to find the best possible candidate to replace Numa Markee, who has now taken up his duties as the new director of the university's Language Learning Laboratory. The person we are looking for will be an expert in SLA and Applied English Linguistics and enjoy both research and classroom teaching. If you are interested or know a really good candidate who might be, you can email Fred Davidson, chair of the search committee, at <fgd@uiuc.edu>. Whoever we choose will have a significant role in helping DEIL move effectively into the 21st Century.

Another challenge that DEIL faces is the need to diversify its student body, while constantly working to bring in the best students available, wherever they come from. This is, of course, an ongoing quest. As more and more MATESL programs become available, we need to keep our name in the public eye all around the world.

To make this happen, Ron Cowan and Wayne Dickerson have revised our brochure, a copy of which you received with this newsletter. We will be sending these to various U. S. Consulates around the world, but brochures are nowhere near as effective in conveying a reputation as word of mouth from a friend or acquaintance. So if any of you can help us advertise DEIL among your friends by putting our brochure and a poster up at various points around a university campus or an English language institute where there might be people interested, please let us know and we will send you as many copies of the brochure and poster as you can use.

These two challenges that DEIL is facing as 1999 approaches are two we hope you can help us meet. If we work together, I am sure we will succeed.

Happy New Year!

l-bouton@uiuc.edu

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As much as I enjoyed my work at NSU, I left this past June to join the Education Section at UNICEF as a consultant, working on the Intensive District Approach to Education for All (IDEAL) project, the largest primary education project in Bangladesh. Bangladesh began compulsory primary education in 1993, and this project aims to ensure that 1) all school-age children are attending a primary school near their homes and 2) the education they receive is of good quality so that they stay in school.

To introduce new educational methods and techniques, UNICEF has developed teacher training in Multiple Ways of Teaching and Learning (MWTL), based on Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. Through this training, teachers see

that children learn in many different ways, not only through rote memorization. In addition to writing project proposals and reports for donors, I am also working to bring MWTL techniques to the English language curriculum and to develop supplementary materials for English classes based on Meena, a girl-child cartoon character whose message is that girls are equal to boys and should be given the same rights and opportunities at home and at school.

Never did I think that when I left Urbana to study in Boston I would end up half way around the world. Life in Bangladesh has had its share of challenges, but it has also given me many different, exciting opportunities.

kris_schaetzel@mail.unicef.bangla.net ■

Alumni Update

Roberta Stock (1971) has continued to be involved in the field of computers in education since leaving Illinois. Five years ago she and two colleagues began a company which develops language learning multiple media (software, books, videos, etc.). Now she is head of the publishing division. robertas@QgroupPlc.com

Winston Priest (1973) keeps himself busy in Japan editing for various publishers, working on a local TOEIC project, and doing private teaching. wpriest@gol.com

Michael J. Lipinski (1976) is working in the Training Department at Alliance Refinery Company in Thailand. He has taught a group of maintenance trainees and has also developed two writing courses for the refinery staff. mjl@loxinfo.co.th

Carmen (Castillo) Gilbert (1978) sends her regards from the east coast where she lives with her husband and four children (ages 18, 16, 14, and 11). After completing her PhD in Secondary Education at UIUC in 1984, she moved with her family to Milford, New Hampshire. She has been teaching Spanish at the local middle school since 1994. She writes: "I find language learning and teaching fascinating!" Since Carmen is originally from Panama and her husband Roland speaks French fluently, they speak three languages at home!
cggilbert@juno.com

Since finishing her MATESL degree, **Nuchamon (Stitnimankarn) James** (1979) has had a variety of teaching experiences -- at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok,

Sauk Valley College in Illinois, and Florida International University in Miami. She notes there are dramatic differences among teaching Thai college students, Asian refugees who were not literate in their own languages, and Hispanic students.

nuchnbill@aol.com

Linda Rousos (1979) spent several years developing and directing programs in refugee education after her MATESL degree. However, two years ago she became an ESL faculty member at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. Her son, Joey, is nearly 10 years old and is, of course, her "pride and joy."

lrousos@azstarnet.com

Georgette Jabbour (1980) has moved to New York, where she accepted a position as Assistant Professor of ESL at the New York Institute of Technology.

gjabbour@iris.nyit.edu

Donna (Kaczmarek) Hoffman (1983) taught at the Intensive English Program at the University of Missouri in Columbia for 4 1/2 years. She then received an M.Ed. in Educational and Counseling Psychology from MU in 1992. She is happily married and currently educating her children, ages 10, 7, and 4, at home, which she says is challenging, yet rewarding. hoffmand@trib.net

Loren and Donna Friesen (1984) have moved to a new home in Streamwood, Illinois. LDFriesen@aol.com

Anna Kasten (1985) was married to James Urban in Romeoville, Illinois in May.

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Alumni Update, continued

Anna continues her work with the Intensive English Institute, while her husband has begun a masters in Landscape Architecture at UIUC. MATESL classmate **Susan Sullivan-Tuncan** (1986) and family (husband Erdal and three kids) came up from Columbia, Missouri for the celebration.

a-kasten@uiuc.edu

Craig Kelly (1985) has been living in Japan for the past ten years. He is an associate professor in the linguistics section of the English and American Literature Department at Showa Women's University in Tokyo. Prior to Japan, he spent three years in Malaysia. *kelly@swu.ac.jp*

Abdul Ghani Abu (1986) is the Coordinator for the TESL program Universiti Pendidikan (Education) Sultan Idris in Malaysia. The coordinator position is a lot of work at this stage, with preparing the syllabus, finding teaching staff, and coming up with new programs, but Ghani says he welcomes the challenge! He would like to get in touch with other MATESLers to share ideas. *ganiabu@tm.net.my*

Kyung-Suk Kim (1987) received a PhD in educational linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. Now he is working as an assistant professor at Kyonggi University in Korea, teaching reading and culture courses.

kskim@kuic.kyonggi.ac.kr

Ella Ozier (1987) currently lives in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, a suburb of Milwaukee, where she works for Compuware Corporation as a Project Manager for process improvement/reengineering and software development projects. She would really enjoy hearing from former classmates. *ella_ozier@compuware.com*

Adisra Katib (1989) received a PhD

in Language Arts Education in 1997 from the University of Victoria in Canada. Then she returned to Thailand to teach at Chulalongkorn University Language Institute (CULI) in Bangkok. She is also Head of the Unit of Academic Information Dissemination, International Affairs, and the editor of the oldest professional journal in English teaching in Thailand, PASAA.

kadisra@chula.ac.th

Loretta Levene (1992) has been teaching at the Nakajo, Japan, campus of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for four years. This past year she became the curriculum coordinator for the Intensive English Program there. *llevene@siui.edu*

Joelle Uzarski (1992) is teaching writing, grammar, and slang at UCLA's American Language Center and writing a novel which is loosely based on her experiences in Europe, South America and Asia. *maracuja@earthlink.net*

Rongchang Li (1994) has accepted a new job working for an ESL software company in Hollywood, California. He is designing an English conversational course for intermediate learners using speech recognition. *rli@ehq.com*

Volker Hegelheimer (1995) along with wife, Bellinda, and son, Michael, have moved on to Ames, Iowa, where Volker is an assistant professor in the English Department (the MATESL program) at Iowa State University. *volkerh@iastate.edu*

Yasuyo (Moriyama) Sawaki (1995) and her husband have recently moved from Japan, where she was teaching at Showa Women's University in Tokyo, to the United States. She is in the doctoral program in applied linguistics at UCLA; her advisor is Lyle Bachman. *sawaki@st.rim.or.jp*

Alison Kitzman (1996) is in her second year teaching at Kinki University in Osaka, Japan. She is working on a Business English project/task-based textbook. *kitzman@ei.kindai.ac.jp*

Kathy Wickline (1996) is teaching both English and German at Unity High School in Tolono. After taking a summer course at Illinois Wesleyan on teaching AP classes, she hopes to start an AP program at Unity during the 1999-2000 school year. Kathy is also looking forward to taking a group of 19 teens to Europe next summer! *wickline@worldnet.att.net*

Francis Scott Walters (1997) is continuing his studies at UIUC, where he is

WITH THANKS

Thanks to all who have so generously given monetary gifts to DEIL. These gifts support our three annual awards for teaching and academic excellence.

To demystify the process of making contributions to DEIL, here are some guidelines. All gifts are channeled through the U of I Foundation (UIF) (which has nothing to do with the Alumni Association). Gifts reach the proper accounts in the Foundation by designating on the check (1) who will cash the check (UIF), (2) which account will receive the gift, and (3) the department the gift is for. So a check made out to UIF/DEIL Awards/DEIL will find its way to DEIL.

Every gift generates a receipt that states where the gift was deposited. Check your receipt. If you have any questions, ask Brad Hatfield, Director of Gift Administration, who will be happy to help. *bhatfiel@uiuc.edu*, 217/333-8665.

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working on a PhD in Educational Psychology with a concentration in language testing. He's also been working on the IEI Online Project as an online ESL course developer, which involves curriculum development, needs analysis, test development, and HTML programming. *fwalters@students.uiuc.edu*

Tom Carson (1998) married Emily Pederson, a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at UIUC, in May. They spent the summer directing an international program in Zimbabwe. Tom is presently the director at The English Center, a private ESL school in Champaign. *tom@englishcenter.com*

Serene Chan (1998) has moved from Champaign to San Jose, Costa Rica, where she is teaching at the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano. She'd love to hear from friends and classmates. *serene_c@yahoo.com*

Rachel (Wallace) Escoto (1998) got

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Faculty Update

Eunha Jung (1991) joined the DEIL faculty this fall as a one-year visiting assistant professor. This semester she covered TESL methods and materials, and theoretical foundations of SLA. In the spring she will teach the course on communicative language teaching (CLT) and a sold-out elective on the relevance of CLT in EFL settings. *eunha@staff.uiuc.edu*

