

DEILING YOU IN

The Newsletter for Alumni



Spring

Division of English as an International Language

2000

FLB Computer Initiatives

by Jean M. Czaja (1998)

How deprived we were some might think. Imagine teaching ESL at a time when:

1. The Division as a separate entity didn't exist.
2. There was no DEIL Library, (That came in 1972 after the death of Helen Brennan.)
3. There was no Master's Degree Program. (That came in 1967.)
4. There was no proper language laboratory. (A ten booth laboratory was installed in 1956-57.)
5. There was no Foreign Languages Building. (That came in 1971.)
6. There were no computers, faxes, and e-mail.

(Excerpt from "DEIL Anniversary Comments" by Lubitsa Nenadovich Katz, 1997)

For many of us DEIL alumni, it is hard to imagine a context in which a proper language laboratory, computers, faxes, or e-mail didn't exist. Today, as I look at the changes brought about by computers in our profession just within the past five years, I am amazed as much by what has already been done as by their potential for the future. An example of progress is taking place within the Foreign Languages Building (FLB) through bold initiatives coming out of the Language Learning Lab (LLL), directed by DEIL professor, Numa Markee

Before sharing with you the current initiatives, I would like provide a brief history of the lab, beginning with its "glory days": the 1970s. It was in the 1970s that the LLL

made a name for itself through association with PLATO, one of the first computing systems used for classroom instruction. At that time, the LLL was an active center for computing on campus. There were 80 PLATO terminals in the FLB which students used to work through language activities and tests.

The early 1980s, however, marked "the beginning of the end," as the university cut support for programmers. The terminals fell into disuse, and people lost interest. When computers first came out, the LLL acquired some, but they were expensive, and they did not have the capability for meaningful student interaction. By the time Numa Markee was promoted to Director of the LLL two years ago, there were few operational machines. His takeover, however, coincided with an infusion of funds into the LLL as part of a campus-wide technology initiative from the Provost's office and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which now totals over \$600,000.

The first initiative to result from the funds was the "Spanish Project," which is now in its second year. The goal of this program is to provide computer-assisted vocabulary, grammar, and writing instruction outside the classroom so that time in the classroom can be spent on communicative tasks. Currently over 2,000 students a year use Mallard, a web-based course



Jean M. Czaja is a Visiting Teaching Associate in DEIL. She worked in the Outreach Program, one of the FLB computer initiatives, from 1999-2000.

management system, to submit assignments and interact with their instructors and classmates. Similar projects are underway for German, French, and East Asian languages.

After its formal reopening in Fall 1999, the LLL began a second initiative, the Outreach Program, the goal of which is twofold: to promote the use of instructional technology in teaching and curriculum development and to provide a basic level of computer support for the FLB. According to Markee, the Outreach Program is the "biggest innovation" among the initiatives. It seeks to "transform the lab from merely a wires-type of operation to one engaged in the diffusion and use of educational technology."

What makes this program unique is that it is staffed by 50% RAs (three of whom are DEIL alumni) from almost every department in the building and three full-time Departmental User Services (DUS) computer consultants. While all participants work to

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Greetings!

The end of the 1999-2000 academic year naturally draws my attention to comings and goings in our DEIL family. Let me look back before looking ahead.

To those who are moving on, we bid farewell and offer our best wishes. Bill VanPatten, our Director of one year, accepted a leadership position at the University of Illinois - Chicago, while Molly Mack moved to the Department of Linguistics. Barabra Bair (1988) stepped down from co-teaching our EIL 312 practicum, Patti Watts (1994), Associate Director of the ESL Service Courses in DEIL for 6 years, will take a well-deserved break to marry John Prince, and Jean Czaja (1998), our able DYI editor, is off to Marquette University for new teaching opportunities. Finally, we saw another class of stellar DEIL graduates leave campus to assume TESL/TEFL positions worldwide.

To those who are new to DEIL or returning in new capacities, we extend a very warm welcome. Bill left us with a challenging vision of the role DEIL can play in second language studies at this university. Our gain is not only that Numa Markee, the Director of the Language Learning Laboratory, will assume the directorship of DEIL, but will also champion that vision. You will hear about this and other initiatives directly from Numa in coming DYIs.

DEIL will also welcome a new faculty member in the fall, Cathrine Berg, who, with Melissa Smith, will carry on Barb's dedicated work in the practicum along with her other teaching responsibilities. Kelly Collett (2000) will direct the ESL service courses in Patti's place. As for a new editor of DYI, your suggestions are always welcome. We want to continue our 11-year tradition of keeping you informed of other alumni and changes in DEIL.

And of course we will soon see the arrival of the eager class of 2002 and of new opportunities to contribute to our fast-growing profession through the quality pedagogical training and research we provide.

I trust you are enjoying your summer and, like us in DEIL, are also looking forward with anticipation. Best wishes and stay in touch!

Wayne Dickerson

Initiatives, *cont'd from page 1*

gether to provide technical support, each RA carries out instructional initiatives according to the needs of his/her department; departments thereby see a direct impact of the program and have an active voice in determining its direction.

The most typical duty of Outreach RAs is to assist faculty and TAs in putting their language, literature, and methodology course materials online. In addition, RAs often serve as webmasters for department websites, present workshops, and provide individualized support for instructors in their home departments.

So far, the program has been considered a success, as evidenced by an increase in the number of participating departments for next year. Furthermore, potential for continuing success lies in the fact that the four "gradu-

ates" of the program who left at the end of this year have assumed full-time positions involving teaching and the use of instructional technology.

The Outreach Program, like any initiative, is of course facing its share of challenges, the greatest of which, according to Markee, is continued funding. So far the program has been fortunate. It has been granted two years of funding by the university; however, it will need to obtain outside support to upgrade its equipment on a continuing basis and, more importantly recruit and retain graduate students to participate in the program. For more information on the LLL initiatives, please visit their web site:

<http://www.lll.uiuc.edu> ■

TESOL 2000 in St. Louis!

Mark your calendars. February 28-March 3, 2001, will see International TESOL for the first time in St. Louis. Graduates of the University of Illinois MATESL program are involved in the local planning of the convention: Rosa Schutte (1975) (Washington University) is a core planner and Sharon Person (1982) (St. Louis Community College) is in charge of corporate support.

As usual, the TESOL conference will be preceded by the Applied Linguistics Conference and sandwiched between the conferences will be an exciting array of specialized symposia that are still in the planning stages. It is not too late to put in a proposal for a poster session, a work-in-progress session, or a video theater presentation. These proposals must be received (not mailed) by August 14 at TESOL 2001, Conventions Department, 700 South Washington Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314. For proposal applications contact TESOL Central Office at the same address or online at <http://tesol.org>.

This is a great opportunity to showcase your work or to research job opportunities. You can also network with others in related fields. If this is going to be your first time at TESOL, and you want to become involved in the convention activities, volunteer opportunities are still available and a sign-up form can be accessed online at <http://midtesol.org>. Or just come and visit with MATESL grads Tina Stone (1994) or Karen Schwelle (1998).

Rosa Schutte (1975)
Washington University



Alumni Update

Marianna Morgan (1981), one of the last of the MATESL students to study in the Iran program, is living in Southaven, MS. Retired from newspaper editing, Marianna is considering returning to TESL as a volunteer teacher for the large immigrant population in nearby Memphis.

Anna Kasten (1985) and her husband, Jim, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Joan Marie Urban, on March 29. Anna continues to work in the Intensive English Institute, where she coordinates Special Programs. a-kasten@uiuc.edu

Loretta Kreider (1995) is a massage therapist at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, where she is also a volunteer ESL tutor through the Family Resource Center at her church.

Cheryl Moen (1995) is teaching at BISS International School in Beijing and is interested in getting in touch with former classmates. leemoen@public.east.cn.net

Juan-Pedro Rica-Peromingo (1995) is Professor of English at Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, teaching courses in English phonics and phonology, and contemporary British culture. He is also teaching an advanced English conversation class. juanpe@eucmax.sim.ucm.es

Alison Kitzman (1997) is currently teaching in the Business and Economics Department at Kinki University in Japan, which has an exchange program with the IEI. She is also carrying out cultural research and writing. kitzman@ei.kindai.ac.jp

Jean Czaja (1998) will assume a TESL

position at Marquette University in August, where she will teach English for Academic Purposes and ITA courses and also work toward certification in ESL K-12 at UW-Milwaukee. jeanczaja@hotmail.com

Carlos del Moral (1998) graduated with an MA in Spanish Linguistics from the Spanish Department at UIUC in May 2000. He is now back in Argentina, on the faculty of the University of Cuzco. delmoral@uiuc.edu

Todd Enslin (1998) is working at the International University of Japan, where he is revising their curriculum. He periodically conducts a teleconferencing class with a high school in Tokyo. Todd's wife, Atsuko, and daughter, Emilie, will be returning for an extended trip to Illinois this fall. toddrens@hotmail.com

Rachel (Wallace) Escoto (1998) gave birth to Aline Escoto Wallace, on June 16 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Rachel is enjoying motherhood and visits from family and friends and is already training her husband, Alejandro, to take over some of the baby duties. rwescoto@yahoo.com

Christine Gozdzia (1998) is continuing her dual position in the MBA program at UIUC, where she is an Assistant Director of Career Services and the Coordinator of the Preparatory English Program (PEP), a 6-week ESP program designed for incoming international MBA students. gozdzia@uiuc.edu

Ted Groth (1998) is nearing the end of the first phase of his 4-year seminary education in St. Louis. In August, he will begin a 1-year vicarage internship in Cudahy,

DEIL Awards 2000

Congratulations to the following graduate student award winners:

DEIL Peter Strevens Award for Academic Excellence

Philip MacLellan

Mary A. Hussey Award for Excellence in ESL Teaching

DJ Kaiser & Barbara Willenborg

DEIL Peter Strevens Award for Excellence in Teaching in the IEI

Jennifer Carder & W. Jason Stegemoller

Faculty Update

Professor Emerita Mary A. Hussey died in Urbana on August 3 at the age of 93. She was a professor in DEIL from 1943 to 1974, and served as Acting Director three times during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1997, to honor her years of contribution to DEIL, the Division renamed its highest teaching award the DEIL Mary A. Hussey Award for Excellence in ESL Teaching.

Professor Wayne Dickerson was selected as a recipient of the campus-wide award for Excellence in Teaching in a Graduate or Professional Program. Candidates are chosen for their excellence in teaching and student advising. He was honored at a banquet in April.

WI. This will be followed by a last year of study. tedgroth@juno.com

Paul Rebeiz (1998) left Korea University in July to assume a teaching position in the United Arab Emirates. He and his family are spending a month with relatives in Champaign before heading for the Middle East. parebeiz@yahoo.com

Karen Schwelle (1998) will begin her third year at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall. This summer she is teaching a special ESP course for law students. In her free time, Karen can be found at the ballpark. kschwelle@rescomp.wustl.edu

Sheila Lebedenko (1999) and her husband, Dima, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Charlotta Giselle, on July 17, in San Jose, CA. Charlotta means "petite" and "womanly," although they chose the name because they "like the sound." sheilinka@yahoo.com

Yuri Vedrashko (1999) is teaching English to children in Taiwan, where he is managing the school curriculum and assisting with teacher training. He hopes to have his wife and daughter join him soon. vedrash@hotmail.com

Matthew Deters (2000) began teaching

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Updates *cont'd from page 3*

in the National Education Center at Chonnam National University in Korea, in March. matthewdeters@yahoo.com

Meredee Grant (2000) is taking over as Assistant Director of the English Center, a private ESL program in Champaign owned by Brian McKay (1996). She is replacing Jen Carder (2000), who is moving to Minnesota to teach ESL.

Becky Mladic (2000) is teaching at Romeoville High School in a suburb of Chicago. This spring, she taught ESL courses and a bilingual science class to intermediate level Latino students. Becky is also planning to get married in September. BeckyMladic@cs.com

Roderick van Huis (2000) is living in Shimonoseki, in southwestern Japan, where he is teaching oral communication and speech at Baiko Jo Gakuin, at both their 2-year college and 4-year university. rvanhuis@ymg.urban.ne.jp

Amy Whitish (2000) taught in an IEI special program for Mexican students this summer. She is moving to Boston in the fall. mita9000@yahoo.com

Barbara Willenborg (2000) is the Coordinator of ITA Training and Testing at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. bwillenb@sas.upenn.edu



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<http://www.deil.uiuc.edu>

*Moved and misplaced your
DEILing You In?*

Visit the new DEIL website!

The new site features a special section for DEIL alumni. Submit your updates and view current & past editions of DEILing You In online!

Note: To view the editions, you will need to use the name "alumni" and password "DYI."

From the Editors

This issue of *DEILing You In* continues to feature the changes happening in DEIL and FLB: a new computer initiative, a new director of DEIL, and a new web address and look for the DEIL web site. Change continues as we look toward the beginning of the new school year.

A special thanks to Professor Wayne Dickerson for his efforts in maintaining and updating the alumni database. Please remember to keep us current on your own personal changes in jobs and addresses. Let us know your whereabouts and what you are doing.

You might even consider contributing an article about your experiences to *DEILing You In*. We are always searching for articles reflecting the varied experiences of our alumni.

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