



## English for Business Purposes in DEIL

By Patti Watts (1994)

In the last decade, researchers and ESL professionals debated the pros and cons of general academic English versus specialized English courses for university students in their respective fields of study. While some in the field believe English for Specific Purposes (ESP) courses are unnecessary or impractical (e.g., Spack, 1988), most agree that ESP classes raise student motivation and provide greater intrinsic value by offering students focused content directly relevant to their academic course of study (e.g., Braine, 1988). In the midst of this great debate, DEIL delved deeper into the ESP realm by updating and expanding the Business English courses offered through the ESL Service Courses and the Intensive English Institute (IEI). Currently, three Business English courses are offered: ESL 405, ESL 407, and the IEI Business English course.

### ESL 405

ESL 405 has the longest history of the three courses. Originating in the 1980s, the class served students in the Executive Development Center, which at that time housed both the International Masters' Programs in Business (Accounting, Finance, and Business Administration) and non-degree semester-long programs for executives and government officials from other countries. Recently, differences in the two populations and their needs resulted in the separation of non-degree students from those in the International Masters' Programs. Students in

the non-degree programs now have their English needs met through the IEI Business English course, which will be outlined later in this article. ESL 405 continues as a university ESL course and serves approximately 160 students each year.

The course itself has undergone many transformations. The current version of the course has a fairly equal emphasis on speaking and writing skills. As expected in a Business English course, students give speeches and write business memos, but they also receive a good introduction to academic writing. While this type of instruction may seem out of place in a Business English course, the fact remains that students' assignments in their Business courses require them to paraphrase skillfully and accurately and to cite source material. Additionally, the syllabus is designed to create a link between the final writing assignment and a major assignment in students' Business courses. This link has provided a window into the kind of work students produce as part of their academic program and the expectations of their professors.

### ESL 407, formerly known as EBP

The first version of this course was offered in 1996 and resulted directly from student requests for a Business English class for MBA students. The class has been evolving ever since and serves fifty to sixty students each year. The course is now offered



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as an intensive summer course that is part of the MBA program's Preparatory English Program (PEP), which is directed by DEIL alum, Christine Gozdziaik ('98). Situating ESL 407 in a larger MBA program has helped keep the course up-to-date on students' needs. With this kind of arrangement, the cooperation and collaboration between DEIL and MBA is built in and is a great aid to course development.

Despite the fact that ESL 405 and ESL 407 are both Business English courses for graduate students, there are actually a num-

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ber of differences between them. Notably, ESL 407 is limited to students in the MBA program; 405 to students in the three International Masters' Programs. One main difference in these two populations is their employment goals. Many MBA students intern or seek jobs in the U.S. after graduation and thus have a pressing need to develop skills for the job search. Hence, ESL 407 has a greater emphasis on resumes, cover letters and interviewing skills than does ESL 405. The course also focuses more on case analyses and case competitions.

### IEI Business English Course

The IEI Business English course serves non-degree students in the Executive De-

velopment Center and is also open to interested IEI students. The course uses current business topics as a springboard for business writing and speaking tasks. The course also prepares students for field trips they take as part of the Executive Development Center. For instance, one unit this Spring focused on City Government and was tied to a trip to Champaign city offices.

This examination of DEIL's Business English courses reveals two common themes. First, the links to students' academic programs are vital to the success of ESP courses. These links and the human relations that foster them help ensure the continued relevance of course content, a tenet

which is central to the ESP movement. Secondly, the courses have evolved over time, indicating that needs analysis is an ongoing process rather than a one-up event.

As I conclude this article, Summer Session is about to get underway and along with it at least ten sections of Business English. To say the least, Business English has become an important ESP initiative in DEIL. ■

## Alumni Update

**Harumi Nakamura** (1969) retired from Kinki University in Osaka after a long career as an EFL professor. A stroke and partial paralysis encouraged him and his wife to move to Spain's Costa del Sol where they have a nice apartment. He says "This is really a utopia." [nakamura@teletel.es](mailto:nakamura@teletel.es)

**Reza Nilipour** (1972) is a professor at the University of Welfare & Rehabilitation Sciences in Tehran, Iran. His research is mostly in neurolinguistics and bilingualism. His daughter, Yalda, is an M.D. and his son, Nima, is a civil engineer. Reza has just become Chair of the Department of Speech Therapy. Congratulations and best wishes! [rezanili@yahoo.com](mailto:rezanili@yahoo.com)

**Laurie (Muhs) Chaker** (1974) and her family have moved to the DC area, where she's teaching elementary ESL and French Immersion (math and science for 6th graders) in Fairfax Co., VA. [achaker@asce.org](mailto:achaker@asce.org)

**Muhammad Umar Chand** (1975) has had a varied career as an EFL professional in Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan, and has experienced much of the upheaval in these areas. He moved on to Brunei and now has settled happily in New Zealand. [chand786@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chand786@xtra.co.nz)

**Linda Rousos** (1979) is still teaching ESL full-time at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona and is thoroughly enjoying her work and the challenge of revamping and updating the program there. [lrousos@azstarnet.com](mailto:lrousos@azstarnet.com)

**Betsy Rubin** (1979). Besides enjoying

## Faculty Update

We welcome **Darenda Borgers** (1996) who will be a full-time Teaching Associate in the International TA program in the fall, teaching English Pronunciation for International Teaching Assistants and Oral Communication for International Teaching Assistants. [borgers@uiuc.edu](mailto:borgers@uiuc.edu)

Congratulations to **Maggie Courtright** (1981) who completed her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and continues teaching in the IEI as she looks for a new position. [mcourtri@uiuc.edu](mailto:mcourtri@uiuc.edu)

At long last, **Wayne Dickerson's** *Stress in the Speech Stream - Student Text and Teacher's Manual* (960 pp.) are now available on CD-Rom for \$19.95 (postage included). Write him for a copy. [dickerson@uiuc.edu](mailto:dickerson@uiuc.edu)

**Tom Gould** (1978) retires this spring as the second Director of the Intensive En-

glish Institute since its founding in 1975. (Rebecca Dixon Brewer was the first.) He has served in this capacity since 1984 and built the IEI into a strong program with great international visibility. Through his leadership, the IEI has benefitted the Division and its MATESL candidates in countless ways. We thank him for his contribution to DEIL and wish him a long, enjoyable, and well-deserved retirement. [t-gould@uiuc.edu](mailto:t-gould@uiuc.edu)

**Susan Gonzo**, who has taught part-time in DEIL for many years, becomes the third Director of the IEI and will continue to teach MATESL courses. [s-gonzo@uiuc.edu](mailto:s-gonzo@uiuc.edu)

**Jill Knutson** (2001) will be assisting Cathrine Berg with the EIL 312 practicum as a Teaching Associate where her pronunciation teaching skills are helping her prepare new classes of pronunciation teachers. [jknutson@uiuc.edu](mailto:jknutson@uiuc.edu)

### DEIL Peter Strevens Award for Academic Excellence

**Duangrudee (Petch) Techa-intrawong**  
[thepetchy@hotmail.com](mailto:thepetchy@hotmail.com)

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## Alumni Authors Library Collection

In the last issue of DYI, we announced the inauguration of the DEIL Alumni Authors Library Collection and solicited books from our graduates. The books we received were on exhibit in Ellis Lounge on April 25. The following book list was made available to visitors so they could order copies of their own. The exhibit was well attended and much appreciated. MATESL students were amazed at the productivity of their predecessors. The books were then moved to brand new quarters in the DEIL library where they will go on permanent display in a section called Alumni Authors.

The Alumni Authors collection is **on-going**. Please send us your works so we can give them some good exposure and also expand our collection as a resource and an inspiration for current MATESL candidates. We will acknowledge receipt of any new contributions in DYI so that all of our alumni will become aware of them. Periodically we will exhibit our collection as we did in April. Thanks to all who helped us launch this project so successfully!

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# Alumni Update, continued

her two children, Cory, 12, and Holly, 8, Betsy is the full-time coordinator of a not-for-profit family literacy program, the Blue Gargoyle Family Learning Project, serving low-income, at-risk students in Chicago. She applied many of her TESL experiences to writing two adult-ed textbooks which are still in print after 15 years!  
*brmidwest@aol.com*

**Lourdene Huhra** (1980) is Executive Dean of Workforce and International Development at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, where she spends the majority of her time on the International Center, with international recruiting, admissions and advising; study abroad for US students; faculty exchange; internationalizing the curriculum; and cross-cultural event planning. She says that her ESL faculty are delighted to have an ally in the administration.  
*Lourdenell@aol.com*

**Atteya Elnoory** (1981). Like many DEIL graduates who go abroad to teach EFL, Atteya made it back to Urbana where he now teaches with the Urbana School District and focuses on the needs of his big family.  
*noory@mail.advancenet.net*

**Wendy Hyman-Fite** (1986) is now a business analyst at Anheuser-Busch in St.

Louis, writing articles for web pages and newsletters, as well as videoscripts for an in-house TV program. She says she doesn't feel she's too far from ESL because she's still in the field of education and the language of computers has the qualities of a "second language" for the majority of end-users.  
*whyman\_fite@hotmail.com*

**Doug Mills** (1986) and Kim are now the proud parents of a baby boy, born March 21, 2001. He is Micah Christopher. Mother and baby are doing fine. Congratulations!  
*dmills@uiuc.edu*

**Barbara Bair** (1988) has accepted a teaching position with Urbana Adult Education to help with their expanded ESL offerings and says she's excited about the possibility of using her teaching skills to serve a population of students different from those she has worked with at UIUC for many years.  
*barbbair@prairienet.org*

**Mariko (Onuki) Masden** (1989) taught Japanese for eight years after graduating from UIUC. She now works as International Student Advisor at Kumamoto University. An interest and concern of hers is how English will be taught in elementary schools in Japan, a mandate that begins next year.  
*masden@gpo.kumamoto-u.ac.jp*

**Lillian Kutz** (1991) has settled in Wheaton, IL, and is now working for World Relief of DuPage.  
*sokka3@yahoo.com*

**Julie Prentice** (1992), who taught in the IEI last year, is now back in China, immersed in Chinese language study. She anticipates moving to Tibet soon to continue EFL teaching.  
*zhulip@public2.east.cn.net*

**Lilian (Tsai-Lien) Lee** (1994) has been teaching English in a senior high school in Taiwan since finishing the MATESL degree. She has two daughters, aged 6 and 11. She says, "I really miss those days in DEIL."  
*lilian241@kimo.com.tw*

**Jane Nicholls** (1994) has a personal reason for her new interest in neuroscience: full-time parenting and helping her five year-old son, Owen, diagnosed with autism, with his language learning skills. "My husband, Kevin, and I are thrilled with the progress Owen is making on a daily basis." After teaching EAP part-time at McGill University, Jane jumped at the chance to work as a research assistant in a neurobiology lab on campus, a prelude, she hopes, to doctoral work in Speech Language Disorders.  
*eza1@musica.mcgill.ca*

**Raigan (Wilson) Bastianoni** (1995) is married and has a two-year-old son. She and her family live in Frankfurt, Germany.  
*raigan.uli@uumail.de*

**Patricia Clemente** (1995) taught EFL for several years at the University of Hanover until her son, Matthias was born last year. Since then, she's been a full-time mom but still puts in seven hours a week with students seeking the Cambridge Proficiency Certificate.  
*patricia.clemente@t-online.de*

**Volker Hegelheimer** (1995) and Bellinda announced the arrival of a baby girl, Melina Lorraine, on Jan. 16, 2001. "Michael (3 1/2) and Sabrina (2) love the new addition to the family very much and enjoy holding and touching (which sometimes really is poking) her." Volker has just finished his third year at Iowa State University (Ames, IA) as assistant professor in TESL/Applied Linguistics.  
*volkerh@iastate.edu*

**Yeonsuk Cho** (1996) completed her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and will be moving to Monterey, California, to work at the Defense Language Institute. Congratulations!  
*y-cho2@uiuc.edu*

**Leslie Hammersmith** (1996) is interim

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## A Word of Thanks

Alumni:

The infusion of gift books written by DEIL alumni has suddenly enriched our library, thanks to the generosity of many DEIL graduates. [See insert - Editor] We created a dedicated place in the library to show off these publications, not only because we are proud of them, but also because we want current DEIL students to know about and to use them. We look forward to expanding this special collection!

You should also know that we have two fast computers - a MAC and a PC - in our library and would be very happy to receive any software you have prepared on CD-Rom and would be willing to share with us. The library is a highly used facility, and our patrons are always eager to see what professionals like you have been doing. So, please keep us in mind!

With gratitude,  
The Librarians  
DEIL Helen Brennan Memorial Library

## Alumni Updates, cont. from page 3

Assistant Director of the Center for Educational Technologies at UIUC and has just purchased a home in Champaign.  
*lkhammer@uiuc.edu*

**Jen-Ying (Chen) Huang** (1996) teaches senior high school English in Changhua, Taiwan. She says that she, her husband, and two children, Emily and Bruce, are doing well but miss life in Champaign-Urbana a lot. *shuang1@ms18.hinet.net*

**Brian McKay** (1996), remembered at UIUC as the founder of the English Center in Champaign where **Meredee Grant** (1999) is director, now lives in the Bay Area. He works for GlobalEnglish.com, an online English-teaching enterprise, as the Senior Content Strategist, developing concepts and creating detailed plans for the writers. *brian.mckay@globalenglish.net*

**Busayanee (Bus) Getmanee** (1999) just gave birth to a baby boy, Pinyo. Congratulations, Bus! She nicknamed her son, Tangmo, which means watermelon. Who looked like a watermelon, baby or Bus?  
*bws@kmitnb.ac.th*

**Audrey (Humphreys) Kruger** (1999)

and her husband, Tjaart, are the proud parents of their first child, Tjaart Andries Petrus Kruger, born at 9:07pm on Monday, June 4th. Both mom and baby are doing well.  
*audreykruger@hotmail.com*

**Rungruedee (Nice) Naratreegul** (1999). Besides being a fulltime officer in the international relations department of the Communications Authority of Thailand, Nice teaches EFL at every opportunity and is a DJ, hosting a radio program, English Chitchat, on a regular basis.  
*naratree@hotmail.com*

**Kaori Nishi** (1999), still hoping for a single, full-time teaching position, accepted part-time positions at two universities in Japan. She is teaching English to non-English majors and doing her best to stimulate their interest in the subject.  
*kaori.nishi@nifty.ne.jp*

**Yuri Vedrashko** (1999) and his family moved to Taipei where he has been teaching EFL at Taipei University, trying to cope with classes of 70 students.  
*vedrash@mcu.edu.tw/  
vedrash@icqmail.com*

## From the Editor

I hope your 2001 has gotten off to a good start. I have some good news: The author of our feature article, Patti Watts, will become the new DYI editor beginning in the fall. Many of you know Patti from her years as the ESL Course Coordinator in DEIL. I am very pleased that she is willing to help keep this line of communications open and look forward to working with her.

It has been a genuine pleasure to hear from so many of you in recent months. To help me keep our database current, I will appreciate knowing of any postal and e-mail address changes. For your information, we distribute our e-mail list only to DEIL graduates in the interest of helping us stay in touch more easily. Beyond addresses, we are particularly delighted to hear about what is going on in your personal and professional life. You can send your updates either to *dickrson+DYI@uiuc.edu* or use our on-line update facility at <http://www.deil.uiuc.edu>.

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Consulting Editor Wayne B. Dickerson  
Editorial Support Darena Borgers

## DEILing You In

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