Greetings from the Director

Braj B. Kachru

After more than forty years of teaching ESL, preparing teachers, and pioneering in our field, the Division enters a new decade with vigor and the promise of continued growth and innovation. In many ways, the Division is coming of age. It has its own robust set of course offerings, two distinct tracks leading to an MA degree, two research journals, an annual conference, a diverse and talented faculty, a large, cosmopolitan student body, and now — its own alumni newsletter.

I hope you will be as enthusiastic as I am to see, at last, an on-going effort to "deal you in," to include you in what is happening in DEIL and in the lives of DEIL graduates, to put you in touch with, perhaps, a long-lost classmate, a former colleague, or a Division that was once your academic home.

The success of this newsletter and other planned alumni activities depends in large measure on your help. Do you like what you see? Write the editors with addresses and your news and views. I know they will welcome your feedback as they launch this newsletter for you.

Faculty Update:
Promotions and Awards

The profile of DEIL faculty has changed somewhat this academic year. Four assistant professors, four associate professors, and two full professors became, in August 1989, four assistant professors, two associate professors, and four full professors with the promotions of Lyle Bachman and Wayne Dickerson.

Along with his many articles, Lyle Bachman recently published Fundamental Considerations in Language Testing (Cambridge University Press, 1989). After 13 years on the DEIL faculty, Lyle has accepted a position at UCLA in the Department of TESL and Applied Linguistics as of Spring 1990. A search is now underway to find a specialist in language testing who will also be the administrator of our ESL testing program.

Wayne Dickerson continues as the Division's phonologist. His newest book, Stress in the Speech Stream: The Rhythm of Spoken English (Student Text [608 pp], Teacher's Manual [318 pp], five cassette tapes), was published in 1989 by the University of Illinois Press. It is a text for advanced ESL students covering the prediction, production, and perception of word-, phrase-, and sentence-stress and is used for pronunciation classes in DEIL.

Write DEILING YOU IN for more information about his publications.

This spring, Wayne also became the first faculty member in the Division to win a Liberal Arts and Sciences award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. He was honored at an awards ceremony and banquet on April 23.

DEIL Faculty Members
Spring 1990

Katharine O. Aston (Emerita)
Lynne Belcher
Lawrence F. Bouton
J. Ronayne Cowan
Wayne B. Dickerson
Susan Gonzo
Pearl Goodman
Laura D. Hahn
Mary A. Hussey (Emerita)
Braj B. Kachru (Director)
Yamuna Kachru
Lubitsa N. Katz
Maria Keen (Emerita)
Molly Mack
Numa Markee
Susan Taylor
Mary Temperley

Intensive English Institute
Marguerite Courtright
Linda Gould
Thomas Gould (Assoc. Dir.)
Pamela Fernandez
Ljubinka Jandrich
Ann Salzmann
Ruth Wax Becker (1973) is at the University of Illinois, where she is a teaching assistant in EOP Rhetoric.

Deborah Foreman-Takano (1975) is an Associate Professor of English Linguistics at Hiroshima Jogakuin College in Japan. She is also the President of Japan Association of Language Teachers.

Daniel Robertson (1975) is an Associate Professor at the Division of English and Applied Linguistics, University of Guam. He is the Director of the Guam English Language Institute. His wife, Donna Jean Hewitt Robertson (1975) is teaching Kindergarten/Montessori/ESL and is working on a Ph.D. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Texas Woman’s University.

Anne Lomperis (1976) has started her own consulting service in Coral Gables, FL, to set up language training programs in business and industry. She works “nationwide and internationally.”

Patrick Owens (1978) is working at Edmonds Community College in Kobe, Japan. He also updated us on many addresses — thanks!

Cynthia Boardman (1979) and Anna Kasten (1985) are both at the University of California at Irvine, where they are instructors in the Extension Program in ESL.

Carol Chapelle (1979) is an Associate Professor at Iowa State University, where she teaches ESL and MATESL courses and conducts research on second language acquisition. She says: “I just got tenure!”

Cheryl Roberts (1979) is an Assistant Professor of TESOL at the University of Northern Iowa, where she just got tenure. She teaches MA and BA students in TESOL, and also serves as a consultant for LEP students in local school districts. She is married to Edward Andrews, and has a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, who was born in 1989.

Linda Rousos (1979) is the Project Manager for a federally funded Refugee Education Project in Tucson, AZ. She also welcomed Joseph Rousos-Hammond into the world in 1988. She sends her greetings to all.

Tony Silva (1981) writes that beginning this fall, he will join the English Department faculty at the University of Auburn.

Wannipa Ratnapinyowong (1981) is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages at Nahidol University in Bangkok. She writes that she is becoming a very devout Buddhist and spends her free time studying philosophy and meditating.

Kanitha Navarat Vanikiel (1981) is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages at Nahidol University in Bangkok. She is an active member of Thai TESOL and Amnesty International in Bangkok. She is married to an airline pilot and has two children.

Jeffrey Hubbell (1982) is an Associate Professor at Hosei University in Japan. He writes: “Got a teenage daughter now. Got tenured! Got a Japanese accent.”

Suzie Hutton Yoshihara (1982) supervises ESL teaching assistants at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA — and just got tenure. She says: “If anyone is interested in a great ESL teaching job, we will have a 1-year sabbatical leave replacement for 1990-91 and probably another tenure track position for 1991 on.”

Wendy Hyman (1986) is Director of ESL at Washington University in St. Louis.

Pavinee Navarat (1988) is teaching at an English language institute in Bangkok. She teaches English at the undergraduate level, oversees a journal club for the staff, and runs an English camp for students.

During the twenty-five years in which the Division has had an MA program, more than 650 students have graduated with a MATESL degree. Few of us, however, except some long-time professors, have known more than a few dozen graduates. We knew those in our class and some of those who entered before and after we did. Those were closest to us may have kept in touch on a personal basis. Others we have seen at conferences or occasionally in our travels. But more than anything else, we have lost track of each other. Our residences have changed, our careers have changed, our names have changed.

By our nature, ESL/EFL types are a venturesome lot. So it is not a wonder that DEIL alumni are found in farflung locales. Although we are stretched thinly around the globe, the ties to our academic roots needn’t break. It was Wayne Dickerson who felt it was time to put some effort into strengthening those ties. Braj Kachru agreed and eagerly invested some “venture capital” in the idea. Laura Koertge Hahn (1986) shouldered the responsibility of assembling the newsletter and beginning to implement the plans we have envisioned. As such, she has the distinction of being its first editor.

The masthead — a midnight inspiration of Wayne Dickerson — capitalizes on the homophone, deal, and attempts to express our intention to encompass everyone in our small community. We want to reach every graduate, but we cannot do it alone; we need your help.

Would you help us? Enclosed in this issue, you will see our current list of DEIL alumni and the addresses we have. Many of the addresses, if we have them at all, are years out of date. Please drop us a note and tell us (1) which addresses are right and what you know about others, (2) what you and others are doing now and other news of interest to your classmates, (3) what additional degrees you have earned. We have seen some of you at recent conferences and gleaned tidbits from
you there. Thank you for your contributions. Please mail your information to DEILING YOU IN / DEIL / 3070 Foreign Languages Building / 707 S. Mathews Avenue / Urbana, Illinois 61801.

Our intention is to touch base with you twice each academic year with a fall and a spring issue of DEILING YOU IN. We hope to fill you in on the activities of the Division, as well as those of your classmates. Ultimately we also hope to expand the DEIL Alumni network, and offer you the opportunity to be involved in other activities for alumni.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Laura Hahn, Editor
Wayne Dickerson, Consulting Editor

There’s a Good DEIL to a Name

What ever happened to DESL? Put bluntly, it was the object of a “great escape.” The Division, in its 1987 name change, escaped from the limitations inherent in the acronym DESL and escaped to a more accurate characterization of who we are and what we do.

The inaccuracies of “ESL.” For many years the faculty had become increasingly dissatisfied with the capacity of the term “ESL” to reflect the scope and goals of our field.

One sense of “second” in ESL refers to English when taught within an English-speaking community, as in the U.S.A. or the U.K., to local users of other languages. In this sense, English as a “second” language contrasts with English as a “foreign” language, where English is taught within non-English-speaking communities. In point of fact, the Division and the field are concerned with English in both contexts, not one.

Another, overly-narrow meaning of “second” is the literal one — English as the second language to be learned. This sense does not adequately capture the sociolinguistic reality of users of English across cultures and languages.

In multilingual societies, English is learned as an additional language by users of two or more languages. The term “second” has no meaning in such contexts. In fact, globally, there are very few contexts where English is truly taught as a “second” language.

Finally, in academia, the whole acronym — ESL — has a generally accepted meaning that largely misidentifies the range of the Division’s academic activities. English as a Second Language has been viewed traditionally as a service program on campuses in the U.S.A. The acronym obscured the fact that our Division, in addition to its service program, has a graduate program with seventy-two students and twenty-two core and cooperating faculty members. Few were aware that the Division awards an average of thirty to thirty-five MA degrees each year and provides students for Ph.D. programs in various disciplines.

The appropriateness of “EIL.”

At this point in time, the new name is considerably more descriptive of our academic unit and our field. The term “international” captures the greatly expanded character of our efforts and interests. We are no longer narrowly focused on the “standard” language of the native-English community, but are also vitally concerned with the multitudinous varieties of English developing throughout the world. Nor are we restricted in our activities to teaching.

The study of English as an international language engages us in areas of interdisciplinary research with significant theoretical and applied dimensions: psycholinguistics, contrastive discourse, applied sociolinguistics, communicative competence, literary creativity of bilinguals and multilinguals, bilingual lexicography, cross-cultural literary theory.

Finally, the Division itself is international in orientation and interest. Its specialists — the thirteen core faculty members and the nine cooperating faculty members — represent the international dimensions of research into English and are providing a leadership role in the area of English as an international language.

For these various reasons, we believed it was time to give up the many narrow senses carried by the term ESL in order to assume a name that would help us present to the campus and to the national and international communities a more accurate image of who we are and what we do. By taking on the name of EIL, we also drew attention to the fact that ESL is only one part of our mission. Although we did not retile our degree, MATESL, we did retile our courses. Those concerned with instruction in English for international students have preserved the title ESL — ESL 109, ESL 110, and so on — while courses for our master’s candidates are now called EIL — EIL 301, EIL 388, etc. [WBD]

Dear Fellow Alumni,

We need to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to read over the names and addresses included in this issue. Then write to us with updates -- on yourself and others. Also let us know if you are interested in getting involved in other ways. You are a valuable link in the DEIL Alumni Network.

Sincerely,

Laura Hahn
Editor
Issues and Developments in English and Applied Linguistics

IDEAL (Issues and Developments in English and Applied Linguistics) is an annual publication of DEIL and its Intensive English Institute and serves as a forum for research into the acquisition and teaching of English as a second or foreign language. Now in its fifth year, it alternates between a general focus and a specific-topics focus. The specific volumes have dealt with computers in language learning and language research, and issues in pragmatics and language learning. Its editors are Wayne B. Dickerson (chair), J Ronayne Cowan, and Yamuna Kachru.

We welcome your contributions. Manuscripts submitted for consideration should conform to the IDEAL style sheet printed inside the back cover of each volume or available from the DEIL office, 3070 Foreign Languages Building, 707 S. Mathews, Urbana, Illinois, 61801. If you are interested in learning more about our journal, please write for a free listing of the contents of all past issues. To subscribe to IDEAL, you may place your order with the DEIL office at the above address. Each issue (including back orders) costs $8.00 payable by check to the order of the University of Illinois.

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