New Department Chair!

In October, Mark James was asked to become the Associate Dean of the College of Human Development, (replacing Sharlene Furuto, who is retiring at the end of the year). The hunt was on . . . and each faculty member was contacted by the college dean, John Bailey, for their opinions about Mark’s replacement. We are happy to announce that Ellen Bunker will be the new ELT Department Chair, effective January, 2012.

Mark has taught EIL, TESOL and Linguistics courses here at BYU-Hawaii since 1981 and served as the department’s original Associate Dean/Department Chair beginning with our historic split with the Division of Language, Linguistics and Communications back in 1997. Mark edited the TESL Reporter for 12 years (1992-2005) and has served as the chair of our department 10 of the past 14 years.

Ellen Bunker has wide-ranging international experience in Asia, Africa, Europe, the South Pacific, and the Middle East. In addition to her international students, she has consulted on distance education policy and curriculum development projects for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, educational corporations, and the United States military. Her interests include program and curriculum development, specializing in distance education. She assisted in the development of the Academic English course in the Technology Assisted Language Learning (TALL) program produced at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and in the development of seven online English language classes at Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

Ellen received a B.A. in English from Arizona State University (’76), an ESOL Materials Development graduate certificate from the University of London, UK (’87), an M.A. in TESOL from BYU (’88), and an Ed.D. in Adult Education from The Pennsylvania State University (’98).
According to a recent article by Publisher’s Weekly, alum, Stephen Templin’s ('94) co-authored book, *Seal Team Six* (with Howard Wasdin) was the best sleeper hit of the publishing world this year. St. Martin’s press originally planned to print 18,000 copies, but with bin Laden’s assassination occurring just as the book was about to hit the shelves, it caused them to rethink that number. So far 425,000 have been printed and the book has been translated into a number of languages. And if this isn’t enough, Vin Diesel has bought the movie rights and that could only mean mega-success! The two authors have finished their second book (fiction this time and hope to see it in print in the summer of 2012.

**Biggest Sleeper Hit of 2011!**

**A Trip to Asia**

In July, Ellen Bunker and Aubrey Olsen spent time in Japan and Korea. The purpose of their trip was threefold: to meet with BYUH alumni, to observe English schools for young learners, and to participate in a professional conference.

Meeting with TESOL graduates was highly rewarding. In each country, the alumni were excited to reconnect with each other. Getting together for dinner allowed the graduates to discuss their current employment, share plans for the future, and reminisce about the good ole’ days in Laie.

In preparation for the new TESOL for Young Learners course, Ellen and Aubrey visited several schools to observe the types of teaching situations BYUH alumni encounter upon graduating from the TESOL program at BYU Hawaii. They were able to visit both public and private schools in Japan and Korea. They also saw the Freewill cram school in Japan and the Paju English Village in Korea.

Organizers of the 9th Asia TEFL International Conference had no way of knowing there would be a major storm the first day of the conference. Heavy rains and high winds caused mudslides and flooding in the streets and subway stations of downtown Seoul. Because of the adverse weather, many participants were unable to attend the conference, and nearly half of the presentations were cancelled. Luckily, Ellen and Aubrey were staying at the conference hotel, so they were able to give their presentation entitled, “Creating Effective Language Courses for Distance Education.”
Norm Evans (former dept chair) was recently in town to help HPU review its TESOL program. He came out to visit campus and presented the results of his research concerning the development of our international students' writing ability over the course of their stay here. The results were fairly positive. On average, non-native speakers improve their written linguistic accuracy to near native speaker freshman levels by the time they graduate. This seems to correlate with the recent data being gathered from the testing of senior international students (ibt TOEFL). The question of how good is good enough remains to be discussed. The administration is planning to discuss this question in the next few weeks.

At the 9th Asia TEFL International Conference

Private cram school in Japan (Ebisu Area)

BYUH Graduates in Korea

BYUH Graduates in Japan
With the success of the first Biennial BYUH TESOL Mini-Conference 2 years ago, the TESOL Society Officers were ready to organize the second one. As with the previous conference, classes were cancelled and every faculty member in the department had the opportunity to take a 30-minute slot. The day began with a continental breakfast and things just got better from there. Our luncheon speaker this year was Jean Kirschenmann from Hawaii Pacific University. She spoke of her 20-year journey in becoming an effective teacher, with pertinent insights for those about to begin their teaching careers.

For over 40 years, the TESOL major was the same for everyone during any given era; every course was required. Recent changes to the structure of the TESOL major now make it possible for students to choose upper-division methods courses from a pool. The most anticipated course will be the new Teaching English to Younger Learners (TESOL 430) course, taught by Aubrey Bronson. You can see these changes on the Department Website.
The TESL Reporter is poised to go through some major changes. In October, Mark Woltersberger, the current TESL Reporter editor, met with several faculty members at BYU-Provo to agree on a partnership. Starting with the April 2012 issue of the TESL Reporter, the journal will have two editors, one from BYU-Hawaii and one from BYU-Provo. Also, there are plans to transition the TESL Reporter to an online publication. Our goal is to create an online journal that can be accessed by a broader world audience.

New Textbook Project

During the Fall 2011 semester, Mark Woltersberger was given some release time to work on a textbook project. He is coauthoring with Neil Anderson a student textbook that will be published by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt and marketed in countries where English is taught as a foreign language. It will be an integrated-skills multi-level textbook series that incorporates research from the areas of world Englishes and English as a lingua franca with several innovations using communication technology. It is still in the beginning stages, but look for it on the shelves sometime in 2013.

BYUH Language Center Restarts “Tower of Babble”

No, the Center staff is not actually trying to rebuild the tower of Babel (that would be blasphemous). They are starting again to publish their newsletter, entitled, “Tower of Babble.” The newsletter highlights one language each month giving information on resources available to interested learners, links to learning sites, some useful phrases, and so on.

Early feedback indicates that the newsletter is increasing interest and usage of the Center’s materials and resources.
Under the leadership of Courtney Powell as President and other officers, including Aiwen Soh, Brent Laing, Athena Gagliani, Molly Shields, Karen Iwamoto, JJ Hansen, Seunghyun Woo, and hopefully nobody else that I’ve forgotten, the TESOL Society continued to make a significant contribution to the academic and social experiences of the members. World Fest continues to be the time when membership is completed, and cotton candy continues to be our other primary fund-raiser as part of Food Fest. It’s a sweet experience.

A project completed during the Fall Semester was the creation and purchase of new T-shirts which have stood out as distinctive. Of course alumni are always welcomed to purchase these shirts when they come out every two years or so. Contact Earl Wyman wymane@byuh.edu if you are interested in knowing the sizes available and the cost. (We still have some large sizes of the shirts from four years ago if you’re interested.)

The most significant achievement was the on-campus TESOL Mini-Conference that the TESOL Society conducted. This was a one-day academic conference which included as presenters the faculty of the English Language Teaching and Learning Department: Mark James, Perry Christensen, Aubrey Bronson, Amanda Wallace, Ellen Bunker, Mark Wolfersberger, Earl Wyman, Elise Fader, and Rick Nelson. A guest speaker was Jean Kiershenmann from Hawaii Pacific University, and she shared with us her evolution from a teacher-centered to a student-centered approach to teaching grammar.

Of course, there were a couple of socials during the semester which gave us a chance to get to know others in the TESOL major. The food, as usual, was awesome! And we had some great get-to-know you activities as well. In addition to this, we had a Saturday activity which involved hiking up to Laie Falls (Brother Wyman made it part way, and then he reclined in the grass under some strawberry guava trees and slept while the others went to the Falls.) We sat at the tables at the Laie Shopping Center and ate Subway sandwiches and mini cream puffs on our return to town.

Although the make-up of the student body changes so rapidly, some things never change. The membership and leaders of the TESOL Society are in a constant state of change, but the good times and the building of friendships is constant. We enjoy our associations together and the memories that we make. Perhaps this blurb will stir some memories of your own that will remind you of the very special place BYU Hawaii is.
For some years now, TESOL seniors have participated in an annual poster session, simulating the experience they will have when they present at the Hawaii TESOL conference or other professional conferences. The results this year were impressive. As one judge commented, "They just get better and better every year!"

Each Fall seniors prepare their posters and receive practice in interacting with others who approach with questions. Each Winter, seniors (who did not graduate in Dec.) then submit proposals to the Hawaii TESOL conference chair and hope to be accepted. Those who are accepted enjoy their resume-building experience and become eligible for cash awards under the BYUH Great Ideas Exchange Competition. Good luck, seniors!
Congratulations
Graduates!

Rebecca Haymore
Scott Hirschi
Eunhye Kim
HaeYoung Kim
Olga LeBaron

Li Mei Loveland
Luisa Moala
Airi Nishi
Courtney Powell
Leka Lupe Anitema

Kanchat Tantaeng
Seunhyun Woo
Emily Judd
GARDNER, James “Red” (1996) currently living in Cairns, Australia, says he’s had a very challenging experience lately—teaching refugees—some of whom have never held a pencil or pen before. “Sure different than teaching EAP!”

GOODMAN, Tarryn (2010) emailed to say she’s enjoying the TESOL Certificate program at Provo and looks forward to seeing snow in the valley. 😊

LEE, Jaesong (2008) is on course to finish her M.A. TESOL degree from Provo and will soon arrive back on our campus to help us with a project to develop materials for the Missionary Department of the Church.

RYU LEE, Mi-Jeong (2007) emailed to say she is hoping to start her M.A. degree next year. She has been teaching kindergartners in the Seogang University Language Program.

SEO, Jae Hyun (2006) took time off from a busy life in Shanghai and Korea to spend a few vacation days in Hawaii and was nice enough to share some wisdom “from the real world” with our current seniors. If all goes well, he will have 2 TOEFL prep textbooks published in the near future.

Suwon LEE (2010) recently said that he enjoys teaching at Pagoda alongside Boo Kyoung Jeon and Jay Kim, and looks forward to starting his M.A. program at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in March.

Yeo Jeong KIM (2011) emailed to say she's enjoying her work teaching and offered the following advice to our students: "DO NOT SELL BACK your TESOL textbooks! They're lifesavers!"