

EPDE Newsletter

News from the *EFL/ESL Program via Distance Education*

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Across the Borders

Feature Story by Nanako Hoch

Since I can remember, teaching career was a natural part of my life. My father was a high school teacher at a private school well known for cooperative learning with handicapped students. I attended their kindergarten and junior high school and learned with classmates who were deaf, blind or had cerebral palsy. We lived close to the campus, and I grew up in a teaching community. When I was five, I already knew what I wanted to be when I grew up, a language teacher just like my father. My paternal uncle and maternal aunt were also language teachers. During adolescence, I thought about different career paths, not wanting to be bound by the “family tradition.” Yet, I ended up pursuing the teaching licensure, in language education of them all!

English had fascinated me since childhood. My uncle was assigned to the World Trade Center in the 1970s and I remember seeing my cousins off as they boarded a PanAm plane in Tokyo. I could not believe it was going to America, a far away country! Then a new family moved to our neighborhood. I encountered friends whose father was American and mother Japanese. Being in a monolingual environment in Japan, I was amazed to hear them speak English. While I had no idea what they were saying, I was fascinated with the living language so different from mine and wished I could speak English with them. I never lost my desire to see America and became an exchange student at a high school in Ohio. I enjoyed frequent visits to Indiana, and this is where my love of the Hoosier State comes from!

Upon returning to Japan, I attended Sophia University in Tokyo and finished my undergraduate studies at University of Maryland in College Park. I started graduate studies in language education there, but it came to an abrupt end when my husband received the orders back to Japan in 1995. Through his military and civilian career, we have moved between the US and Japan during the 20 years of our marriage. I had wished to complete my master's for years, and then I learned about IU's distance education program. I have taken seven classes with IU and was recently accepted to the EPDE



program. My experience with IU has been quite enlightening with outstanding instructors like Dr. Cotton, Dr. Pawan and Dr. Samuelson to name a few. I have also learned so much from my classmates located in various parts of the world. L539 effectively used various learning tools like Podcast, videos and PowerPoint. L530 Learning English in Global Contexts is the most recent highlight of my studies. Though I wish I could take face-to-face classes, I am truly thankful for this method of learning, as it enables me to continue with my studies regardless of where I am. In the past 20 years, things have changed so much, and I am just amazed how I can receive my readings electronically!

Currently, we are stationed in Japan and raising our children in a bilingual environment. We experience the richness of two cultures on a daily basis and feel that the world is becoming smaller. L524 has truly helped me as a parent and a teacher to further appreciate bilingualism and the importance of one's native language when learning another language. I feel that as second language teachers, we are not merely teaching a new language. We are also fostering a deep appreciation, mutual understanding and tolerance within and across cultures. While embracing the students' background and heritage, we are to encourage them to expand their horizons. My wish is that these experiences will continue to enrich their lives, just as mine has been.



About the author

Nanako Hoch is a Master's student in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education. She is originally from Japan and was educated there until junior year in high school. After college, Nan has worked as a translator at an import company in Tokyo and has taught English and Japanese as a second language. She has spent many years as a volunteer at local schools and cross-cultural events including 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. Nan is a member of Pi Lambda Theta International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education.

EPDE courses in upcoming semester

Four EPDE teaching certificate courses are going to be offered in the Spring semester.

- L539 Language Foundations for ESL/EFL teachers
- L540 ESL/EFL Instruction & Assessment Approaches
- L544 Computer Assisted Language Learning
- L525 Practicum in Language Education

Three EPDE teacher trainer certificate courses are also going to be offered in the Spring semester.

- L540 ESL/EFL Instruction & Assessment Approaches
- L547 Language Literacy Policy Planning
- L525 Practicum in Language Education

Please note that the course numbers for Computer Assisted Language Learning and Language Literacy Policy Planning have been changed to L544 and L547, respectively. For more information about the class schedule, please go to <http://education.indiana.edu/disted>. If you have questions about the courses, please email Sara Gibson at deregstr@indiana.edu.



Top 100 Tools for Learning 2010

<http://www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/top100-2010.html>

Do you want to know what kind of online tools were popularly used for learning this year? Guess who won the first prize? YouTube? Skype? Prezi? Wikipedia? Click the link to find out top 100 online tools loved by educators. You might find some of them useful.



Position Announcement at Seoul National University

Seoul National University (SNU) College of Education invites applications for 2 teacher trainer positions in the Intensive English Teacher Training Program.

- Positions: 1 full-time instructor & 1 part-time instructor
- Application deadline: January 21, 2011

Contact information: Send by email attachment your resume and letter of introduction to Soonhee Huh, Program Coordinator.

Email: snu_iettp@naver.com

Office phone: 82-2-880-5685



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