

BALEAP Bulletin

Andy Gillett, Chair of the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes

Since the last bulletin, there have been changes in the BALEAP Executive committee. I have taken over from Jeanne Godfrey as chair of BALEAP. I hope I can keep the association going as well as Jeanne did during her two-year term. I am Principal Lecturer in EAP in the School of Combined Studies at the University of Hertfordshire and I have been in my present post for exactly ten years. I have spent most of the last 25 years teaching English both in the UK and abroad. During this time I have taught mainly ESP - English for Specific Purposes - in universities, colleges, private language schools, offices and factories. For the last 15 years most of my work has been involved with English for Academic Purposes - EAP - in British higher education. I am now mainly involved in organising, planning and teaching EAP courses to students taking a wide range of courses. These involve both pre-sessional type courses, preparing potential university students for study at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, and in-sessional classes for students already registered on degree programmes at both levels. Like at many universities, most of the students I teach are now from China, but we also have large numbers from other parts of the Far-East, South and South East Asia, Africa and Europe. I have been involved with BALEAP for about seven years now, and previously I was PIMs coordinator for almost five year.

As I said earlier, there have been other changes in the executive committee. Jeanne Godfrey, from Westminster, who did such a good job as chair, is deputy chair for the next year. One of her main jobs is to help me into my new role. We have also had a change of treasurer. Rod Revell from Warwick, who was treasurer for as long as anyone could remember, has handed over to Roger Smith from Bristol. Roger is not new to the committee, as he has had several roles in the past, most recently information officer.

One important role of BALEAP is accreditation of summer pre-sessional English course and this is overseen by the BASC (BALEAP Accreditation Scheme Committee). The chair of this committee is Margaret Khidhayir. Another very important role of BALEAP is running the regular Professional Issues Meetings (PIMs). These are one-day meetings (PIMs) and they are held about three times a year, usually on a Saturday, in different universities around the country. There is a specific theme for each meeting and reports of the meetings are published on the BALEAP web-site after each PIM. The new PIMs coordinator is Andy Seymour from Reading and he already has PIMs planned into the future.

The Publications Officer is Maryanne Ansell from Oxford Brookes University and she, with her committee, is responsible for the BALEAP publications. The new Information Officer is Ros Richards from Reading. Ros is responsible for making sure that people know about BALEAP and her role involves producing an information leaflet as well as having an overview of the web-site. At the last conference in Southampton at Easter last year, it was decided that, although a large amount of EAP research is carried out by BALEAP members, some sort of coordination was necessary. We therefore decided to have a new executive position, that of Research Officer. The first research officer is Paul Thompson, also from Reading. We also have two ordinary members on the committee: Michael Hughes from Kent and Sandra Cardew from Essex. And we should not forget Benita Studman-Badillo who looks after the web-site - www.baleap.org.uk

Professional Issues Meetings (PIMs)

The next meeting is on Saturday 28th February at Oxford Brookes University. The title is: Blended Learning: Pedagogy and Practice and is concerned with integrating e-learning with face to face teaching in EAP. See the web-site for more information.

Other plans are: Phraseology & Metaphor in EAP at the University of Birmingham on Saturday 19 June 2004 and Teacher Training in EAP at The University of Essex on Saturday 20 November 2004.

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