



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS SELECTED STAFF PROFILES

**Jim Dyksen** first joined the ELP as a lecturer in 2004 and became a language specialist in 2005. He has taught a variety of courses for beginning to advanced-level learners in the Intensive Program and the University Connection Program. In 2007-2008 he was interim Intensive Program Coordinator. He currently serves as the International Student Services Specialist and coordinates the University Connection Program. He is responsible for providing academic advising to students in ELP programs and students in international programs at the College of Liberal and Professional Studies.

Before joining the ELP, Mr. Dyksen taught basic academic writing at Temple University, where he worked with a broad range of students from pre-college high school students to adult evening division students.

He also taught courses in the Intensive English Program at Drexel University's English Language Center, and worked as a learning instructor at the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Penn (WLRC). At the WLRC he assisted international students in developing their skills in academic writing and he worked one-on-one with undergraduate and graduate students, helping them develop effective strategies for learning. He also worked for several years in the field of rare and antiquarian books.

In addition to his TESOL degree from the University of Pennsylvania, he has an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Temple University and a B.A. in English from Amherst College.

Mr. Dyksen's professional interests include ESL writing, the development of academic strategies and skills among ESL learners studying in the USA, teaching English grammar, and working with adult English language learners to improve their speaking proficiency.

**Joanna J. Ghosh** joined the English Language Programs as a Lecturer in August 2003 where she taught classes in all levels and skills in the Intensive Program as well as participated in the Communication and Culture summer program. Ms. Ghosh was promoted to Language Specialist in September 2004 and was an instructor in the IP, as well as a member of the Student Services Committee, and Technology Committee. Ms. Ghosh coordinated the Conversation and Culture program from 2006-2008. She is currently the University Based Programs Manager and maintains University Connection, ITA Training, Dual Degree program and International Guest Student program, as well as programs with the law school, dental school and nursing school.

Prior to her position at Penn, Ms. Ghosh worked as an instructor in the English Language Academy at Harcum College in Bryn Mawr, PA where, in addition to her teaching duties, she designed classes, evaluated materials, placed students and coordinated social activities. Ms. Ghosh is an avid traveler and has visited many countries. She has studied in Salamanca, Spain and taught in Jiang Su, China at Silicon Lake University. While in China, she studied Mandarin Chinese and taught Conversation and IELTS Prep classes for university students preparing to study in English-speaking countries. She also acted as a teacher-trainer for Chinese teachers of English and taught a Business English course for employees of Foxconn Inc.

Ms. Ghosh's educational background consists of a bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in TESOL from Marywood University in Scranton, PA. She received her master's degree in TESL from West Chester University in 2000. She is a member of local and national TESOL organizations and former board member of Penn TESOL East. She has presented at conferences nationwide. Her professional interests include curriculum design, sociolinguistics, intelligibility and classroom dynamics.

**Candice Johnson** plans social programs and oversees the Student Center for Intensive Program students at the ELP. As Student Services Coordinator, she works to connect ELP students with other university and city organizations while advising students on various aspects of campus life. During her time as an undergraduate at Rutgers University, where she earned a B.A. in French and a minor in History, Ms. Johnson spent a semester studying French in Paris, France. Upon graduation, Candice returned to Paris as an English language teaching assistant. She then moved to Philadelphia where she was responsible for the after school program at Dixon Learning Academy in South Philadelphia and then taught for the Teach for America program.

**Sharon Kim** has been teaching courses in the ELP's Intensive Program since 2006, became a Language Specialist in 2007 and became the Manager of Professional Programs in 2008. She began her career as an analyst for Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy, where, in addition to her policy duties, she taught and advised government officials about memo-writing and oral presentation. She has worked with non-profit organizations in India and the Philippines to design and pilot English language curriculums in under-resourced communities and has taught immigrant junior high and high school students at a private language school in Philadelphia.

Most recently, from 2005-2007, she taught in the Intensive English Program and coordinated a special program for French business students at Drexel University's English Language Center. She has served as a SPEAK rater at Penn and Drexel.

In addition to her TESOL degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Ms. Kim has an M.P.A. with a concentration in Finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and a B.A. in Sociology from Yale University. Her professional interests include English language education in economic development and educational technologies.

**Katie Lozier** joined the ELP staff in 2006 as an Administrative Assistant in the Main Office, was promoted to Coordinator of the Main Office in September 2007 and became Manager of Enrollment and Student Services in August 2008. In her role as Manager of Enrollment and Student Services she oversees the administrative functions of ELP within the Main Office including admissions and inquiries, application and visa document processing, and payments and invoicing. Ms. Lozier works closely with the university's Office of International Programs, Student Financial Services, and ELP's many housing providers. In addition, she oversees the planning of activities and events along with the Student Services Coordinator.

Ms. Lozier holds a B.A. in French with minors in Film Studies and Theatre from Dickinson College. During her time at Dickinson, she spent one year in Toulouse, France, where she lived with a host family and attended L'Université de Toulouse II Le Mirail. Before coming to Penn, Ms. Lozier worked in non-profit theatre in Marketing and Audience Services.

Ms. Lozier is currently studying for her MS Ed in Intercultural Communications at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

**Amy Miller** joined the ELP in 2008 as the International Relations and Marketing Specialist. As such, she is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy in order to recruit new students from various international markets. In addition, she supervises the creation of ELP publications, advertising and maintains the department's website.

Ms. Miller is currently pursuing an Ed.D in Higher Education at GSE, where she also earned a M. s.Ed. in 2008. Her research interests include the public purpose of international education and the impacts of bi-national educational initiatives on international diplomacy. She also holds a B.S. in Strategic Communications with a concentration in Public Relations from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY.

Prior to joining the ELP, she worked as a Student Affairs Assistant at GSE, where she coordinated extra-curricular and co-curricular events, as well as advised 19 student organizations in their programmatic efforts. She also worked for several years in the private sector, as a Media Relations Specialist in the entertainment, fashion and beauty industries, including a position at a Fortune 500 company in New York City.

Ms. Miller's interest in international education is a direct result of her upbringing. As the daughter of a US military serviceman, she was raised in various cities around the world, including Daegu, South Korea, Tokyo, Japan, New York City and Los Angeles to name a few. While living abroad, she tutored elementary and middle school students in conversational and written English.

**James Riedel** joined the ELP in 2001, becoming the Director in 2009. Mr. Riedel has also held positions as Language Specialist, Business English Programs Coordinator, Associate Director of Programs, and Interim Director. He has taught in a number of ELP programs, including the International Business Communication Program, Executive Communication Program, Fulbright Program in English for Graduate Studies, Summer Institute for International Business Students, Intensive Program, ELP online courses, and special programs for corporate sponsors. Mr. Riedel has also coordinated a variety of business English programs and a special program for the ELP. He has developed curriculum for many courses and programs, including the Intensive Program, SIIBS, and IBCP. Before joining the ELP, Mr. Riedel was executive program coordinator and taught at Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan (1995-2001). Prior to that, he taught at the American Language Institute at San Francisco State University and UC-Berkeley Extension (1992-1994).

Mr. Riedel has a B.A. in English from Luther College (Decorah, Iowa), an M.B.A. in accounting and an M.A. in TESOL from San Francisco State University. He has studied Japanese, French, Spanish, and Italian. His current main areas of interest are program design and international recruitment.

**Mary F. Smith** joined the ELP in 2005 as a Lecturer, became a Language Specialist in 2007 and was promoted to Senior Language Specialist in 2008. Previously she taught ESL in the Intensive Programs at Drexel University and Harcum College. Her experience also includes combined ESL/Spanish at the middle school level in Norristown, PA, and volunteer ESL/literacy teaching for immigrants in Upper Darby and West Philadelphia. These activities followed 11 years of teaching French and Spanish in public secondary schools in Massachusetts.

In addition to French and Spanish, she is fluent in Dutch, with language certificates from the University of Leiden (Netherlands), where she lived, studied and worked for eight years. Her overseas experience also involved sales and marketing positions for international publishing companies, contributing to her Business English focus at Penn.

She received a B.A. in French and Spanish from Michigan State University and a M.Ed. in TESOL/Multicultural Education from Eastern University. She holds the CELTA Certificate in ESL from the University of Cambridge (U.K.).

**Jack Sullivan** became Manager of Intensive and General English Programs in 2008. He first joined the ELP in 1999 as a part-time lecturer. He then worked as a teaching assistant while he earned an MS in

TESOL at the University of Pennsylvania; he joined the full-time staff as a language specialist in 2002. Before arriving at Penn, Mr. Sullivan taught English to children for five years in Omiya City (now Saitama City), Japan.

At the ELP, he has taught a variety of courses in the Intensive Program. He served on a task force to improve communication among the ELP faculty and staff, and was administrator for the Intensive Program Blackboard websites. Mr. Sullivan has a special interest in English for Specific Purposes and has taught in the International Teaching Assistants (ITA) and International Business Communications Program (IBCP) programs. Mr. Sullivan coordinated the University Connection (UniConn) program in 2005- 2006 and served as Acting ITA Coordinator in the fall of 2007. He is certified to rate the Test of Spoken English (TSE), Penn's Interactive Performance Test (IPT) for International Teaching Assistants, SPEAK, and writing placement tests at the ELP.

As a volunteer he has served the local TESOL affiliate, Penn TESOL East (PTE), in a number of positions. He has acted as chairman for the Nominating Committee, worked as site coordinator in preparing for a PTE Fall Conference, and served as Chairman of the Publication Committee.

**Christos Theodoropoulos** began his affiliation with the English Language Programs in 2000, teaching for several years in the Intensive Program. In 2008, he was appointed Associate Director of Curriculum and Staff Development. Prior to his appointment, he served as Coordinator of Testing and Training for International Teaching Assistants (ITA) during which time he also managed University Service Programs: ESL Law program, ESL Nursing program, ESL Dental program, International Guest Student program, and Foreign Language Teaching Fellows & Lecturers Orientation program.

Mr. Theodoropoulos has reviewed and revised various Intensive Program (IP), ESL Law, and ITA courses and designed, implemented, and evaluated a series of courses for the IP, ITA, ESL Law, and ESL Dental programs. In addition, he evaluated all ITA and IP measurement procedures and led a project team in the development, implementation, and evaluation of task-based writing placement tests. Also, he has worked with ETS in examining the criterion relatedness of the TOEFL iBT Speaking section, and has held several leadership positions for TESOL International.

His research interests include performance test validation, test construct issues, and curriculum evaluation.

Prior to the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Theodoropoulos worked at Drexel University as the ITA Coordinator at the English Language Center where he taught language classes, created a series of courses, served on the curriculum development committee, while managing all aspects of the ITA program. Before then he spent five years overseas teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) in Greece, Hong Kong, and Egypt.

Mr. Theodoropoulos holds a B.A. in English literature from La Salle University and an M.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania with a specialization in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Applied Linguistics with a concentration in language assessment at Teachers College, Columbia University.