

In Celebration of BYU-Hawaii's Golden Jubilee by Maureen S. Andrade, Editor



The year 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of Brigham Young University-Hawaii, the institution which has supported the *TESL Reporter* since its inception in 1967. BYU-Hawaii was established in 1955 as the Church College of Hawaii (CCH) by the president and prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, David O. McKay, who stood in the sugar cane fields of Laie and proclaimed that the school was being built for two purposes, first to teach “the things pertaining to God and his kingdom,” and second, to “develop manhood, character, and make noble men and women.”

Classes at the Church College commenced on September 26, 1955 with 153 students. In the early days, only about 15% of the students were international. Today, 47% of the 2,500 students at BYU-Hawaii are international, originating from over 70 different countries and making the university one of the most international in the United States. As the number of international students increased, the need for English support courses became apparent. Although many students had attained as high a level of English as possible in their countries, it was not always sufficient for the demands of academic course work in English. As a result, the English Language Institute (ELI), now the English as an International Language (EIL) program, was created in 1964. In addition, the Bachelor of Arts degree in TESOL was established in 1967 to train teachers who would return to their nations, skilled in English, and knowledgeable about language

acquisition issues and methodologies. Concurrent with the BA program, the *TESL Reporter* was born to fulfill the need for a classroom-oriented journal for practitioners in the field throughout the Pacific Basin (see *TESL Reporter* 25(2) for a history of the BA TESOL and the *TESL Reporter*).

In addition to the increasing internationalization of the campus, the university has transformed itself in other ways as well, shifting from a two-year to a four-year college in 1961 and changing its name from CCH to Brigham Young University-Hawaii in 1974. The EIL program and the TESOL major have changed and improved over time, always remaining integral to the mission of the university and the fulfillment of the words of its founding father, President McKay, that “from this school...will go men and women whose influence will be felt for good towards the establishment of peace internationally.” Hand-in-hand with these academic programs, the *TESL Reporter* is now distributed in over 100 countries where it has proven to be a valuable resource to English language teachers thanks to the generous support of BYU-Hawaii.

The *TESL Reporter* pays tribute to BYU-Hawaii and the men and women whose vision has been instrumental in making the university what it is today, particularly in its contributions to the field of TESOL and international educational initiatives, and we give thanks to our authors and readers, who, over the years have supported our efforts to promote the sharing of professional knowledge and expertise that has benefited numerous English language educators and learners.