

Alice Pack

“Intense,” “energetic,” “inspiring”—these are just a few of the many words that have been used to describe Dr. Alice Pack, long-time editor of the *TESL Reporter*. But this fall at BYU–Hawaii, one descriptor will predominate—“gone.” After nearly twenty years in Laie, Dr. Pack has decided to leave Hawaii and retire from full-time teaching. As she departs, she leaves behind a remarkable professional biography.

In 1963, a few professors at BYU–Hawaii (then Church College of Hawaii) may have been surprised to find a 53-year old freshman in their classes. Some may not have expected much from the grandmother who had not been a full-time student since her high school graduation—over thirty years earlier. Even those who recognized her potential would not have predicted that only two years later she would graduate

summa cum laude as the valedictorian of her class, but she did. And that was only the beginning. Three years later she received her M.A. in TESL from the University of Hawaii, and eight years later, a Ph.D. from Walden University.

Alice joined the faculty at Church College of Hawaii in 1967 and, with William Conway, established the *TESL Reporter*. Since that time, the fledgling publication has increased in reputation and number of subscribers and, like its editor, has become well known for its emphasis on “practical academics.” Currently, nearly 3,000 TESL professionals in 69 countries receive the quarterly journal whose survival and growth over the years have depended almost entirely on her unflinching energy.

In the course of her career, Professor Pack has received numerous awards and honors. In 1970, she was named an Outstanding Educator in America, confirming what her students and colleagues at CCH had long known. In 1976 she received the University’s Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her contributions to the academic community, and in 1977 she was selected to give the annual University David O. McKay lecture.

Her influence has not, however, been limited to BYU–Hawaii. Alice’s flowing



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mumius have been a frequent sight at International TESOL, NAFSA, and HCTE conventions where she has been a regular contributor. In addition, she has authored or co-authored an impressive number of ESL textbooks: *The Dyad Learning Program* (three books: *Prepositions, Verbs and Verb Choices*, and *Pronouns and Determiners*), *Learning to Type in English as a Second Language*, and *Composition: Guided +Free Program 8*. For the past several years she has been a major force behind the development of the *English for Latter-day Saints* series, a special ESL program for use by non-English speaking leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Not one to wind down slowly toward retirement, she has just finished co-authoring *Writing and Combining Standard English Sentences: Sentence Construction and Sentence Combination*, a pair of companion ESL/SESD texts.

In addition to her work at BYU-Hawaii where she directed the English Language Institute and has taught TESL methods, materials, grammar, and phonology courses, Dr. Pack has served as a special consultant in ESL at United States International University in San Diego and London and as distinguished guest lecturer at the University of Texas at San Antonio's summer TESOL Institute. She has also travelled

throughout the Pacific conducting TESL workshops and establishing ESL/EFL programs.

In spite of these many accomplishments, Alice considers her career as a wife and mother to be her most rewarding success. Academic acclaim in her chosen field of study has not affected her devotion to family. Evidence of the importance she has always placed on an LDS woman's position is found in abundance in her own home: a loving husband of 50 years, a close family of seven children—all university graduates (several with doctorates)—, and 40 grandchildren. Her advice to mothers is to "keep learning along with your families. It is important to be actively inquisitive." A model of what she says, Dr. Pack continues to develop her skills in oil painting and watercolors, and is currently studying

(continued on page 80)



Alice Pack Departs

(continued from page 73)

German (she has several Austrian grandchildren who speak only German).

Over the years Alice's motto, borrowed from Heber J. Grant, has been "that which we persist in doing becomes easy to do, not that the nature of the task has changed, but that our capacity to do has increased." She says "perseverance is the key to success," and "struggling brings achievement." Her own life full of accomplishments illustrates those words in a very powerful way.

As she departs for Southern California, Alice leaves her colleagues and students wondering "What will she do next?" Those who know her don't expect her to "retire." In spite of her past accomplishments, she still has "a million things to do."



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