

## **BESIG Scholarship Winners 2009**

BESIG is grateful for the generous support of Cambridge ESOL for its Scholarship Scheme. 17 applications were received and the Committee selected the following five winners for 2009:

**Zulfiqar Ahmad** (Pakistan/Saudi Arabia) did his first MA in English Literature from University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan and obtained PGD & MA in TESL from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan. He has also completed professional certificate courses in Business & Technical English Writing, Communication Skills, and Research Methods. Currently, he is doing MPhil in Applied Linguistics from University of Management & Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.

Mr. Zulfiqar started teaching ESL to tertiary, undergraduate, and graduate classes in 1993. He was selected by the Department of Education, Government of the Punjab as Lecturer in English in 1995 and served in different public sector colleges till September 2009. Just recently, he has joined Industrial College Yanbu, Saudi Arabia where he will teach a variety of EAP and ESP courses to Saudi EFL students.

During his 16 years of ESL teaching career, Mr. Zulfiqar has also worked as part-time/visiting teacher in a number of private sector institutions as IELTS instructor and Teacher Trainer. He believes in Continuous Professional Development and interests in academic research, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and ESP (Business English being the major one).

**Muditha Cooray** (Sri Lanka) holds a Master of Arts Degree in Linguistics from the University of Kelaniya. She is on the staff of the English Language Teaching Unit, University of Colombo. As one of the academic coordinators she has been designing material, trainings the teachers, and teaching Business English for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management and Finance for almost 10 years. She is engaged in coaching employees in improving their Business English Communication skills.

At present she is appointed as the Project Manager of e Diploma in Business English, one of the pioneering efforts in Sri Lanka in delivering Business English online. She monitors the performance of the course writers and the tutors, uploading and editing of the course material, and looks into all the administrative issues. She is trained as a content developer and an online tutor under the supervision of Distance Education Modernization Project funded by the World Bank.

She has experience in teaching migrant workers under the guidance of International Organization for Migration, teacher trainees in National Colleges of Education and engineering students in Technical Colleges.

**Yuliya Degtyarova** (Ukraine) has been engaged in teaching EFL in Ukraine for more than 15 years, specialising in Business English, Business Communication, General English, and English for Psychological Purposes.

After having graduated from the English Language and Literature Department of Dnipropetrovsk State University, in 1995, she taught ESP and Business English at Dnipropetrovsk State University of Railway Transport Engineering.

In October 2006, Yuliya got a PhD in Pedagogy. Her thesis work on integrated-skills approach to teaching Business English has further expanded her knowledge of individual students' needs and styles and put her on the path of finding the best ways for meeting the diverse and varied needs of business people.

Since 2006, Yuliya Degtyarova has been working at the Department of Applied Linguistics and Methods of Foreign Language Teaching of Dnipropetrovsk University of Economics and Law, Ukraine as an Associate Professor and Department Deputy Head responsible for designing and conducting ESP programmes.

She co-authored (together with Oleg Tarnopolsky and Svitlana Kozhushko) several course books ("Business Projects" and "Psychological Matters"). Since the last year, she has been developing materials aimed at e-learning.

**Anisoara Pop** (Romania) is a university lecturer at Dimitrie Cantemir University of Targu Mures, Transylvania, Romania, and has been teaching EFL/ESP for 22 years and BE for the past 11 years. She currently runs Business English and Writing for Business courses to undergraduates and English for Business Communication and Advertising to MA students. She holds a PhD in linguistics and presented and published for national and international conferences in Turkey, UK, Hungary, Austria, Greece, Russia, Spain. One of her most notable accomplishments of late is the winning of TOEFL International Speaker Grant (USA) which facilitated her organization of the international workshop „Strategies for Optimizing the Quality Standard in Higher Education ESP" (May 2009).

Her own enrolment as a student of EVO online 2009 workshop „Becoming a Webhead" represents the premiere of a genuine passion for applying the new technologies in order to make her students' English learning experiences richer, more relevant and captivating. Her presentation at BESIG 2009 is an incursion into rekindling our students' joy for communicating as well as their enthusiasm for writing and getting feedback from a real audience with Web 2.0.

**Andreea Pulpea** (Portugal) is a U-turn teacher: One who has left teaching to become a manager and then left management to become a teacher again. And one who finds it hard to talk about herself in the third person.

Her professional experience to date combines a keen interest in teaching and learning with a love-hate relationship with the corporate world. Following a career in project management, she has recently returned to a lifetime interest in learning and learners, which she is lucky enough to call a job.

She currently works as an English teacher with International House Lisbon and is researching turning student feedback into learning and writing as a vehicle for self expression. She absolutely loves teaching Business English and is constantly looking for ways in which the students' experience of learning English can be brought closer to their professional "home".

Her qualifications include a Masters degree in Applied Linguistics and an MSc in International Relations.

She has given training sessions on leadership and communication skills for varied audiences, ranging from youth leaders to politicians and representatives of non-governmental organizations.