

A Tribute to Siegfried Engelmann (Ziggy)

By Susan Rice Moses

I first met Ziggy in 1968 when I was enrolled in his courses being taught at Colonel Wolfe School at the University of Illinois. I had the privilege of working with Cookie Bruner on the development of DISTAR Reading I materials and Ziggy on the development of the DISTAR Reading II workbook. As a graduate student at the University of Oregon, I, along with Carol Morimitsu, supervised teachers in the Springfield schools. Jerry Silbert was one of these students.

For the past several years, I had hoped to be able to attend the National DI Conference in Eugene primarily to express my appreciation to Ziggy in person for the impact he has had on my professional life. Unfortunately, time and resources prevented me from doing this, hence this message.

Since moving to Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 1973, with the exception of an 8-year stint as President of the College of Micronesia-FSM (1993-2001), I have taught courses with the college's Division of Education primarily in the areas of reading methods, classroom management, education psychology, and special education. Including the students I have this semester, I estimate having taught somewhere between 1000 and 1500 teachers and prospective teachers how to teach reading using what I learned from Ziggy and with the use of the *Direct Instruction Reading* textbook. Because the FSM Language Policy requires students to be proficient in both English and their first language, each time the reading methods course is taught, students are required to check out on presentation of the formats in this textbook both in English and their first language. Such checkouts require the students to translate each format into their respective languages and then select appropriate teaching examples. Student languages over the years have included Pohnpeian, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraean, Marshallese, Palauan, Chamorro, Carolinian, Ulithian, Satawalese, Woleaian, Mwoakilese, Pingelapese, Kapingese, Nukuoran, among others. In addition, complete first-year programs have been developed in both the Pohnpeian and Chuukese languages for use in the public schools. You can ask almost any elementary teacher in the FSM how to say, "Say it Fast!" in his/her language, and the teacher will be able to tell you. I don't know if Ziggy was ever aware of the impact his work has had throughout Micronesia.

So, on behalf of all of these teachers and the children they have taught or are currently teaching, I would like to say, "Kalahngan oh Kaselehlie" ("Thank you and Farewell" in Pohnpeian), Ziggy Engelmann. May you rest in peace.