

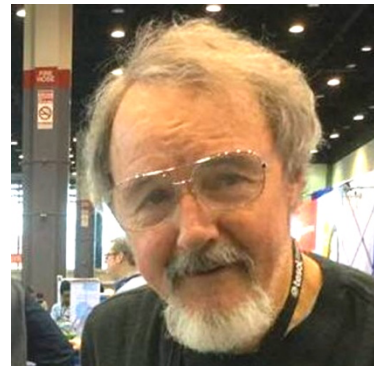
In Memorium:

Vance Stevens

26 December 1947 – 3 September 2022

This is the first time for TESL-EJ to publish a remembrance. Vance Stevens' great energy and significant influence on the use of technology for language learning, particularly through informal networks, behooves us to honor him in this way.

Vance – aka “the Webhead” or “the Cat Herder,” graduated from the University of Houston in 1971, and later received and M.A. Degree from the Department of ESL (now “Department of Second Language Studies”) focusing on Computer Assisted Language Learning. He had been married to Bobbi for 47 years, is survived by his two sons, Glenn and Dustin--both who are now ELT instructors in Doha, Qatar, and two grandsons.



Most of Vance’s career had been spent in the Middle East, for 10 years at Sultan Qaboos University (Oman). Following 2 years working on software development for Courseware Publishing International (Cupertino), he then returned to the UAE, teaching in Abu Dhabi at AMIDEAST (6 Years), the Petroleum Institute (7 years) then Higher Colleges of Technology (2 years), shifting afterwards to the HCT Campus in Al Ain (6 years) before retiring with his wife, Bobbi, to Penang, Malaysia.

While Vance kept up a heavy load of commitments to teaching and learning through technology both he and wife Bobbi seemed equally at home outdoors. Vance was at home anywhere on Earth including its skies, oceans, and caves. His skills included flying planes, parachuting, surfing, playing the guitar, painting, running marathons, and diving – a hobby that he kept up over the years as he became a PADI dive instructor. He certified over 200 divers in his freelance dive instructor career (1993-2019) and meticulously logged each and every one of his own 1626 dives. Inveterate travelers, Vance and Bobbi took their children with them on international trips whenever they could.

Contributions to TESL-EJ

Vance took over the editorship of the “**On the Internet (OTI)**” column in December of 2002 and managed to either write, or commission an article through his vast set of contacts until the May 2021 issue – a total of 96 articles. His entire list of articles can be seen [here](#).

Contributions to the Profession

Vance was a founding member of TESL’S CALL Interest Section in 1983, and one of the organizers of the TESOL “**Electronic Village Online**” which started in 2002 and continues to this day. The participants in his EVO workshop, however, continued to meet online even after

TESOL was over, and “**Webheads in Action**” was born, first mainly as an Yahoo mailing list, but it later morphed into **Learning2gether** with semi-regular Sunday meetings of which there have been over 500, usually with an announced topic and/or speaker.

He was also a fan and proselytizer for Minecraft, often giving presentations on ideas for using it as a language learning tool through gamification, creating the **EVO Minecraft MOOC** to further this end.

In 2019, Vance was awarded a “**Lifetime Achievement Award**” at the CALL Research Conference, which took place in Hong Kong sponsored by the CALL Journal (Jozef Colpaert, Editor).

Vance launched my professional exploration into edtech through the Webheads in Action EVO session in Jan 2002. He was an enthusiastic mentor to whom I owe my dedication and interest to edtech that totally changed and greatly improved the last 7-8 years of my teaching career. They were the best! He was a dear colleague with whom I worked and collaborated closely for many years. Above all, he was a very dear Friend whose friendship I will forever cherish. -- Teresa Almeida d'Eca (Portugal)

For me, Vance was kind of synonymous with the internet. It, he, opened so many doors for me. Because of Vance I have visited countries I would never have seen; I have met so many wonderful people that have become close friends. And what I learnt from him on a professional level would take a book to document it all. – Michael Coghlan (Australia)

Vance was an incredible soul, leader, and model for all of us.. The innovative ways he created online communities and professional development bringing all of us from around the world together. -- Derya Kulavuz-Onal (UK)

Most of us struggle daily to be the best versions of ourselves; Vance made this monumental task look so easy, as he effortlessly took the high road every time. He became not only the best version of himself but an inspiration to all of us to be better people ourselves. Yes, I owe all my tech work to him, my Webheads friends, my global perspective, and more, but most of all, I think that knowing Vance has made me a better person. – Laine Marshall (U.S.A.)

Vance’s treasure trove of articles.

A master record-keeper, Vance maintained an online record of all of his activities including the papers that he published or presented, with links to PowerPoints, the Learning2gether events, his 1600+ dives and his other adventures around the globe.

<http://www.vancestevens.com/papers/index.html>

Vance’s list of OTI articles <http://tinyurl.com/vance-oti>

Full CV: <https://vancestevens.com/papers/CurriculumVitaeVance.pdf>

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