

Preface

On February 23, 1995 my wife Ruth, our then four and a half year old daughter Isabelle and our eight year old Bernese mountain dog Pizza left Switzerland in the direction of Austin, Texas, with the intention to do some pioneer work in the field of occupational education in the US. On Friday, March 14, 1997 we touched down at Zurich airport again. During two years we invested a lot of energy to bring some movement into the US American occupational training scene, bought a big house in Austin and sold it again, enjoyed the warm weather - Austin is on the level of Cairo - tremendously, and learned Isabelle playfully and easily to speak English.

In the Summer of 1995 I was asked by Emil Wettstein of the Swiss educational journal PANORAMA of the SGAB (Swiss Society of Applied Occupational Studies) whether I would be willing to report on my experiences in the US on a regular basis. The result are the articles I have put together in this booklet which give you an insight into our experiences and our view of the US American occupational education system.

The articles in the appendix have appeared in American publications. I was asked to write the short and pragmatic guide: *'Work That Educates: How to make Structured Work-Based Learning Work'* after one of my many presentations which I gave throughout the entire USA.

I was very fortunate that after our return to Switzerland we had a pair from the US: Jennifer Whartenby who looked after our children from August 1999 till summer 2000 was kind enough - and knew German well enough - to translate my originally German articles into English. Thanks very much Jen, you did an outstanding job!

Robert Egloff

Jennifer A. Whartenby
1429 N. Artesian Ave., Apt. 1
Chicago, IL 60622
jen_whartenby@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

Grinnell College.

Grinnell, Iowa. 1995-1999
Bachelor of Arts. Majored in
History and German. Achieved honors in both
subjects. Elected member of Phi
Beta Kappa.

Institute for European Studies.

Berlin, Germany. August-December 1997
Studied German language, history, and art at
the program center and German
literature at Humboldt University.

The Language Company.

Baden, Switzerland. August 1999-April 2000
Completed advanced exam preparation
course for the Goethe Institute's Kleines
Deutsches Sprachdiplom. Passed the exam.

EXPERIENCE

Temporary Employee, Source One Personnel.

Lawrenceville, NJ. Intermittent, 1997-1999
Held positions in reception, office administra-
tion, and vendor/customer service.

Student Assistant to the History Dept.

Grinnell College. August 1998-May 1999
Edited and wrote features for department

newsletter. Performed various administrative
tasks and researching duties for faculty
members.

Film Chair, Student Government Association.

Grinnell College. August 1998-May 1999
Led student committee in the selection,
booking, shipment, and projection of
films on campus. Competently managed
budget of \$20,000 per semester.

Au pair for Ruth and Robert Egloff.

Ennetbaden, Switzerland. August 1999-
June 2000 Responsible for care of 2 children,
aged 9 and 2, for an average of 30 hrs./wk.

English Language Assistant, SFK Schule für Förderkurse.

Zürich, Switzerland. August 1999-June 2000
On a volunteer basis, taught English
conversation skills to 2 classes of „Junior
Merchants,“ students in a year-long
apprenticeship preparation program.

OTHER

Translating a series of education journal
articles from German into English.

References available upon request.