

Beverly S. Hartford

Bev Hartford began her academic career in a two-room schoolhouse in a small Maine village. She spent grades one through four in this school and then moved to the new, larger consolidated school, which contained the huge total of 100 students in grades one through eight, and she graduated from high school in a class of 25 students. These early experiences, especially with three grades in one classroom, instilled an appreciation for the flexibility and expertise that teachers in such circumstances must have and began a lifelong love of education. In the summers Bev encountered the many tourists who come to Maine and developed a curiosity about the world outside of the small village, and her interest in other cultures and peoples has remained intact. These same tourist encounters also led to Bev's interest in language variety, since a favorite game with tourists is to ask Maine natives to pronounce certain words that the tourists find curiously different from their own pronunciations. These encounters drew her attention to language variation in sometimes painful ways, but made her desire to learn more about how language works even stronger.

Bev went on to obtain her B.A. from Boston University, an M.A. from Kansas State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Her interest in English as a second language was heightened by experiences as a teaching assistant at both Kansas State and Texas. Given the interests that developed during her early years, along with her teaching experiences, she was lucky to discover a fairly new field of endeavor in academics, that of applied linguistics. This discipline was in its infancy when she majored in it at Texas, and it allowed her to combine her love of language and interest in other cultures. Bev came to IU in 1970 where she joined the newly created Department of Urban and Overseas English, as it was called then. For 15 years, she and Harry Gradman were the sole tenure-track faculty for this program, and they essentially built it into an internationally respected graduate department, with an average of 30 M.A. students graduating each year. It supported a strong doctoral program as well. Indeed Beverly's teaching record includes not only offering 18 separate courses during her tenure at IU, but an impressive record as an incredibly popular and well-respected instructor. This reputation has translated into her directing or serving on over 100 Ph.D. committees. Her former students are in university positions all over the world. She plans to visit them all upon her retirement.

Beverly has a service record hard to match (but that may be understandable since she comes from a small department). Early on she was tapped for her expertise as director of teaching assistants in the IU Groups Program, intended for high potential, high risk students. But her work has not unexpectedly moved beyond the borders of Indiana University. She is a founding member of the Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (INTESOL) and has held virtually all of the offices of the organization, including the presidency. She has organized a great deal of work for the Midwestern Modern Language Association, and she has served on numerous editorial boards in the TESOL and applied linguistics fields.

Bev has received three senior Fulbright grants. The first was to Poland in 1976, where she taught and researched at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. The second two were to Kathmandu, Nepal, where she taught and researched at Tribhuvan University. Her primary research program has been to analyze the changes in English as it is used internationally, by communities for whom it is not the primary language. She has looked at structural and pragmatic changes, particularly the variety of English that is used in Nepal. From this work have come two co-edited volumes with Samuel Obeng, as well as the usual journal articles. In addition, she and Professor Obeng are co-editors of two new journals in this field. It is not an overstatement that Beverly is a key player in the burgeoning field of world Englishes.

In her other research program, Bev has investigated the development and use of American English pragmatics by adult second language learners of English. In concert with Kathleen Bardovi-Harlig, they have co-edited two volumes in this area, as well as produced journal articles. It is almost impossible to read about second language pragmatics without coming across references to Hartford and Bardovi-Harlig's seminal work.

In addition to the Fulbright grants, Bev has traveled, visited, and lectured all over the world, thus realizing that early interest in other cultures. In order to help others do the same, she has served on the IU campus student Fulbright committee for many years as well as on national Fulbright selection committees, thus helping students and scholars who desire to study or research abroad reach those goals.