

## Susan E. Greer

Susan Greer's career choice in international education was natural because her father had been a professor of French and had taken his family abroad to study and to travel over her formative years. In addition, she had always been surrounded by students, both international and domestic, as an academician's daughter. It was not a surprise to anyone that she followed her father and sister to major in French, planning to become a teacher of French. The surprise was that later she moved from French into English as a Second (or Foreign) Language (ESL).

Having just completed a year of study at the University of Bordeaux, France, and having just gotten married, Susan, along with her husband, Charles Greer, went to Hong Kong to work at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. With a hope to teach French, Susan was instead given several ESL classes and only one class in French. After two years in Hong Kong and lots of ESL teaching experience, Susan and Charles moved to Seattle, Washington, where they began graduate degrees at the University of Washington, Susan in French, Charles in geography and Chinese studies. They both had teaching assistantships in their respective departments, and Susan augmented hers by getting a teacher's certificate and teaching French in a public Seattle middle school, too. Interspersed among French teaching gigs, however, she continued to teach ESL in Seattle.

Charles' research took them back to Asia, this time to Taipei, Taiwan, where Susan held many different ESL teaching jobs throughout the city. By then Susan had realized that her future and interests in international education leaned more towards the East (Asia) than the West (Europe), which meant more towards ESL than French. At the same time, she was discovering her devotion to ESL and the wealth of opportunities it was bringing her.

After Taipei, Susan and Charles moved to Austin, Texas. Susan found an ESL teaching job there just when the University of Texas (UT) English program began to explode with international students needing English. It was at UT that she began to enjoy experiences in administration. After a number of years at UT, however, as many young academic families do, the Greer family took a sabbatical abroad in 1977, this time to Oxford, England. Again, Susan found opportunities to teach ESL even if her English was American.

In August 1978 Susan and her family moved to Bloomington, and Susan began teaching ESL in the Urban and Overseas English Programs of the School of Education while pursuing degrees in teaching English to speakers of other languages, known universally by its acronym TESOL, and applied linguistics (M.A. in 1980, Ph.D. in 1995). The director of the Urban and Overseas English Programs, Harry L. Gradman, was asked to become chair of the Department of Linguistics, which is located in the College. So he moved across campus, as did his programs and graduate students. His ESL program became the Center for English Language Training, which included the Intensive English Program (IEP). In 1981 Susan joined Marlin Howard, director of the IEP, and soon became co-director. She enjoyed that position until her retirement in December 2006.

Susan's connection with international education at Indiana University included three areas: within in the IEP, campuswide, and nationally. The IEP is designed to help international students achieve a level of English proficiency high enough to be successful in academic programs at American universities. Between 1981 and 2006 it had as many as 450 students and 70 instructors per session. All students study a minimum of four hours of English daily, five days a week for seven-week sessions. Susan's job as co-director included scheduling teachers, students, and rooms across campus, as well as recruiting in both Europe and Asia for a number of years, plus a myriad of other daily responsibilities. She also taught in both the IEP and the graduate-level Program in TESOL and Applied Linguistics. Campuswide, perhaps one of the most challenging jobs Susan held at IU was managing the Test of English Proficiency for International AI Candidates (the TEPAIC). As mandated by the dean of faculties, Susan orchestrated the exam for many years. That

position enabled her to work with outstanding international students, incredible departmental contacts, and many faculty members.

Susan was delighted to have numerous opportunities for involvement in national and international professional organizations, such as TESOL and the Indiana affiliate of TESOL called INTESOL, where she served in many capacities on its board from newsletter editor to president. Her most fulfilling work, however, was in the ESL component of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, where she held elected positions that culminated in her becoming chair of Administrators and Teachers of ESL. Networking with luminaries in international education and being active among ESL/IEP peers nationwide rounded out Susan's years as a professional in a most positive, enriching sense.

Looking back over her 42 years in the ESL aspect of international education, Susan knows that nothing would have been possible without the love and support of her husband, Charles, and two children, Jason and Genevieve, as well as her broader family and close friends. With such interest in things international, it followed that Susan was not surprised when her son married a lovely Korean and her daughter married a charming Australian. To sum up Susan Greer's life and career to this point, she could not be more grateful for international education and the opportunity to work and live within it in every facet and way, here and beyond.