

## Retiring Faculty: A Personal Tribute to Teresa Dalle

I've worked with Teresa for 30 years. In that time, we've had a lot of fun, and accomplished a great deal. I'm not going to try to list all of her accomplishments, but I think many of you probably don't know that before she was even hired by the English Department, the Chair in the 80s, Joe Davis, asked her to write a curriculum for a degree program in teaching English as a Second Language because he recognized that there was the need. So she wrote the curriculum, course descriptions and all for free, even before she was hired! Shortly after that, Charles Hall was hired, and the two of them built a very strong program, partly through the connections Teresa developed with the local city and county school systems, and the years she spent on the board of the Tennessee association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. She also was co-principle on two million dollar+ grants from the U.S. State Department, and one of the innovators in creating the first online degree program in the department. I asked Charles Hall, who most of you remember, for some comments or memories. He said that he used to marvel at Teresa's dedication to mentoring students, and helping them get jobs and succeed. He said it made him think of the scene in The Wizard of Oz where the Wicked Witch told her minions, "Fly, my pretties, fly!" And fly Teresa's students did, becoming leaders in the school system, getting positions and promotions in universities in the US and abroad, and lately, as you may have read on the department's website, one of our doctoral graduates, who Teresa did more to mentor than anyone else, has been elected President of the International TESOL organization, and another, whose dissertation Teresa directed, has been elected to the board of that organization. Her students have done a great deal to enhance the reputation of the university, the English Department and the Applied Linguistics program. I may miss her more than anyone else now that she's retiring, but the department will miss her many contributions.