

PREFACE

This Special Issue of the *TESL Canada Journal* containing selected papers from the TESL '85 Conference held in Toronto from November 21 to November 24 has a history. The idea for a volume of TESL '85 conference papers originated at a conference planning meeting held in May, 1985, but only began to seem possible two months later when the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture awarded a grant from its Wintario funds to support the publication. This funding was only one of the ways the Ministry demonstrated its support of TESL '85, and we thank the Minister, the Honourable Lily Munro, and our advisor, Vincent Ching, for their help and interest.

In July 1985, members of TESL Ontario and TESL Canada were stunned and grieved to hear of the tragic death in Beijing of our friend and colleague, Ian Gertsbain. TESL Canada established a fund in Ian's name to which more than a hundred friends of Ian's from around the world have generously donated. It was agreed during a meeting at the November TESL '85 conference that the Ian Charles Gertsbain Memorial Fund would be used to support this publication and that it would be dedicated to Ian's memory. Every effort has been made to produce a publication which would reflect the superb quality of Ian's contributions to Canadian ESL/EFL and his many areas of professional interest and involvement.

As the manuscripts flowed in from conference presenters, and our co-editors, Patsy Lightbown of the *TESL Canada Journal* and Suzanne Firth of TESL Ontario's newsletter, *contact*, began to work on the issue, the original plan for a 128-page issue blossomed into 320 pages of excellent articles, including everything from plenary speeches to workshop ideas, research papers to cross-cultural presentations. We feel that this Special Issue represents a true cross-section of TESL '85 presentations through its three main sections: Research Related to TESL/TEFL; Cultural Contexts of TESL/TEFL; and In the TESL/TEFL Classroom. We extend our thanks to the authors for the many fine articles they have submitted to us.

Finally, for their many hours of dedication to this project, we thank editors Patsy Lightbown and Suzanne Firth. Their hard work and thoughtful selection have resulted in the metamorphosis of our initial idea for publishing TESL '85 proceedings into this superb issue. We know you'll enjoy it.

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