

## IN MEMORY OF DONNA M. JOHNSON 1945-1999

### *From a SLAT student:*

When I first came to America as a master's student of the English Language and Linguistics (ELL) program at the University of Arizona, Dr Johnson was the program advisor. I had no common sense of academia, and my language and cultural competence in American society was extremely limited. I was struggling to keep up with the courses every day, every class. In the middle of the first semester, ELL students had advising sessions with Dr. Johnson. When I saw her, I confessed all the problems I had at that time using very slow, clumsy speech. She patiently and sincerely listened to my problems and gave very wise advice. I still remember very clearly that she gave me not simple sympathy but rather sincere empathy. She was a person who was naturally, divinely modest and always brought herself down to the student's level to hear each student's, especially the powerless ones, true voice. Her highly recognized books *Approaches to Research in Second Language Learning* and *Richness in Writing: Empowering ESL Students* (the latter co-authored with Dr. Duane Roen) are our bibles--I read them over and over and extensively referred to them for the SLAT qualifying exam and the SLAT comprehensive exam. Dr. Johnson's contribution to education and the development of our fields at both the micro and macro levels is truly priceless.

Akiko Kato

### *From an alumnus:*

"You remember - você se acuerda - se acorda - lembra" (Donna Johnson, 1993)

In the Spring of 1993, Donna Johnson participated in a small pilot study on word search strategies in multilingual speakers. I conducted the study for the course in research design that, at the time, Dr. Johnson taught for us--the first generation of students in the SLAT program. Donna Johnson was a "perfect" subject for this study, speaking English, Spanish, some Portuguese, and French. She was a true polyglot who was devoted to the teaching and learning of languages all her life. The above quotation is a record of her search for the Portuguese word "lembrar" (remember). Donna Johnson, nos lembramos de você, nos acordamos de usted, we remember you--as an insightful teacher, a patient advisor, a creative researcher, and as one of the professionals who have built the SLAT Program that has prepared us well as language educators and researchers. Donna Johnson, we will remember you. La vamos a recordar. Lembraremos de você.

Peter Ecke

## IN MEMORY OF DONNA M. JOHNSON 1945-1999

### *From the SLAT Program director:*

Dr. Donna M. Johnson, Associate Professor of English, joined the University of Arizona faculty in 1983. She published and taught courses in many areas of second language acquisition, including SLA theory, second language writing, cultural dimensions, and research methods. The latter area was her special interest, and her book *Approaches to Research in Second Language Acquisition* is a classic in that field.

Donna was a founding faculty member of the SLAT Program and served on its Executive Council for four years. Her many contributions to the program included designing and teaching the proseminar course for entering students. We remember Donna for her excellent scholarship and teaching, for her devotion to students in matters personal as well as academic, and especially for her famous quick wit.

Donna's example and influence are felt strongly in the SLAT Program. Faced with a setback, a problem, a delicate situation, we ask ourselves, "What would Donna do?" Sometimes it seems as though she is just in the next room.

This volume of the *Arizona Working Papers in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching* is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Professor Donna M. Johnson.

Doug Adamson