

# Carol Taylor (2004–2008)

## Memories from my CercleS presidency

The request to write a few words about CercleS for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary nudged me out of my 13-year-long retiree/grandma mode. Faces and names began to emerge – Johann, Alžbeta, Thomas, Mary, Nick, Marta, Ray, Nicole and many others – then bits of discourse of working together on language education. But this must be brief.

The approach of Cercles' 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2006) led us to realise that the association had begun to have a history that needed to be handed on. We recognised a responsibility to get and keep the official documents in order and readily available for future use. The resulting tasks included locating the initial registration as well as collecting other early documentation, all to be saved at the Secretariat and passed on to future ones. Registering a revised edition of the statutes was also deemed essential, since these had been abundantly amended since their registration in Strasbourg, and, to further complicate matters, the amendments had been made to an unregistered English translation. After much work we managed to

approve a final revised French version, produce an appropriate English translation, and register both in Strasbourg. During the General Meeting in Frankfurt Oder, an initial draft for a CercleS mission statement was circulated to stimulate feedback,



to be elaborated in a working group. A project we evoked but did not manage to realise was writing a history of CercleS up to that time. Might these flash memories of the presidents of 30 years perhaps in some way do that?

The CercleS ELP, made available mainly through the efforts of David Little, was taken up by our Executive and Coordinating Committees as a major project. We took

it upon ourselves to simplify distribution in all our member universities, encourage and facilitate translation into the various national languages, and share good practices in its application within the member institutions (see workshops in Padua and Dublin, and also the one in Helsinki geared more generally to use of the CEFR in universities, as well as the ELP session at the Frankfurt Oder Conference and the ELP Round Table at the Seville Conference).

I was elected president of Cercles during the Bratislava Conference. Of course, preparation for the following Conference in Frankfurt Oder was a major task for the Executive during the next two years. I have amazing memories of that Conference, including the walk across the bridge from Germany into Poland for the closing session. Since I was re-elected president for two more years, I was able to participate in the organisation of the Seville Conference as well, and to enjoy the excellent papers, the beautiful city, and the warmth shown to me by my CercleS friends as my presidency drew to its end.

Best wishes for the next 30 years of CercleS!

Carol Taylor