

*Susan Gross*  
(1993-94)

Remember when your conferences were at the elegant Stanley Hotel in Estes Park? I was a hick from South Dakota and didn't want to miss a minute of what you had to offer. (Funny, I still feel that way about you.) I got there so early that nobody was there yet; not even Genevieve Overman and Arno Preller! When they arrived, Genevieve allowed me to help her set up registration. She showed me how to use her 3 x 5 card file to determine if dues were up-to-date and if the member had pre-registered. (Can you imagine how Betsy Berwanger would drown in 3 x 5 cards if we had no computers nowadays?) Ah, those were the days...

Under the superb guidance of steady hands you grew. You provided a system of leadership development which has brought honor and glory to Colorado. Your members have produced students with outstanding language skills. Your members have become more effective in the classroom. Your members have served as board members and as officers in local, state, regional, and national professional organizations. In fact, you participated in the creation of Southwest COLT. Your members have learned to advocate for our profession. Your members have received awards for educational leadership, excellence in education, creativity, promoting community interest, and teaching culture.

It is gratifying to know that you continue to promote professional development. Every year I have witnessed the inspiration that comes from sharing our expertise, research, experiments, and creations. Every year I have witnessed the professional growth that comes from investigating pedagogical topics. Every year I have benefited from opportunities to observe my colleagues in their classroom. Every year I have benefited from their observations of me, too. Every year I have marveled at the dedication and generosity of your members. They serve on the Board with no financial gain. In fact, they actually donate time, expertise, and cover many of their own expenses just for the joy of helping our profession. Even more members donate time, expertise, and handouts simply because they want to share their ideas with others. These session presenters pay their own expenses, including full registration fees. And they do it every single year.

You are a special organization, CCFLT. Happy 50th Anniversary, and may you celebrate MANY more!