Memories for Steve,

Steve-kun – what would my life have been without you?? It would’ve had a lot fewer laughs, that’s for sure. I couldn’t fit these into my video so I thought I’d write some of them down.

As I said on the video, I loved my year & a half in Japan - & one of the best things about it was having a desk next to yours & getting to hear your comments on students & life. About the first thing I remember your saying was during my first week in Tokyo. Being in a new country triggered my ‘foreign’ mode, but for me, that was German as I had spent a year teaching at a German high school 4 years earlier. So when I did a German exhale as I said ‘I don’t know,’ you said, “Dorolyn – culturally inappropriate airstream. Ingressive not egressive” & then you sucked in your breath to illustrate. What a perfect & as usual succinct linguistic summary of the situation. I’ve been chuckling about that for 30 years.

1990 was the Year of Britain in Japan, which was so lovely because it brought 4 or 5 great plays from the likes of the RSC & the NT to Tokyo. You became my Shakespeare buddy – we attended every production of Shakespeare that came thru. I can only remember the names of 2 - *King Lear* with Emma Thompson (as the Fool) & Kenneth Branagh and *Coriolanus*, which I’d never seen & I believe was the only one I didn’t fall asleep in. Maybe also *Macbeth* and one of the comedies…? our Shakespeare tradition continued once we were both back in Pittsburgh in 1991 - & even after you moved to Youngstown in 1995, you came back for every Shakespeare production that you could. Bad as they often were & always filled with ranting, the only way that Americans know how to do Shakespeare. Except for that fabulous production of *Hamlet* with Mark Rylance at the old Public theater in 1991 – not a rant in the whole production.

My Tokyo time was a year & a half of many laughs – you, Joanne, Doreen, Lynne, Dale, Keith, (?)Kirsten… & a lot of learning for me about Japan, Japanese & teaching & learning Japanese. I loved it - & it was so helpful for me/us back in the ELI, where we were hopeless & clueless about the wave of Japanese we’d been receiving. They were so different from our usual population of Middle Easterners & Latin Americans. So I loved it when you came to Pittsburgh & worked in the ELI while you did your PhD. (back then, no need for interviews – just a wave of CBP’s magic wand was enough to get you in!). it was a professionally exciting time for me, working on presentations with you for 3R TESOL, making a video with you about teaching different cultures…. I loved doing the presentations with you. For some reason I couldn’t be bothered with wearing a belt during those years - & the comment that most got me after our first presentation was ‘the female presenter wasn’t wearing a belt.’ I became the ‘woman who doesn’t wear a belt’ after that.

I’m especially grateful to you & Marc for including me in your *Active Listening* series. It was a professional challenge and opportunity to be able to publish & to present on those publications. I am in awe at your (& Marc’s) ability to write such creative & engaging materials. & thank you for including my anecdotes about listening to French Canadian news in your listening book for teachers!

You did your best to try to bring me into 20th century popular culture, and some of it even took. You made me a tape of Bruce Springsteen hits because you thought I needed to be aware of someone so famous. I loved that tape & listened to it for years. (Sadly, the only Bruce I know are the songs on that tape.). There was also the time when you & Missy (Butler) Slaathaug & I traveled together to 3R TESOL in Indiana PA. The two of you kept playing obscure Beatles songs & then roaring when I didn’t know who was singing. You’d think I’d have caught on after 2 of those…. And of course, we were both curious to see Frank Heny’s ex-wife Jeanine, who was scheduled to present at the Indiana 3RT conference. You wanted to see if she was a babe. After listening to her, you said, ‘Not a babe. Is a linguist tho.’ I’ve been snickering for 25 years about that one.

I was always amazed at how in Pittsburgh you could a) work FT at the ELI b) study FT on your PhD c) buy & manage a house and stay sane. I could barely manage a). I did take a couple of classes in the PhD program in FL Ed, though, including one which you were in, the Anthropology of Education with Chris Ward, where we had to do an ethnography. (Betsy did hers on the Pussycat, women’s lingerie store in Squirrel Hill – Chris was so happy). You & I decided to work together & do Little League baseball in Greenfield – you because you liked baseball, me because I wanted to know more about my Greenfield neighborhood. It was such a hoot going to Little League games with you – most memorable: you got tired of my total lack of understanding of the game & questions such as “’Cheat to the bag’? What does that mean? That’s not even English.” So you ripped the notebook out of my hands & said “I’ll take notes & you observe.”

I was so sorry to see you leave Pittsburgh – especially because you lived 2 blocks from me – but also happy that you were only going to Youngstown. That meant I was able to see you a couple of times a year. For a few years we had a Thanksgiving tradition & I visited over the weekend for leftovers. I always enjoyed meeting your YSU friends, like Sal and Ellen Z, & was really happy that you made/had a good life (even though it was Ytown!). my biggest regret is that I didn’t get to say good by to you before you moved to California. Actually, that’s my second biggest regret – my biggest right now is that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused us to cancel the big trip to the SW & California that we had planned for this spring. We were scheduled to visit you May 31-June 2. If things ease up, we may try an abbreviated trip going straight to Colorado in late June or July. I will keep you posted – save that spot in your driveway for our trailer (only 19’!).

Steve *mi gran amigo* – thank you for all that you have contributed to my life, both personally & professionally. Much peace & love to you.

dorolyn