

**T**his May, DWC will dedicate the ESL language lab to Margo and her husband, Jim Duffy.

While Margo didn't ever teach at Divine Word College, Jim serves on the school's Board of Trustees and has given generously to the college's Intensive English Language Institute to honor Margo's memory since her passing in October 2014. His gifts have helped cover the cost of classroom technology like laptops, printers, headphones and voice recorders, as well as textbooks, ESL field trips, membership fees for EnglishUSA, ESL software and more.

"Teaching ESL gave her so much personal reward that my making donations to the IELI program at DWC is the best way to honor her successes and memory," Jim said.

For the first seven years of her career, Margo taught second grade. Then in 1972, when the couple's oldest daughter was just an infant, she took a part-time job teaching adult basic education. After the Vietnamese exodus in the fall of 1975, the first refugees started coming to Green Bay, Wis. and those night classes evolved into ESL offerings.

Jim also started working with refugees in 1975, serving as an employment/career counselor for the Wisconsin Job Service. He trained refugee camp host country nationals and ex-patriot staff about employment requirements and assimilation to the workplace in the United States. He was later involved in train-the-trainer workshops across the country. Jim continued to work with refugees in a number of capacities through the years, often times crossing career paths with Margo along the way.

In time, the couple's work with refugees and other ESL students became a full-fledged family affair. Their daughters, Shannon and Erin, tagged along to cultural events in their childhood, attended work activities and even gave up their bedrooms when the family took in two minor Vietnamese refugee boys who briefly lived with them. "They both are richer for this exposure," Jim said of his daughters.

Margo helped some of her students prepare for citizenship tests and even taught at industrial sites to provide hands-on workplace language classes. She taught at a number of schools in Wisconsin before retiring in 2008 from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.



Jim Duffy

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During her career, Jim said Margo worked with students of all ages, who came from a variety of cultural backgrounds and who spoke 17 different native languages. Margo established herself as an authority in the ESL field, presenting at conferences across the state, but nothing delighted her more than watching her students flourish.

"Her creativity and artistic soul was evident in all of her teachings," Jim said.

"Teaching was one of the greatest joys of her life and she devoted over 37 years to this passion."

IELI faculty and students are thankful for the contributions, which have helped the program thrive beyond its regular expected growth, according to IELI Director Dr. Seo Hyun Park.

"Part of the fund is used for instructors to pilot new computer-assisted language learning tools, incorporate them into the curriculum, present their findings at regional and national conferences, provide students with appropriate electronic devices to use those tools in and out of class, and maximize learning opportunities," she said. "Thanks to this gift, students are exposed to digital literacy training, which is a key to language learning in the 21st century not only while at DWC but even after they leave and as they continue their lifelong learning."