Cook landed a job in Washington, D.C., and in her many years, she taught English to the Vietnamese community in the area. She enjoyed her work with her students and decided to get an advanced degree to teach English to non-English speakers. Cook got her master’s degree and now offers continuation to teach English as a second language.

“My Ph.D. is in language learning and acquisition,” Cook said. “I thought it would be very helpful to live in that environment (Vietnam).” She was struggling with the other end, Vietnamese, because her native language is English. She wanted to force herself to be the one out of my culture, struggling with life. Cook takes many of the lessons she learned and incorporates them into the classroom in the form of real-life examples that students can relate to versus just theory. “She gives examples; she likes it if her students can relate to something they’re struggling with life,” Farley said. “I think it’s highly theoretical and tells a story. Take two in it; I think it’s very helpful.” Many students find Cook’s instruction helpful.

“I’m not afraid to try new things or be in new situations; in fact, I kind of like them. My personality is geared toward that.”

Farley said, whether it is myth or true, that geese act as a level of protection. “They’ll honk, rip your shoe off if they can. They act protectively. Supposedly, when they poop, I was told, whatever is right on the spot takes it. I keep the geese away.”

The land behind the house Cook rented in Lindsayville was full of development, and developers were cutting out the underbrush, driving the geese out of their habitat and into the residential area.

“When出国 again I thought I’d want the garden around as a layer of protection,” Cook said. “That only enhanced it. This method to keep the geese away was only one of many things Cook learned while she lived in Malaysia, Luxembourg and France. The experiences she had while living outside the United States helped shape her as a person and as a professor. While studying college in Luxembourg, she exposed herself to many languages and traveled extensively around Europe. Yet, her time there did not satisfy her desire to travel; it only enhanced it. “It’s not a contamination. It’s more a combination of, isn’t it the way it was before I was abroad or new things or new situations. But I think it helps,” Cook said. Their flair for adventure, their love of languages, and their knack for understanding different people’s perspectives toward that.”

Tim Farley, Cook’s husband and assistant professor of French, said his wife has a knack for understanding different people’s perspectives. “She’s one of the least ethnocentric people I know. What is ‘normal’? She understands [people],” Farley said. “That only enhanced it. This method to keep the geese away was only one of many things Cook learned while she lived in Malaysia, Luxembourg and France. The experiences she had while living outside the United States helped shape her as a person and as a professor. While studying college in Luxembourg, she exposed herself to many languages and traveled extensively around Europe. Yet, her time there did not satisfy her desire to travel; it only enhanced it.

“Her experiences helped her learn that no two people are the same. She learned about other cultures and how her perceptions of the world was different. She couldn’t take things for granted. It was a different lifestyle. It broadened her perspective and as a professor. She found Cook to be an excellent

Professors supplement their theory with interesting stories of her life abroad.

Around the world in linguistics class

Junior Jessica Spearman discusses letters of recommendation and her upcoming graduate work with Sally Cook, assistant professor of linguistics, in Cook’s office on Wednesday.

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