

From the Associate Editor

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How did I get here? When I talk with other people in our profession, it seems that there is a fair amount of serendipity in our career paths – we somehow shifted from the purely academic or the purely technical into positions that are both, to varying degrees. The same is true of me.

In my own career, which still has that new-car smell to it, I have traveled from believing that I was going to be a medieval literature specialist at a research institution, to (*mirabile dictu*) helping to edit an international journal on language learning and technology. It is certainly a roundabout path — a series of unanticipated left turns, you might say — that has led me here. I trained in Old French literature and medieval studies at UC Berkeley. Subject matter aside, all the poring over manuscripts and variant editions as well as thinking hard about the writerly process has been useful, I believe. My dissertation advisor, Suzanne Fleischman, demanded clarity and precision of expression in my work — even though I usually didn't manage it, she passed along to me a love of the same. I hope to bring that perspective to my duties with the Journal.

My technology background grew up as a result of research assistantships with Rick Kern in the Department of French and with Mark Kaiser at the Berkeley Language Center, as well as a summer fellowship at the Center for Educational Technology at Middlebury. For these opportunities, I owe a debt of thanks to Rick and Mark, as well as to Clara Yu and the staff at CET. All of my peregrinations led to a position as the Director of the Language Lab at the University of Richmond. In this case, I suppose that three lefts made a right.

Working at Richmond and for the Journal does, in fact, feel right. This is where I belong and what I want to do — the chance to read articles by the best people in our profession is quite simply the cherry on top of the sundae. I look forward to reading some of the great works in our field, and to helping to pass along those great works to you. ♦

