

## From the Past President

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By the time you read this, my term as president will be over, IALL 2001 will be a recent memory, and you'll be enjoying your summer vacation! Hopefully the net result will be that you're a little more energized and prepared for life back in the trenches.

As president, I've had many opportunities to reflect on what IALL is about, and what keeps us going. IALL has survived for more than 35 years because it meets the needs of a special group of professionals. Also, unlike many organizations, IALL is highly dependent on grassroots efforts of individual volunteers. Sometimes this makes it difficult to move forward as quickly as we'd like. On the other hand, it means that those who do work for IALL do so selflessly, motivated by a desire to help their colleagues.

I'd like to share with you just three of countless examples of selfless service to IALL which help make us what we are. I do this partly to give some deserved recognition, but also to encourage each of you to find a way to get involved and to share your expertise and talents.

Several years ago, when the Internet was just taking off, Otmar Foelsche (Dartmouth College) saw the potential for shared communication among us all. He established a discussion forum, LLTI, which as all of you know has strengthened the sense of IALL community and has helped countless colleagues solve diverse problems, ranging from how to keep headsets clean, to how to select an appropriate digital video format. Today listservs are common, but back when LLTI began, it took vision and determination to get this useful tool up and running. Thank you, Otmar.

Much of IALL's strength comes from the energy of its regional groups. One of the strongest is the NERALLD group, whose recent president Bruce Parkhurst (Boston University) is another example of selfless service. She revitalized the group by

organizing stimulating semi-annual conferences, writing the group's newsletter, and tirelessly promoting both NERALLD and IALL. Then, as chair of the IALL 2001 program committee, she spent countless hours working to organize over 100 presentations into a program to meet the needs of our IALL members. Further, she also proposed and is helping develop the IALL consultants database where members seeking consulting services, or wanting to offer their services, can hook up with each other. The only remaining question is what Bruce will do next for us? Thank you, Bruce.

Not all IALL leaders occupy visible positions; some prefer to do their work behind the scenes. Typical of such IALL members is Marlene Johnshoy (University of Minnesota), who has developed and maintained the IALL membership database (<http://iall.net/members.html>). In part this was a natural outgrowth of her service as co-membership coordinator for the MWALL regional group. She also has provided vision and leadership as part of the team that developed and presents the IALL/Houghton-Mifflin technology workshops that IALL has provided for the past several years. If you've been fortunate enough to take a workshop led by Marlene, you'll appreciate the quality service she provides to the profession. Thank you, Marlene.

There are many others of you who likewise give of your time and talents unselfishly. For you, we are deeply indebted and grateful.

If you're an IALL member who has been enjoying the benefits of IALL membership, you owe it to the hard work of many dedicated colleagues. But have you ever considered giving some of your own time and energy back to IALL? Perhaps you've thought you have nothing to offer, or that you're just too busy. Let me tell you that you can make a difference, and if you have the desire, you can also find the time. Simply contact your regional leader, or a member of the IALL board or council—you can find their names on the IALL website (<http://iall.net>) or in the front pages of this journal—and let them know you're interested in becoming involved.

Finally, let me say how much I have enjoyed working with the IALL board during my tenure as president. David, Lynne, Chris and Lauren... thank you for the great energy and cooperative spirit you brought to the table.

As for me, I'll continue to contribute however I can to IALL. It's time for new leadership, and I can assure you that David

Pankratz is more than ready for the challenges that lie ahead. I hope you'll lend your talents and expertise to him and to IALL just as you have to me. ♦

