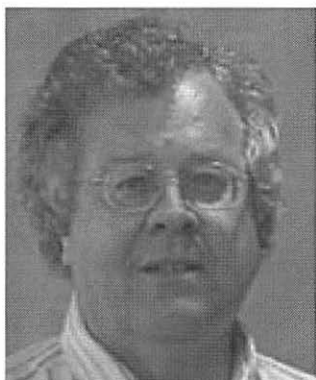


From the Outgoing President

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The BYU campus at Provo boasts its share of imposing buildings and green spaces, but one that's going to stand out for many years to come is the brand new Joseph F. Smith building - the home of the languages departments and the Center for Language Studies. Its theme is 'light', and the bright inner courtyard beyond the massive transparent glass east wing has echoes of medieval Italian squares and colonnades. Better yet, our colleagues who look out on this piazza have the run of language-learning technology and facilities that will make your your own 'lights' go on. This brand new, state-of-our-art center is where some of the afternoon breakout sessions of the FLEAT5 conference will be held. The morning sessions, in the Marriott conference center downtown, will give us a chance to meet and mingle with our Japanese colleagues from LET at the plenary presentations and in the exhibitor halls. Both venues promise to provide superb facilities for our joint conference and IALLT's biennial meetings. The conference Program Committee is very enthusiastic about the quality of the proposals they have accepted from North America, Japan and elsewhere (well over 100 papers, and over two dozen posters). Our thanks to Read Gilgen and his team for giving us so much to look forward to.

On a related note, we will be talking to our Japanese colleagues again in Provo about the long relationship between LET (or LLA, as it was in 1981, and IALLT (née NALLD). There is a nice overview of the history of our conferences (w. pictures) at the conference website

<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/fleat5/2005/previous.dhtm>

You'll notice the early BYU connection, there too. What began as a meeting of mostly ESL professors from Japan and the eclectic mix of instructors, developers, staff and administrators that make up our association is still mainly that. As members and leaders change, and as the technologies too have matured, we are searching for a new form of the 'magic glue' - the exploratory spirit that cemented shared interests and friendships at those earlier conferences. Like many things in the CALL world, change has been the one constant feature of what

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we do on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. Certainly, both of our organizations want to keep the good relations, but we are looking for ways to reflect those other changes better.

Which brings me to the third point of this piece: the changes that we are all facing in our profession. This year, IALLT will be conducting one of our periodic surveys of the profession, to try to capture a snapshot of ourselves, our roles, and our circumstances. This Journal will also take on a reflective challenge in the next few editions, with articles that examine different aspects of the evolving CALL world. We are all aware that the technological and pedagogical environment we occupy so centrally, and - let's face it - the sources and nature of the software and online resources that our students use, have in some respects radically altered the work that we do in and from our centers. It's a good time to take stock. If your own thoughts tend in this direction, why not write them down and send them to our Editor? It's a debate he'd love to facilitate for us all.

Looking forward to meeting many of you in Provo in August, where I'll hand over this column and the much-coveted presidential gavel to the very capable hands of Claire Bartlett. ♦