



# ***The IALLT Journal***

*A publication of the International Association for Language Learning Technology*

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



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As we are concluding this year, it is time to be a little bit retrospective. During the Summer Leadership Meeting in Fort Lauderdale in June, we had an opportunity to get together with the conference hosts for the IALLT 2013 conference, which will be held on June 11-15, 2013. This upcoming conference will be unique, as it will be co-hosted by Pine Crest School and Florida Atlantic University. It is also the first time that an IALLT conference will be co-hosted by a K-12 institution. What makes this conference site particularly exciting is the fact that Pine Crest School is a private school that boasts state-of-the art facilities. In addition to being a conference host, Frank Kruger-Robbins from Pine Crest School serves on the IALLT Council as K-12 Coordinator. Hosting the conference at his institution gives him a special opportunity to promote an increased outreach to K-12 language professionals. The co-conference host is Michael Horswell from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Like Pine Crest

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School, FAU has 21<sup>st</sup> century learning spaces and is therefore, like Pine Crest School, a most suitable location for a pre-conference workshop that I am particularly excited about, the *Tour of the Learning Spaces*, which is an updated version of our traditional pre-conference *Lab Tours*. In addition to learning more about the design of different types of learning spaces, the participants of the IALLT 2013 conference will have an opportunity to look at different furniture solutions that, combined with interactive technology tools, create spaces for active collaborative learning.

The Summer Leadership Meeting was followed by the IALLT's new Webinar Series. The newly formed Webinar Team is comprised of Evan Rubin and Trevor Shanklin, who both hail from the Language Acquisition Resource Center at San Diego State University, and Sarah Withee from Colorado College. They put together a successful webinar series that was launched in August with a first session entitled *What Your Department Chair and Dean Can Help You Understand About Your Job*, followed by the September webinar entitled *Program Assessment in Foreign Languages: How Language Centers Can Help*. A webinar on *Video Games for Language Learning: A Mission for Language Centers?* was scheduled during the month of October. The November webinar was entitled *From Language Lab to Language Center – and Beyond: Rethinking Learning Spaces for the 21st Century Learner*. The last webinar of the year focused on the topic of *Using an Interactive Whiteboard for Communicative Language Teaching*. All these webinars have been archived and are accessible for IALLT members by logging into the IALLT website.

As the winter break is approaching, you may find time to read the articles and columns in this new edition of the IALLT Journal, which features Haiyong Liu's article on *Enhancing Student Engagement through Online Authentic Materials*, in which she examines how authentic, interactive materials can be used to promote communication and a more positive student attitude toward the target culture while at the same time increasing student engagement and active learning. In another feature article entitled *Politeness Strategies in Wiki-mediated Communication of EFL Collaborative Writing Tasks* Mimi Li examines different types of politeness strategies that students used to establish positive interactions and negotiate their collaborative writing tasks. Felix Kronenberg discusses *Selection Criteria for Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Video Games for Language Learning*, which will be valuable for anyone who considers acquiring video games for their classroom instruction or to make available in a learning center. These feature articles are complemented by Judy Shoaf's column on copyright issues, which you will certainly find to be most helpful.

*Lahaie*

As you can see, the IALLT Journal and the IALLT Webinar Series have been able to address a variety of important topics. While you are reading this current issue of the IALLT Journal, both the IALLT Editor and the IALLT Webinar team are already in the process of finalizing the topics for their respective spring issues, and I would like to encourage you to contribute either as Journal author or as Webinar presenter. Many IALLT members have an expertise in different aspects of the design or management of (language) learning spaces. As you are reading this journal edition, I would like to encourage you to contribute to our ongoing conversation on design and management issues, but also on important topics such as 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, improving student learning outcomes, language program assessment, faculty development and Open Educational Resources. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy the articles in this edition of the IALLT Journal.

Happy readings – and Happy Holidays!

**Ute S. Lahaie, PhD**

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