

From the Editor

Good things come to those who wait, and this special edition of the IALLT Journal, albeit a bit behind schedule, is one of those good things.

The idea for this particular edition grew out of conversations between IALLT members at regional group meetings as well as on LLTI. Through these conversations it became apparent that the topic of students with disabilities and language learning was something that we wanted to talk about, we wanted to learn more about, or, in many cases, we knew nothing about but needed to know as much as possible.

Alas, while many of us may be passionate about these issues, the reality is that we as professionals do not always have the time (or the institutional support and encouragement) to write for a peer-reviewed publication. To those of you I “pinged” repeatedly during the summer and the fall until your articles “magically” appeared in my inbox, thank you. There were many others who wanted to contribute articles but the pressures of the new academic year were just too great. My secret hope is that the Journal will revisit this topic with a second special edition in the future, but if that does not happen, please know that we would welcome your articles on this topic in future editions of this publication.

In particular, I would to welcome CAST (the Center for Applied Special Technology) to the IALLT Journal and thank them for contributing a feature article. Founded in 1984, CAST’s mission is to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through the research and development of innovative, technology-based educational resources and strategies based on the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). It is my hope that this article marks the first of many collaborations between IALLT and CAST and that together our organizations will strive to make it possible not only for every student to learn, but also for every student to learn a second language.

This edition grew out of conversations, and I hope it generates many more. I would like to invite IALLT members to share their comments, observations, questions and concerns about the topics covered in this edition via the IALLT wiki at <http://www.iallt.org>. I look forward to continuing these important discussions with you both there as well as in person.

Enjoy the journal,

Barbara

