

## From the President

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"Far and away the best prize that life offers," said Theodore Roosevelt, "is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." I have seen my two years as your President as that kind of opportunity, and have been pleased to work at giving something back to an organization that has given a great deal to me. Over the last two years we've accomplished some important things and made a good beginning on others. I can (and will!) give you a list, but do notice that in each case the pronoun is not "I" but "we."

- The membership has continued to grow: we now number over 660 strong.
- We have continued to explore ways to collaborate with our friends at CALICO and have increased our visibility at a number of major conferences, sponsoring an important panel at TESOL and professional pre-conference workshops at AECT, as well as enthusiastically well-attended sessions at Northeast Conference and ACTFL.
- We sponsored an interregional teleconference, linking our New England group on the east coast to their Southwest colleagues on the west, an event viewed by many IALLers across the country.
- A new publication on learning center management, edited by Robin Lawrason, is ready to debut at IALL '95. We are working on a second edition of our popular *Lab Design Kit*, which is edited by Ruth Trometer. Both publications will come out with a more attractive and professional layout and design by Robin McClanahan.
- Our *Journal*, brought back to life by Read Gilgen, has flourished and bloomed under the able direction of Marie Sheppard, Karen Landahl and their staff of talented editors and writers.
- We have made good progress in encouraging Council participation in Board discussions and decision making.
- We have put together an incredible conference for this May—the fourth in our biennial series—hosted by Ursula

Williams and Notre Dame University. We fully expect it to break the attendance records set in 1993 at our Kansas conference.

- We have a firm foundation in place for our 1997 conference, FLEAT III, co-sponsored by IALL and the Language Lab Association of Japan and hosted by Peter Liddell and the University of Victoria.
- We began the examination of a number of possible roles for IALL in supporting the professional needs and concerns of its members: a task force led by Chris Jones examined the pros and cons of sponsoring centrally designed and “packaged” workshops and consulting efforts; Mike Ledgerwood has made important progress in getting our FL Software Database underway at last.

There have been some disappointments: we had intended to examine, among other things, how teleconferencing and video technologies might be put to better use in disseminating information both within and outside IALL; we had plans to dramatically increase the visibility of the *Journal* and of IALL itself in other professional publications; and we had especially wanted to increase the number of individuals actively involved in IALL projects. The total membership continues to grow, but the names of Those Making Things Happen still seem all too few and all too familiar. But perhaps these disappointments may yet become bullet items, alongside many other achievements, in Robert Henderson’s List of Accomplishments two years hence.

Your new President is one of the most capable and deeply thoughtful people I know. Mild-mannered—unless he happens to have his bagpipes with him—Bob brings an even-handed common sense to every discussion. The rest of the Board—Tom Browne, Dick Kuettner, Kathy James, and your new President-Elect, Nina Garrett—will be a formidable team indeed, working to enhance IALL’s professional profile while at the same time strengthening and personalizing our dealings with one another.

I leave you in good hands, then. It has been my pleasure and privilege to have worked for you and with you alongside my good colleagues on the IALL Board, and, of course, Past-President LeeAnn Stone, whose unflagging enthusiasm and good counsel have been a source of constant encouragement to me. Sir James Barrie once wrote that “nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.” That must surely be why the two years have passed so quickly. ■