

Programs Director's Corner

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Aside From That...

The academic year is almost over, and it seems like an eternity since we have had the opportunity to sit down and discuss **your role** with our affiliate organizations. In a positive vein, it appears that everything has taken a back seat to IALL '95—a meeting from which even the state of Indiana is still recovering. So be it. But we must move forward to energize ourselves in dealing with our cohorts.

Jackie Tanner (Georgetown University) remains as our active representative to the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL). LeeAnn Stone (University of California—Irvine) is working closely with the Language Lab Association of Japan (LLA) and is heavily involved with FLEAT III. Kathy James (Foreign Service Institute) has put the finishing touches on our involvement with the Northeast Conference (NEC). And Mary Sanseverino (University of Victoria), though busily working to prepare for IALL '97, still finds time to devote to representing us to the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO).

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Additions to our affiliate forces this year include Chris Higgins (University of Maryland—College Park) to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL); Ursula Williams (University of Notre Dame) to the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT); and Greg Younger (The Economics Institute) to the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). A pretty impressive array of contenders, if I say so myself!

Our affiliate representatives need your support and involvement at the affiliate conferences which you attend. You might present a paper in a conference slot sponsored by IALL. Or, you might serve as a chair for an IALL-sponsored session. Sharing responsibilities at the IALL booth in the exhibit area is yet another way to help. Or participate in the special interest meetings for IALL members and for those interested in learning more about our organization!

"If we want IALL promoted, we have to promote IALL."

If we want IALL promoted, we have to promote IALL. There is not a simpler way to state it! I was quite surprised, while at the ACTFL Delegate Assembly meetings in November, to learn that our Association's mission is still not clear to many in our affiliate organizations.

Start at home base by more readily publicizing IALL doings within your own institution. When you present in an IALL-sponsored session, make sure that others at your school know your sponsor. Furnish reports to your colleagues (faculty and staff) about what you saw and learned at an affiliate conference. While attending a meeting, when you notice that someone is trying to figure out either your name on your nametag or that "slinky" design on the IALL button, explain your name first then quickly go into a lengthy discussion about IALL and its purpose.

All kidding aside, maybe it is time we bought a page in an affiliate conference program or co-sponsored a session with other affiliates. You might also consider jointly writing an article with an affiliate colleague, to be published in our own *Journal* or one of our affiliate publications. We must take a more serious look at ourselves to determine how others really do or do not see us. Isn't it funny that we can talk fancifully about our machines and programs, but we fall short in addressing the importance of our own organization? IALL is ready-made for promotion!

Let me know your thoughts. You've got my number.

