

The Torch Has Been passed...

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I first became involved with the *IALL Journal* in 1994. As I have described in numerous columns and presentations, the late Marie Sheppard telephoned and asked me to work with her; within minutes, she had convinced me with her personal devotion to the *Journal* and, as she had done for so many, she changed the course of my life.

The five years I have given the *Journal* have been fulfilling outside of work as well: in addition to professional activities, I married and became a first-time father during this period. I remember well the columns I wrote and the manuscripts I edited during 1996 and 1997—much of this work was accomplished during sleepless nights, something any parent can well understand!

From my early years working with Marie, to later times with such stalwart editors as Read Gilgen, I learned the craft of the *Journal*. Along the way, I have also been inspired by remarkable Presidents of the IALL Board, including Trisha Dvorak, the late Robert Henderson, and Nina Garrett.

My colleagues on the *Journal* Board have meant more to me than I can reasonably express, including Karen Landahl, who has been the quality conscience of the *Journal* for as long as I remember. Harold Hendricks has guided the advertisers for this publication since the day I came on board. And I must mention Kelly Nelson and Robin MacClanahan, both of whom taught me what it means to produce a journal with flair and elan.

I leave this publication in exceptionally capable hands. Rachel Saury, of the University of Virginia, has spent much of the past year making the *Journal* a central part of her life. Her creative spirit and managerial ability show in every page of every issue she touches, and I am filled with a wonderful admiration for her.

And, with this issue, I officially “pass the torch” of Editor-in-Chief to Jan Marston, of Southern Methodist University. As an Assistant Editor, Jan has spent the past three years working behind the scenes to see that your *Journal* is as rich a resource for you, the IALL member, as possible. She has read and edited manuscripts and drafts, proofread galley pages, and even overseen bulk mailing. It was in this last task that her talents as a miracle

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worker became clear. In 1997, Jan somehow shipped 500 issues of the *Journal* to Victoria, Canada, at the latest of last minutes, in the middle of a shipping strike, just in time for IALL '97!

Jan is a dear friend of mine, and I know that all of IALL embraces her and will embrace her as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*. I am especially delighted by the fact that Jan brings a deep understanding of language learning and an appreciation for the greater educational issues that intrigue us all. During a recent lunch together, she related to me an anecdote from her college career that I find symbolic. While an undergraduate, Jan enrolled in a pottery class from a teacher who excelled in training students in the finer points of art as metaphor for contemplation. At one point in the introductory class, he announced to the assembled students: "If you are here just to make a set of dishes, get out!" He expected his students to see pottery as a means to enlightenment, and I know he found a receptive student in Jan. One thing is for certain: Jan is not just here to make a set of dishes!!◆



The Torch is lit.