

## From the Incoming Editor

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The printed word has been central to my life since I was a little kid. I grew up the daughter of a newspaper publisher. I can't say I cut my teeth on books, because from the beginning I was taught to respect and take care of books, and that most assuredly included *not* cutting my teeth on them. I started working at one of the family newspapers in grade school. In school and college, I was the one who edited others' papers.

When Pete asked me to join the *IALL Journal*, I was happy to have the chance to do some serious editing once again. What I didn't know then was how much I would learn in the process. Pete's got it right: it's not about making a set of dishes – or a bunch of books for the shelf in your office. The responsibility that Pete is passing to me is all about keeping the journal of record for our profession. That means more than meeting deadlines and churning out words. It means more than a simple vehicle for news about changing technology in language learning, although that is an important aspect. It carries nothing less than a commitment to examine the dynamic changes taking place in our culture's views of education, technology, and language, and to provide a voice for those of us language learning professionals defining and contributing to those changes.

Taking on that responsibility as Editor-in-Chief is awesome. I would be considerably more daunted at the prospect if I hadn't learned from Pete that putting out the *Journal* is an impossible job for one person, and that it takes dedicated teamwork. The faces on the *Journal* Board may change, but everybody involved understands that they each contribute an essential part to the effort. Although Pete is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief, he's not abandoning ship; he will be charting new territories for the *Journal* as a virtual editor, ensuring that the *Journal's* electronic publishing effort reflects the same commitment to excellence that we know and trust from his years as Editor-in-Chief. And I know I can count on his continued support in keeping the *Journal* on course. With Rachel Saury keeping the ship afloat as Managing Editor, I feel confident

that we will sail along smoothly. New crew members are signing on now for the next leg of our journey, and we're about ready to cut loose. I'm excited about the opportunity to work with such an enthusiastic and dedicated group of people, and I look forward to my turn at the helm. ♦