

## A New Millenium Read Gilgen University of Wisconsin—Madison



Many of us just enjoyed another outstanding biennial conference, IALL '99, hosted by Chris Higgins and the University of Maryland. Once again we were privileged to welcome many new members, as well as to renew acquaintances with colleagues from around the world.

Knowing that I would soon be responsible for leading IALL, I was struck even more by the wonderful diversity of our members. Equally at home were those who direct small, one-person language labs and those whose primary interests are in the theories of second language acquisition.

As we head into the next millennium, having completed some 35 years as an organization, we need to encourage and welcome that diversity, but at the same time not lose focus on what IALL is all about. While we are affiliated and cooperate with other language and technology organizations, we're still unique in that we also have responsibilities for the administration and management of language learning technology, whether in physical or virtual space.

In the next few months I plan to initiate a new IALL survey which will help define our membership. We will also form a task force to consider IALL's mission. Both of these activities should help us move forward with greater confidence.

I am particularly grateful to departing members of the Executive Board, Nina Garrett, Tom Browne, and Patty Lamb, all of whom have served faithfully and well. Their unselfish service is what makes IALL work so well for us.

I'm honored now to step up as IALL's 18th President and I'm delighted to be joined by new board members David Pankratz (President-Elect), Lauren Rosen (Business Manager), and Lynne Crandall (Secretary-Parliamentarian). I'm also grateful you have chosen Chris Higgins to continue as Programs Director. I've worked with all of these people in one way or another for several years, and I can assure you that they, and I, have your and IALL's best interests at heart.

I'm also pleased to announce that the next IALL meeting, IALL 2001, will be hosted by Claire Bartlett at Rice University in Houston, May 23-26, 2001. Plan now to join us at this

meeting, which coincidentally marks the 35th anniversary of the first IALL (NALLD) meeting held in April 1966 in San Diego. In the meantime, be sure to support your regional meetings, and if possible, join us also next summer at FLEAT IV in Kobe, Japan (July 29-Aug 1, 2000).

Finally, I hope you'll share with us your questions, concerns, suggestions, or experiences. My email box is always open ([read@lss.wisc.edu](mailto:read@lss.wisc.edu)), as are those of other Board members. ♦