

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The following are reports on two conferences attended by IALL members: one on the TESOL Conference and the other on the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. For a report on the IALL '93 conference see the Features section.

Dick Kuettner

THE TESOL CONFERENCE, ATLANTA, GA, APRIL 13 – 18

**Report by Pamela Griffin-Castro
University of Minnesota**

The 27th TESOL Convention was held April 13 – 18 in Atlanta, Georgia. As usual, it was a meeting place for thousands of ESL educators from all over the world. It was a very upbeat conference and full of things to do. The theme of the conference was "Designing our World", and creativity was evident in the ways that theme was interpreted. There were many sessions of interest to IALL members, whether involving innovative uses of technology or discussions of the state of the field.

Efforts are continuing to increase IALL's visibility in the TESOL community. At this

time I consider our energies best spent in striving to offer our expertise and materials to ESL educators to help them make good choices about lab issues.

Kennesaw State College and its Language Lab Director Lucia Rubeiro hosted an IALL lab activities workshop presented by LeeAnn Stone and Charlotte Groff-Aldridge. Twenty-five participants registered for this pre-conference institute, which provided an orientation to communicative activities for the lab, lab planning, and materials selection. Tandberg Educational, Inc. provided a post-session luncheon which gave participants further opportunity to discuss issues which arose during the workshop. The interests and experiences of the participants were widely varied, giving all of us new directions for planning presentations on these topics in the future.

The conference sessions were very diverse in topic and level. There were papers on all aspects of EFL/ESL: program administration, culture, technology, teacher education, linguistics, literacy, and curriculum. Members of TESOL are involved in teaching and administration in EFL/ESL programs for children (K – 12), adults, refugees, immigrants, and the Deaf. TESOL has two large interest sections that are concerned with technology in language teaching—

Conference Reports

CALL and video. There were 43 CALL- and 39 video-sponsored sessions, with additional sessions covering these areas mixed in the other interest sections. (Proposals are refereed through the various interest sections.) Topics of the CALL sessions included software development, curriculum integration, facility planning and management concerns, and research on uses of technology such as text analysis and concordancing, computerized testing and closed captioning. Video sessions included video production, curriculum use, materials management, and video in teacher education.

There were three video teleconferences during the week: Betty Taska and Janet Miller (USIA) and H. Douglas Brown and Else Hamayan discussed approaches and methods in foreign language teaching with educators in Latin America; Kathleen Bailey and Donald Freeman conferred with educators in Asia on education and training for EFL teachers; and Andrew Cohen and Rebecca Oxford explored approaches and methods in language teaching with educators in Europe and Africa. There was a live audience of TESOL participants at each session.

A variety of exhibitor sessions demonstrated video and computer materials for both IBM and Macintosh. The exhibitors covered a wide range of interests. There were the traditional book exhibitors; large corporate exhibits (Apple Early Learning and IBM); and smaller, more intimate technology exhibits. It was interesting to see how much more CD-ROM material was available for a variety of learners and learning situations. Both Sony and Tandberg were demonstrating their latest equipment. I would be happy to make the exhibitors list available to anyone who wants it. It's an annotated list of the people who exhibited with phone numbers and other contact information.

I heard lots of comments and questions about purchasing or planning media labs from people at large and small schools and from people all over the world. There is definitely a need for our expertise in the EFL/ESL community. In fact, I sent a few people to IALL experts.

Next year the conference will be held in Baltimore, March 8 – 12. The theme of the conference is "Sharing our Stories". For additional information about the conference please contact me at 104 Burton Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455; (612) 625-3517 (office) or (612) 458-5878 (home phone and fax).

THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES, APRIL 15 – 18, 1993, NEW YORK

**Report by Kathleen James,
Foreign Service Institute**

The Northeast Conference marked its 40th anniversary this year, and over 2000 foreign language educators were there to celebrate it. The conference began Thursday, April 15, with an array of twenty pre-conference workshops. The author co-conducted a workshop on "The Francophone World and Multicultural Unity", and David Herren led "A HyperMedia Primer for the Foreign Language Professional". Other workshops focused on film, proficiency, cooperative learning, and authentic materials.

The exhibits opened Thursday evening, and we displayed sample copies of IALL

publications and this past year's journals in the IALL booth. The Opening General Session, on Friday morning, was entitled, "Have Languages Lost Meaning in the Global Village?" Dr. Condoleza Rice, a political scientist at Stanford University, delivered a rousing address sprinkled with personal and professional anecdotes which illustrated the ever-increasing need for foreign language education in the United States.

Several sessions again demonstrated the advantages of laserdisc technology. William Chace, Hunter College, presented art works and relational databases for the purpose of teaching culture in the foreign language classroom. McGraw-Hill unveiled "Destinos", its new Spanish language and culture program for beginning students, including videodisc, print materials, audio, and software. Gilberte Furstenberg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, continued with her tradition of presenting us with more techniques in using interactive videodisc technology to create more authentic types of interaction in the classroom. Her focus was on exploiting the language laboratory to allow more class time to be spent in interactive language use. Mary Ann Lyman-Hager, Pennsylvania State University, and her team of graduate students provided us with a multilingual smorgasbord of multimedia materials in French, German, and Spanish. They also talked about some design concepts. Frank Keppeler, United States Air Force Academy, and Allen Rowe, Utah State University, discussed the success of the Academy's summer language programs for high school students which exploit multimedia technology and boast rather impressive results.

Two sessions in particular focused on the place of foreign language education in the Clinton administration and the movement to establish national standards for foreign language education. Anyone who has not

seen the draft document and who would like the opportunity to comment on it should write ACTFL, Attention: Executive Director, 6 Executive Plaza, Yonkers, NY 10701. A parallel effort to articulate professional standards for foreign language teachers has been under way with the collaboration of ACTFL, AATF, AATG, and AATSP. To obtain the complete set of documents, write to ACTFL at the above address or to any of the other organizations involved. As stated in "The New American: Project 2017", by Carol Ann Pesola (an initiative begun by ACTFL and the National Foreign Language Center), "The goal of long sequences of language instruction available for every child has been a dream of the profession for decades. That dream has never seemed more important or more attainable than in the present climate of global and educational change."

The IALL General Interest Meeting took place on Saturday morning. In addition to current members in attendance, we attracted five prospective members who had not previously heard of IALL. There was considerable interest in the organization, and the prospects welcomed follow-up contact.

The conference closed with a Prime Time Sunday morning panel discussion entitled, "Proficiency: Paradigm Shift or Flash in the Pan?" With June Phillips of the United States Air Force Academy moderating, Heidi Byrnes (Georgetown University), Myriam Met (Montgomery County Public Schools, MD), Rebecca Valette (Boston College), and Rebecca Kline sitting in for Bill Van Patten (University of Illinois) raised some questions concerning proficiency and provoked a lively debate among the attendees. Mimi Met reflected on what makes a teacher expert, touching on the variety in a teacher's repertoire, the ability to make sound instructional decisions, the necessity of being reflective and analytical to deter-

Conference Reports

mine what worked and what did not in a particular context and why. Heidi Byrnes elaborated on the teacher as researcher in the classroom; Rebecca Valette focused on learning styles; Rebecca Kline discussed how we each have our own assumptions which play a role in how we see this whole debate on proficiency.

The Advisory Council elected three new members to the Board of Directors. Clara Yu of Middlebury College, a long-time proponent of instructional technology—particularly for the less commonly-taught languages—was among the three winners. We can hope that her voice will help lay the groundwork for future collaboration on technological issues between IALL and the Northeast Conference.

Notes of Interest

The report of the Mini-Committee on Telecommunications, Audio-Visual Materials, and Instructional Software and Hardware by James Unger, Kazumi Hatasa, and Ron Granish is available for purchase through the Association of Teachers of Japanese. Send checks payable to ATJ for \$9 (members) or \$13 (non-members) to ATJ, Hillcrest 9, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or call (802) 388-3711 ext. 5915.

For more information concerning the availability of interactive programs from the Federal Language Training Laboratory, contact George Conrad, Analysas Corporation, 1615 L St. NW, Suite 1250, Washington, DC 20036 or call (202) 429-5653.