

From the President

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The primary *goal* of our organization is to promote language learning through the effective use of technology. The primary *function* of our organization is to provide viable channels for the sharing of information among members about developments in this rapidly changing field. In our work, each of us has a responsibility to keep informed about technological developments and the ways in which they can be integrated into instructional programs. The extent to which IALL can help its members in this endeavor is entirely dependent upon the ability and willingness of people within our ranks to devote their time, talents and energy to the stimulation and maintenance of an ongoing interaction through our publications and conferences and the various other channels of communication available to us.

As with any organization, there are some members who contribute more than their share to the achievement of our common goals. I would like to recognize three of our brightest stars, members whose outstanding work over the past few years has been instrumental in enabling IALL to fulfill its purpose and, in the process, to attain the prominence it now has in the profession. There are of course many others who have made and who are now making significant contributions to the association, and I trust that there will be many more such "do-ers" in the future, but these three deserve special mention for their special efforts.

Trisha Dvorak, during several years of intense involvement in the leadership of IALL as a regional leader, then as President-Elect and President, has brought to the organization a sense of mission and a determination to sharpen our professional image, as we constantly explore innovative ways of facilitating the flow of information among our members. Initiatives which she proposed upon assuming the presidency two years ago have led to the formation of various task forces, which in turn have articulated goals and strategies in several vital areas. Many of these initiatives have developed into

long-term projects and have produced policies which will continue to shape the work of the association for years to come. Fortunately, Trisha's work with IALL will continue as she serves as Immediate Past President for the next two years, and in other capacities long into the future. As I begin my term as president, I would like to express my appreciation to Trisha for leaving a solid foundation and framework on which to continue building an ever stronger association.

A second exceptionally bright star in our constellation of members is Ursula Williams, who is probably still in the process of recovering from the experience of hosting IALL '95 at Notre Dame in May. Her willingness to devote hundreds of long, hard hours to planning, promoting and conducting the event, her attention to detail, and her knack for making everything fall into place—along with a congenial nature that made the process seem like fun for her and everyone else involved in preparing for the conference—resulted in a productive and very enjoyable week for all participants. IALL was extremely fortunate to have been invited to meet at Notre Dame, where a beautiful campus and modern resources provided an ideal site to learn about the latest innovations in language learning technology. IALL '95 is truly going to be a tough act to follow!

Finally, where would IALL be without the dedicated contributions of Marie Sheppard, who has so capably served as Editor-in-Chief of the *IALL Journal* for the past two and a half years? Her tireless efforts to fill the pages of the *Journal* with relevant, accurate, up-to-date and clearly written material, including informative specialized columns as well as in-depth articles of interest to our diverse membership, have given us a publication in which we can take tremendous pride. The recent renovation of the format and style of the *Journal* has given it a clean, modern appearance that is becoming the standard for all IALL publications. Even before assuming the editorship of the *Journal*, Marie played an important role in the functioning of the organization by hosting two summer leadership meetings at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where she served as Director of the Anderson Language Technology Center until her recent disability retirement. On behalf of the entire IALL membership, thanks, Marie, for all you have done for the association, and best wishes always! ■