

From the President-Elect

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Putting more I into IALLT

The tragedy of September 11th and its consequences have hurt us all. For me, it has also renewed a commitment to improving international understanding in whatever small way we can. Working with our students and our colleagues here and abroad towards better awareness of other cultures is a slow process, but the long haul is what it's going to take, if these horrendous events are to be avoided.

In that spirit, I would like to describe some of the ways IALLT itself is becoming more involved in international activities. It was always there; but recently it's been becoming more important as our links with Europe as well as Asia grow stronger:

Asia. The first FLEAT joint conference was organized by LLA (now LET) in Japan twenty years ago. The next FLEAT is already the fifth, and we're planning now for that to take place at Brigham Young University in 2005. I'm looking forward to heading back there again, because it was the folks in BYU who helped get me started in this field with a visit in 1987, when I still wasn't sure about becoming involved with technology as a career step.

Other, younger Asian sister associations in Taiwan and Korea have also recently made overtures to us on the subject of closer cooperation. We'll be following up on these contacts, too, of course.

Europe. We've been affiliated with EuroCALL almost since the start of their association in 1993, and our members have enjoyed shared privileges at each others' conferences for some time. Three of us present and former IALLT Board members are also on the Board of their refereed journal, ReCALL: Nina Garrett,

Sue Otto and myself.

More recently, I've been in touch with CercleS, the large European association of national associations like ours (Web site: www.cercles.org). We're looking at ways of making closer ties with them. We have a lot in common. Like EuroCALL, CercleS is looking forward to reviewing our brand new Language Center Design Kit in the next editions of their publications. (If you haven't got yours yet – you can order online now at www.iall.net!).

Next, the World! IALLT is a sponsor organization – represented also by Nina - of WorldCALL II, which will be in Banff, Alberta in May 2003. Right in the heart of the Canadian Rockies in the middle of Canada's oldest national park, in a great conference center. As chair of the Program Committee, I've asked another well-known IALLT person to help select papers, along with others from the major regions of the world. The aim of WorldCALL is to promote and develop national and international networks for CALL research and practice, with special concern for the underserved regions and peoples of the world. If your own research or experience has involved you in this kind of work, WorldCALL's your forum! We should be putting out the Call for Papers at <http://www.worldcall.org>.

The last item on the international theme is one that will interest most of you directly. Last year, EuroCALL invited IALL and CALICO to a small meeting to draft a joint policy statement on CALL activities, including recognition of CALL work. The result is a document which will have slightly variant forms, but be based on the draft that came out of that meeting. EuroCALL publishes the original draft at http://www.eurocall.org/research_policy.htm.

CALICO adapted it slightly, and their membership-approved version is posted at http://calico.org/CALL_document.html. The IALLT Board is considering how we will deal with this important document. We could simply adopt one or other of the existing drafts, or amend our own version and put it before the members. If you have comments, please send them to any Board member.

One indirect, but very important benefit that we look for from this growing international recognition of our role as an association

will be better recognition of what we do as individual members on our home turf. I started out by mentioning how it's our roots that make us unique, and that, in the end, is what all this international activity is about – strengthening us as professionals.

Lastly, a word of thanks to all of you who voted in this year's round of elections. Our reputation for listening and learning depends on you being heard, especially when it comes to choosing your Board and Council representatives. I might also add that our highly democratic practice of 'refreshing' the offices of President and most Board members every two years has drawn some serious interest from sister organizations. Speaking personally, I can see after only a few months that I'm going to need all of those two years as President-Elect to get up to speed on everything that goes on behind the scenes in IALLT. Your Board works very hard for you.

As I said, lots is going on behind the scenes. It will be a busy next few years. ♦

