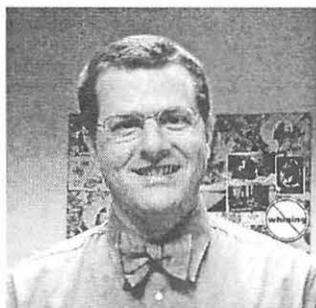


From the Incoming Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Ross
University of Richmond



Looking back, looking forward.

Transitions, once we've managed to negotiate them, provide opportunities for reflection on previous experiences and future goals. Transitions themselves are often bumpy rides through dizzying thickets of institutional history we'd never visited before, with not a few scratches and scrapes along the way, all to be expected. As matters and procedures begin to fall into place, we raise our heads to survey our surroundings and plan our course onward, but also look back at whence we've come. Although the transition from Associate Editor to Editor-in-Chief has thus far been a smooth one, I am still very much groping my way along in the process of putting out a publication. Since I am not out of the transitional thicket yet, I am going to limit myself in this column to a few brief thoughts on friendship and on the Journal.

It has been my privilege to work as Associate Editor with two people who have become much more than colleagues at the Journal. Samantha Earp, who is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal as of this issue, and Gamin Bartle, who remains on the Editorial Board as Managing Editor, have become two of my closest friends in the profession. Samantha has persistently worked to produce a Journal that is rigorous in its standards and that supports the mission of IALLT in all its facets. She has been unflinchingly inclusive with regard to decision-making and cheerful in the face of deadline pressures and the less-glamorous aspects of publication. More importantly, she has always supported her staff in their goals of making the Journal a better publication with every issue. I am, and will always remain, deeply indebted to Samantha for her encouragement and her trust, and for the opportunities she has given me to make a contribution to the profession. Gamin, our Managing Editor, is the person without whom the Journal would not appear. Her attention to detail and her unflagging enthusiasm for the work of publication are models I can only hope to emulate someday. I am delighted that Gamin has elected to continue in the role of Managing

Editor, and look forward to working with her in my new capacity as Editor-in-Chief.

With the publication of the IALLT Statement of Professional Responsibilities comes an opportunity for us all to re-examine the nature of our contributions to the profession, and to use this document as a guide for preparing future language technology professionals. The first of the Statement's planks cites research as an important part of our professional responsibilities - we all do research of varying types, from the collection of nuts-and-bolts data vital to the technical operation of our centers to second language acquisition theory and its manifestations in the use of technology to teach language. Yet, the vast majority of submissions to the IALLT Journal do not come from our members. Research can take many forms, not all of them strictly academic in nature - there is room in the Journal for a great variety of contributions to our professional literature, and I hope that you will reflect on what you can offer to it.

The editorial staff of the Journal stands ready to help you in the processes of writing and editing your contributions - please contact any of us with questions, proposals or manuscripts. If you are planning on presenting at the IALLT Conference this spring, consider taking the minimal additional step of submitting your paper for publication in the Journal. If you do not have a project in mind at present, consider working with a co-researcher on a project. Multiple-author submissions are more than welcome at the Journal, and such projects may serve to build interdepartmental or interinstitutional connections that will serve you and your constituents well over the course of time. Students in graduate programs in literature or applied linguistics have already demonstrated the requisite skills and aptitudes to perform theoretical and applied research in the fields around which our profession is centered. Many of us are dedicated mentors for these students, and have a chance to encourage them to pursue scholarly activity in this area. The IALLT Journal is actively seeking submissions from these budding language technologists - please suggest the Journal to them as a possible venue for publication.

Finally, the Journal is seeking help in the form of writers for a variety of currently vacant columns. Take a look at the columnist positions that are presently open, and let us know if you're interested in writing a short piece twice a year.

Editorial staff will come and go - that's in the nature of volunteer positions: in the final analysis, this is your Journal. It should reflect

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not the thoughts and concerns of its editors, but those of our membership; it needs to encourage continued discussion and research in the areas that comprise our field of endeavor. It needs the support of all of IALLT. We need your input, your help and your encouragement in order to continue to produce a viable publication that represents our organization and our profession.

I look forward to serving IALLT and you, and through you, the broader field of language technology. Please let me know how the Journal can best meet your needs. I can be reached via e-mail at: aross@richmond.edu. ♦

