

From the Acting Editor

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Little did I imagine two years ago, as I passed the editorship of the *Journal* to Marie Sheppard, that I would be back. But here I am, and after I tell you a bit about what's in this issue, I'll share with you some of my thoughts about IALL and its journal.

The lead article in this issue is the edited transcription of a panel discussion given at the 1994 TESOL conference by a group of veteran IALL lab directors. Their insights on "Whither the Language Lab?" are very much worth reading, although since the article is long, you may not want to do it at one sitting! In the lab notes section we see two approaches at how to get faculty involved in technology as a tool for teaching. And, as usual, we have several interesting and enlightening columns.

Those of you who attended your first IALL conference at Notre Dame this past May have learned what many of us have known for some time: IALL isn't just another professional organization, it's *your* organization.

Face it, you just don't find other language lab directors on your campus with whom you can share ideas or to whom you can look for support. IALL really does meet a special need for most of us.

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IALL doesn't depend on a paid central staff to keep things running, but instead needs willing volunteers. The editorship of the *Journal* is a case in point. After three years of being editor, I approached Marie Sheppard who graciously consented to take on the duties of editing our professional journal. Unfortunately, health concerns have forced Marie to retire (as late as last spring she was hoping to continue as editor), and that's why you have me trying my best to fill in as acting editor. But what we now need is someone to step forward who has a love for the organization, who has writing and editing skills, and who has enough energy to shepherd (pun intended) the whole process of putting together the kind of quality journal that we have come to expect under Marie's

editorship. If you're such a person (or if you know someone who is), now is your chance to give back to IALL some of what you've received. Please send inquiries or suggestions to me or to our new president, Robert Henderson.

I'd like to thank Marie Sheppard for her willingness to give of herself for IALL. I feel fortunate to call her my friend. She is one of the kindest, most selfless, and classiest persons I know. I'll miss having her directly involved in IALL, and I wish her the very best as she faces new challenges in the months to come.

Finally, I'd like to thank Robin McClanahan, Pete Smith, Harold Hendricks, Karen Landahl, Joe Toth, and all of our column writers, without whom this journal would still be a pile of manuscripts sitting in my office. ■