

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LeeAnn Stone

With the "passing of the gavel" at IALL '91 at UCLA, a new Board took over the reigns of IALL. As President, I hope that I can continue the tradition of strong leadership and guidance that my predecessors Sue Otto and Ruth Trometer set. Under their leadership, IALL has become an organization truly representative of our field, with clearly outlined goals, professional publications, and a variety of programs and activities. I hope to be able to harness the momentum they created and continue to expand the services, networks, and resources that we have come to rely on IALL to provide.

Creating an organization that "is truly representative of our field" is no easy task. Lab directors are a unique group of individuals whose strengths and expertise lie in a variety of areas including foreign language education, educational technology, library science, computer programming, engineering and electronics. In addition to any combination of the preceding, we all have management, accounting, and personnel issues to deal with on a daily basis. In short, it is not a single, clearly-defined field. As a result, there are seldom more than one of "our kind" on any campus.

Breaking this cycle of isolation is one of the main goals of IALL. Through electronic mail, the Journal, newsletters, regional group meetings and LLTI (among other avenues), IALL members have ready access to people in their state and around the world who face the same day-to-day issues as they do. And since none of us can be "experts" in every aspect of the diverse areas we cover, these networks also provide access to people whose expertise complements or supplements our own. In short, these IALL networks bring our collective expertise to each of our campuses enabling us to grow professionally and better serve our students and faculty.

What's new? The IALL resources mentioned above are expanding and coalescing even as new ones evolve. Irene Starr has been appointed Chair of a newly-formed copyright committee. Some of the projects that this committee will be looking at include drafting a copyright position statement for IALL, providing a regular copyright column for the Journal, and developing a copyright "chapter" for the Lab Planning kit.

The preliminary Lab Planning Kit is now

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available for purchase to those who have imminent need of it (see publication order sheet on page 66). Carmen Greenlee is coordinating the final product and packaging of the Kit which will consist of "updatable" modules covering various aspects of lab planning and design. The Kit will be packaged to allow for insertion of updates as well as to encourage users to collect their own materials.

Jackie Tanner (with Phil Richardson's assistance) has agreed to research and write an IALL history. Once completed, the history will be updated annually. IALL is lucky to have Jackie and Phil's time and effort, for both are IALL "old timers" who have a lot to share with those of us newer to the organization.

Ruth Trometer is heading up an IALL Awards Committee. Her assignment over

the next year is to propose and establish guidelines for a regular series of IALL awards and investigate corporate sponsors. The Board hopes to both encourage further IALL participation with these awards, as well as to provide a more formal expression of appreciation to those extraordinary efforts by certain IALL members.

Don't look for a Board meeting at ACTFL this year. Instead, IALL will hold membership (and interested parties) get-togethers at ACTFL, TESOL, CALICO and AECT instead. See the Calendar of Events and columns from our Conference Reps for specifics about given conferences.

And last, but not least, FLEAT II is now fast approaching. We hope you submitted a proposal, and that whether presenting or not, you can find the means to join us in Japan for this exciting meeting.