

## **Presidential Ponderings.....** **by Pamela Cooper**

The 35th Annual ILA Convention is now memory. For me, the convention is a memory of excitement and challenges. Before I turn to those, I must thank you all for a wonderful convention. Sorry to be a bit trite, but it does indeed "take a village" to plan and execute a successful convention. Those who helped in the planning, those who worked during the convention in a variety of roles, those who presented programs, and those who attended-- all were necessary for this convention's success. Thank you all!

The excitement at this convention was palpable. The program--full of papers, presentations, workshops, and performances--all took unique perspectives on the theme, *The Power of Storysharing*. Many of you went to the Storysharing Booth to share your memories of ILA and its impact on your professional and personal lives. During the next several months, we will be sharing these stories on the ILA webpage and they will become a part of our archives. If you did not visit the booth during this convention, have no fear! We will be continuing this project during the 36th Annual Convention in Virginia Beach in March 2015. If you can't wait until then, please send us a video for our collection. I was re-energized about ILA and that energy has not faded. I am more committed to ILA than ever and look forward to this year of working together.

I was excited to see us working together to make ILA the best it can be. We worked through the difficult issues discussed in the business meeting with respect and civility. For the first time, the final convention session was a "wrap up." Participants were invited to join Phil and me to voice their concerns, frustrations, suggestions, etc. Many ideas came from this session as well as the conversations I had with many of you at the convention. These ideas will guide our work for the coming year.

With excitement come challenges. ILA's challenges are many. The Board has begun to face these challenges in a variety of ways. I have asked Debra Worthington to set up a Task Force to examine the two issues: reconstitution of the Board and the configuration of the nominating committee.

I have asked Michael Gilbert to set up a Task Force to review the CLP and make a proposal to the Board concerning how we should move forward with this program.

According to our constitution part of ILA's vision is to "establish a network of professionals committed to promoting the study and development of effective listening." To help us do this, and in the process perhaps increase our membership, I will be setting up a Task Force to explore associations with whom we might affiliate. I will also be setting up a Task Force to explore sources of sponsorship.

As a Board we have had to make some temporary shift in duties until the election is finished and our Board is complete. Trevor Hannum has taken over the webpage (something Nan has done since we lost the previous editor) and is assisting Nan with membership records.

The web page needs to be updated in appearance as well as the content. The Board will make this a top priority. If our webpage isn't user friendly and aesthetically pleasing, viewers will not explore it. Since this is many people's look at ILA, it is important it "grabs" them. Trevor is working on this.

## **THE LISTENING POST**

VOLUME 113, MAY 2014

*Nan's duties have increased way beyond her job description, so we will be examining more closely the job description of the ED and compare it to what Nan actually does as ED. It may be the ED job description needs to be changed.*

*There have been discussions about moving the annual convention to June. There have been discussions about the convention events such as the Saturday night banquet. We will be discussing these two items and will ask for your input.*

*Phil Tirpak has chosen a great theme for the 2015 annual convention: Listening: The Key to Life. We will explore this theme when we meet in Virginia Beach, March 25-28. Mark your calendars now! Again, thank you all. Please email me with any concerns or suggestions you have. I may not be able to solve every issue, but I can promise you one thing: I WILL LISTEN!*



Edie Cole entertaining the ILA members at conference lunch.

## **Training Anyone ?** **by Erica Lamm**

Do you have great teaching or training ideas? The online journal Listening Education needs your submissions! We publish great teaching ideas, training ideas, or book reviews of educational material. Please visit [listen.org](http://listen.org) for more information, or email Dr. Erica Lamm at [LEeditor@listen.org](mailto:LEeditor@listen.org)

**36th Annual Convention  
March 25 – 28, 2015  
Virginia Beach Resort Hotel  
& Conference Center  
2800 Shore Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

By Phil Tirpak

**“The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them.”**

**Dr. Ralph G. Nichols**

Much has happened in our lives, communities, and world in the 35 years since Dr. Nichols spoke about “The Struggle to Be Human.” His words speak to the essential role that listening plays in our lives. The 2015 Convention Theme, Listening: The Key to Life! show cases the power of listening through dialogue, interaction, reflection, and application. Innovative approaches, including visual and performing arts, exhibitions, and workshops join with traditional conference formats so don't feel boxed in, don't be shy; your ideas and active participation will contribute to a diverse, enlightening, invigorating, and powerful program. We will continue a number of conversations that we had in Minneapolis and begin many more as we proclaim Listening: The Key to Life!

We will be meeting at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center that offers outstanding luxury accommodations and all bay view suites including its own private beach. Single and Double rates are \$109/night, (Triple \$119/night, Quad \$129/night,) and includes complementary Wi-Fi in the guest rooms, meeting rooms, and registration area. There is so much in Virginia Beach to see and do so come early and stay late; the special rate is valid from March 22 – April 1!

We are in the preliminary stages of planning an exciting and interesting set of pre-convention workshops and activities on March 25th and a tremendous program of sharing, learning, reflection, and a variety of activities on March 26th – 28th; you won't want to miss a moment!

Additional information, including proposal submission guidelines will be available on the ILA website, ([www.listen.org](http://www.listen.org)) soon but don't wait; share your ideas by emailing me at [ListenUSA@gmail.com](mailto:ListenUSA@gmail.com).



The Resort at Virginia Beach for the 2015 ILA convention

**International Journal of Listening  
Call for proposals for Special Fall Issue 2015  
Special Issue on Research into Learner  
Listening  
Editor-in-Chief: Margarete Imhof  
Guest Editors: Christine C. M Goh  
and Vahid Aryadoust**

The International Journal of Listening plans to publish a special issue in September 2015 on research conducted on listening among language learners in various language learning contexts. The aim is to provide a selection of high quality research articles that discuss the nature of learner listening, developments in innovative listening pedagogy, and issues in listening assessment. The scope of listening encompasses listening in schools and other academic environments, listening for professional purposes and listening in everyday life. The papers have a focus on second and foreign language learning as well as bilingual learning in different educational environments.

We welcome submissions on the following themes, but others will also be considered:

- Second language listening comprehension cognitive processes and models
- Language learners' and teachers' perceptions of listening and listening instructional practices
- Metacognition (metacognitive knowledge and strategy use) in listening
- Factors affecting or predicting listening comprehension performance
- Teaching and assessing listening in an integrative manner in the language and other subject classrooms
- Various forms of assessment of listening for general and academic purposes
- New developments in mining listening data (e.g., predictive modeling, clustering techniques, psychometric/latent trait modelling) and their applications
- Listening in a second language and the new media
- Listening and young learners

Authors interested in contributing to this volume should first submit a proposal in the form of an abstract of 400-500 words through email addressed to both guest editors. All abstracts will undergo anonymous peer review before a final selection is made.

All full length manuscripts will be submitted through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijl>. The length of the articles should be no more than 6,000 words (not including references and appendices). The journal plans to publish up to six research articles in the special issue.

The deadlines for stages of the process are as follows:

- Submission of abstracts: 31 May 2014
- Decision on proposals: 15 July 2014
- Full papers: 1 November 2014
- Decision: 1 January 2015
- Final copy: 1 July 2015

Accepted articles not selected for the special issue will be published in other issues of the journal. For submission of abstracts and all other enquiries about the special issue, please contact [christine.goh@nie.edu.sg](mailto:christine.goh@nie.edu.sg) and [vahid.aryadoust@nus.edu.sg](mailto:vahid.aryadoust@nus.edu.sg). The subject of the email should be stated clearly as “Special Issue on Learner Listening for IJL”.

# ONLINE BANKING FOR ILA BUILDING

By Michael Murphy

Promote listening? Of course! Tax deduction? Super of course, of course! Why not do as some ILA members are doing: arrange for an automatic bill pay sum to be sent to the ILA via your online banking? You don't have to remember to write a check or actually write it or address an envelope or locate a stamp for real, actual mail. More important than all of this is the benefit to the ILA. There are four specific areas you can specify. In alphabetical order they are: The Beall Fund, The ILA Legacy Life Member Fund, Operating Funds, and The Student Scholarship Fund.

One member who wishes to remain anonymous has arranged for \$20 per month to be sent automatically to the ILA. He has specified that half go into The Legacy Life Member Fund and the other half to The Student Scholarship Fund. "In this way," he says, "I am youthifying the membership as well as making sure we have a healthy, long term financial plan. Think, if just 50 members contribute only \$5 per month to the scholarship, over the course of a year that would mean \$3000. That is enough to give quite a few young people a leg up and promote the organization."

The ILA is a 501(c)(3) organization and as such, the IRS recognizes contributions as tax deductions depending on personal circumstances. Be sure to see a financial advisor for specifics.

## FORTHCOMING: ILA 2015

by Michael Murphy

Oh, yes it is! There isn't one of us who at some point couldn't look up the word procrastination in our intrapersonal dictionary and find our own portraits illustrating the definition. Yes, procrastination is alluring. And yes, the 2015 ILA Convention is on its way and you know how fast a year can fly by. Have you begun designing your proposal for Virginia Beach? By the time you read these words the wonderful gathering in Minnesota will be a full month in the rear view mirror. Make the time NOW! Why not be the first to submit your proposal! The dates are March 26-28, 2015; the theme is "Listening: The Key to Life." Keep that Minnesota momentum going.



Speaking of planning for the future: now is also the time to give careful consideration to running for office in 2015. If you have been an officer in the past, why not consider bringing all that hindsight to the ILA Executive Board again. If you believe in the mission of the ILA, look ahead and make sure there will be room in your calendar for holding office. If you know a member whose ideas and leadership would enhance the future of the ILA, pick up the phone and start that conversation now. Start that campaign of persuasion now.

Yes, the ILA is ongoing in 2014, but we are also forthcoming in 2015. Be an integral part of it all.

## The first associate professor in listening in Scandinavia

by Kent Adelman

On March 12, 2014, I passed as the first associate professor in pedagogical listening in the mother tongue in Scandinavia. The final test was an open lecture held in front of the Committee of associate professors in the section for the humanities and social science at Malmö University in the south of Sweden.

My title on the lecture was "The dialogic existence of listening", where I was telling a story about a fictitious person's experiences of listening in everyday life. The facts were primarily from my books and articles, with listening reception and reported listening, and a theoretical framework by Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975) and his dialogism (Holquist 1990). But I also tried to put listening in to a larger context of culture and society with the soundscape, noise pollution, sound business and technology of sound.

The lecture seemed to be a tremendous success. Afterwards the head of my department announced that he would like to promote my ideas about Listening Management (2013). Finally, in my speech of gratitude, I also mentioned the ILA, the network of members all over the world, and how important it is to me to be a part of that family.



**Tell Your Friends, Tell Your Colleagues, Tell  
Your Neighbors.....**

**About the International Listening  
Association**

**Bring Them to the 2015 Virginia Beach  
Conference**

**Encourage them to Become ILA Members**

**Because We Listen to Everyone!**

# Reflections from Minneapolis 2014 Convention

by Tiffany Schroeder

When I first arrived at ILA I was a bit anxious. Well, more accurately, I was very anxious. So anxious that Pam Cooper had to gently grab me by the arms and tell me to take a deep breath. I was anxious because normally I like to take in information before acting—and in terms of presentations this means having a solid understanding of who my audience is, their expectations, and their potential reactions before I speak up. But this time I had submitted to this conference I had never been to before, where I found myself surrounded by strangers who came primarily from a field I knew very little about. I also felt underprepared because my I had moved my dissertation proposal up significantly, which had given me far less time than I was comfortable with to work on this other idea I had submitted to the ILA.

After being asked a couple of times who brought me to the conference I started to feel like I didn't belong, but then I remembered that I had a solid reason for being there. I had come to the conference because I had decided I wanted to devote my career primarily to the study of listening in organizations, and a google search led me to believe that this was the group to get involved with in order to find out more about what had been done on listening. I had come because there seemed to be an endless number of listening models, trainings, and books out there, but I wasn't sure which ones were going to be the most relevant for the type of research I was planning to conduct, what the current consensus was, or which ones had a solid empirical or theoretical base. I was also just hungry to meet other people who were passionate about listening and who were as eager as I to engage their curiosity around the topic. Pam Cooper's comforting and thoughtful intervention had helped to reassure me that I was supposed to be there but still, I ended the first day still feeling anxious and somewhat out of place. I found that everyone called each other by first name and seemed to have a shared understanding that I was lacking. I wasn't sure how inviting this crowd would be toward an outsider like me. I saw that there were few students and newcomers around and this caused me to question whether the organization actually wanted newcomers or if they were more comfortable with the faces they already knew and loved. I knew that the ILA was offering auction funds to students who were presenting research, and giving a top student paper award, so I figured that they were wanting students to attend. At the same time, it worried me that I only met two other students during my first day. "Where are all of the other students who will be the future of listening research?" I wondered. I was also coming to see that some individuals had rather narrow views on listening and I started to question how open this group was toward dialogue around alternative ideas. To be honest with you, by the end of the first day I wasn't sure that I wanted to be a part of this organization, and this scared me when I considered the fact that I had already decided that I wanted to create a career around the studying listening and that I needed other listening scholars to engage in this conversation with me. Thankfully, my impressions of the association turned around dramatically by the second day, and even more so by the third day.

Things really changed for me during the second day when I attended a session by Dick Halley, Mike Purdy, and Jerry Catt. In this session I saw a thoughtful conversation happening and well-constructed ideas being discussed. I saw these respected panelists trying to build on each other's work in order to produce a more complete picture of listening. I saw an engaged and curious audience. I saw hope for the study of listening and this association. I was reenergized and engaged!

I went back to the room to finish putting together my presentation. I reminded myself that I had a unique perspective and was raising some questions that could help push forward the study and practice of listening. I remembered my deep love for the topic and my yearning to

partake in an intellectual exchange around the topic. I reminded myself that although I was a newbie at this conference, that I was planning to devote my career to this topic and that, in the end, this group should certainly want to help me succeed in that endeavor. We didn't know each other well yet, but we were in this together.

By the time my presentation came around I was much more confident and I was excited to share the work I had prepared. I introduced myself to the audience, I let them see my enthusiasm for the topic, and I encouraged them to come up with their own implications for the ideas that I was sharing. The feedback that I received from the audience was stimulating and I found joy in the conversations that continued in the hallway. I then went to another session where I heard another student present something similar to my own dissertation topic. I was ecstatic to have found another graduate student who was interested in exploring the impact of listening on the employee-organization relationship and who was eager to swap perspectives, and she was just as ecstatic! I went back to the room that I was sharing with someone through the roommate match option, and we had wonderful conversations about technology and religion as they related to listening. Finally, I had found the little intellectual playground I had been looking for. It was a challenging yet fun environment—playing with my new friends was a little tiring, but more so, it was energizing and invigorating.

By the third day I felt completely at home, jumping right into the activity on this intellectual playground. I felt free to join in the parts that were the most exciting to me and at the same time I appreciated that the playground was still small enough that I wasn't completely separated from those who enjoyed other parts more than I did. We could still see and hear each other, our paths were crossing tracks in many more places than I had imagined they would.

After spending 3 days with the ILA folks I leave with much more than I had expected on that first day. I feel welcomed and embraced in the community and eager to help carry it forward. While I didn't necessarily walk away with all the things I had been hoping for prior to arriving in Minneapolis I did walk away with something just as good if not better—I had developed deep and meaningful connections with the people I had not expected to, and had a sense of true belonging to a new community.



Carol Christy presenting on storytelling

## Join in and celebrate the ILA! Be part of the Listening Quilt!

by Phil Tirpak



Stories are an essential part of the human experience; they bring a sense of wonder, bring us together, remind us of what is important to us, and enrich our future. We listened to many stories and learned about The Power of Storysharing in Minneapolis. It's time to celebrate the story of the ILA as we move forward this next year and prepare for the 2015 Convention and you can be an integral part of that story.

Join Master Quilter Sharon Tindall as she begins a year-long project of creating a Listening Quilt that will be unveiled at the 36th Annual Convention in Virginia Beach! Ms. Tindall will be bringing her exhibition, "The Underground Railroad Quilt Codes, Fact or Fiction?" to Virginia Beach and will also be conducting a hands-on workshop that will allow us to listen to the stories of the quilts and build new stories of our own. Her work has been featured in The Washington Post and exhibited at several museums in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Listening Quilt promises to become part of the rich story of the ILA and you can be part of it, here's how:

Share ¼ yard of 100% cotton fabric, (colors, patterns, and designs are your choice,) place it in a clear plastic bag, (baggie, zip-lock, or similar,) along with a card that has your name, state, affiliation, (if there is a story that goes along with the fabric include that as well,) and send it to 1st Vice President Phil Tirpak: 4522 Lantern Place, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Thanks to everybody who brought fabric to the convention in Minneapolis, there was such an amazing variety, but we need much more! As Sharon creates the Listening Quilt we will have pictures and updates. Spread the word and be part of the celebration!

If you have any questions please email Sharon at [stindall@nvcc.edu](mailto:stindall@nvcc.edu)

## Healthcare and Listening Conference

Are you interested in listening and healthcare research? Radboud REshape & Innovation Centre of the Radboud Medical Centre in Nijmegen, the International Listening Association, and Skipr, are hosting a conference themed, "Transforming Healthcare through the Power of Listening" in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, on October 30 and 31 October 2014.

For more information contact: Jennie Grau at [Jennifer@grauic.com](mailto:Jennifer@grauic.com)

## Memories from the 2014 ILA Conference in Minneapolis



Harvey Weiss, former ILA President with the quartet at the ILA opening night reception

## Stopping for Nourishment and Good Conversation



Left-to-right: Carol Christy, Frank Thomas, Susan Timm, Chuck Timm, Richard Halley, Tatchan Akasaka, Kathy O'Brien, and Margarete Imhof

## Intense Listening at Dinner



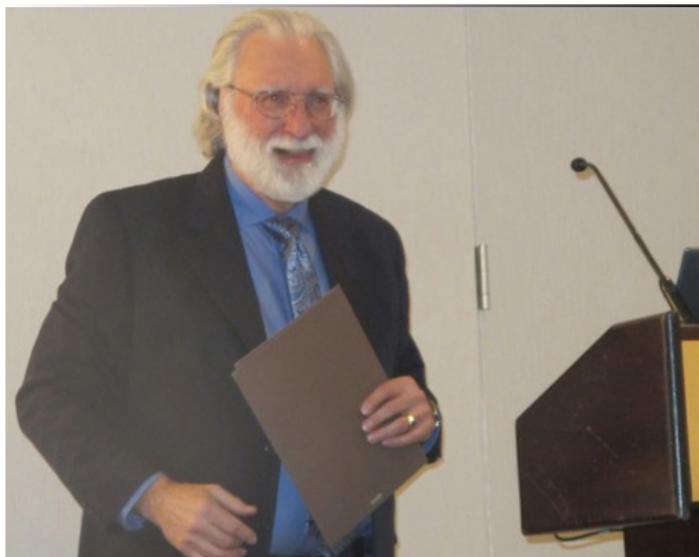
Jerry Catt-Oliason and Teruko (Teri) Akita

## **ILA Members Like to Eat and Listen**



Margarete Imhof and Maria Roca

## **AN ILA Conference Presentation**



Richard Halley



Jerry Catt-Oliason, Teri Akita, and Margarete Imhof

## **ILA International Members Hang Together**



Left-to right: Margarete Imhof, Helen Ralston, Teri Akita, Tatchan Akasaka, Kathy O'Brien, and Anita Dorczak



Kay Lindahl and Michael Purdy



**Three Decades of Past Presidents:** Back Row: Rick Bommejc;, Ray McKelvy, Richard Halley, Sheila Bentley, Chris Bond, Maragrete Imhof, Wayne Bond: Front Row: Melissa Beall, Manny Steil, Maria Roca, Lisa Orick-Martinez, and Debra Worthington



Left side of table: Nan Johnson-Curiskis, Pam Cooper, Bob Bohlken, Mary Bohlken: Right side of the table: Debra Worthington, Harvey Weiss, Kae Van Engen, Nadine Marsnik and Manny Steil

## ILA Award Winners



Back-to Front: Maragarete Imhof, Franca Ferrari, Rosanne Vogel, and Barbara Lynch

## The BOB and NADINE SHOW!!



Bob, Bohlken Nadine Marsnik and Harvey Weiss together at the conference.



Bob Bohlken, Nadine Marsnik switching it up with Nan Johnson Curiskis at the conference.



Left-to right: Robert Kehoe, Kathy O'Brien and Richard Halley

**Congratulations to ALL Award Winners!!!**



Bob Bohlken's License Plate!

# The Statemen and Stateswomen (Hall of Fame) at the 2014 International Listening Association Convention



Back Row: Michael Purdy, Rick Bommelje, Richard Halley, Manny Steil, Wayne Bond, Sheila Bentley  
Front Row: Melissa Beall, Nan Johnson-Curiskis, Edie Cole and Bob Bohlken

The members of the ILA sincerely thanks these men and women for all the work and passion they have given and are giving to make this association the greatest listening organization globally. We, the members, salute you with our heart, minds and ears!