



LISTENING POST

Newsletter of the International Listening Association

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ILA CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY: JULY 18-22, 2007 LISTEN AND MAKE THE CONNECTION

ARE YOU MAKING PLANS FOR GERMANY YET?

by Margarete Imhof, First VP

The fall board meeting brought it home to me: The ILA convention 2007 in Frankfurt is around the corner! As we get ready to prepare on our end to make the Frankfurt convention a memorable and pleasant experience for everyone, I would like to encourage you to start planning, too. Give yourself a head start. It cannot be too soon, because there might be a couple of things that take time.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF FRANKFURT

by Margarete Imhof



As you are getting ready to plan for the 2007 convention, the local arrangements team would like to give you some impressions of the city of Frankfurt.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

LISTENING AND HUMILITY, PART 2:

A Challenge to the ILA Membership

By Dr. Maria F. Loffredo Roca, President

"How do we rise to the challenge of becoming humble listeners?" That is the question I promised to address in this President's Perspective. I invited readers to correspond with me about this topic if it piqued their interest. Kay Lindahl, ILA member and author of *The Sacred Art of Listening: Forty Reflections for Cultivating a Spiritual Practice, Practicing the Sacred Art of Listening: A Guide to Enrich Your Relationships and Kindle Your Spiritual Life - The Listening Center Workshop, and How Does God Listen?*

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Executive Director's Report

by Jim Pratt, Executive Director



Those who expected nothing but rain in Salem were disappointed. The flowers and flowering trees were all in bloom, and nearly everyone chose to walk to nearby River Front Park for our Friday evening dinner cruise on the Willamette Queen. The glass-enclosed second-floor lobby of the convention center was the location for all of our social functions, as well as registration and displays. The convention center and hotel staff was eager to welcome us as the first international convention to be held in this beautiful facility. Final convention registration was 107, and the business conference on Lean Management was acclaimed by all who attended, many of whom were from the local business community. Excellent programs, strong student participation, and renewed associations with members we hadn't see for decades made this convention especially memorable.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY, IN 2007: July 18-22

You can fly into Frankfurt non-stop from most major airports in the world. We haven't decided yet whether to take the frequent American Airlines service from Chicago or to fly Icelandair directly from Minneapolis. If you're planning a vacation before or after the convention, you can fly into any airport on the Continent and take the marvelous European trains to Frankfurt: the main railroad station is closer to the hotel than the airport, and just as easy to reach by public transportation. But do heed Margarete's advice: DON'T rent a car! From the airport, a 15-minute subway ride will take you to Konrad Adenauer Strasse and the main downtown pedestrian shopping mall, one block from our convention hotel. Operated by the Spanish chain Navarre Hotels, the NH Frankfurt City Hotel is ultra-modern and stylish. An immense breakfast buffet of cold cuts, cheeses, breads, yogurt, soft-boiled eggs, cereal, fruit, coffee or tea, and juices is included in the 99-Euro per night room rate, and for a 3-Euro fee, you can have a slightly more modest sampling of that buffet served in your room! Good food, as always, is a part of the ILA tradition.

PORTLAND, MAINE, IN 2008: March 25-30

Our conventions take us from the West Coast of the United States in 2006 to the East Coast in 2008. One bit of geographical trivia is that Portland Maine is closer to London, England, than to Los Angeles, California, although by only a few miles. Whatever your point of origin, Portland is easy to reach. Frequent non-stop service is scheduled from major airports in the U.S.; Boston Logan International Airport is about 100 miles to the south. Amtrak commuter service runs between Boston and Portland, and those who wish to make the connection can take the new Silver Line subway from the Logan Terminal to the Amtrak Station. I chose to rent a car at Logan and enjoyed a two-hour all-freeway drive to Portland, with the added benefit of a brief rest stop in New Hampshire, a state I had not visited before. Our hotel is the Holiday Inn By The Bay, which, at 285 rooms, is the largest hotel in the State of Maine. The hotel offers stunning views of the harbor to the east and the White Mountains to the west. They also provide free transportation in the hotel van between the airport and Amtrak Station and the hotel, and parking in the underground garage is free for registered guests. Please plan to join us on March 25-30, 2008.

Thanks for listening

A Special Thanks to David Beard from ILA President, Maria F. Roca

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of the International Listening Association, I extend our heartfelt thanks to David Beard for his years of service as editor of the International Journal of Listening. For anyone who has ever edited a publication, you are aware of the hours of hard work necessary to produce a high quality final product. David has worked tirelessly to produce the IJL the last few years and has been a wonderful, thoughtful voice on the ILA Executive Board. We will miss him but hope to see David at ILA meetings in the future.

*Regular editions of the IJL will now be edited by James Floyd and special editions by Nanette Johnson-Curiskis.
Read David's Farewell Message on Page 5.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF FRANKFURT

Continued from Page 1



Frankfurt integrates old and modern architecture. The church in the foreground is the "birthplace" of democracy in Germany and was used for the First National Democratic Assembly in 1848. (Which did not quite work out, yet, at the time, but which must have been fun, because it went all the way through 1849). The highrise with the antenna in the background is the tallest building in Europe and was completed in 1997



The "Old Opera" is a concert hall which may look old but is very much alive and modern. It has been built at the expense of the citizens of Frankfurt who were then proud to present "their" opera house.



Among German cities, Frankfurt is the one known for its fast pace of life on the one

hand and for the "Gemuetlichkeit," or rather, relaxed atmosphere and vibrant spirit. This photograph features the "Ebbelwoi-Express", an old streetcar with no hurry, which tours the city at slow speed.



This fountain right in front of the city hall features Justitia, the allegory for justice. In the past, the fountain was also used for celebrations and holidays or other occasions when the city administration wanted to make everybody happy; they ran complimentary wine through the faucets instead of water.



The local arrangements committee is looking forward to welcoming you in Frankfurt and to showing you around our city. We are planning for time in and around the convention to show you the city and the environments. We are working on a program that gives you – so we hope – more than a tourist's view into the hidden treasures of Frankfurt. If you cannot wait, we invite you to take a virtual tour which starts on the conference website. Access the tour by clicking on the conference logo on ILA's own website www.listen.org. On the conference website you might find other helpful information as you plan your trip.

President's Perspective

continued from page 1



permission to share her wisdom with you. Kay wrote:

"One of my daily prayers for the past few years is that I will be centered, grounded and

humble as I listen and speak. The word humble has some garbage attached to it - at least in religious circles. Being humble is sometimes thought of as meek, poor, subservient. When I saw that one of the derivations of humble is humus - earth - I started to see it as related to being centered and grounded. When I listen with humility, I am grounded in the present moment. There is no other moment but the present moment. It is exactly as you describe. And, it is not easy to do! That's why I believe that contemplative practices are so important - they prepare us for this type of listening."

Kay has given us a wise approach to cultivating our own humility and then transferring this humility to our listening behavior. Contemplative practices are essential to becoming humble people and, as a result, humble listeners. These practices (meditation, yoga, journaling, centering prayer, etc...) allow us to quiet our minds, become centered, listen to ourselves, examine our biases, hear the noise that interferes with our ability to listen openly to others, along with providing many other physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual benefits. Contemplative practices also help us nurture patience. In

the words of Thomas Merton, "I need patience to listen, to learn, to try to understand."

In our quest to become humble listeners we must, as Lindahl notes, become centered and grounded. We must, as Merton notes, develop patience. And we must learn to resist judging others. Writing about the Bible parable about refraining from commenting about the splinter in someone else's eye when we have a plank in our own, Madeleine L'Engle says, "What is the truth of the story of the man with the great plank in his eye? Doesn't it tell us very clearly that we must not judge others more stringently than ourselves?" She also suggests "understanding is a gift which comes when we let go, and listen." To be humble listeners, we cannot judge others "more stringently than ourselves." Indeed, I would argue that the most effective humble listeners does not judge others at all.

With these thoughts in mind, I am issuing a challenge to the ILA membership. I would like our membership to join forces in a "Planetary Listening Initiative." The goal of this initiative is to nurture our own humble listening ability and then do something in each of our communities to promote listening for understanding. I am challenging you to come up with a creative activity in your home community that allows people to listen to each other's stories without fear of judgment. The ultimate goal should be to develop a deeper understanding of others and to honor the humanity and uniqueness of people in our communities. A few suggestions might be to go to a local nursing home and ask residents to share their stories about family, about their own life chal-

lenges, or about their greatest triumphs. Invite a group of people from different political parties to come together simply to tell their stories of how they have come to value what they do and how they are trying to live these values. Volunteer at a local elementary school and ask a group of children to share stories about their lives.

Once you have carried out your own Planetary Listening Initiative project, share your story! Write to us at the Listening Post so we can include the reports of your experiences in future editions of the Post. Stories can be sent to me at mroca@fgcu.edu.

I challenge each of us to take to the world the miracle of humble listening. Let the people in our communities know that membership in the International Listening Association means a demonstrated commitment to BE great listeners and to TEACH others to do the same.

2008 CONFERENCE THEME Contest Winner

I had many wonderful choices for a theme for our Portland, ME, 2008 conference, and that made it hard!

The winning theme was submitted by Ray McKelvy and it is...
ta dum....

LISTENING LIGHTS THE WAY

The logo will have one of Maine's popular lights houses. I hope to see you at the 2007 conference in Frankfort, Germany and at the 2008 conference in Portland, Maine where "Listening lights the way!"

Lisa M. Orick-Martinez, Ph.D.
First Vice-President Elect

TOP RESEARCH PAPER AWARD!

Presenting a research paper at the Frankfurt Conference? Consider entering it for the Top Research Paper Award or the Top Student Research Paper Award, both sponsored by the Research Committee. Peer reviewers from the committee will select that top three papers for the Top Research Panel and the top three papers for the Top Student Research Panel; the Top Paper from each panel will be announced at the Saturday evening banquet.

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Your abstract must be accepted for the Frankfurt conference (see call for submission details). All accepted abstracts are eligible for top paper awards.
2. A complete copy of your manuscript should be sent as a Word attachment to gbodie@purdue.edu. Include a separate title page, and remove all identifying information from your submission. Student papers should include the words "Student Paper" on the title page. Only papers authored solely by students can compete within this category.
3. These completed submissions will be due no later than March 15, 2007.
4. Check the ILA website for award criteria.

Questions? Contact Graham Bodie
at gbodie@purdue.edu

Nominate Someone for an ILA Award

The ILA Awards Committee seeks nominations for annual awards to be presented at the Saturday night banquet in Frankfurt, Germany.

Nominations may be submitted via the website, email, or U.S. mail. The nominator should include contact information about the nominee (name, address, phone, email, if known), and a paragraph or more providing qualifications and specific supporting documentation.

Please check the website: www.listen.org for qualification details and nomination details.

AWARDS:

- HALL OF FAME
- SPECIAL RECOGNITION
- LISTENER OF THE YEAR
- LISTENING IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR
- OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR
- LISTENING RESEARCH AWARD
- LISTENING RESEARCH AWARD-GRADUATE THESIS/DISSERTATION
- LISTENING RESEARCH AWARD-UNDERGRADUATE

Farewell from ILJ Editor, David Beard

Thanks to the readers of the IJL. Thanks especially to those readers invested enough to support the Erlbaum contract and the new directions it will take IJL. Thanks to those who wrote for IJL while I was editor and those who will contribute in the future -- we need your work, as the members of the Association benefit from your research. Thanks to Jim Pratt for a million kindnesses over the last four years. And thanks to the whole board for a million other kindnesses. I hope to join you in Germany as a member, rather than an editor. And I leave IJL in capable hands in Drs. Floyd and Johnson-Curiskis. (See ILA President Maria Roca's special thank you to David on page 2.)



LISTENING LEGEND: BOB BOHLKEN

Bob has served the ILA as Vice President, chair of the educational curriculum/assessment committee, and coordinator for the "swap shop," a sharing session for teacher and trainer activities. He co-authored the ILA booklet on quotable phrases and scripted ILA radio public service announcements. Bob was recently inducted into the ILA Hall of Fame.

Bob's Opening Remarks:

I thank the board and the last Listening Legend, Kittie Watson, for nominating me for this honor. I believe that if I am "legendary" in ILA, it is primarily because of the levity that I have brought to the conferences. My "quest" to find and to observe "sin," my bad jokes at my sessions and my random/non-sequitur comments at by-law discussion meetings have brought comic relief for over twenty years.

The "sin thing" originated in 1985 at the Conference's Banquet. Mother Mary, my spouse for 48 years, was teaching and didn't attend in those days. I sat at a table composed of "ladies" including the spouse of a religious minister. We were discussing the difficulties in defining and giving connotative meaning to abstract words such as "listening". Having knowledge in the area of semantics/linguistics and feeling confidence created by the wine I was imbibing, I compared the abstractness of "listening" to that of "sin." The minister's wife was quick to challenge my metaphor by saying that "sin" was not abstract but tangible and specific in nature. She said, "sin was a transgression from 'moral' or 'religious law'" (Whatever that means). I asked where I might find "sin?" She replied, "It's everywhere," as she glanced at my nearly empty wine glass. At that point I realized that "sin" had a greater connotative value for her than "listening." I dropped the subject by saying that I would be alert, seek out and observe "sin" at future ILA conferences. Sheila Bentley and her Mother, Dorothy Carver, were sitting at the table and henceforth, they have reminded me of my commitment.

Since then, I, accompanied by several other ILA members attending conferences, have sought out "sin" not only in "dens of iniquities" but also at conference break times. Harvey is usually there to record on film the "sightings" and my poised responses. Dorothy once said that I wouldn't know what to do if "sin" were sitting on my lap. That was refreshing for Mother Mary to hear. I have observed Sheila and Margaret "lusting" for chocolate, Charlie sneaking out of the conference to go to the "races" and Tom "to go play golf." At Salem in the hotel lounge, I observed our ILA President, Barbara Nixon, embrace and "passionately kiss" this unfamiliar man. Fortunately, I found out later that the man was her husband. Over the years many references have been made at conferences about my "quest" to observe, not partake, in "sin."

I hear there is "sin" in Frankfurt and I hope that you all attend and witness it.

The greatest "sin" that I have observed are people who don't listen and don't care. Apathy and indifference are major enemies of effective listening. I think it is great that ILA has operationally defined "listening," but I still have not been able to operationally define "sin." From my cohorts, I have received "Sin Zen Zinfandel" wine, a ceramic container to put the sins in and soap to wash myself clean from the sins that I observe. I am pleased to have created a humorous diversion from our serious pursuits in the study of listening from a variety and very diverse perspectives.

What originally motivated your interest in the field of listening?

During my study from my B.S. in Language Arts Education, to my Masters of Art in Speech/Theatre, to my Ph.D. in Spoken Communication and during my 42 years of teaching, the emphasis had been on three of the four language skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. In the years before 1984, I taught reading (literature), speech/rhetoric, written composition/creative writing, semantics/linguistics and theatre, but not listening. It was at that time that I relinquished my position as "Head of the Division of Communication" and devoted full time to my professorial responsibilities. I was given the opportunity to explore and develop expertise in two areas of "language arts" that I felt were neglected: listening and semantics/linguistics. Our university department had received an announcement of the ILA Conference in Scottsdale. I had known Andy Wolvin, the president of ILA at that time, from graduate school at the University of Nebraska. I called the telephone number on the announcement and visited with Dee Steil. She encouraged me and convinced me that I should attend. She inspired me with her caring, and I have missed only three ILA annual conferences since that time.

Whom have you considered a great listener and how has that person inspired you?

"Mother Mary" my spouse for 48 years is my number one listener. But, I have found many excellent listeners who fit my criteria at ILA Conferences and I call them friends. When they ask a question, they wait to listen to the answer. Within ILA we have mutual respect in regards to each other's knowledge and character. Most importantly we "care" about each other.

What do you consider your most significant accomplishment in the field?

I developed and had approved a basic listening course and "special topics-listening" courses for seniors and graduate students. I developed and delivered a "listening in the classroom" presentation for the University's freshman orientation. Over the years I have presented it to more than 10,000 students. I have presented "applied research papers" at 17 ILA Conferences; all of the most recent ones are available through ILA's Convention Paper Resource Center. Together with Kimberly Batty-Herbert, I will attempt to reinstate the "Swap Shop" for teaching/training activities that we had conducted for years. In the past, with the help of those in the education interest group, I developed "Listening Competency Standards for Secondary School Graduates." Unfortunately it never got beyond the education interest group discussion. I have written and had published a children's book, *Listen to the Mukies and Their Character Building Adventures*, that is intended to be shared by early elementary age students with their parents. The book has received the national "Mom's Award" and five star reviews at Amazon.com. ILA members, Pamela Cooper and Kimberly Batty-Herbert have endorsed it.

What changes would you hope to see in the listening field?

I hope that we can make interpersonal communication the most important means of communication and listening the most important skill. Listening needs to be recognized as a language skill that can be taught and competency tested. To me, caring for and with other communicators is the most essential element in all types of effective listening. Electronic media may be an efficient means for delivering information, but it is cold, temporary and indifferent. We need to convince people that listening is a learned skill that is reciprocal in nature.

What suggestions would you have for the ILA?

I believe that a significant challenge we face in ILA is the reestablishment of the "education" interest group. Children develop their language skills early but these skills, especially listening, must be practiced continually. I give motivational talks to "offenders" at the local treatment center who do not realize that listening is a language skill that they can develop in order gain self-esteem and respect. The teachers in our schools must be trained in teaching listening and the only apparent places for this is in our teachers colleges and our professional organization, ILA. The future of our ILA lies in the recruitment and retention of instructor members at both the school and college levels who find the services "we" (ILA) offer are consistent and necessary at all levels of education and that we care to share and help. I believe

that we should make direct communication with language arts instructors at the secondary and college levels via e-mail or snail-mail informing them of the ILA Website, publications, conferences and conference papers resource center. That was the way I got involved.

What has been your greatest challenge in promoting listening skills?

My greatest challenges in promoting as well as personally using the skill of listening are time, preoccupations and establishing the promotion of ILA and listening as a priority. I truly admire and respect Melissa Beall, Andy Wolvin, Jim Pratt, Harvey Weiss, Sheila Bentley and Nanette Johnson-Curiskis for their dedication in promoting listening and ILA.

How has your affiliation with the ILA helped you?

It has enhanced my credibility and perceived expertise. I am the "expert" on the skill of listening in this "neck of the woods." It has provided me with instruction and information about listening and the opportunity to share my methods and research with those who are interested and with colleagues who care and share with me. It has also provided me with recognition and the opportunity for socially accepted, "non-sinful fun."

Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share?

I wish to share this poem with you.

Listen to the One in the Mirror
By Bob Bohlken

When life's choices come your way
Listen to what others have to say
But when all is said and done
Look into the mirror and listen to the reflected one.

When temptations are laid at your door
And promises are yours to take
Discuss the consequences and more
But listen finally to the one in the mirror for your sake.

You may fool the world throughout the years
Others may admire you as you pass
But you'll suffer heartache and tears
If you don't listen to the one in the glass.

It is you alone who makes your choices
No matter what others may say or do
You may listen to other voices
But the voice of the reflected one
Is most important to you.

Many thanks, Bob, for sharing your thoughts and your poem, for your sin watches, and for your great contributions to the field.



Fall Listening Forum Update

By Laura Janusik

Listening research has long suffered from two challenges. First, those interested in listening are dispersed throughout the world, and there are rarely two people in the same location to build synergy. Second, many of us lack the resources to conduct an entire study or project by ourselves. The Fall Listening Forum was designed to address both issues. Participants shared two ideals. First, we all felt that listening was important. Second, we felt that we could individually do something about the state of listening.

The Fall Listening Forum was co-sponsored by ILA and Rockhurst University. A total of 88 participants from 5 countries, including 8 graduate students, registered for the event. Our goal to set the listening research agenda in five contexts was achieved. Participants in Business, Education, Health Care, Religion and Spirituality, and Theory and Research joined forces and committed to one study.

In the future, a portion of ILA's website will be devoted to news from the Forum. You'll be able to review each context's notes from their two days of meetings and identify how they came to commit to their goal. Groups are now designing their studies, and the final studies should be including in a special edition of the Journal of the International Listening Association in spring of 2008.

Below is a brief recap of each context's primary focus for its study. Questions about the Forum can be directed to Laura Janusik at laura.janusik@rockhurst.edu.

Business

Priority: To identify the costs of not listening

Description: Identify the percentage of potential lost profit in a variety of business contexts

Research Question: What is the relationship between the incongruity of people's perceptions of each others' listening competence and the success of an organization?

Education

Priority: Identify teacher expectations of effective listening

Description: Through a secured online survey, teachers will answer questions relating to students' effective listening abilities, skills, and practices, and teachers' habits, tools used, and approaches to listening.

Research Questions: What does listening mean to teachers? What are teachers expectations of effective listening?

Health Care

Priority: To test various models, theories, and instruments of listening in health contexts.

Description: A descriptive study to examine the perception of listening within various healthcare contexts (patients, providers, caregivers, etc.)

Research Questions: What does listening mean to health care professionals? Do different groups of health care professionals perceive listening differently?

Religion and Spirituality

Priority: To recognize and neutralize our own emotionally - charged words and phrases in intrapersonal, interpersonal, and interfaith dialogue with the context of an interfaith listening study.

Description: To investigate if people who recognize and neutralize their own emotionally charged words and phrases and who are able to identify, understand and embrace their own vulnerability and fear, contribute in a more positive and productive way to interfaith dialogues.

Desired Outcome: To develop listening strategies to initiate and promote positive and productive interfaith dialogue.

Theory and Research

Priority: Establish reliability and validity of the LSP-16.

Description: Prior research has shown reliability estimates are inconsistent. No attempt has been made to assess validity. This study will add items, and revise existing items to address both cognitive and behavioral factors of each sub-scale. The study also will establish discriminant and convergent validity related to other constructs.

Research Questions: What can we do to improve the inconsistency and reliability of the LSP-16? What are those constructs with which the scale should/should not be associated?

LISTENERS UNITE! at ListenersUnite.com

by Linda Eve Diamond, LP Editor



ListenersUnite.com, my listening website, features listening quotes, thoughts on listening and peace, a listening blog titled: *Have You Heard?* and a link to the Listeners Unite! Store, where you will find posters, tee shirts and more. Visit ListenStore.com..

The "Have You Heard?" blog covers "all things listening" and welcomes your comments and feedback. I would also be happy to add notes, events, and information of interest if you have anything you'd like to send.

In the spirit of listeners uniting, I invite ILA members to be part of my upcoming books. I have been listening to the ongoing call for more listening material for school and training purposes and am compiling for publication a collection of listening exercises.

Please help me in this endeavor to create an organized, published resource of listening activities and exercises. If you are interested, see my request for submissions below. Bob Bohlken and Kimberly Batty-Herbert have brought back the Swap Shop, a wonderful exchange for ILA members. As you contribute your work to Bob, consider contributing here, as well, to share your work with beyond the ILA.

To receive website updates, please write to info@listenersunite.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.

New listening book: RULE #1, STOP TALKING; A GUIDE TO LISTENING, published in February 2007

Unlike my previous books, this book is self published. Even with publisher contacts, books on listening are a hard sell! My hat's off to those of you who have gotten publishers to buy in. In my introduction, I reprint some of my rejection letters, which read like glowing endorsements. One ends by saying: "I do fervently hope you can find a publisher with an idea of how to make it the must read book for everybody." I received a great deal of enthusiasm from publishing executives who were shot down when they brought the idea to their marketing departments who believe that not enough people are interested in listening.

I believe, as I'm sure you do, that they're wrong and I'm betting the cost of my book on it as well as moving forward with others. I believe strongly in the importance of listening and in the work being done by the ILA and its members and hope to add your contributions to upcoming books.

*I have two other books coming out in January: **The Human Experience and Teambuilding that Gets Results**. Another team building book, with a special ILA acknowledgement, **Perfect Phrases for Building Strong Teams** will be out in the spring. To see a full list of titles, please visit LindaEveDiamond.com.*

CONTRIBUTE TO LISTENING BOOKS!

Contributors will receive full credit in the book, including (if you wish) contact information and a link from ListenersUnite.com. The link will identify you as a listening expert and book contributor.

Please send a brief bio with your submissions. (Feel free to send submissions ahead of bios.)

Call for submissions: Listening Exercises Share your knowledge, gain exposure, and use your expertise to bring listening education to the next level! Please submit as many exercises as you would like.

Call for submissions: Listening Anecdotes & Stories Please send stories or anecdotes of any length, whether touching, enlightening, interesting or funny. They should show, in some way, the importance or impact of listening.

Please send submissions by e-mail to info@ListenersUnite.com or by mail to:
Linda Diamond, 417 East Sheridan Street, Suite #300, Dania, FL 33004

Questions? Call 954-924-0047

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOANNE HOPPER

by Jennie Gill
Student Executive Board Member



Joanne Hopper, an Ed.D. candidate in Educational Leadership at Central Michigan University, has worked in K-12 education for over 19 years. Before beginning her doctoral program, Joanne received her Bachelor's degree in English and her Master's in teaching with an emphasis in English from Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, MI.

Joanne began her career in education as a high school English teacher in 1993 and later became a junior/senior high school principal. As principal, she developed programs to advance academic excellence, improve career exploration, and expand student engagement in the community. Joanne later became the Assistant Coordinator of General Education and the Distance Learning Coordinator for the Lapeer County Intermediate School District. Here, she facilitated a distance learning network linking high school classes in five districts, coordinated a countywide New Teacher-Mentor Program, and designed and implemented a professional development program for teachers and administrators. Joanne presently holds the position of Director of General Education Services for the Sanilac Intermediate School District in Peck, MI. She provides professional development, curriculum support, student services, and educational resources for administrators, teachers, and students across her school district. Joanne is currently serving her second term as President-Elect of the Michigan

Mathematics and Science Centers Network. She works with educators across the state to develop curriculum support for science and math education.

Joanne was first introduced to the field of listening by Dr. Michael Gilbert, the Chair of the Educational Leadership Department at Central Michigan University. Dr. Gilbert incorporated listening research into the cognate course in problem solving through lectures, modeling, and class discussions. Joanne is most interested in how effective listening influences effective leadership, and also how to develop ways to increase the teaching of listening in the K-12 curriculum.

As a new member of the International Listening Association, Joanne attended the 2006 conference in Salem, Oregon. She presented her paper, An Exploration of Listening Instruction in the K-12 Curriculum, which analyzes K-12 listening standards in Michigan and evaluates resources available to K-12 teachers. Findings of this analysis showed that in K-12 education, there are few listening resources available to teachers. Furthermore, listening skills and other language arts skills are not taught or assessed in the same manner. Look for this article in an upcoming International Journal of Listening. Joanne made many great connections at the ILA conference and is very excited to continue studying listening, attending ILA conferences, and networking with other listening scholars.

So next time you're asked about ILA's student members, you can say that you know one: Joanne Hopper.

This column was created by Jennie Gill, student Executive Board Member and Ph.D candidate at Purdue University. Student Spotlight will appear annually.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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Recruit, Train & Maintain for Future Success

By Graham Bodie, Research Committee Chair

The transition from cause to effect, from event to event, is often carried on by secret steps, which our foresight cannot divine, and our sagacity is unable to trace. — *Joseph Addison (1672-1719), British essayist*



The future of our field rests on the ability to recruit, train, and maintain a fresh batch of scholars who will make strides in developing listening theory, research, and practice and pass this trade onto yet a newer set of individuals may as well be a tautology. As educators, we strive to foster a sense of import regarding listening to our students. As mentors, we strive to foster a sense of import regarding developing and testing listening theory to our mentees. As practitioners, we strive to foster a sense of import regarding our pragmatic application of listening research to our clients. In each instance, the passing of a torch is paramount.

However, while the metaphor of passing a torch seems appropriate, as Addison's quote suggests we are often unaware of what specific actions of ours cause another individual to become interested in the study and practice of listening. Did we trigger an innate yearning for the topic? Was it the simple invitation to become involved? An example from my own experience may help to bring this quotation to life.

As any new and eager graduate student, I was continually looking for ways to connect with faculty members and to grab a glimpse of the academic life. When the invitation to develop and submit a paper for an upcoming conference on listening was presented as an almost brief aside one afternoon in a graduate theory seminar I was initially intrigued but nonetheless frightened by the prospect. That invitation led to a few informal perusals through filing cabinets and bookshelves of someone who knew her way around the listening literature. There were countless presentations and other miscellaneous manuscripts that were incredibly fascinating to me. Then I stumbled upon a scale assessing four preferences for receiving information. Given our recent exploration into communication styles I wondered if there was a connection. Ahha! A research question!

This research question of course led to more informal meetings with the same professor – how does one construct a questionnaire? How does one get

IRB approval to collect data? How does one submit the paper to a conference? What will happen when I get there? And so the mentoring began...and fortunately it has not ended. I'm still involved in research with this professor. We've actually become quite good friends along the way. In a nutshell, that one small mention of a listening conference ultimately may have solidified my career in academia. That one small step more than likely caused me to become the scholar I aspire to be today.

Why do I write this story? Not to simply wallow in nostalgia (although it is certainly fun). I write to encourage those of us who are listening educators to encourage our students to become involved in the research we hold as the cornerstone of what we know about the listening process and its outcomes. Not too long ago, I sent an email to those individuals who responded to an inquiry by Laura Janusik of listening courses taught at the college or university level. In that email I asked for those individuals teaching listening at the university level to implement a final paper project for their course. If this assignment already exists, I recommend submitting high-quality student papers to our 2007 conference. Submit them as a panel and solicit the help of a notable scholar to respond. Encourage individual submissions that have a chance to win top paper awards.

I'd like to end with another quote, one that relays a fear many of us hold. The British science fiction writer J. G. Ballard said in an interview on October 30, 1982: "I would sum up my fear about the future in one word: boring. And that's my one fear: that everything has happened; nothing exciting or new or interesting is ever going to happen again ... the future is just going to be a vast, conforming suburb of the soul." I for one do not want the future of listening theory and research to be one marked by monotony. Ultimately, the challenge here is simple...what small step are you going to take to facilitate the growth of our organization and ultimately our field to insure we don't stumble upon boredom?

Thanks for listening,
Graham (gbodie@purdue.edu)

ARE YOU MAKING TRAVEL PLANS YET?

Continued from Page 1

Long-term to-do list:

- ❑ Check on your passport: Do you have one? Do you need to apply for one? Does your passport need renewal?
- ❑ Check airfare options: It might be a good idea to subscribe to airfare alerts in order to find out about good travel deals. These might include destinations outside Germany and a final leg with the train to Frankfurt.
- ❑ Look at travel options before and after the conference. You may find ideas and information on the convention website. (Go through listen.org and click on the Frankfurt logo.)
- ❑ Submit program proposal by January 15, 2007.
- ❑ Take care of the hotel reservation which is available online through the convention website
- ❑ Bookmark the convention website for current information. (Go through listen.org and click on the Frankfurt logo.)
- ❑ Start to make lists of things you want to bring, e.g., clothes.
- ❑ Check on your medical needs and adjust the supply of your prescription medicine.
- ❑ Check with your airline about luggage regulations, maximum weights etc.

Travelling to Europe may seem a challenge if you have not done this before. I would think it is easier than some might anticipate. To keep unwanted surprises at a minimum, I also suggest the following:

- ❑ Share the hotel phone number with your VIPs at home: +49 69 928859 0 (Please do not use this number for reservations. Reservations are available online through the convention site.)
- ❑ Check with your cell phone company to see if your mobile phone would work from Europe, what the rates are, and if you need an upgrade to be able to use it from Europe.
- ❑ Check with your bank to see if your ATM card would work in Germany.
- ❑ Check with your travel agent about visa requirements.
- ❑ Download and print the instructions for getting from the airport to the hotel.
- ❑ Get yourself a German language tape to refresh your language skills.

I am happy to answer additional questions. I will try to keep track of the questions and answers in an FAQ section on the convention website. You will also find travel information and other helpful suggestions on this website, which has been put up to serve the international listeners' travel needs. Together with the local arrangements team, I am so much looking forward to welcoming you all in Frankfurt!

JOIN THE SWAP SHOP!

a Message from Bob Bohlken

After a hiatus of several years, the "Swap Shop" is back at the 2007 Conference in Frankfurt, Germany. Please join Kimberly and me in sharing and demonstrating your effective training/teaching experiences/activities/ exercises with your colleagues. Please send your activity to either one of us:

Kimberly Batty-Herbert
kbatty@broward.edu
5610NW 38th Terrace
Coconut Creek, FL 33073

Bob Bohlken
at bbohlken@asde.net
Wells Hall, Northwest Missouri State University
800 University Drive, Maryville, MO 64468

When submitting your activity, please follow the format:

Name:...

Affiliation:...

Mailing Address...

E-mail:

Type of Listening being addressed (discriminative, comprehensive, critical, relationship, or appreciative)

Objectives: Procedure/process:

We are counting on you to bring back the old caring and sharing ILA environment of the past. We will compile a book of exercises that you will receive free for contributing. Peace be with you and yours and thanks for all you do for the success of ILA.

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*Special thanks to Erin Tobiasz,
the LP's new editorial assistant*

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LISTENING (IJL) SUBMISSIONS

The *IJL* accepts submissions on an ongoing basis. Of special interest are articles and book reviews on the following topics:

- Listening and Second Language Acquisition
- Listening Assessment
- Listening, Audience Behavior and Media Studies
- Listening, Audience Behavior and Political Rhetoric
- Historical Studies of Listening and Audience Behavior
- Intersections between Listening and Reading
- Listening in Professional or Managerial Communication
- Insights of Cognitive Theory, Psychology or Philosophy on Listening
- Listening and Rhetorical Theory
- Listening Research in K-12 Education
- Listening in Health Communication
- Listening and Service Learning
- The Intersections between Musical Listening and Listening to Messages (listening as aesthetic vs. epistemic process)

Please send submissions electronically to:
James Floyd, Editor at floyd@cmsu1.cmsu.edu

Share your

resources

insights

successes

queries

& stories

with the ILA's listening community.



THE LISTENING POST
listeningpost@listen.org

2007 International Listening Association Convention
LISTEN AND MAKE THE CONNECTION
Call for Papers, Panels, & Programs

*NH Hotel Frankfurt / Main, Germany
July 18-22, 2007*

Please use this proposal format for your submissions (also available online at listen.org in Word and PDF formats)

Last name _____ First name _____
Affiliation _____
Preferred mailing address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
Title _____

Please check one of the following proposal types:

Refereed Paper* _____ Student Submission _____

Include a proposal description (500 words) that details the contribution and perspective of the paper. Please also provide a brief bio (1-2 sentences) for each presenter. Include the following information for all presenters: names, addresses, phone #, fax #, E-mail, institutional affiliation. If all authors are students, you may indicate the manuscript as a "student submission" on the cover page. [NOTE: Completed manuscripts will be sought from all accepted proposals for a top paper panel and award, and a top student paper panel and award, respectively.] The time frame for papers is 30 min, including presentation (20 min) and discussion (10 min).

Refereed Panel Program* _____

Include a complete proposal description (500-1000 words) that details the purpose and rationale of your panel. Please also provide a brief bio (1-2 sentences) for each presenter (and chair, if applicable). Include the following information for all presenters: names, addresses, phone #, fax #, E-mail, institutional affiliation.

Practice Workshop* _____

Include a brief workshop description (no more than 2 pages) that describes the nature of the workshop (e.g., interactive, round-table).

Proposed time frame for panel / workshop: 1/2 hour _ 1 hour _ 1 1/2 hours _

Identify track: Business _ Education _ Research _ Intercultural _
Spiritual _ Appreciative _ General _ Health _

For all submissions, attach a brief description clearly explaining the content of your proposal, suitable for program listing if accepted (3 sentences). Submissions in the reviewed categories will receive a certificate of recognition if accepted.

AV Needs: Flip Chart, Overhead, VCR, Computer/Projector (free of charge)

Identify any special room or setup requirements: _____

Mail hard copy (received by January 15, 2007) to:
Margarete Imhof, Institute of Psychology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University,
P.O. Box 11 19 32, D-60054 Frankfurt / Main, Germany

or E-mail to: listen2007@uni-frankfurt.de

Questions that cannot wait? Call Margarete Imhof at +49 69 798 22033 (Time zone: CET, 6 hours ahead of ET).

HELP SHAPE THE ILA

NOMINATIONS FOR ILA OFFICE 2008

Please give some careful consideration to those who could best serve the ILA. Officers are expected to attend one fall Executive Board meeting and the annual convention at their own expense. These officers will assume duties at the 2007 convention.

First Vice President-Elect: 4 year term. Ascends to First Vice-President then to President. Serves an additional year on the Executive Board as Past President.

Your nomination: _____

Second Vice President: 2 year term. Major responsibility: Membership

Your nomination: _____

Secretary: 2 year term. Responsibilities: Take minutes of Business Meeting and Executive Board meetings.

Your nomination: _____

Member at Large: Special Projects: 2 Year term. Oversees special projects designated by the President or requested by the Executive Board.

Your nomination: _____

Nominating Committee: 1 year term. Five members. Selects the slate of officers to be considered at the next annual convention. (Nominations may also come from the floor.) No two members may be from the same state. No member may serve two consecutive terms. NOT required to attend Executive Board meetings.

Your nominations: _____

Please submit this nominations form to Margaret Fitch-Hauser by February 28, 2007:

Mail:
Margaret Fitch-Hauser
P.O. Box 524
Auburn, AL 36831-0524

E-mail: fitchme@auburn.edu
(Please put "ILA Nominations" in the subject line.)

Questions? Call Margaret at 334.844.2766