



The Listening Post

A Newsletter Publication of the International Listening Association

Listening Lights the Way!

29th Annual ILA Convention in Portland, Maine, March 27-29

*by Lisa M. Orick-Martinez,
First VP, ILA*



Magnificent Portland, Maine, is the place to be March 27-29th! Find out everything you want to know about listening. This

year we have a great convention planned with a lot of excellent programs, including:

- Business listening conference
- Fall Forum update sessions
- Intercultural listening
- Listening in gratitude
- Listening and leadership
- Teaching listening
- Listening beyond emotion
- Patient-centered healthcare
- Listening as a normative ethic
- Spiritual praxis

Our convention will have something for everyone! What else is great about this convention? First, the opportunity to learn more about listening—it’s not just, “Can you hear me now?” Second, “take-aways” you can use now. Third, it’s the chance to

talk to the people who make the ILA what it is, the people who publish listening textbooks and can give you new ideas for your classes. Convention is a time to talk to the researchers, get ideas and support for your own research or to help your students come up with topics. Spend a lunch or coffee break collaborating with one of the international practitioners of listening. This will be an opportunity to discuss company training and what you can do at your company to improve the bottom line through listening training. All in all, you can’t help but to come away



from this convention feeling energized and excited about listening and eager to see the listening “family” again next year!

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A New, Stronger Identity for the ILA

by *Maragrete Imhof,*
President, ILA



ILA is in the thrust of major transitions. As a home-grown international organization, we are learning to redefine and reshape our mission as we continue to expand. While our membership has declined slightly, we continue to hold a strong base and welcome new international members. Our

challenge—and we are excited about meeting it—is to continue to grow the organization while maintaining the special family spirit that ILA members value so much. ILA has huge potential and is unique in its integration of practitioners, educators, and researchers who have unique abilities to develop, share and promote listening skills.

I attribute a number of developments to the energy which concentrated around the ILA 2007 convention, and I am happy to see that the message has caught on and continues to attract interest in listening. Positive changes are also visible in the organization itself. As ILA is inspiring others, it is also growing as an organization. I am excited to update you on the ongoing positive results from connections made during the last convention and the many positive changes you will begin to see in the ILA!

Ongoing results from last year's convention:

- Since the convention in Frankfurt, I have had the pleasure to respond to a variety of inquiries from all over the world, the most exciting ones that I recall were from Belfast/Northern Ireland and Dubai.
- As a result of the Belfast connection, listening and ILA were featured in a major Irish newspaper.
- A German national daily paper is about to publish a feature on listening in the business world.

- The in-service teacher training on listening will continue. What started last year during the ILA convention as a trial run is now supported by the state ministry for education in cooperation with our public state radio station, which has produced a 30-part series on the world of listening and listening in the world. I am excited that we can continue to bring listening to schools, to teachers and students. The workshops have been booked out within a fortnight of their publication.

Positive changes as we grow the ILA:

- The International Journal of Listening, ILA's 'business card' to the scientific community, has been contracted with a major publisher of scientific journals. Our journal is now scheduled to be published four times per year, which should give both the association and the scholars who contribute to the journal and to the field more visibility.
- The Executive Board has been re-examining the ILA's statement of why we exist and where we want to go. Our leadership and our membership both have the potential to make the ILA an international leader in terms of listening practices, teaching, and research. We see these as strong goals that will benefit members as well as those who would be served by the impressive knowledge base within our membership. We want to communicate these goals to prospective members and invite current members to share their thoughts to keep us on track.
- We are preparing an improved ILA website hoping to provide better service to our members outside of the convention. You will find the membership directory on the Members Only pages. (See Laura Janusik's article on page 9 for details!) (In case you do not have access to the Internet or if, for any other reason, you prefer the printed directory, please write to our Executive Director, [Nan Johnson-Curiskis](#).)

Participate in these exciting changes!

- If you are quoted, write an article, or give a presentation, we hope that you will distinguish yourself as an ILA member.
- Encourage colleagues, clients, or students to work on listening projects and on their listening skills.

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Breathtaking News: Portland, Maine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Portland is Maine's largest and oldest seacoast town. Portland stands as one of the few working waterfronts left in the United States. It is also a stunning city filled with shops, one-of-kind boutiques, galleries, and delectable seafood restaurants serving everything from New England clam chowder, to lobster rolls and much much more. To add to the backdrop of the convention, we

have chosen Holiday Inn By the Bay, which is a short 10-minute ride from Portland International Jetport, Amtrak Train Station and Bus Terminals. (Courtesy vans are available.)

At Maine's largest convention facility, business and pleasure go hand in hand. Holiday Inn By the Bay

is the winner of many awards, and ranks in the top 10% of Holiday Inns around the globe. The hotel offers 239 spacious guest rooms with several conveniences, including two 2-line telephones with voice mail and data ports, coffee makers, hairdryers, irons, ironing boards and web TV available in each room. You may also want to unwind in the indoor pool, fitness center and saunas, which are accessible for everyone to enjoy. All of this in an environment that offers the breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, the White Mountains, and the beautiful Portland city skyline.

While enjoying our stay at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, there will continuously be something for ILA members to enjoy in the city that offers small-town charm with "Big" city excitement. There are places ranging from the L.L. Bean Factory Outlet to Portland's Historic Waterfront District. Portland's Old Port is one of the most successful revitalized warehouse districts in the country offering clothing, antique and book stores, and unique household goods. The Arts District is a few blocks from the waterfront, Portland's secret treasure, turned into a center of artist studios, art galleries, and antique shops.

To find full convention information, including a schedule and registration form, visit the ILA website at Listen.org. Register before Feb. 25 for early bird rates!

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, continued from Page 2

- Use listening skills in a professional manner and thus convince others by their practice of the importance and the power of listening. Visit the new [Members Only web pages and join the on-line directory!](#) (This area will be expanded soon!)
- A new year is always good for fresh propositions. I would say let this year's proposition include ILA and the active and professional promotion of the practice, teaching, and research of listening in all aspects of life.
- Let's continue the good work and build on the traditional strengths and the fresh ideas as we prepare for the Portland Convention where "Listening Lights the Way"!

CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

[Holiday Inn By the Bay](#)

88 Spring Street

Portland, Maine 04101

Phone: 207-775-2311

\$125.00 single or double occupancy

Free shuttle service from the airport.

Be sure to ask for the ILA convention rate!

Conference dates:

Thursday, March 27 through Saturday, March 29

LISTENING LEGEND:

MELISSA BEALL



Melissa Beall, PhD, is a professor of communication at the University of Northern Iowa and serves on the boards of the ILA, the World Communication Association (WCA), and the Pacific and Asian Communication Association (PACA). She also serves as the president of the Iowa Communication Association. She has served as the ILA's President and is now the Advisor to the President, a position created by former ILA President Maria Loffredo Roca, PhD to keep Melissa as a close advisor. Melissa was unanimously requested by the Board to be this year's featured Legend. Listening Legend is an annual *Listening Post* Feature.

We thank Melissa for her contributions and for answering our questions about what motivates and inspires her and what advice she has for listeners everywhere.

What brought about your interest in the field of listening?

Self-defense! I was a new high school teacher who was very concerned about students' failure to listen. It was frustrating for them and for me, when I had to repeat things numerous times. So, I started finding ways to improve their listening proficiency. This led me to ILA and the wonderful colleagues who were so willing to share their listening ideas.

Who do you consider a great listener and how has that person inspired you?

Hugh Beall has a severe hearing loss that has become worse over the years. Despite that, when he hears someone, he listens very carefully. So carefully, in fact, that he can remember conversations from years ago. He has inspired me to be patient, and to work even harder at my own listening, and to continue teaching listening in every class I teach.

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

Gosh, I'm not sure that I have achieved my most significant accomplishment. I would hope that I've made a difference by "teaching listening" in every class, every convention presentation, and every workshop presentation I make. I hope I've not yet reached the point where I'm satisfied that I've done all I could to further ILA, listening in general, listening research, and the need to teach listening. But, I'll keep working at it.

What are your goals from here?

1. To make academics aware of the need to teach listening.
2. To help businesses and organizations work to improve listening.
3. To help build listening theory.
4. To continue my own listening research.
5. To find better ways to help students gain listening proficiency.
6. To create workshops to help people in business and industry be better listeners.
7. To always find ways to be a better listener, myself.

What changes would you hope to see in the listening field to meet the needs of future generations?

We have to change the culture of non-listening. It's too easy to miss something and know that it will appear someplace else—on the Web, on television, on YouTube, Facebook, or Myspace. It's too easy to find someone else who "probably knows" what was said, what was assigned, or whatever. I hope that we can create a culture where proficient listening is the norm,

not the exception. Teaching and research as well as theory-building are the ways we can help to create this listening culture.

What suggestions would you have for the ILA for moving forward to meet these needs.

Reaching more people and sharing the importance of listening, as well as ways we can improve listening in general. We need to continue the research that will help us gain and share knowledge with others. ILA needs to make others aware of the social benefits of listening, as well. It's a great organization, but its reach needs to be greater. We need to make connections with as many people and organizations as we can.

What's your greatest challenge in promoting listening skills?

Getting the word out to as many people as possible. It's tough to make people aware that we can teach people to be better listeners. People know it's important, but they don't know what to do about it, so, they push it to the background. I hear so many of my colleagues say they wish they knew how to better teach listening. Some of them ask me to come in and teach their listening units, and I'm always happy to do so. In the future, I want to find ways to make those listening lessons readily accessible. In fact, that might be one of the things ILA could do to promote better listening around the world. If we had listening lessons available for purchase on our website, we could enhance listening, and perhaps "sell" ILA memberships as well! That's the one step I've not yet completed, and I think it could help in creating and cementing a listening culture.

What has been your greatest personal listening challenge? What have you done to overcome or work with that?

Patience! I'm not always as patient as I should be about things I think are important. I need to remember that everyone doesn't think in the same way or at the same rate that I do. And, since I have long been convinced that the connection between listening and thinking needs to be explored much further, it's often difficult to accept that people don't equate listening and thinking.

It especially drives me crazy to teach students about listening, and to then discover that they're not using the skill-building activities to improve their own skills.

I think it's so important to learn to be a better listener that I shouldn't have to convince students that listening is in their best interests. I keep finding ways to bring listening lessons back in every week so that I can help them.

What thoughts do you have about the future of the International Listening Association?

I think we'll see a resurgence in interest in ILA, both as an organization to join, and as an one that promotes much-needed research, skill-building, theory-building and teaching. We just need to find more ways and more effective ways to reach people. It can be done.

What else would you say about the benefits of the ILA?

The ILA is one of the three organizations that I would always support. Even if I could not afford to attend conventions (heaven forbid!), I would want to remain actively involved with the ILA and its members, and engaged in discussions about all aspects of listening.

ILA has provided me with a wealth of information about listening, as well as the opportunity to network with wonderful colleagues who are so willing to share their ideas. As an academic, I can easily see the benefits. Furthermore, when I look at all the interest areas, I find that I gain so much from hearing about what ILA members in business, health, religion, and other areas are doing. The ideas I gain from attending conventions are priceless.

What is the best piece of advice you have to offer those looking to deepen their listening skills?

Take as much time as you need to digest and reflect on what you hear from others. Don't rush yourself or others! Good things are worth waiting for—even if the person delivering the ideas doesn't go as fast as you'd like.

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

Thank you, ILA! ILA members are among the greatest colleagues and friends I have. I deeply appreciate what ILA members have shared with me—their ideas, their friendship, and their care, concern, and support for me as a person.

International Listening Awareness Month

by Susan Timm,
Public Relations Chair



March marks the global celebration of *International Listening Awareness Month*, which was started by the *International Listening Association (ILA)* as an effort to bring greater attention to the critical role listening plays in all human activity. ILA promotes *International Listening Awareness Month* at social, educational, and professional events throughout the world; its membership represents 16 countries, including Canada, Japan, Germany, and the US, to name a few. Jim Pratt, former ILA Executive Director, remembers that Roger Wilson was the active force behind *International Listening Awareness Month*.

The Public Relations Committee created a “Countdown to *International Listening Awareness Month*” e-bulletin, available to both members and non-members. If you haven’t signed up, [sign up now](#) for listening quotes, updates, ways to celebrate *International Listening Awareness Month*, and an opportunity to share your ideas about how to celebrate and spread the word. We have already had a few members and even some non-members sign up. To subscribe to the monthly countdown messages, [click here](#). To see the first issue (in pdf format), [click here](#).

Spread the Word!

Here are just a few things you can do up to and into March to get people listening:

- Join us for the 29th ILA convention in March! *Listening Lights the Way* will be held at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, Maine, from March 27-29!
- Alert your local media outlets (newspapers; company, college/ university, and organizational newsletters; radio and television stations, etc.) about *International Listening Awareness Month*.
- If you are experienced with writing press releases or public service announcements (PSAs), we urge you to do so. If you are an educator, you might consider assigning the writing of a press release for *International Listening Awareness Month* to your students.
- Download and send out the press releases and PSAs that the ILA has already prepared! Go to the following link on our ILA website to find some PSAs for *International Listening Awareness Month*: <http://www.listen.org/Templates/month.htm>. You may adapt the resources provided or use them as they are.
- Sign up to receive the “Countdown to *International Listening Awareness Month*” e-bulletins at <http://www.listen.org/Templates/Countdown.html>. This monthly reminder will keep you updated throughout the year as to possible ways to celebrate *International Listening Awareness Month*.
- Please share your *International Listening Awareness Month* promotion plans with the Public Relations chair, Susan Timm, at stimm@elgin.edu. We look forward to hearing all of your wonderful ideas!

Whatever you plan to do to promote *International Listening Awareness Month* and the ILA in your part of the world, please don’t delay. Time certainly does fly, to which all of us can attest. Start today to make 2008 the best year yet to promote listening around the world!

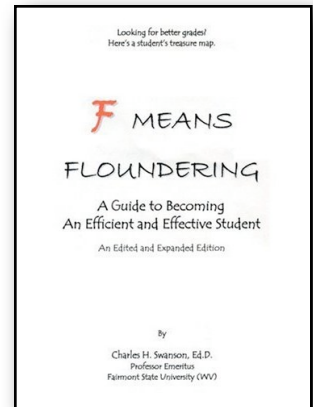
Editor’s note: In honor of *International Listening Month*, Listeners Press is offering e-books (pdf’s) of *Rule #1 Stop Talking! A Guide to Listening for only \$2.50!* See page 8 for more information or go to ListenersPress.com

NEW LISTENING BOOK!

F MEANS FLOUNDERING: A Guide to Becoming an Efficient and Effective Student, by Charles H. Swanson, aims to help struggling college students. Listening in the classroom is the foundation for classroom success.

Six other skills needed by students include knowing how to understand the classroom, learn what you need to know, prepare for tests, take tests, know where you're going, and use your time efficiently.

Experiences and humor makes F MEANS FLOUNDERING readable for traditional and non-traditional students. This book is described as an ultra-practical examination of what students must know and practice to succeed in college, The book is available through iUniverse.com and Amazon.com.



EXCITING MEMBER NEWS

ILA member Dr. Kenneth Paulin was recently part of a group that presented a Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama of Tibet in Washington, DC. Ken is a Theravadan Buddhist monk and part of the International Campaign for Tibet.

Ken was quoted in *The Mining Journal* (<http://miningjournal.net>) as saying, "The truly remarkable part about His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, is not only his humility but his humanity." He also commented on the inspiring stories told by Richard Gere, Marvin Hamlisch, Martin Scorsese, and Nobel Laureate and novelist Elie Wiesel.

Ken became a monk years ago during a two-week period in Myanmar. He returned to the US on December 11, 2004, only weeks before the widespread devastation by tsunamis. Although he is not currently a practicing monk, he is still a practicing Buddhist and was proud to be a part of this important presentation to the Dalai Lama. He also expresses his gratitude to Deborah Fosler, who was a very important part of the trip and the dedication, an event that was attended by over 500 guests.



Ken Paulin holds up the medal he was given in Washington when the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. (Photo by Christopher Diem, taken for The Mining Journal)

RECENT ILA FEATURE

The ILA was in the news in Canada, and the article is called *Giving the Gift of Your Rapt Attention*. The article stated that many of the messages we interpret could be misunderstood because we hear what we want to hear and don't hear the whole message, and we are often thinking of a response when we should be listening. ILA Executive Director, Nanette Johnson-Curiskis says, "We listen with our eyes as well." The article can be found at the link below:

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/life/story.html?id=780513d7-db4b-471a-bfa6-9049a57efcbc&k=96557>

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Last Issue

Dear ILA Members:

This is my last issue of the *Listening Post*. Serving on the Board and as the *Listening Post* editor has been a great pleasure! Thank you for the encouragement, positive comments, and appreciation. Many thanks, also, to those who contributed to my recent book, *RULE #1: STOP TALKING! A Guide to Listening*, and to those who continue to contribute for upcoming books. The ILA has enriched my work and my life with ideas, insights, and strong, lasting friendships. I will continue to be an active member and look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming conferences and online. Susan Timm has been appointed as the next editor. *Congratulations, Susan!*

I will also continue my website, <http://ListenersUnite.com>. In the spirit of listeners uniting, I am now inviting guest bloggers to allow others in the field greater exposure and interested listeners a greater opportunity to find and communicate with my listening colleagues. Please feel free to contribute blogs and even original quotes for the weekly featured quote (which will be linked, upon request, then be moved to permanent quote pages)!

Please send your ideas and contributions to me at info@ListenersUnite.com. Also, please check in any time for listening updates and new weekly quotes.

Happy Listening!

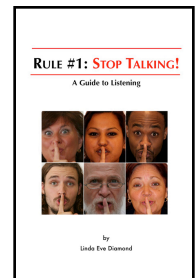
[Linda Eve Diamond](#)

SPECIAL E-BOOK OFFER FROM LISTENERS PRESS



To celebrate *International Listening Awareness Month*, Listeners Press is offering the **e-book** version of **RULE #1: STOP TALKING! A Guide to Listening** (the downloadable pdf version, regularly \$11.95) for just **\$2.50!** This special offer will last for the entire month of March! To take advantage of this special limited-time offer, go to <http://ListenersPress.com>. *The special e-book pricing will be available from March 1 through March 31! (To receive a reminder of this special deal, please e-mail info@LindaEveDiamond.com.*

The paperbacks are available through your favorite online bookstores, by special order through any bookstore, and through <http://ListenersPress.com>.

**LISTENERS PRESS ILA CONFERENCE SESSION**

If you have questions about contributing to my upcoming listening books or whether Listeners Press might publish your own book, I will be holding an informational session at the upcoming conference.

If you won't be attending the conference or would like to take a look before coming to the session, visit <http://ListenersPress.com>.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ON THE MOVE!



by *Laura Janusik*
2nd VP and Chair,
Membership Committee

The ILA Membership Committee has been on the move this year. We have explored a number of options to maintain and increase membership, and we are busy planning and implementing ideas.

We have first considered how to attract and maintain members, and we determined that we need to have a value-added association, particularly for those who do not attend the annual convention. Members will soon have the benefits of a “Members Only” area on the website. This area will be password protected, and members will be able to access most of the material for free. Non-members will have access to the material for a small fee. Though protected material has not yet been decided, we are considering items such as the list of instruments used to measure lis-

tening developed from the Fall Forum as well as a review of basic, interpersonal, and public relations books and their coverage of listening. Materials to promote International Listening Awareness Month and other referral materials also are being considered.

To increase membership, the membership committee has identified three priorities. The first will be to reinstate regional events where local members can have face-to-face contact for mini conferences, brainstorming, or simple meet-and-greet sessions. Each region also will have a region captain, who will be listed as such on the website with contact information. Thus, those interested in joining the association, new members, or those looking for speakers will be able to contact the regional captain. Not only will this allow more people to carry leadership positions in ILA, but it also will make us more easily accessible to future members.

Second, the committee would like to develop in-service training for local K-12 schools. We often say that students are our future, and there is a great need for teachers to know how to teach listening at this level. Most states have listening competencies for their students to graduate, but few states have assessments to

show that it’s occurred. This will be a large project, so if you have a special interest in K-12, we need you!

Third, the committee will identify and contact groups with whom to partner for dual membership and cross-over studies. Organizations currently being considered are ASTD and ASHA. If you hold a leadership position in another association and believe we would be a good match, please let us know!

If you’d like to work on any of these projects, please contact Laura Janusik at ljanusik@gmail.com. You can make a difference!

Finally, be on the look out for the fall edition of the *International Journal of Listening*. This will be the special edition of the Journal dedicated to the Fall Listening Forum that was held at Rockhurst University in 2006. Articles will include state-of-the-context pieces as well as two studies generated from the meeting. Be sure to attend the Forum follow-up sessions at the convention in Portland, too. Our work is just beginning, and we need more people to help carry out studies so that we can learn as much as possible about listening in the areas of business, education, health care, religion/spirituality, and theory/research.

Student Sponsorships

by Jennie Gill Rosier

Student Board Member of ILA
PhD Student at Purdue University



Hello ILA Students! Although I was not able to attend our most recent conference in Germany, I heard a lot of great things about our students who were present. Germany provided a venue for many amazing student presentations. From Christopher Bond, Jennifer Ware, Benjamin Wise, Elizabeth Stephens and Nina Tinner's presentation that examined listening in healthcare contexts to Graham Bodie's presentation with Associate Professor Deborah Worthington that addressed the reliability of the WP-16, the student presentations this year were of high quality and very interesting! Now I'm anticipating the great student presentations that will be at this year's 2008 conference in Portland, Maine!

If you haven't registered for the 2008 conference yet, the early registration deadline Feb 25th. *Register early to save money!* Also, being a student member will save you money on registration. This year, a student membership is \$45, and student members have two conference registration options: (1) Buy a full conference registration for \$160 *or* (2) Buy a daily registration for \$20 each day. A full conference registration includes entry to the conference Thursday through Saturday, lunch each day, and a dinner banquet on Saturday night. If you decide to take the daily registration route, however, you will have to find lunch on your own each day and you will not receive a ticket to the banquet on Saturday night (although you could buy the banquet ticket separately for \$45). Go to www.listen.org for more information regarding student membership and conference registration.

This is the third year for the *Student Sponsorship Program*, and I couldn't be happier with how it's progressing! The *Student Sponsorship Program*

was created in 2005 to assist student members of ILA with the rising costs of membership, convention, and travel fees. Receiving money from this program is really quite easy. First, you have to meet two requirements; you have to (1) be a student member of ILA and (2) be a presenter at the conference for which you are requesting funds. If you meet these requirements, the next step is to fill out a form on ILA's website and email the completed form to me. You will then receive a check in the mail approximately four weeks after the conference. Go to www.listen.org and click on the *Student Sponsorship Program* link for more information about this awesome program!

Anyone who wants to donate to the *Student Sponsorship Program* can do so on the conference registration page. All you have to do is find "Sponsorship Donation" at the bottom of the page, and then click on "Add to Cart." You will then be allowed to enter in the amount of money you would like to donate to the program. The International Listening Association is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to such organizations are generally tax deductible. All donations will be divided among student members and are much appreciated!

I look forward to seeing you all in Portland!

Advice that Grant Cornwell, philosopher-scholar and president of the College of Wooster in Ohio, gave students in an address last fall:

"You have the responsibility to develop your skills in writing, in speaking, but perhaps most of all in listening. Listen for differences. Seek them out. Don't surround yourself only with those who see the world as you do."

MORE REASONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE!

*By Susan Timm,
Public Relations Chair*

ILA members are often prominent in the media. For example, just recently, Jennie Grau, Laura Janusik, and Madelyn Burley-Allen were cited in "Take Time to Listen," which was published in a special year-end edition of the *U.S. News and World Report* (Dec 31, 2007-Jan 7, 2008).

If you are a new member to the *International Listening Association* (ILA), one good way to get to know these and other listening ex-

perts from around the world personally is to join us at our annual conventions. The theme of the 2008 convention, which is being held in Portland, Maine, March 27-29, is *Listening Lights the Way*. In addition to providing an informal area for showcasing research, including books, the convention will feature a variety of breakout sessions of interest to you, a number of hands-on workshops, attention-grabbing speakers, great food, an awards ceremony, and so much more.

ILA's cooperative and engaging atmosphere provides opportunities to share applied, theoretical, and strategic ideas about listening. You will have ample time to network

with top researchers, scholars, teachers, trainers, and authors in the field, all who can assist you with research, curriculum development, training, and pedagogy techniques.

To find out more exciting details and to register for the 2008 convention, go to www.listen.org.

Indeed, 2008 promises to be an exciting year for those who are dedicated to advancing listening. Definitely, you will want to be a part of this stimulating and rewarding Convention. Mark your calendars now for March 27-29, 2008, and join listening leaders in Portland, Maine.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Alexander, Mary
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ILA GOES GREEN

by Susan Timm,
Public Relations Chair

Céad Míle Fáilte! Starting this article with the traditional Irish phrase meaning “A Hundred Thousand Welcomes” is appropriate. For many years, whenever people saw or read anything about the color green, they would most often think of the holiday honoring the patron saint of Ireland. Even today, all throughout the world, many people become “Irish” as they enjoy the festivities of Saint Patrick's Day.

Some of us at ILA want you to think “green” well beyond the March 17 date! Indeed, we encourage you to join the ILA and “Go Green!” By now, many of us realize that the Green movement is here to stay and is becoming more and more a lifestyle of choice. Environmental issues are global concerns that should be of interest to all of us, since everyone is affected.

Sometimes you come across a quote that sums up your views nicely. That's what we found when we read the words of Howard P. Sears, Jr., company principal for Sears Ecological Applications Company (SEACO), a Rome, NY-based company: “It's one thing to talk about being ‘green’ and another to actually do something about it... We believe that in order to be a viable part of the green movement, every individual and business has a responsibility to think globally and act locally when it comes to preserving and

protecting the environment.” Now, ILA can say with pride that we, too, have made an organizational commitment, starting with reducing the amount of paper waste we contribute to landfills by making The Listening Post and Membership Directory electronic.

In addition to the obvious and vital benefit of lessening the ILA's carbon footprint, by putting The Listening Post on-line, we realize several other exciting advantages, including reducing the amount of the other green stuff (money) that we have to spend, thus, helping us be even better stewards of our membership fees! Also, we can provide our members with more information, as the size of The Listening Post isn't dependent on any printing budget. Whereas previously The Listening Post was only in black and white, we can now include color, which makes the newsletter more vibrant!

So the focus is now more appropriately shifted to sounder management of resources. Although we will continue to encourage recycling, source reduction or waste prevention should come first (Conservatree). When we take into consideration the fact that the ILA, as of January 20, has 265 active members (who wanted to be listed in the on-line directory), you can do the math on your own to calculate both the reduction in solid waste as well as the cost savings incurred with reduced paper use and handling costs. So everyone wins now that the ILA has gone green!

Sources Cited:

Conservatree. (n.d.). “Environmentally Sound Paper Overview: Essential Issues”. Retrieved from <http://www.conservatree.org/learn/Essential%20Issues/EIOverview.shtml>.

PRNews. (2007, Dec 6). “Company Enjoying Sweet Smell of Success with Environmentally-Friendly De-Icing Product”. Retrieved from <http://markets.about.com/about?ChannelID=3197&GUID=4001089&Page=MediaViewer>.

International Journal of Listening (IJL)

Call for 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 to James Floyd, editor, at: floyd@cmsu1.cmsu.edu

Student Spotlight:



GRAHAM BODIE

Graham Bodie is a student member of ILA and an up-and-coming, dedicated, intuitive, and ambitious, listening researcher!

Graham Bodie spent his early years in Mobile, AL where he attended high school at St. Paul's Episcopal. After graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from Auburn University, he married Laura Ashley Jones and moved to Jackson, MS, to work for *GodwinGroup Advertising Agency* as a research analyst. After a few years in the corporate world, Graham decided to jump back into academics. Graham, now a Ph.D. Candidate at Purdue University, has been an active member of ILA since 2002, attending conferences, presenting and publishing listening research, leading committees, and serving on the Executive Board.

Graham first learned about listening research from one of his mentors, Margaret Fitch-Hauser, while working on his Master's degree at Auburn University. "I was initially drawn to this area of research because it seemed understudied, yet vastly important," explains Bodie. In 2002, Graham attended his first ILA conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he presented his paper

entitled *Listening style preferences and communication behavior: An exploratory investigation*. Graham has subsequently presented nine times at four ILA conferences.

Since his initial interest in listening research, Graham has worked on numerous listening projects, from exploring similarities between how people prefer to listen and how they prefer to communicate—to examining listening fidelity as a listening proficiency concept—to developing a dual-process theory of supportive message outcomes. Graham is currently working with Margaret Fitch-Hauser to develop a book chapter about quantitative listening research (Bodie & Fitch-Hauser, under review). With an emphasis on message reception and information processing within the interpersonal setting, Graham's current research program is a refreshing addition to the communication discipline. Specifically, Graham is interested in discovering how individuals process and make decisions based on interpersonal and mediated sources of information, identifying the variables that influence the extent to which messages are processed, and determining how theories of message reception and processing can be applied to specific context areas.

Graham's commitment to ILA, is evident in his service to the association. He served as ILA's *Research Committee Chair* for one year, where he organized panels for the 2007 Germany conference, helped establish a competitive paper submission division, and recruited student paper submissions to a Top Student Paper division. Graham also served as a *Context Lead* for the theory and research group at the 2006 ILA sponsored Listening Forum. Graham recently coauthored a "State of Listening Theory" article

with the other three context leads—Debra Worthington, Lynn Cooper, and Margarete Imhoff—which will be published in a 2008 special edition of the *IJL*. With Debra Worthington, Graham is also currently engaged in a project that aims to identify and improve the psychometric properties of the LSP-16. "Part of the reason our field lacks respect is that we lack a solid focus on developing theoretically oriented and psychometrically sound measurement instruments," Bodie explains. "Debra and I hope that our research will pick up where pioneers like Bob Bostrom and Kittie Watson left off." In addition, Graham is currently serving as ILA's *Member at Large, Special Projects* for a two-year term. His special project involves updating the constitution and bylaws.

Whether he's developing a panel for an ILA conference, creating a new project for ILA, or conducting new listening research, Graham Bodie is dedicated to this association and to the field of listening.

If you'd like to see more information about Graham Bodie, you can visit his website at www.web.ics.purdue.edu/~gbodie/

The STUDENT SPOTLIGHT feature was created and written by Jennie Gill Rosier, Student Executive Board Member of ILA and PhD Student at Purdue University. This column appears annually.



Constitution and By-Laws Taskforce Recommend to be Voted on in Portland



*By Rick Bommelje
First Vice President-
Elect.*

The Constitution and By-Laws Taskforce (CTF) was created in October 2006 by the

Executive Board to investigate the possibility of revising the document that contains organizational operating procedures.

The CTF consisted of three members of the ILA Executive Board (Graham Bodie, Chair; Laura Janusik, Lisa Orick-Martinez) and two long-time organizational members (Carole Grau, Nadine Marsnik). This committee was responsible for examining the current construction, wording, and makeup of the ILA constitution/by-laws document and recommending relevant changes. After an extensive and comprehensive initiative by the CTF, the Executive Board approved the CTF's recommendation that the current ILA Constitution and By-Laws document be divide into two separate documents. The following sections outline the content of these documents and provide a rationale for the changes.

Rationale

As currently structured, the Constitution and By-Laws require the Executive Board to propose an amendment then await membership approval only at the regular meeting of the association when a quorum is present. This presents special challenges when the Board needs to shift around duties of officers or when other extenuating circumstances arise. The most proximal catalyst for change is technology. When ILA was founded, the Internet and e-mail were in early stages of development. The organization, thus, moved slower; and the fact that decisions were made once per year did not interfere with organizational

progress. Today, the organization and its members use e-mail as the most frequent mode of communication, and the speed at which decisions can be made has increased exponentially. Moreover, our organization is international and many of our committee chairs and Executive Board members span the globe. Having an Internet presence was a necessity to increase the reach of the organization; the consequence of this reach has been a decrease in the expectation of decision timelines and an increase in the expectation for productivity of any given Board or committee.

The increase in using e-mail for correspondence and the rapid pace with which decisions are made has drastically changed how much work the organization can accomplish within a given year. The current organizational structure is not well fit for a technology shift as we are often slowed down by having to present changes only on an annual basis. We must change with the times and adapt to shifts in technology and other modes of communication that allow us to move more rapidly on decisions.

In sum, the current structure and wording of the Constitution and By-Laws document should be amended for proper functioning of the organization's Executive Board. Although the Board should not be responsible for setting the number of Executive Board members or how these members are elected (two of the many elements that will remain with the voting power of active ILA members), the Board should have the power to shift around responsibilities of Board members. Likewise, although committees are a necessary part of any large organization, the nature of committees, their roles, and their tenure should be left to the voting power of the Board and not shifted each year as the organization evolves and grows.

The Constitution

The Constitution will contain operational elements for the ILA that can be changed only by active members of the organization. In general this includes articles and sections that outline organizational purpose and structure, voting

procedures, amending the Constitution, and organization dissolution.

We do, however, also suggest several changes to the wording of articles and sections contained in this document as well as additions to the Constitution. We propose these changes and ask that they be voted on by the membership.

The By-Laws

The By-Laws document will contain operational elements for the Executive Board that can be changed, without vote from its active membership, based on relevant organizational needs. In general this includes articles and sections that outline officer duties, committee organization and responsibility, and correspondence and meeting requirements of the Board.

Summary

In summary, two documents have been created to resolve problems experienced by past Executive Boards. Membership will consider the following items at the Business Meeting in Portland:

1. The first measure to be set forth to the membership for approval (as outlined by the current Constitution and By-Laws) is the creation of two documents. A formal outline of the elements of each document is provided in Appendix B.
2. If approved, the second recommendation includes several changes to the Constitution document. These changes can be found in Appendix C.
3. Finally, the By-Laws document, after approval of the first measure, should be voted on by the Board and can be found in Appendix D.

The CTF has done an extraordinary job in offering high-impact recommendations that will "light the way" for effective association governance for years to come.

To see this article online and to find additional appendices, go to <http://www.listen.org/Templates/constitution.htm>

THE BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Listening Lights the Way for Business Success!

The ILA Business Interest Group has been extremely busy organizing the exciting 2008 Business Listening Conference: *Listening Lights the Way for Business Success!* This motivating conference is being held in conjunction with the first day of the annual ILA Convention in Portland—Thursday, March 27. We even adapted the Convention's overall theme: *Listening Lights the Way*.

This year, the ILA Business Interest Group has partnered with the Maine Chapter of the *American Society for Training and Development* (ASTD) to bring this full day's program to the Portland area. Wandy Browne, Maine ASTD Marketing and Public Relations Chair, is impressed with what she has seen and heard so far. From the very beginning of our joint venture, she told us that the Maine ASTD is very interested in learning more about listening, a topic about which they know very little. After receiving the Business Conference Program, Wandy exclaimed, "This is SUPERB! Exceeded my expectations . . ."

The program that we put together is a superb one indeed. So although the weather in Portland, Maine, might be a bit chilly in late March, the atmosphere will be warm with excitement at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. You certainly will want to be part of this unbelievable conference! One of the nice things is that regular Convention participants as well as Business Conference attendees can choose to join the business track the entire day on Thursday; or they can choose to attend any of the other interesting workshops that are being offered in research, education, and other areas that day as well.

The Business Conference's agenda aligns with the regular Convention's time frame. We see this year's approach as a win-win situation for many of us, especially for business people in Portland and the surrounding areas as well as our ILA business members. In previous years, attending the Business Conference required ILA members to arrive a day earlier. Thus, the number of ILA members who could attend was

limited. With this year's approach, Portland attendees will get a solid exposure to our wonderful professional organization and the option to attend other days of the Convention and perhaps even join ILA!

Those who are attending Thursday's Business Listening Conference can choose from three options. During the specific time frames, attendees will be allowed to attend any ILA Convention workshops in session, not just the business track.

- Breakfast and Keynote Only: \$20
- Morning Sessions Only (includes breakfast and lunch): \$60
- Entire Full-Day Program: \$100 (which is the regular convention price for Thursday only)

Those of you who are familiar with business seminars know that this full day's price is a steal! To review the details of the program planned for the Business Listening Conference, please go to http://www.listen.org/Templates/2008_business_conference_program.htm. Our hard-working Web Editor, Joyce Chen, has posted the details for all to view.

Our Maine ASTD partner has set up information on its website as well. You can check them out at <http://www.maineastd.org/index.html>.

Join us on Thursday, March 27, so that we can show our Maine partners what a dedicated and interesting group we are!

In addition to Thursday's business program, the remaining days of the convention include a variety of **breakout sessions** (including some that are business related), **attention-grabbing speakers**, **great food**, an **awards ceremony**, a **book display**, **silent auction** with proceedings going to the Student Scholarship Fund, and so much more. We encourage everyone to join us for all three days of the convention: Thursday, March 27; Friday, March 28; and Saturday, March 29.

NEW ILA POSITIONS!

NOMINATE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

By February 15!

Self nominations are appropriate for these important positions!

The nominations committee, chaired by Marjanna Artkoski, is accepting nominations for the following ILA board positions:

- Student Board Member
- 1st VP elect 2nd VP, Membership
- Member-at-Large, International
- Member-at-Large, Special Projects
- Next Year's Nominating Committee (4 nominees needed)

Please submit your nominations to Marjanna.Artkoski@uta.fi no later than February 15, 2008.

ILA SEEKING NEW WEB EDITOR

The International Listening Association (ILA) seeks to fill a two-year Web Editor position, starting in March 2008. You need not be a current member to apply.

Tasks include managing web content and handling membership communication. Background in web-editing and web-design a plus. As the Executive Board re-designs the ILA website, the new Web Editor will participate in this creative process, which will play a vital role in ILA's future.

For further details or to apply for this position, please e-mail (info@listen.org) or call (1-877-8-LISTEN or 1-952-594-5697) Dr. Nanette Curiskis-Johnson, ILA Executive Director.

In your e-mail application, please describe your educational background in and/or your experience to date with Web editing, including updating content and uploading files.

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