



From the President

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First Person Singular

I have chosen to use the *Ich-Form* in my monthly column for the first time in my tenure as ATA president because I wish to be personal in taking leave of my office, welcoming the new leadership, and thanking many of you for working with me and for supporting me. My journey to the helm of our fine organization has been at times challenging, but always exciting and rewarding. It is my hope that I have given back at least a small fraction of what I have received.

I set out to examine the very reason for our existence as an association two years ago and launched a thorough review of our bylaws. This review was brilliantly executed by our incoming president, Nick Hartmann, with the support of dozens of volunteers, including my predecessor, Marian S. Greenfield. It is my hope that the amendments presented to you for voting will be received positively so that our Association's bylaws will reflect new realities while retaining our objectives, which I have reviewed regularly in the pages of *The ATA Chronicle*, with the aim of aligning our efforts throughout the entire organization.

I heartily welcome Nick Hartmann as the new ATA president. The fact that we both earned a doctorate degree at the University of Pennsylvania is but one of many things I quickly discovered we have in common. We also share the same passion for language,

strong ethics, and concern about the well-being of our Association and you, its members. But Nick also brings new dimensions to the Association leadership. Like most of you, he is a practicing freelancer, and I have yet to meet a more meticulous one. His

to be called, has not only provided a tremendous support to me and many others, but he has also been a great mentor and facilitator of smooth and effective communication and cooperation between the Board and the staff.

I hope to stay in touch with many of

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extraordinary cognitive and analytical capabilities, together with precision of expression, are great attributes of a leader, and I am confident that he will do a terrific job.

I am very grateful for the support I received from hundreds of you, and I would like to express my thanks for all the work you have accomplished. I thank all past and current Board members, division and local group leaders, committee chairs and members, and all other volunteers donating their time and energy for the good of our Association. I would also like to thank ATA's staff, whose members I have gotten to know very well over the past eight years. Our Executive Director, Walter Bacak, or "Mooch" as he likes

you after I finish my eight-year tour of duty as a member of ATA's Executive Committee later this month. I will continue serving our Association as a representative to FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs—International Federation of Translators) and in other capacities as well. To stay connected, you can follow me on Twitter (@cetrainc), you can read and contribute to my blog at <http://cetrainc.com>, and you can contact me at jiri@cetra.com. I will do my best to nurture the relationships we have built over the years and to serve our Association and our profession in the years to come. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming ATA Annual Conference and I wish the best of luck to you all.

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