

## From the Editor

**WELCOME BACK !!!** We, the members of the MEXTESOL Journal staff and editorial board, would like to take this opportunity to welcome our readers back to a new academic year which we are sure will be full of gratifying teaching experiences. In this issue, you will see several new elements in the Journal. The first and probably most apparent is the new cover. After examining different TESOL related journal publications, we decided to try a new "look" for the Journal. So, during the Summer of 1999, students in graphic design courses at a local university were asked to participate in a contest and submit potential designs for the cover of the MEXTESOL Journal.

I met with the students, showed them examples of previous Journals as well as examples of other TESOL international journals. We discussed the objective of the Journal, its audience, the profile of the authors who submit and the types of articles published. My principle guidelines to follow were that the cover should be "serious, professional and represent an image that reflects Mexico". The reason for the latter is that we of the staff will soon initiate a project to contact different language departments and libraries in order to promote the Journal in national and international universities. In reviewing the covers of other international English teaching journals, we saw that they usually contained designs which would immediately link them to the country of origin.

Fortunately, none of our audience will be prickled that the design contains the silhouette of a cactus. When the different designs were voted on by the six members of the staff, a member of the editorial board and an official MEXTESOL Journal advisor, this design won by an outstanding majority. It was our feeling that a cactus is a resplendent member and a salient symbol of Mexico, its people and its culture. I would like to personally congratulate **Alma Trujillo Chairez**, the student who designed this cover and to thank the other participants in the contest. In the future, other contests may be held; meanwhile, we hope you will enjoy this one.

You will also notice changes in the headers of pages. The articles dealing with research will be identified on the left header as belonging to the portion of the Journal entitled *Research Issues*. Other articles which discuss classroom or teaching ideas will be identified in the *Professional Practice* section. Book reviews will naturally contain the header of *Book Reviews*, and any commentaries that our readers send in will be entitled *Commentaries*. The latter section is one that, until now, has not been very frequent in the MEXTESOL Journal but is highly encouraged. The right header on the article pages will contain the last name of the author(s) and a shortened version of the

title. This should enable the reader to locate a particular article more easily. Please send any comments that you may have concerning the Journal, its new cover or any of the changes you find to: Fax: (2) 229-3101 E-mail: [cjohnson@mail.udlap.mx](mailto:cjohnson@mail.udlap.mx)

**Or, better yet, tell me personally at the National Convention in Mazatlán !!**

This issue of the Journal offers its readers five articles and two book reviews. In the first section of the Journal entitled "**Research Issues**", you will find three articles. "Think Aloud Protocols and Metacognitive Reading Strategies in English for Science and Technology/Foreign Language Class" is written by Dafne Gonzalez and Rubena St. Louis. Both professors are currently teaching at the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela, and the article describes research they conducted using think aloud protocols to determine the reading strategies used in EST classes.

The second article in this section comes from Ana María Longhini in Argentina. "Language Teachers' Roles in the Constructivist Mode" is the published version of her paper presented at a colloquia, "Language Teachers' New Roles and Perspectives" during the TESOL '98 conference in Seattle, Washington.

The third is a co-authored article that presents the results of research in an important area to ESL/EFL teachers, "Teacher Motivation and Satisfaction in the United States and Korea". One author, Terry Doyle, is from the City College of San Francisco and the other, Young Mi Kim, is from Duksung Women's University in Seoul, Korea.

In the second section of the Journal entitled "**Professional Practice Issues**", you will find another article submitted by an author at the Universidad Simón Bolívar. Carlos Torrealba's refereed article, "Oh Games!!! I Bet They Work in English Classes", presents a discussion of the function of games, the suitability of games for different ages and individual interests, guidelines and even checklists that teachers can follow when using games in the classroom. Especially interesting is the inclusion of many games that the author has found to result in EFL acquisition.

Another article in this section is one I wish I had read before my first experience at organizing a MEXTESOL Regional Conference. In it, Kristine Karlsteadt supplies us with what she calls a "step-by-step recipe" for holding a conference. Her article provides valuable tips for any MEXTESOL regional committee that is preparing for their local conference.

The Journal also presents in its new section "**Reviews**", two book reviews. It is the hope of the staff that in the future each issue will contain one review of a textbook

and another of a book of professional interest. The textbook review written in Spanish by Saul Santos, is of an ESP, tourism text entitled Welcome! English for the Travel and Tourism Industry. Remember, the MEXTESOL Journal is a bilingual publication, and we welcome submissions in Spanish.

The second review is by one of our previously published authors, Diane Diamond. While traveling this summer, Diane read a book entitled The Professor and the Madman that describes the process of the formation of the Oxford English Dictionary and the bizarre relationship between two men who collaborated in its writing during the late 1800s. As described by its author Simon Winchester, the book is "a tale of murder, madness and the love of words".

We hope you will enjoy reading this Fall Issue of the MEXTESOL Journal and, if you are in Mazatlán for the National Convention, please come to the presentation that the Journal Editors and Staff are giving on Saturday morning from 9:30 to 10:50. This session will provide information and "tips" to those persons interested in submitting manuscripts to the Journal. And, also during this session (or even over beers), I would like to receive feedback on any of the changes you have seen in the format of the Journal during the past year and get ideas for any future changes the MEXTESOL public would like to see.

**The Editor**