

## A Message from our President

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your support and your vote of confidence. I am highly honored to have been elected the President of MEXTESOL. I have been a member of MEXTESOL since the very beginning and feel that I, personally, have gained a lot of benefits from my association with so many professional teachers and that I have learned a great deal. Our deepest appreciation to the 1991 National Executive Committee who did such a great job. We had a wonderful Mini-Convention in Mexico City and a very successful National Convention in Guadalajara last year. We are hoping that we can follow in their footsteps.

The new committee is made up of the following members:

President:	Barbara de los Reyes
1st Vice President:	Ulrich Schrader
2nd Vice President: 1992	Francisco Lozano
2nd Vice President: 1993	Josefina Monraz
Secretary:	Lourdes González
Treasurer:	Heriberto Díaz
Parliamentarian:	Alejandro Díaz
Ethics Committee:	Antonia da Silva
Ex-Officio:	Ismael Garrido

We are looking forward to hearing from you with suggestions and ideas on what you would like to see incorporated

into our objectives for the year 1992. We already have a list started, but we want you to be an active member and to remember always that we are here to serve you. MEXTESOL is your organization and only with your continued help can we have a successful year. We need to work hard in keeping the organization functioning properly as well as achieving constant growth through new members.

Even though previous executive committees have done a wonderful job, we are always looking for ways to improve. We already have a super editor of the Journal: JoAnn Miller. Ulrich Schrader, the editor of the MEXTESOL Newsletter, has done a first rate job.

If you haven't paid your 1992 membership dues, don't forget that the membership fee is for the calendar year 1992 (January through December). We are also expecting to hear from you regarding our Call for Participation for the National Convention. A lot of hard work is put into the organization of the convention, so volunteer to give a paper or workshop.

If you don't have a chapter in your area and would like to be more closely associated with MEXTESOL, we will be happy to help you organize a chapter. Just let us hear from you and we will give you suggestions on how and what has to be done.

We are looking forward to a successful 1992 and will keep you posted on our objectives and progress.

Sincerely,  
Barbara de los Reyes  
President MEXTESOL

Discover Poetry: Using Poetry in the ESL/EFL Classroom

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The use of poetry in the ESL/EFL classroom is a dual-purpose tool which provides both cultural enrichment and language skills improvement. This genre promotes vocabulary growth and linguistic maturity. Undoubtedly, poetry can embellish the learning environment. It has been observed that through poetry students can be motivated to acquire an appreciation of cultural values.

The teacher attempting to incorporate poetry in his/her lesson plan should have a working knowledge of poems, poets and background data of the life and times of the poet being studied. It is not being suggested that teachers become experts on iambic pentameter, but it is advisable that some homework be done. Go to your library. Look up anthologies. Thumb through easy reference volumes, such as encyclopedias. You will become enthralled with the discoveries you make. Soon you will develop a sense of what you wish to bring to the classroom. Your choice of material should be tempered by the level and background of your students. At any rate, your scenario should be kept light and delightful. Whereas T.S. Elliot might overly burden students, Robert Frost, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, or Edgar Allan Poe are quite accessible.

The time has come to release second language students from the bonds of neutral cultural concepts. Poetry adds color and