

## From the Editor

As most of us are finishing another academic year, the MEXTESOL Journal Staff and I have an interesting Summer Issue for you to relax reading during your summer vacations. However, if you continue to teach during the summer, this issue will accompany you through the rainy evenings and possible even provide you some ideas for your teaching.

In this issue you will find five articles and a book review. Two are refereed articles and from authors outside of Mexico: One from Venezuela and the other from England. Of the three remaining non-refereed articles, one is from an author in California, another from Utah and the third is from three professors at the Universidad de Guanajuato.

In our first article, Olga Lista from the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela reports on her study which examined the relationship between the English implemented in the classroom by the teacher and the students competence in reading comprehension, listening comprehension and grammar. Olga's article is written in Spanish, and I would like to remind our readers that the MEXTESOL Journal welcomes and even encourages articles concerning EFL issues written in Spanish.

The second article is from David Camps who is presently at the University of Lancaster in the U.K. His study is very close to our reality. The article discusses the pilot study he carried out which dealt specifically with the academic writing of three Mexican Master's students going to study postgraduate degrees at Lancaster University. David, who worked previously at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México (ITESM-CCM), found that proficiency or fluency in English is not enough for achieving success in foreign universities.

Following this is an interesting article by Shannon Young who also worked previously at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México. She writes about her own experiences in learning to write as well as teaching writing at the Writing Center of the Tec. De Monterrey. She describes the issues of finding space for the center, how the center is organized, the role of the tutors and how they are compensated.

Next, Ellen Smith shares her experiences during her sabbatical at a Mexican university. The central theme is concerning how she turned her EFL experience into a learning experience through "action research" or "classroom based research". Her basic problem which she "researched" was one that we as language teachers in Mexico live with daily: Students answering the English teacher's questions in Spanish instead of taking advantage of the situation to practice the L2.

The fifth article comes from three professors at the Universidad de Guanajuato, Martha Lengeling, Ann Towgood and Troy Crawford. Their article entitled "Growing Pains of a Self-access Center in Mexico" discusses precisely that. The article is an account of the Center since its initiation in 1993 and the problems and successes it has had in moving towards its long-term goal of establishing learner autonomy.

Finally, the Journal has a Book Review by Michael Ogle of an interesting new textbook that teaches English slang and idiomatic expressions. The book entitled Street Speak presents an interesting approach by which we can help our students closer attain sociolinguistic competence in English and have fun at the same time.

Again, as in the previous issue, I would like to remind you that the Journal staff has recently changed hands and, if you would like to send comments or suggestions for future consideration, we would be pleased to receive them. You can e-mail us at [mxtesolj@mail.udlap.mx](mailto:mxtesolj@mail.udlap.mx) or send us a fax to (2) 229-3101. Thank you for your patience with any errors you may find in this issue. We are still learning.

The Editor

## Fe de Errata

I would like to apologize to JoAnn Miller, the previous editor of the Journal. The **Fe de Errata** that I wish to make known was the exclusion of her name from the Editorial Board in the Spring 1999 issue. She has withdrawn from the Editorship but still continues to provide valuable guidance in her position on the Editorial Board. I told JoAnn that I would make mistakes while I learn the ropes of being Editor, but I never thought that my first error would so directly involve her. Sorry.