

From the Editor

In the month of October, 1991, I found myself at the MEXTESOL Convention in Guadalajara. I really don't know why, or exactly how, I came to volunteer, but suddenly I found myself offering to become the Editor of the *MEXTESOL Journal*. I remember that I was aware of the fact that the *Journal* hadn't been published in at least a year for lack of an editor, and I can even remember where I was standing when I volunteered—in front of one of the registration tables in the lobby....But what I can't remember is why I thought I was qualified to be the editor of a professional journal—I had never done anything of the sort before.

That was eight years ago. From those very unsure moments, the *MEXTESOL Journal* has entered into a kind of renaissance—a rebirth—first in 1993 when we were finally able to easily print four issues a year and then later when we created an Editorial Board and began refereeing articles to raise the quality of the *Journal*, to today when we have become more than just a journal published by a TESOL affiliate. The *MEXTESOL Journal*, little by little, has become one of the few professional journals dedicated to the EFL teacher published in a non-English-speaking country. That is the reason we get so many articles submitted by professionals in other countries—there are very few options open to them when they want to publish.

Those eight years have shown me how much we have advanced both technologically and professionally. When I first became editor, submissions came to me typed on bond paper and I had to manually enter them into my computer. As technological advances became more available, more and more articles arrived on diskettes and later by e-mail and the few articles that came on paper were scanned into the computer. Authors used to get their letters of acceptance sooner or later by mail, then by fax and now usually by e-mail. The first articles that were published were teaching tips—now they deal with many different fields and areas of interest.

All of this, of course, has not happened because I became the Editor of the *MEXTESOL Journal*. It is the result of the increasing professional attitude in Mexico's EFL community and, specifically, it's been the result of a group effort from all of the members of MEXTESOL throughout Mexico who support their local affiliates, who attend conventions, and who, as a result, support the people who give talks and who, eventually, decide to publish what they have developed.

This is my last issue as editor of the *Journal*. It's time for someone else to initiate change and development in the *Journal*.. Our new Editor is

Connie Johnson of the Universidad de las Americas-Puebla, perhaps the author who has published the most often in the *Journal* since its rebirth. Connie takes over with the full support of her university and of the many, so qualified people who work there.

In this last issue, I would like to thank those people who have made it possible for me to have continued as editor for these many years. I especially want to thank Elinore Duque, my assistant editor, without whose support and friendship this job would have been impossible. I also am indebted to all of the people who have served on the Editorial Board with no recompense beyond our thanks and who dedicate their time to assuring the quality of what we read and who are also willing to mentor beginning authors who want to begin publishing. I also want to thank the MEXTESOL office staff, especially Amada Salazar, and all the past and present officers of MEXTESOL. I also thank my family for all the support they have given me and I have a special thanks for you, the readers of the *Journal*, for just that—for reading the *Journal*—without you none of this would have been possible.

I hope that our new editor and her staff will have an experience just as rewarding as mine has been, and that their tenure will bring them as much professional satisfaction as mine has brought me.

In this, my final issue as editor, we have some interesting articles—as usual. Our first article, by Alejandro Martínez of Cambridge University Press here in Mexico, is about changes that are happening in English language teaching world-wide—*What is Beyond the Communicative Approach to Language Teaching ?* After a brief discussion of the weaknesses of Communicative Language Teaching as it is used nowadays, he examines not only Task Based Language teaching, but also the Lexical Approach, Content-Based Language Teaching, Cultural Psychology, Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development and Neurolingusitic Programming.

Our second article, *El uso de textos literarios en inglés con estudiantes de carreras técnico científicas* by Olga Carolina Lista of the Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela. Here the author considers the use of literary texts in ESP classes. She offers an alternative method for reading comprehension classes based on reading strategies, combining literary texts with the more common technical readings.

In our third article, Helen Korengold who works in Japan, offers an interesting technique for teaching cultural differences. In her article, *Case*

Studies: Culture as Content, she suggests how to use case studies of, for example, cultural shock to both teach culture and to practice English.

Our next article, *Sharing Decisions with Students: Some Whys, Hows, and How Nots*, is by Andrew Littlejohn whose contributions in recent issues have served to introduce us to new ideas that are just entering our country. I would like to thank Andrew for helping us out and hope that he will continue to participate with the *Journal* in the future.

This useful paper is followed by an article by one of the founders of MEXTESOL, Vincent Carrubba, who has contributed to the *Journal* many times in the past. In this contribution, *Three Attitudes Toward Teaching Excellence*, Vince discusses the teaching philosophies which lead us to excel in our chosen professions: the humanistic, the scientific and the professional. Finally, we have a book review by Jesus A. Bastidas, about a book: *Bilingualism and Testing: Special Case of Bias*.

I hope you enjoy this issue and continue supporting the *Journal* in the future.

The Editor