

From the Editor

For those of you that read the last issue of the Journal, the current change in editorship will not come as a surprise. JoAnn Miller, who has been the editor of the MEXTESOL Journal since 1991, has stepped aside to take on other responsibilities in TESOL as well as MEXTESOL and to have a much deserved rest from the Journal. In her message in the Winter Issue, JoAnn said, "I can even remember where I was standing when I volunteered.....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". Well, I also remember where I was when JoAnn explored with me the topic of my becoming Editor of the Journal and, luckily, I was seated at the time. I also questioned and continue to question why I think I am qualified to continue the work that JoAnn has been doing and doing so well over the past eight years. I suppose the major reason for my acceptance of JoAnn's proposal was the fact that four of my colleagues and close friends with whom I work at the Universidad de las Américas-Puebla volunteered to form part of the Journal Staff and share the responsibilities. Also, the Department Chair has pledged his support in our attempt to fill JoAnn's shoes. However, it will be a long time before I will be even partly as qualified as she is. That has been evident to all those working with me during the past three months while I was learning the basics of how to run the Journal. Thanks, JoAnn, for having guided the MEXTESOL Journal through its tempestuous history, helping it to evolve into one of the few successful professional journals dedicated to the EFL teacher published in a non-English-speaking country, and for entrusting it to us.

Readers will find some minor differences in format and style of the Journal and we invite you to read the Editorial Policy and Manuscript Guidelines on the following two pages where these are described. This is especially important for authors who are considering submitting to the Journal. But, in general, the MEXTESOL Journal will continue the same standard of quality to which you have been accustomed.

Our first article by Gerry Mugford, *Beyond Basics: Giving Greetings Proper Status in the EFL Classroom*, presents an interesting review of greetings as a speech act and as a sociolinguistic phenomenon. After the literature review, Gerry then provides readers with different alternatives to study greetings outside and teach greetings inside the language class.

The second article, *It Works in Theory, but not in Practice (??...!!!)* is a thought provoking article by Gerardo Ochoa concerning the interrelationship between language learning theories and putting them into use in the classroom. He deals specifically with the use of language journals and classroom observation and the connection between their theory and practice.

Next, is an article by Diane Diamond, a private language consultant who has lived and taught EFL in California, Germany, Australia, as well as Mexico. In *The Power of English and the Learner*, she relates a study concerning how globalization is having a possible negative impact on the Spanish language, Mexican culture and on our EFL learners' attitudes towards the language.

Our third article, *Self-directed Conversation Clubs* by Colleen Valdez and Hortensia Quintanar, is especially relevant to those of us who are involved in EFL learning centers. This article examines a project for conversation clubs within their center which are run by the students themselves.

The next article by MEXTESOL's friend in Florida, Paulette Dale and her co-author, Lillian Poms, presents organizational and methodological information about teaching pronunciation to our students.

Our last article is another very useful submission by Peter Ecke in which he provides the MEXTESOL Journal readers with seven simulation scripts centered around a topic that our learners find motivating: *Money*.

Finally, we have a book review, also written by Gerry Mugford, the author of the first article in this issue. In this, Gerry reviews the book, *Implementing the Lexical Approach: Putting Theory into Practice*. This book postulates that "vocabulary will not take care of itself" which is what many EFL teachers have been certain of for many years.

I, and the members of the Editorial Staff, hope you enjoy this first issue that we have prepared for you. Since this is our first attempt at compiling and publishing an issue of the MEXTESOL Journal, you may find errors (hopefully small ones) that will slowly but surely be eradicated with time as we learn how to run a journal. Feel free to contact us with any suggestions that you may have for future issues and, please remember this Journal belongs to you, the MEXTESOL members.

The Editor