

## From the Editors

In this issue of the journal we look at several important aspects of language teaching and several new areas for exploration and growth. How do our students perceive us and our work in the classroom?—that is the question Connie Johnson, a former editor of this Journal, explores in her article "Characteristics of Effective EFL Teachers in Mexico as Perceived by Students and Teachers." We're sure you'll want to read this article and find out the answer.

There are two articles on testing in this issue of the Journal. Audrey Don explores the basic principles of testing and encourages us to ask ourselves questions, as she herself did in her Action Research Report "The Role of Assessment in the Language Classroom," about the relationships between what we teach, what we test and how we test. Her reflective research project provides us all with food for thought the next time we want to assess our students. From a different standpoint, Karen Englander in her article "Beyond Statistics: Systematic Development of a High Stakes Reading Comprehension Exam" questions the validity of using only statistical analyses for evaluation purposes and suggests that we need to be wary of using only statistical tools for assessment.

Providing us with some insightful comments about language teaching in the United States, Renate Schulz in her article, "The Quest for Professional Standards in Foreign/Second Language Teacher Development: A U.S. Perspective" presents some revealing information about different criteria for program standards and certification of teacher education programs. In "Teaching / Learning Centers: The Impact of On-site Sustained Collaboration for ESL/Bilingual teachers' professional development," Sandra Muzanti presents the concept of Teaching Learning Centers for teachers to help and support each other in their workplaces and, in the final analysis, to help the students who are the ultimate beneficiaries.

To those of us who still think the keyboard is part of the piano and a screen is part of the television set, it may be surprising to find out that not all bulletin boards are cork boards for putting notes, comic strips and MEXTESOL information on. Jose Miguel Rodriguez introduces us to the world of Bulletin Board Systems and the field of computer mediated communication as applied specifically to language teaching and learning in "Integrating Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) as a Tool in Face-to-Face English courses."

Finally, Ma. Guadalupe Santos presents a paper which introduces a new option for academic participation in MEXTESOL's regional and national conventions—poster sessions. Her practical how-to article "Posters as a Resource for Learning and Research" for the preparation and presentation of posters will help all of us be able to incorporate and participate in this relatively new modis (for MEXTESOLers) to share our work with other attendees at the conventions.

We hope that you will enjoy and learn much from these articles and that you can apply some of the ideas in your teaching practices. As always, it is important for all of us to be critically open to new ideas and techniques and to experiment with purposeful, well thought-out changes and improvements in our daily activities.