

## From the Editor

I want to start out by wishing all our members and their families a very happy new year. I hope this year will bring you all that you may want, both professionally and personally.

The 21st Annual MEXTESOL National Convention is over and was a success. It gave us opportunities to talk to old friends and make some new ones. Also we brought new ideas back to our schools and classrooms. Then we had a nice relaxing winter vacation and now it's back to work.

This issue again has an international flavor. Besides two articles by well-known Mexican professionals, we also have an article from Puerto Rico and another from one of Ixtapa plenary speakers from England.

Our first article is by Wendy Scott, who gave our opening plenary speech at the Convention. In this article, Ms. Scott talks about how standard English is changing. I think this is a fact many of us have noticed, especially when we watch television programs or listen to *rock* or *rap*, there are some words we just don't understand. In her article Ms. Scott looks at how these changes in so-called standard English are viewed in England.

The next article is by Connie Rae Johnson of the Universidad de las Américas-Puebla. In *Learner Autonomy in the Learn-Centered Curriculum*, Ms. Johnson examines what learner-centered curriculum is and offers supplementary classroom techniques to help us promote learner autonomy.

José A. Santos Cartagena from the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey has sent us an interesting article discussing the merits of an "All English" classroom. He suggests that by limiting our students to the target language, we might be missing out on something. He offers examples of how the native language can be incorporated into daily classroom activities with unexpected rewards, as much for students as for teachers.

Finally, Vincent Carrubba, in a long-awaited article, gives us an in-depth look at American idioms and suggests techniques for teaching idioms to students. He looks at the grammatical classification of idioms, common idioms such as

proverbs and sayings, and even goes into meaning, use and grammar. He also offers us a peek into the meaning of some "vulgar" idioms.

This issue also offers us Marco's World, which exposes the trials and tribulations of a teacher preparing for the first day of class and a Teaching Tips Section looking into how to help students increase their vocabulary.

As usual I want to encourage you to participate in MEXTESOL and with the Journal. We are always looking for articles and book reviews. We'd also like your opinion about what you read.

The Editor

## Editorial Policy

The MEXTESOL Journal is dedicated to the classroom teacher in Mexico. Articles and book reviews related to EFL teaching in Mexico and in other similar situations throughout the world are accepted for publication. Articles can be either practical or theoretical.

**Articles and Book Reviews:** The Journal welcomes previously unpublished articles relevant to EFL professionals in Mexico. The Editors encourage submissions in Spanish and English. Unsolicited book reviews are also published in either language.

Send three copies of each manuscript, including all appendices, tables, graphs, references, your professional affiliation and an address and telephone/fax number where you can be reached to the following address:

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