

## From the Editor

As the school year winds down, it is a good idea to evaluate our performance throughout the year and to contemplate what we would like to do to improve ourselves in the future. One suggestion is to consider how to become more professional. Obviously, if you are reading this journal, you are either already a professional in our field or on the way to becoming one; however, there is always more that can be done. For example, have you attended any regional MEXTESOL meetings this year? If not, plan to do so in the future. Do you have a regional chapter in your area? It really is not that difficult to form one. Contact the National MEXTESOL office. Have you begun making plans to attend the National Convention in Acapulco from October 12 to 15? There is still time. See the advertisement in this issue.

Hopefully this issue of the *MEXTESOL Journal* will also help you become more professional. There are many different articles that we are sure will interest you. Our first article is by Peter Hubbard of the University of Guadalajara. In this article he looks at the ideas of authenticity and realism in ELT materials. After a clear discussion of the background of the use of authentic materials in the early communicative movement, he examines how authentic texts are used today and discusses the different challenges that have arisen as to the use of these materials. He finally offers a compromise solution based on the use of real data.

Sue Wharton of the University of Aston in England has sent us an interesting article dealing with professionalisation in ELT. First, she reviews Hoyle's model of professionalism and introduces the concept of a discourse community based on Swales. Finally, she discusses cultural and professional values and applies these ideas to the relationship between local and global discourse communities.

Our third article is by Connie R. Johnson, University of the Americas-Puebla. She offers us some very practical ideas on how to include oral presentations as communicative activities. She presents us with notions of how to organize and explain the different skills involved with public speaking and gives us some examples of exercises we can use to help students overcome common errors while speaking in front of a group.

This issue also includes an interview with Chris Joslin, the English Language Officer at the British Council here in Mexico, a *Teaching Tips* section and a book review.

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