

## From the Editors...

Friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to present to you selected presentation papers and presentation commentaries from the CUE 2008 Conference, held at Kinki University on the weekend of July 5 and 6, 2008. The theme of the 2008 conference was “Language Education in Transition,” and that theme was reflected well by the authors in this special conference issue.

In the feature article, **Aika Miura** examines how a popular native-English speaker corpus-based text book series matches up against a Japanese non-native English speaker corpus. In this paper, she utilizes data from the NICT JLE Corpus of 1,200 Japanese learners to explore the gap between the way Japanese learners exhibit their productive skills to the way the authors of corpus-based textbooks present target language and conversational strategies. Recently, there has been an increase in corpus-based textbooks and dictionaries, but as this paper clearly shows, what is thought to be the more frequently used target language items are not actually produced by students in Japan. This paper is sure to provide teachers with sufficient background information as well as the pedagogical implications for selecting such textbooks for classroom use.

In an opinion and perspective article, **Julia Christmas** takes a closer look at the concepts of “engagement” and “relevancy” in Japanese secondary and tertiary education. Drawing both on her personal experience at secondary level and university level institutions in Japan as well as on a substantial body of both theoretical and practical

research, Christmas argues that learner needs in Japan are currently not being met and gives suggestions for how better to engage students by increasing personal contact with teachers and providing opportunities for a supportive classroom learning environment.

This issue also includes two reflective papers on presentations at the CUE 2008 Conference. **Deryn Verity** focuses on one workshop in particular to highlight the importance of teaching discourse awareness in the language classroom. **Joe Siegel**, on the other hand, uses the conference theme of transitions to offer a balanced perspective of how the paradigm shift from teacher-centered to learner-centered practice is occurring in university classrooms across Japan.

This issue also showcases the CUE 2008 Scholar, **Thomas Amundrud**. Thomas attended the JALT 2008 International Conference in Tokyo; in his conference review he offers insight into a wide variety of topics presented, ranging from plenary speeches on world Englishes to machine-translation, statistics, and peer review.

Finally, we end this issue with a sneak preview at the upcoming CUE 2009 Conference at Tezukayama University on October 17-18, 2009. We hope enjoy the issue!

John Gunning  
Matthew Apple  
*OnCUE Journal*

*CUE 2008 Conference Special Issue Editors*

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*Tezukayama University, venue for the CUE 2009 Conference.*