

## From the Editor...

Friends and Colleagues,

My first issue as incoming publications chair and *OnCUE Journal* editor has been a very rewarding experience both professionally and personally. When I volunteered, I was unaware of the many hours I would have to devote to the organization and editing of papers, which often included learning about topics beyond my expertise. In all honesty, it has been worth every minute. The only lingering concern I have is whether I can produce journals that meet the high standards set by previous editors. Outgoing editor Dexter Da Silva has been a fantastic mentor. I peppered him with questions, many of them twice, yet he always answered professionally, never mentioning that I had just mailed him with exactly the same question! Thankfully, with enduring patience, wit, and humor, Dexter always guided me in the right direction.

The *Features* section begins with **Brent Jones** and **Monnipha Gardner's** discussion of Japanese and Thai language learner beliefs as measured by the Beliefs About Language Learning Inventory (BALLI), comparing harmful as well as helpful assumptions about both student groups. This is followed by **Robert Taferner's** cross-sectional study of university learners' perceived English and Japanese learning skills, strategies, and abilities.

In the *Research Digest* section **Paul Wicking** makes a strong case for implementing Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) in the Japanese classroom based on research into second language acquisition and socio-cultural observations in the EFL classroom. This is followed by **David Ockert's** informative paper on how to design and implement a

substantive scale survey for research using his own research project to measure student intrinsic and extrinsic motivation.

Our *Opinion & Perspective* section has an enlightening article by **Andrew Woollock** focusing on teachers' responsibilities regarding student behavior in the classroom, specifically supporting the view that it is the teacher's responsibility to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries.

In this issue our *Book Reviews* section is back with a close inspection of *Touchstone 4* (Cambridge University Press) reviewed by **Nevitt Reagan**. This piece complements the **Aika Miura** article published in OCJ 3.2. Miura specifically discussed the gap between corpus-based textbooks (i.e., the *Touchstone* series) and the productive skills of Japanese students. I recommend reading both articles, if possible.

Finally, we have included reviews of two conferences, both of which were held overseas, so those of us with limited travel budgets or none at all can get a taste of what is happening beyond our Japanese shores. First, **Evelyn Naoumi** reports on her trip to Cardiff, Wales, where she took part in the 43rd Annual International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition. Next, **Nicholas Marshall** looks back on The International Conference for Language for Specific and Academic Purposes, which was held in Crete, Greece.

Lastly, I would like to say THANKS to all those who have been so helpful. Keep the suggestions and advice coming, as this is all still a new learning experience for me. And from you, our readers, any constructive criticism regarding our journal is welcome. Feel free to contact me anytime.

*John Gunning*  
*OnCUE Journal Editor*