
Message from the Editor

Dear readers,

Welcome to issue 9.1, our first volume publication for 2016, the Year of the Monkey in the Japanese calendar. We are not monkeying around this year, and CUE readers should expect this issue to be the first of several.

In our Feature Articles section, we have two fine offerings. **Catherine Cheetham** has written a pedagogically based article “Tackling Curriculum Objectives and Student Needs with Language Learning Stations” in which she describes how students can review lesson topics by rotating through a series of group learning stations. Recent focus nowadays on learning strategies brings us to the next feature article. We have a case study on six learners by **Yuka Yamamoto** on “Comparing Initial L2 Vocabulary Size Differences with Deliberate Vocabulary Learning Strategies”.

Paul Wicking provides us with a Research Digest article “The European Language Portfolio in a Japanese University”. There seems to be a growing interest in comparing the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) with Japanese standards of teaching, and portfolio seems to be a buzzword making the rounds in universities here, so Paul’s paper is a timely one.

The Opinion and Perspective section contains an insightful piece by **Rob Lowe** concerning how we as teachers face students with special needs. As his article title “Special Needs Training in ELT Programs as a Part of Continuing Professional Development” explains, we all need to consider more than just teaching to the majority.

This issue has two book reviews. The first by **Matthew Apple** has high praise for the 2014 Kindle reference *Exploring EFL Fluency in Asia* (edited by Theron

Muller, John Adamson, Philip Shigeo Brown, and Steven Herder). **Gemma Champion** tackles a book with a different topic, *English for Academic Purposes in Neoliberal Universities: A Critical Grounded Theory*. The author Gregory Hadley is a 20-year veteran in Japan and has compiled an extensive study of nearly 100 participants, so you will see that this is not all just about theory.

Welcome to a new issue and enjoy!

Glen Hill

CUE SIG Publications Chair and *OnCUE Journal* chief editor