

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first-ever joint issue of the ETAI Forum and the ETAS (English Teachers' Association of Switzerland) Journal: the fruit of several months' intensive collaboration between our two teachers' organizations, and a gold mine of creative, fascinating ideas from the classroom as well as from the most up-to-date research in our field.

Dina Dobrou jazzes up project work, while Illya Arnet-Clark uses what's at hand (not household junk, but the smart phone) to liven up lessons. Kamila Burzyńska takes a cue from cooking guru Nigella Lawson to give us creative ideas for revision "recipes," appropriately divided into Starter, Main Course, and Dessert. With William Chaves Gomes we get to the bottom of the difference between teaching and testing listening; he gives us the benefit of his classroom experience to pinpoint students' problems with listening and how to solve them. And Tanja Deveci looks at six different learning styles to search out ideas for activities suited to each style. There are thoughts and tips on mainstreaming dyslexic students from Rea Panou, with many helpful techniques for dealing with comprehension and grammar issues using a multisensory approach; Alex Thorp takes us on a guided visualization tour of the ABC of the cognitive classroom to show us how teaching means learning and how learning means – learning how learning works.

Kathi Stauffer-Zahner takes a new look at the vocabulary-grammar relationship through a learning experiment as well as through interviews, reaching some interesting conclusions about the capabilities of fourth- and fifth graders. JoAnn Salvisberg muses on the ETAI summer conference she attended in Jerusalem in July, "Movies, Music, Mime and More," revisiting the exciting experience shared by those of us who attended that two-day event. Elsbeth Mader shows us how to tap into students' imaginations by using the beginnings of novels – something ETAI readers will be eager to meld with our literature program here in Israel.

Thanks to technology, geographical barriers are no longer insurmountable, and crossing borders is as simple as a click on line. We hope this groundbreaking collaborative effort across borders leads to a deeper partnership between ETAI and ETAS, as well as to similar partnerships elsewhere.

To all our readers: Enjoy this joint issue, have a meaningful, productive and satisfying 2014-2015 year, and plan on joining us for the ETAI International Conference in 2016!

*Eleanor Satlow*  
*ETAI Chair*

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the ETAI Forum is an exciting first and we owe the idea to our very active and creative colleague, Leo Selivan. Leo's wide range of interests, his comprehensive contacts with the 'global village' of English teachers, and his generosity in sharing ideas have led to this unique joint issue of the Forum. Thank you Leo!

Another big thank you and welcome goes to Sara Gabai for taking on the job of layout editor for the ETAI Forum and to Amanda Caplan who has done this job expertly and faithfully until now. Layout is one of those 'invisible' jobs that require a lot of time and patience and assure an aesthetically sound and 'friendly' looking journal.

In addition to Eleanor's brief survey of the goodies in store for you from our Swiss sister organization, ETAS, you won't want to miss the sections that make this a truly joint ETAS-ETAI venture: Two collaboratively – written articles. One by our own Naomi Epstein and her Swiss colleague, Vicky Loras, who discuss how they "met" via their blogs - similarities and differences in the way each deals with what she believes about learning, mentoring, reflection, the teacher as learner and more. The second article comes to us from Lindsey Shapiro and her Swiss colleague, Nancie Gantenbeinn, comparing teacher training in Switzerland and Israel.

A glance at the Table of Contents will show you what else is in store for you. We've chosen a wide variety of articles, dealing with issues that will appeal to all of our readers, written by experienced professionals for professionals.

As mentioned, this issue is a joint venture. You are receiving the Forum containing articles by our Swiss colleagues. At the beginning of 2015, the ETAS Journal will be publishing articles they have selected from our own ETAI Forum. We are very proud of our Israeli members, whose work has been chosen to represent us to the Swiss community of EFL teachers. We hope you enjoy this special issue and that it will encourage more of you to write for the next issue of the ETAI Forum.

*Renee Wahl*  
*Editor, ETAI Forum*