

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We live in a world where choices need to be made every day, choices on a personal level and choices in the public sphere: who to vote for in elections, which profession to enter, where and what to teach. You have all made an excellent choice by becoming members of ETAI.

When ETAI was founded by Raphael Gefen nearly 40 years ago, I don't think he, or anyone else, imagined it would grow into the important organization it is today. Its importance is not only in the number of its members, but in the difference it can make to the lives of all English teaching professionals in Israel.

ETAI works hard to bring together teachers, teacher trainers, researchers and students from all sectors of the Israeli society to advance the teaching of English. ETAI offers everyone the opportunity to be part of a dynamic learning environment where we can connect and inspire each other.

ETAI has several ways to help you develop professionally, and this year the options are better than ever. Not only are there the three main conferences in winter, spring and summer on the schedule, but a further three conferences have already been arranged. And now, with the gmul system up and running, you even get rewarded for attending these worthwhile events!

The ETAI Forum is yet another way that we can share our expertise and increase our knowledge. This issue of the Forum includes articles from the 2016 International conference held at the beautiful venue in Ashkelon, enabling you to refresh your memory of some of the topics covered, or to make you wonder why you missed out on such an amazing event. Editing the Forum is a time-consuming and difficult job, but I am sure you will agree that the finished result is worth all the effort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michele Ben for the years of dedication she has given to ETAI and especially to the Forum.

I hope you enjoy reading the excellent articles in this edition of the Forum. I look forward to seeing you at the many ETAI events that you will have made the choice to attend.

Susan Bedein
ETAI Chair

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Although almost a year has passed since ETAI's International Conference - Engage, Enhance, Energize - it has not been forgotten by the ETAI community. Therefore, we are proud to present this special edition of the Forum. ETAI's International Conference continued the tradition of bringing professionals from around the country and the world to enrich the participants. This issue allows us to look back and reflect on many of the highlights of the event, ensuring that the conference has a lingering effect in our professional lives. And for those who were not able to attend, they can also benefit from the sharing of knowledge, as well as read the transcripts of the opening and closing speeches.

Unfortunately, this issue took longer than expected to be released. Even though this is a publication that relies primarily on volunteers, we hate to disappoint our contributors and readers. In the name of the Forum, I hope we can continue to share everyone's work on a more timely basis.

As always, putting together a Forum issue cannot be done without the help of others. First of all, thank you to Michele Ben who got the ball rolling with this special conference issue, as well as guiding me through the editing process over the last year. Second, thank you to Mitzi Geffen for providing editing assistance with the articles. Third, thank you to the ETAI chair and vice-chair for their ongoing advice and help. And last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to the layout editor Sara Gabai. Only after completing my first issue as the editor (Winter 2016 issue) did I realize how much collaborative work goes into the final product.

Julia Mor
Editor, ETAI Forum