

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

In Israel we tend to divide the year into summer and winter; like much else here, our weather runs to polar opposites. But this 2016 we are definitely experiencing a beautiful spring, as the rainy winter yields green leaves and those lovely spring flowers Israelis trek far and wide to see. And at long last, the ETAI Forum is finally coming out of hibernation after a too-long hiatus.

Our conference organizers, however, have not been hibernating! First up is the Jerusalem area conference for students in religious colleges, to be held on March 28 at Heichal Shlomo under the aegis of Herzog College.

And what would spring be without an ETAI Spring Conference? This year's event, **It's a Publishers' World**, took place on Monday, April 18 at Levinsky College in Tel Aviv. This spring we have a precedent-setting format, showcasing publishers not only as exhibitors, but as presenters of their materials in sessions full of new ideas, technologies, and exciting looks at the publishers' side of the ELT world.

Of course we are working hard on the sixth ETAI International Conference scheduled to take place in Ashkelon from July 4-6, 2016 at the Ashkelon Conference Center. Speakers at the conference, under the theme **Engage Enhance Energize**, will include Hugh Dellar, TESOL Board President Andy Curtis, IATEFL President Marjorie Rosenberg, Professor Amos Paran, Dorothy Zemach, and Penny Ur – and many other leading ELT professionals from Israel and around the world.

ETAI's world partners provide support and inspiration, not only in planning our conferences, but year-round in the online newsletters, blogs, webinars and events held for the benefit of teachers everywhere. As a TESOL affiliate, IATEFL associate, and SEETA member, ETAI can offer its members access to on-site and online events and a rich schedule of professional development opportunities, from brick-and-mortar meetings to Web-based settings. We are proud to be part of these networks. ETAI is also developing partnerships with English Teachers' Associations in Switzerland, in Poland and In Italy, and we hope to expand this network of cooperation with other associations.

Please join me in expressing gratitude to Julia Mor for taking on the challenge of editing the Forum. She has stepped in willingly and has done a wonderful job of getting the Forum back on track and into your mailboxes. And please accept our apologies for the delay in publishing this issue. We hope you enjoy it, and that you visit the ETAI website to learn more about upcoming ETAI events.

See you in at the International Conference in Ashkelon!

Eleanor Satlow
ETAI Chair

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What is the best way to get to know a field that you are trying to break into? To dive in head first! At least that is what I decided to do. As an aspiring new teacher (making a professional switch,) I was drawn to the call for volunteers to help with the ETAI Forum. Without even knowing what I was getting into, I enthusiastically accepted the challenge. Only once I was in the thick of things, I realized this was not so simple and requires lots of treading water. But it has forced me to catch up quickly about what ETAI provides in professional development. And I cannot think of a better way to prepare myself for my upcoming teaching adventure. So to make a long story short, hello ETAI community!

There is a lot to look forward in this issue of the Forum. We learn about different methods to use in the classroom, research ranging from executive function to dyslexia, and we have a new section entitled *Teacher Training and Development* for all those involved in teacher education and continuing professional development of in-service teachers. We also pay tribute to a colleague who passed away, Dr. Maureen Rajuan. All in all, it is a packed issue, including a retrospective of the ETAI conferences and events in the past year (2015.)

Despite my solitary dive, I couldn't have done it all by myself. A few thank-yous are in order. Yehezkal Bund assisted with some of the editing. Michele Ben provided helpful information in passing of the baton, as well as some ongoing editor tasks. And especially Leo Selivan, who held my hand for most of this transition while helping edit the articles. And of course to the ETAI community, for giving me this opportunity.

Julia Mor
Editor, ETAI Forum