

## From the Editor

Welcome to our Summer Issue of the MEXTESOL Journal. I realize that for many of you this may be more of a Fall Issue, since it might not reach your hands until September when you return from vacation. However, whether this gets to you in the Summer or in early September, I am sure that you will find something here that will help solve some problem, lighten your load or tickle your fancy.

Our first article is by Dr. William Wilen, a professor of education at Kent State University, who spent some time here in Mexico as a Fullbright scholar. His article deals with how we as teachers can improve our questioning and conversational techniques in the classroom so that our students can progress beyond just one or two word answers and into real communication with the class as a whole.

Our second article is by Christopher J. Hall of the Universidad de las Américas-Puebla. In an article related to one he published here last year, he explains phrase-structure grammar and provides some suggestions on how these concepts could be used by the teacher either in the classroom to explain grammatical concepts or just to clear up the teacher's own questions about grammar.

Nevin Leder writes an interesting critique of Community Language Learning in our third article. You will remember that Community Language Learning is a language teaching method that was developed in the 70's by Charles Curran. This communicative method emphasizes non-threatening humanistic techniques in which the students themselves design their own curriculum based on their own interests.

In this issue we are also presenting two new humorous columns. We originally decided to include a humorous section in the Journal to lighten our lives a little. Humor is often the best way to make a serious point. The two authors of these columns will be alternating in future issues. Janice Hatfield is a well-known member of the Mexican ELT community. She has presented at many MEXTESOL events and is now writing a textbook. Her column, *ELT Lite*, will relate humorous situations that happen to all of us, either as learners or teachers. Marco Morales is also well-known to all of us who attended the National Convention in Puerto Vallarta last year. Besides presenting an entertaining and informative workshop, he was also one of the wonderful

AV organizers we constantly saw running everywhere, carrying tape recorders, and other equipment for the speakers. His column, *Marco's World*, will reflect experiences from the point of view of the native Spanish-speaker who has become an English teacher.

Patrick Smith has again given us two excellent book reviews for this issue. He is the author of the first review of a book, *Linguistic Imperialism*, which deals with the place of the English language in the world today. This seems to be a special Christopher Hall issue, since, besides writing an excellent article on phrase-structure grammar, he has also given us a clear review of two little linguistics books which are of interest to the ELT teacher.

This issue also contains a *Teaching Tips* column and includes up-dated information about Convention registration.

By the way, start packing your bags and don't forget your suntan lotion...because we'll soon see you in Ixtapa where members will be able to pick up their very special convention issue of the Journal.

The Editor