

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Not long ago I read a book called “When Teaching Gets Tough: Smart ways to reclaim your game” (Mendler, 2012). A suggestion I have seen repeatedly in various articles about teacher burn-out which also features in this book is to become part of a professional learning community. “Teachers share best practices with each other from their own experience and from knowledge gleaned from within and outside the school” (p.125). Our professional learning community is ETAI, and I am proud to be part of it. In ETAI all members have a chance to learn from each other and share with each other by attending events conferences and through the ETAI Forum. It is due to the dedication of all ETAI members, all volunteers, who attend events, write for the Forum, organize conferences and serve on the board, that ETAI is such a vibrant and successful teachers’ association. We should all give ourselves a pat on the back and bask in a bit of professional pride for being part of ETAI and our profession, since often in the educational system it’s hard to get that well-deserved pat on the back.

Unrelated to the above, but not to situations when teaching gets tough, I’d like to share a word that recently struck my fancy. The word is “omnishambles.” It’s the word of the year chosen by Oxford University Press’s UK headquarters and means “a thoroughly mismanaged situation notable for a chain of errors” (<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-word-of-the-year-for-2012/>). Successfully avoiding omnishambles in all endeavors is probably something we all strive for. So, I wish us all luck in avoiding omnishambles in both your professional and personal lives. And we certainly try to avoid it in ETAI!

And finally, I’d like to thank Renee and Maizie for taking over the editing of the Forum. We have great articles here for everyone. Please consider writing something for a future issue.

Michele Ben
ETAI Chair

Mendler, Allan N. (2012). *When Teaching Gets Tough: Smart ways to reclaim your game*. Alexandria, Va.: ASCD.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ETAI is always growing and changing, and an almost completely new staff preparing the ETAI Forum is one of the latest changes. After enjoying, and benefiting from this great resource for English teaching for more than 30 years, I am happy to be able to contribute my part towards its future. When I accepted the job of editor, I had very little idea of what was involved – and it’s going to be an ongoing education. Thanks to Amanda, Michele, Karen, and Maizie for their generous help and guidance. Any mistakes or inconsistencies that result, are purely my responsibility and I hope you will bear with me until I get it right.

Working with me on the Forum are Geraldine Leifer and Maizie Avihayil. Geraldine, joins us after a successful career in a well-known lawyer’s office with expertise that is vital to publishing this journal, is doing copy-editing and proofreading. Maizie, an active and involved ETAI member and a full-time teacher, is working on the layout and proofreading. Working with Karen, our pleasant and efficient ETAI office secretary, is pure pleasure.

Last, but not least, we thank all those who have written and submitted the articles in this Forum issue. It took no more than a brief email to each author, requesting their contribution. Their response was to cheerfully and promptly take time from their busy schedules to share their knowledge and professional experience with us. Please consider taking an example from your colleagues and contributing your own articles to the ETAI Forum. Each of you has their own unique point of view, experience, methodology and style that can inspire and stimulate other teachers.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Renee Wahl
Editor
ETAI Forum