

AJELT: The Year of the Horse and a Time of Change

It's the Year of the Horse, and change is afoot at the journal. The Horse is characterized as having high energy, often depicted metaphorically as galloping purposefully forward. Perhaps this sense of vigor, movement, and change at *AJELT* befits this Horse year. What changes lie ahead?

After over ten years of involvement with *AJELT* as an editorial board member (2004-2006) to Reviews Editor (2007-2014), Professor Lixian Jin is leaving her work with the journal. Her moving on will enable Lixian to devote even greater time for her other professional pursuits and contributions, locally and internationally. She is always in demand, taking on key roles as a mentor, teacher, consultant, researcher/collaborator, and friend to so many across the globe. As she continues her many research projects and commitment to teachers and teaching/professional development, all of us at *AJELT* extend our sincere thanks for her support and editorial work.

I will be retiring from CUHK in August 2015. So, in anticipation of my departure from the university, I will also end my work as the founding and chief editor of *AJELT* at the end of 2014. Needless to say, it has been an honor to have been instrumental in *AJELT*'s inception and development. I am grateful to Professor Lyle Bachman, who gave me the mandate and resources to found this international publication. I also wish to thank Professors George Braine, Nick Dimmitt, and Peter Gu—past editors; it has been a great privilege to have had such exceptional colleagues sharing editorial responsibilities during the formative years of the journal.

While change is never easy, it does give me pause—time to reflect. As I look back on *AJELT*, I am a proud witness of the journal's progress from its early days (i.e., more than 20 years ago when it was called *Occasional Papers* and was an in-house publication) to its transition to an international refereed university press publication. The journal continues to undergo transformation, each year getting stronger and stronger due to the time, energy, expertise, and professionalism of applied linguists, representatives of our international community. *AJELT* is a member of the Council of the Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) and is indexed in *Linguistics Abstracts*, *Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts*, *MLA International Bibliography*, *Sociological Abstracts*, as well as *The Asian Education Index*. In addition, the journal collaborates with the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA): AILA members are provided *AJELT* subscriptions at reduced rates as part of their new or renewed membership. *AJELT* is also recognized as an important academic publication by the international organization, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and a description of the journal is noted on their homepage and in their print materials. *AJELT* can now be accessed online via EBSCO and Project MUSE. And *AJELT* will undergo more innovation and change as new editorial leadership charts the future for this publication.

At this time of transition, I wish to welcome new *AJELT* editors: Professor Gerald Nelson, Professor Derek H. L. Chan, and Professor Helen Zhao. All have been manuscript reviewers for *AJELT*, and I am honored to present them to you.

Professor Gerald Nelson will replace me as Co-Editor, joining Professor Ali Shehadeh in providing overall editorial leadership for the journal. Gerry is Professor in the English Department at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and formerly Reader in English Language and Literature at University College London. His main research interest is English grammar and grammar teaching, and he has written several grammar textbooks, including *The Internet Grammar of English* (University College London, 1998) and *English: An Essential Grammar* (Routledge, 2010). He also carries out corpus-based research on contemporary English worldwide and is the Coordinator of the International Corpus of English (ICE) research project. Professor Nelson can be contacted at geraldnelson@gmail.com.

Moving from their role as manuscript reviewers, Professor Derek H. L. Chan and Professor Helen Zhao take up the responsibility of Review Editors. Both are Assistant Professors in the Department of English, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Professor Chan received his B.A. (Hons) in English and M.Phil. in Applied English Linguistics from CUHK, and he completed his Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. His doctoral research focused on L2 processing of tense-aspect and was awarded a *Language Learning* dissertation grant. Prior to joining the faculty at CUHK, Derek was an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Language & Literature at the National University of Singapore. His main research area is ultimate L2 attainment, and he is keen on exploring ways to enhance the overall L2 teaching-learning experience and optimize their outcomes. Derek's other research interests include second language acquisition and processing, bilingualism, tense-aspect, applied psycholinguistics, and corpus linguistics. Professor Chan is currently the Coordinator of the M.A. program in Applied English Linguistics at CUHK, teaching Research Methods, Psycholinguistics, and L2 Attainment. He can be reached at <derekchan@cuhk.edu.hk>.

Professor Helen Zhao earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English linguistics and applied linguistics from Beijing Foreign Studies University. She was awarded her Ph.D. degree in second language acquisition from Carnegie Mellon University and joined CUHK's English Department as Assistant Professor in 2012. Her research interests include a usage-based approach to second language acquisition, pedagogical grammar, computer assisted language learning, and second language writing. She has received multiple grants from the U.S. and CUHK to investigate computer-based approaches to teaching complex grammatical form and function to advanced ESL and EFL learners. Helen is also interested in researching web-based tools of peer feedback in second language writing classrooms. She has taught a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in China, the U.S., and Hong Kong. She has also had summer teaching experiences in the Middle East. Professor Zhao is currently the Undergraduate Coordinator of Applied English Linguistics at CUHK, and her e-mail address is <helenz@cuhk.edu.hk>.

It has been heartening and rewarding to see Editorial Board members, manuscript reviewers, authors, and engaged readers demonstrate their interest in and commitment to making, understanding, and disseminating knowledge pertaining to Asian tertiary English language learning—theory, research, and pedagogy. *AJELT* has a long and solid record of achievement; the new editorial leadership, board, and reviewers represent a strong team. Indeed, the future is promising.

This is an exciting time for *AJELT*—a time of great vitality, progress, and change.

Gwendolyn Gong