



Editorial

Dear **ELT News** reader,

We are proud to present **ELT News** 52, the second issue after our restart last autumn and would like to thank VERITAS on behalf of **TEA** for their financial support. We had a lot of positive feedback when issue 51 came out. Thank you also for voicing criticism – this helps us keep the quality **ELT News** has been renowned for.

In her report “From the Chair” Marjorie Rosenberg gives you an idea of what has been going on since November 2004. In this issue we are introducing a new feature, “Upcoming events”, which will keep you informed about **TEA** workshops and in-service training events offered by Pedagogical Institutes and other institutions. This time we’re happy to announce two very important events: **TEA**’s 12th Summer School in August and the **TEA** conference, “Vienna ConneXion” in October. Please note the information included in this issue.

We hope we have succeeded in preparing a mixed bag of interesting articles for you again:

Two articles look at teaching practice from a more general and systematic point of view (“ROLO” by Paul Emmerson and “From Teaching strategies to enabling strategies” by Margarete Nezbada); Erwin Gierlinger asks what lessons we can learn from PISA for reading in the foreign language classroom; Jamaican-born Maria Schmitz and ex-arts student Michael Baldwin allow us some personal insight into what made them embark on their teaching careers. Ann Claypole (ELTAS) informs us about the details of the European Language Portfolio while Birgit Smith and Sarah Mercer (University of Graz) take us along the intercultural web-based experience of a Lancaster-Graz university project. Traditionally, language and culture are still at the core of **ELT News**: Veronica Caspers from RELTA and **TEA** Board member Axel Zafoschnig examine the subtleties of the English language, and **ELT News** regular contributor Harriet Anderson (University of Vienna) takes us on

a fascinating tour of English and Scottish school architecture.

Rebecca Chapman, Business Corner coordinator and **TEA** Board member, came up with the idea of starting a series of interviews: This time she is presenting Vicki Hollett, a well-known teacher and freelance author of a number of business English books. The topic of the Young Learners’ Corner in issue 52 is multiple intelligences and social skills, featuring articles by Elisabeth Dörner, a PA student from Graz, and YLC editor, Irena Köstenbauer. Claudia Zekl (**TEA**) and Sally Kowanda (AG Salzburg) take us across the Austrian borders to PISA-winning Finland and to China. Returning to Austria, your ELT coordinators have prepared some accounts of recent events, such as ECML-workshops and the IATEFL/BESIG Conference in Vienna. Webwatcher and our book review section round off issue 52.

We appreciate your feedback, suggestions and contributions. We wish you all a successful summer term 2005 and look forward to meeting many of you at **TEA** Summer School in August and the Vienna ConneXion in October.



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From the Chair

The **TEA** committee has had a busy time since the last **ELT News** came out. Our most important event was the BGM held on November 27, 2004 at the new venue of the British Council. After a welcome drink and time to visit and catch up, the meeting officially started. A quorum was called for and after the official 15 minutes had passed, I took over as a member of the old board. Ruth Sinclair-Jones, the new director of the British Council in Vienna, was introduced and welcomed us. We then heard the financial report from Kurt Weissenböck, our auditor, and Becky Chapman, our new treasurer. Becky informed us that we have a healthy balance in our bank account and although there have been several treasurers in the past few years, the books have been sorted through and we are now up-to-date. Since the beginning of 2004 regular bookkeeping has been carried out and a system for future office managers has been set up. Becky then went on to announce the raise of membership costs in 2005 to 33 Euros for full members and 22 Euros for students, student teachers and retirees. Kurt officially declared the financial situation of **TEA** to be correct after having checked the books. Karl Preis was named as second auditor and approved by the members present. The old board was then dismissed and the new board was introduced. All members were elected with no objections from those present. Each of the board members then introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their positions on the board and what they felt they could offer to **TEA**.

We then informed members about the events of the past two years. I spoke about the three symposia: the Graz Connexion, the Linz Connexion and the English Experience which was a cooperation between the PI, the Pädak des Bundes in Graz, the BPA in Graz and **TEA**. Members were also informed about the various workshops which have been held over the past two years in Vienna, Wiener/Neustadt and in Graz. Ulrike Matiegka then gave a report on the 10th Summer School which was held in Kitzschlag bei Linz in 2003 with Gillian Schwarz-Peaker and David Wura-wa and the 11th Summer School which was held in Murau in 2004 with Bernard Brown and Karen Meixner.

The next item on the agenda was the **ELT News**. Since Pat Häusler-Greenfield had to step down due to health reasons, the **ELT News** has been taken over by two new board members, Margarete Nezbeda and Margarete Lazar as co-coordinators. Issue 50, which was the last one Pat was involved with, did appear and since the BGM Issues 51 and 52 with the new layout and look have also come out. Please contact us if you are interested in writing something for a future issue as contributions are more than welcome.

Becky talked about **TEA's** presence at the IATEFL/BESIG conference in Vienna in November 2004. **TEA** had an ad in the program and also sponsored a coffee break and helped out with some organisational details. Flyers and **ELT News** were available for delegates to look at as well.

The last point dealt with office management. Since the beginning of 2004, Julia Häusler, Pat's daughter, had done a fantastic job of catching up on lapsed renewals, sorting out the membership lists, getting the bookkeeping straightened out and setting up efficient methods for running the **TEA** office. Julia was an enormous help and an extremely supportive member of the team. She began a new job in December 2004 and therefore we have a new office manager, Doris Strauss, who works two afternoons a week in the office. Doris can be reached through the office email or by snail mailing requests to the office.

We rounded up the BGM by talking about what **TEA** can offer its members. Grete Nezbeda talked about the upcoming summer school which will be in Brand-Laaben, Lower Austria from August 20 to August 25, 2005 with Matt Firth and Mark Fletcher. (For more information see the registration form in this issue or visit our website www.tea-austria.org). Becky Chapman mentioned the Vienna conference which is being planned for October 21 – 23, 2005 and I mentioned a possible Carinthian conference for 2006. The **ELT News** will continue in its new format with Grete and Margarete as co-coordinators for articles and contents and Claudia Zekl doing layout and working



as the business manager coordinating ads and other financial support. Regional workshops were brought up and as usual we are always grateful to ideas, offers for workshops and names of people interested in holding them. A series of three workshops focussing on business English have been planned for the Vienna area. Claudia spoke about the website and the updates which can be found on it. Claudia has been very busy with the website and we have expanded our events section. If you have information you would like posted on the website, or links you would like to have added, please contact the **TEA** office. The last item to be mentioned was the list of bookshops, video shops and other organisations which offer discounts to members. This list can be found on the new **TEA** flyer and the website.

After the official ending of the BGM, we were treated to a virtual tour of the new British Council premises and were able to experience first-hand what the Council can offer to teachers and learners. We were all very impressed by the new facilities and I am sure that many of our members will be making return visits to the British Council.

The evening then finished off at a nearby restaurant where the board and members had a chance to relax, chat, make new friends, see “old” acquaintances and enjoy delicious food.

So keep your eyes open for the invitations to the summer school, various workshops and the Vienna ConneXion. We hope to see as many of you as possible at one event or another. I also wish everyone a successful ending to the school year.

Marjorie Rosenberg



Professional profile:

Marjorie Rosenberg is an instructor of English at the Pädagogische Akademie and the Berufspädagogische Akademie in Graz as well as working in adult education, as a teacher trainer and serving on the

board of **TEA** (Teachers of English in Austria). Her publications include *Communicative Business Activities* (öbv&hpt, Vienna) and *Friends* (VERITAS, Linz). She can be reached at mrosenberg@aon.at