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# Message from the Editor

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of *OnCUE Journal* for 2012. I expect that the new cover design may have taken some of you by surprise, even though it has been announced in recent weeks. Gone is the familiar squiggly-tailed red Q logo, too, replaced by a more contemporary one. The overall cover is meant to present a more professional image than the previous design that had all sans serif font type, while simultaneously adding a bit of flair, and I hope you feel we have accomplished just that. The end product is the result of input from many people and countless hours of scrutinizing to be most appropriate and attractive for the CUE SIG. When OCJ first began with the previous design in 2007, a close eye could see minor changes in the cover sometimes from issue to issue. We might tweak things a bit with the latest design, but not as much as that, I hope! I would like to give special thanks to CUE coordinator Juanita Heigham for her creativity, drive, and patience in helping to put this together. Speaking for myself, I sincerely hope you find this change to be welcome.

Issue 6.1 kicks off with an intriguing article on mindsets by Stephen Ryan and Sarah Mercer, taking us from Japan to Austria in their investigations of how students think. The Research Digest cupboard is bare this time around, but we are hoping to rectify that in issue 6.3 at the end of the year. Meanwhile, our own Keith Ford has contributed with a well-researched article in the Opinion and Perspective section, calling for a brand of more qualitative research reports. I am happy to be able to present not one but two articles in our newly renamed @CUE section, perhaps reflecting section editor Terry Fellner's effort to attract authors with his descriptions in issue 5.1. In @CUE, Graham Taylor provides us with a critique of Powerpoint and tips on how to use it, and Gary Wolff fills our plates with description of iPad applications that he feels we can't live without. Don't let the date of the conference review deter you from reading a succinct description about KOTESOL by Douglas

Meyer. His article only enforces OCJ's desire to bring news to its readers about any and all conferences that are worth attending, not just those in Japan or sponsored by JALT entities. I think you will enjoy Tim Murphey's review of *Drive*, a book on self-motivation that paints a unique picture of how we should perceive ourselves and the reasons we do things we do.

In the previous issue, we commissioned a call for papers for @CUE with an up-to-date description of that section. Issue 6.1 follows suit by offering readers similar pieces by Paul Moritoshi (Professional Development) and Keith Ford (Opinion and Perspective). Most people probably don't look at the back inside cover to see what OCJ wants in its sections, so with these blurbs, we are reaching out directly to you and explaining what we want. PD has been underutilized in the history of OCJ, and with job security not as strong as we would like it, I would hope that more people would write in to describe how we can all help ourselves to attain better and more stable careers. Of the details that Keith has written about submitting to OP, you will see something I am personally very excited about (interviews in OCJ). We would like to offer more than just articles and reviews, and Keith's description of entertaining proposals for readers to interview people in EFL should result in a real shine to the journal to accompany its new cover.

This issue marks the last time we will see Dexter Da Silva at the helm of the book reviews section. His contributions to that part of OCJ and more have been invaluable. Of course, he will still be with us as one of the CUE coordinators. Taking the reins as section editor will be Ellen Head from Kansai Gaidai University. Her experience as the editor of the Learner Development SIG's newsletter, plus her vast knowledge in various EFL fields will certainly allow her to contribute significantly. She is already drawing up plans to expand and attract more book review offerings.

You will see a few new names on the list of proofreaders and reviewers. They are a welcome addition to the OCJ family, and I hope we can bring more on board. Another new face is our layout manager Gavin Brooks, who succeeds Mike Hood's excellent and tireless efforts in getting the digitized words into print. Welcome, Gavin, and many thanks to you, Mike, as always. I

do not want to leave out Germain Mesureur. While he is not on staff with the journal directly, he and Gavin are CUE's newest co-webmasters, taking over from Matthew Apple who served a long time and whose contributions are immeasurable. Germain and Gavin have revamped the CUE web site, including the OCJ page, and for that immense job I just want to extend gratitude as chief editor for a job well done.

Some internal details of OCJ were modified, in case you hadn't noticed. Format for abstracts is one of them. Keeping track of dates that articles are received and accepted is another. A more noticeable change is the move to a serif font (Garamond), which was felt would give the journal a better (yes, academic) look and which might be easier on the eyes.

But enough of this preface. If you read it all the way through, you've done more than I imagined. Now get to the real writing, from our authors.

Sincerely,

Glen Hill

Chief Editor, *OnCUE Journal*