

# Introduction

*Max Koller*

April, for the Forum staff and many others, begins with the international convention of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). This conference gives English teachers a wonderful occasion to exchange ideas and experiences. Teachers who attend the convention return home humming with new ideas, eager to try new techniques in their classrooms, their pockets full of business cards from the new friends they've made.

But despite all the newness it brings about, TESOL itself isn't new. (This professional association has been around almost as long as English Teaching Forum.) In this issue's interview with James Alatis, "the father of TESOL," you'll learn about the early days of TESOL—and many other interesting things. Dr. Alatis's insights and anecdotes inspire us, and we're pleased to be able to share them with you. This issue also contains the second in our series of essays from Writers on America. In "Maps and Legends," Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon writes about the community he lived in as a boy and how it helped make him the writer he is today.

We have all lived in, visited, or read about cities we admire. But have we thought about the planning it took to create those cities? Have we considered how they have changed and been modified over the years? Such ideas surface in our feature article on urban planning (which includes information about Columbia, Maryland, Michael Chabon's childhood home). We hope this article will encourage our readers to look at cities in their own countries more closely—and maybe more appreciatively.