

Editor's Note

As spring comes to the northern hemisphere, we continue our year-long celebration marking 50 years of *English Teaching Forum*.

In that spirit of celebration, if you picture this issue as an imaginary commemorative conference—then Diane Larsen-Freeman is our plenary speaker. She has written an article for the “Reflections” section that focuses on a pattern she has observed in the field of English language teaching—that is, diversity within unity. The article echoes ideas she explored in a piece she wrote for the 25th anniversary of *Forum*, published in 1987, that also appears in this issue. Together, these two articles offer a grand overview of English language teaching over the past 50 years. We are excited to share these thought-provoking articles with our readers.

Besides commemorating *Forum*'s anniversary, this issue celebrates spring—a season of new growth and sometimes new ideas. It was in the spring, more than 40 years ago, that Earth Day was born. It was the brainchild of Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator, who wanted to harness the energy of vocal citizen groups to call attention to the need to address environmental issues such as air and water pollution.

The first Earth Day observance was April 22, 1970. And Earth Day has been celebrated ever since, going global in 1990 and marking its 40th anniversary in 2010. (You'll note that Earth Day is a little younger than *Forum*.)

Several elements of this issue are in keeping with Earth Day. The opening article focuses on environmental education and ways to merge it with English language teaching. The Classroom Activities section includes an activity based on the book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. First published in 1962, this book raised awareness of environmental problems and paved the way for Earth Day.

You might say that with this issue we've “gone green”—considering the front cover (literally green), the environmental content described above, and the Earth Day photo that precedes the Classroom Activities section. We hope that will inspire you to do something, or teach something, that is friendly to the earth.

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