

Editor's Note

This is the last of our 50th anniversary issues, and we feel a little disappointed that this exciting year of celebrations is coming to an end.

But autumn is upon us (in the northern hemisphere), and people are going back to school—which brings its own kind of excitement. For students the beginning of a new school year means new books, new notebooks and pens, new subjects to study, and sometimes the chance to make new friends.

After a summer break, teachers have organized their lessons and arranged their classrooms. They have met with colleagues to plan the school calendar. They anticipate the return of talking, smiling students to the hallways and classrooms of their schools. They are ready to practice their craft.

Recognizing that teachers use all kinds of tools to enhance their teaching, we highlight in this issue the concept of the teacher's toolbox—both in the opening article and in the second half of the “Reflections” section, which offers three articles that fit the theme of “Essentials for the Teacher's Toolbox.”

One essential tool for English teachers is the dictionary. Two articles explore ways to use dictionaries in the classroom; one is a contemporary article about online dictionaries, and one is a reprint of the 1974 article called “Getting the Most Out of the Dictionary.” The latter was written by the renowned EFL educator and researcher Albert H. Marckwardt (1903–1975), who chaired the Advisory Panel of *English Teaching Forum* from 1969 to 1974 and was a noted contributor to the journal.

Marckwardt was a native of Michigan, earned his degrees there, and spent much of his teaching life in that state. Another author included in the “Reflections” section—Adrian Palmer—spent many years of his teaching career at the University of Michigan (although he now teaches at the University of Utah). His contribution to the “Reflections” section is “Teaching Communication: Back to the 60s,” a commentary on an article he published in *Forum* in 1971, which also appears in this issue.

Back to the present—it's fall. And both the Classroom Activities section and the photo essay call attention to this colorful season. As we come to the end of this special anniversary year, we'd like to thank all of our authors and special contributors and acknowledge our readers around the world. Without you, *Forum* would not have survived for 50 years!

—MK