

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

If you've read *English Teaching Forum* before, you've already noticed that this issue looks different. The new look begins with the cover, which features a painting called *Barracks Row, SE* by Kay Fuller, an award-winning artist from Washington, D.C., who specializes in watermedia and collage. You can see more of her work at www.kayfullerart.portfoliolounge.com.

But what about the rest of *Forum*? The new format retains *Forum*'s strengths while adding sections that help teachers discover new techniques, share ideas, and learn about other teaching contexts. You will still find articles, classroom activities (in the section now called Try This), and The Lighter Side puzzles. And beginning with this issue, *Forum* adds three new sections: Reader's Guide, Teaching Techniques, and My Classroom. Below are descriptions of all six sections.

ARTICLES provide practical, innovative ideas for teaching English, based on current theory.

READER'S GUIDE corresponds to the articles in each issue and can guide your own understanding as well as discussions with colleagues.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES give English teachers the opportunity to share successful classroom practices.

MY CLASSROOM focuses on one teacher's classroom and describes ways that the teaching environment shapes learning.

TRY THIS gives step-by-step instructions for carrying out language-learning activities in your classroom.

THE LIGHTER SIDE features an English language-based puzzle that can be photocopied and given to students to solve individually or collaboratively.

As you read this issue, you'll see that the topic of listening in Kevin McCaughey's article is picked up in Try This and again in The Lighter Side. You'll find that Kathleen Malu invites you to participate in the "observation" of a class as you read her article and that Andrew Pollard suggests ways to turn your students' cell phones into tools for practicing English.

You might return often to the Reader's Guide, which offers questions to frame your approach to the articles and suggestions for using *Forum* to further your professional development. And you may come across ideas in the Teaching Techniques section that you will use again and again. Meanwhile, My Classroom will take you to a place where

the teaching environment may be strikingly similar to—or much different from—your own.

Forum also has an increased online presence. At americanenglish.state.gov/english-teaching-forum, you'll find archives back to 2001 and additional material to use in your teaching and discussions with colleagues. And for those who are interested in being published in *Forum*, **submission guidelines** are posted on the website. Email manuscripts to etforum@state.gov.

Yes, *Forum* has a new look, but its purpose remains the same: to support the teaching of English around the world through the exchange of innovative, practical ideas.