



Editorial

As former editors Ann Johns and John Swales both celebrate their 60th birthdays in 1998, the current editors have taken the opportunity in this issue of the journal to mark their careers as teachers, researchers and authors. We also wish to reflect on the tremendous influence that they have had on the field of ESP, not only in the way they built up *English for Specific Purposes* between 1985 and 1993 into the flagship journal of the field, but also in their publications, their work with graduate students and their visits to other countries to lecture or run workshops on ESP.

We have broken with tradition to incorporate a number of other genres in addition to the traditional article: interviews, more personal articles and tributes. We have full articles by Henry Widdowson, Tom Miller, Meriel Bloor and Elaine Tarone. Widdowson makes use of the special nature of this issue to reflect on the nature of ESP; he discusses the responsibility of the ESP teacher to help specialists in the disciplines and the professions to reduce the *mystery* of their professional communication as well as the more general role of helping learners acquire the *mastery* of the language and discourse. Tom Miller has worked with Ann Johns on many USIA tours in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe; his tribute to Ann discusses the relationship between a text and its supporting visuals. Meriel Bloor looks at the question of whether Swales' work in genre analysis is consistent with the work of the so-called Australian genre school; she argues that Swales' work belongs firmly within and has made an important contribution to systemic-functional linguistics. Tarone also reflects on Swales' work in genre analysis and, in updating the influential article from the 1980s about the use of the active and the passive in astrophysics journal articles, raises an important question about the CARS model for article introductions.

We have included two interviews. One is with Charles Bazerman in which he looks back on the development of his professional and personal friendship with John Swales and discusses the interaction between ESP practitioners world-wide and composition teachers in U.S.A. The other is with Ann Johns conducted by Debbie Poole, a colleague of Ann's at San Diego State University; Ann reflects on her career in ESP and applied linguistics.

We also have two articles that are more personal in nature, but still make important academic points. In one John and Ann discuss how they first met, how they worked together on *English for Specific Purposes* when they became co-editors, and how they see each other's contribution to the field. The second is an article by four of John's recent research students, Margaret Luebs, Betty Samraj, Sunny Hyon and Kirstin Frederickson, who debate the

role of the PhD supervisor (adviser in American English). This is supported by a tribute from John's first doctoral student, Vijay Bhatia. Mohamed Daoud was a graduate student at San Diego, but in his tribute focuses on Ann's ability to inspire teachers and researchers at ESP conferences and workshops around the world.

We also have a review by Sunny Hyon of Ann's most recent book *Text, Role and Context: Developing Academic Literacies*, and, finally, a full and definitive bibliography for both John and Ann.

Two points strike us reading through these contributions. One is that it is clear from the articles, the interviews and the tributes that Ann and John have made a contribution to the field of ESP that stretches way beyond their work as teachers, researchers and editors. Both have always been willing to give a tremendous amount of commitment and time to graduate students, students on ESP courses and teachers that they have met at conferences. It is this willingness to support, mentor and simply to give time to people that emerges particularly strongly from this special issue. Secondly, it is interesting to note the changes that Tarone has made to her original article. There is a sense that ESP now has a stronger and more widely accepted framework for its activities. We believe that this is a reflection of how ESP has developed and that *English for Specific Purposes* has played an important role in this. The influence of the journal is significantly the result of the expertise, dedication and imagination that Ann and John brought to it in their years as editors.