Editor's introduction

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In 2004 I founded *LTHE* as a forum for university and college faculty in the Gulf region to publish scholarly work on issues of learning and teaching of key importance in the region. Over the fifteen years since then, it has become apparent that many of these issues (quality in tertiary learning, the effective use of technology and other approaches in higher education and the role of culture and language in the development and application of knowledge, among others) are of increasing importance in the world more broadly; and the journal's readership has expanded accordingly. *LTHE* is now widely cited and is indexed in Web of Science and other leading scholarly databases; we have also recently been notified that it will be indexed in Scopus. The journal is entering a new phase of development, and as of next issue will have a new Chief Editor, Dr. Christina Gitsaki, with the support of Zayed University's Center for Educational Innovation. I look forward after so many years to handing responsibility for the journal over to Dr. Gitsaki, and to seeing further exciting developments under her leadership.

The first paper in this issue of *LTHE*, by Waigand, discusses the usefulness of the Turnitin plagiarism check service not only for checking students' work but also for helping students to learn about plagiarism. Miles's paper following this samples teacher feedback about a five year implementation of iPads in college classrooms; while Fraser and Hasan present findings from college students' experience of being tutored privately in mathematics. The final two papers focus on language learning: Ghasemi et al. present the results of a metacognitive (learner training) approach for students' vocabulary knowledge; while Farrokh focuses on students' reading comprehension and how it benefits from focusing students' attention on communication in different situations.

We would like to thank our peer reviewers for their valuable contributions to the quality of papers published in *LTHE*. Reviewers for this issue include Amir Kaviani, Christina Gitsaki, Christine Coombe, Gail Alhafidh, Hayfa Jafar, Janet Martin, Jason Johnson, Jobila Sy, Linda Khenoune and Rolando Jr Lontok.

We look forward to receiving submissions to *LTHE* presenting original work based on data and experience from Gulf higher education contexts. Following our Twitter feed (@LTHEgulf) will enable you to receive up to date information about the journal and relevant events.