

## FOREWORD

Humanists, educators, social scientists, and those involved in commercial enterprises, all will find articles of interest in this issue. What I would suggest, however, is to not look only at those that are of most immediate interest. We are living in an era of specialization, and that has many advantages, but there is also the danger that our interests will become too narrow. It is a virtue of the ABAC Journal that it straddles disciplinary boundaries and can expand the perspectives of all of our readers.

Dr. Suthira Duangsamorn's topic itself provides an indication that crossing boundaries is a very productive intellectual strategy. In her previous work she has explored how world writers have used pictorial and other devices to further the narratives of their fiction. In this article she expands this research by examining the same techniques as used in a contemporary novel by Thai writer Chart Korbjitti. Boundary crossing is also seen as having important implications in the article by Dr. Werner Delanoy, though the emphasis is with regard to the teaching rather than the production of literature. A dialogic model of teaching that allows many voices to be heard and that makes connections with other media provides a particularly effective way of allowing students to get the most out of the texts they read. Dr. Stephen Conlon also is interested in student voices in the classroom and encourages the elicitation of student responses not simply as a means of evaluation but also as a technique of active Socratic learning.

Many voices expressing differences and similarities are also important in the business world. Pimpavee Ngampathanakul and Andy Pilling explore the effect of culture on Internet adoption in small and medium businesses in England and in Thailand.

Dialogue and communication, a theme common in some sense to all of our articles in this issue, is very much at the heart of Dr. Ioan Voicu's examination of a topic to which none of us can be indifferent: world peace. UNESCO, an important organization working for peace, has long looked to communication as a means of achieving its goals. The task is just too important to simply leave to government. Universities, as repositories of knowledge and values, can play an important role in the effort and UNESCO's endeavor to form a Global Mega University Net should serve to expand these institutions' role as a resource for peace and understanding.

Crossing boundaries is an important theme in all of our articles in this issue. I encourage our readers to do some boundary crossing of their own and explore the ideas and insights of each of our authors.

Executive Editor

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