

Editorial

Phil Horspool

University of Leicester

Welcome to the latest issue of ISEJ. We decided that people generally get plenty of presents in December hence its January release. This is the first issue involving Emma Stringer Burns our new academic editor and when we finally say goodbye to founder member Chris Lima. We are confident that the journal will continue to prosper and develop under Emma's guidance.

The opening article is based on a small scale study conducted by staff from the University of Sheffield on providing effective feedback to students. The authors argue that effective feedback is invaluable in improving the academic performance of international students. Feedback is often something that is done automatically and this paper helps to show why giving serious thought to how it can be most effectively delivered can be a key to success.

Secondly from Canada we have a paper on the equally important and often overlooked area of mentoring. The focus here is on non-academic barriers and leaves us with some important key lessons for moving forward.

Student contributions are a key component of ISEJ and something that differentiates our journal from others. In this issue we have two. Firstly we have a first-hand reflective account of a student's experience in Belgium. Placements abroad are increasingly offered to students and can be both a challenging and exciting experience for those who take up the offer. Charlotte Veale describes a very different experience in which she volunteers at an orphanage in Kenya. We all know that the classroom is just part of the student experience of going to university and it is great to hear accounts of those who experience other cultures.

We complete this issue with two book reviews of *Thinking beyond the Content: Critical Reading for Academic Success*. Both reviewers highly recommend the book to international students.

Until now ISEJ has managed to fund itself through sponsorship and the generosity of some of those who helped to set it up. Willing volunteers give us their time for free but there are some expenses involved in producing a journal twice a year with the main one being the cost of the website.

We are looking at ways in which we can raise what we need each year so we can continue to publish ISEJ. Ideally we would find a few sponsors or institutions willing to contribute a small amount rather than look at subscriptions. If you have any ideas or think your institution might be interested, we can look at promoting courses, materials etc. in return. Please contact us if you'd like to find out more. We hope you agree that it would be a shame if we couldn't continue for the sake of a few hundred pounds each year.

Best wishes for 2018.