

*FROM THE EDITOR:**WELCOME TO THIS 'BELLWETHER' ISSUE*

Welcome to the Spring, 2015 issue of *Engaging Cultures & Voices: The Journal of Learning through Media*. You may have noticed that we've dropped "English" from our previous title to better reflect our expanding readership and purpose, as education, overall, continues to push (albeit too slowly for us) toward interdisciplinary learning.

Also, this issue is especially true to our focus on the depth and breadth of imagery in teaching and learning. The authors in this issue apply the image—the DNA of our work—to the most complex and demanding issues in education today. In short, this issue's focus on investigators using visual research reports to communicate the powers of imagery in teaching and learning make this a truly "bellwether" issue. (And, of course, it's nearly impossible to focus on imagery without language, and vice-versa.)

First, "The Body of Discussion," written by Crag Hill and illustrated by Trent McMinn, both of the University of Oklahoma, vividly demonstrates how a qualitative research report can be effectively communicated as a comic book. The author and illustrator expertly employ the techniques of comics and graphic novels that are gaining popularity in classrooms.

Next, Tammy Oberg De La Garza's PowerPoint research report, "Using Photovoice Methodology to Explore Latino Students' Access to Literacy," shows us how students in two Chicago neighborhoods document print literacy in their homes and communities and, in the process, become more sensitized to the many doors that literacy opens.

In a similar vein, Dr. Audrey Murphy and her colleagues at St. John's University focus on low socio-economic-status (SES) English Language Learners. Their research, "Using Arts-Based Instruction to Support Mathematics Achievement for Low SES English Language Learners under the Common Core State Standards," demonstrates how arts-based instruction can help ELL's not just in learning English, but improving their math skills. We hope their work inspires more research.

Finally, Harlow S. Sanders' "The Original Super-Hero Comic?" takes us full circle, as he reviews the verbal and visual pages of the graphic novel, *Beowulf*, by Gareth Hinds.

Last, but never least, I could not have found a better issue in which to thank Dr. Lynn (Chih-Ning) Chang for her invaluable and tireless work on this journal over several years. This issue also serves as a welcome to four new Associate Editors: Christy Goldsmith, Maha Kareem, Erin Small, and Irene Wan.

--Roy F. Fox
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