

Welcome to Issue Number 8 of *Engaging Cultures & Voices: The Journal of Learning through Media*. Please note that the first two articles interpret “media” very broadly, as we all should. While the word, “passionate” has been terribly over-used in recent years, it accurately describes Dr. Jonathan Lovell’s message, delivered in a way that also demonstrates not just respect for visuality, but an energetic love for images—especially those that effectively interact with language.

Dr. Nilufer Guler’s article on using graphic novels with English Language Learners shows what can happen when we believe in these interactions enough to implement them in our own classrooms. Teaching by using words *and* pictures--actual, mental, virtual—more than doubles student engagement and learning.

Finally, Professors Abdallah Shafee and Kent Rhodes articulate several misperceptions that can occur in today’s classrooms if we fail to actively inquire into the increasing number of texts focusing on cultural issues in education. The kinds of critical thinking advocated by all three of these articles is best cultivated through immersing ourselves and our students in the combustible energy generated when words and images attract and repel each other.

In the coming year, I will be fortunate to serve as a Fulbright Scholar at University College Cork, National University of Ireland, where I look forward to pursuing these same issues. I hope to enlist my Irish and other European colleagues to submit manuscripts to *ECV*. I hope that you will do the same, as well as pass our journal on to your own students and colleagues. We wish you a rich summer ahead!

--Roy F. Fox

Editor