

From the Editor

A Publication with 1200 Editors



Barbara Gastel

During a stint in academic administration, I had the intimidating task of teaching about teaching. I think I have now encountered its rival: editing a publication for editors. How formidable to edit (in one's "extra" time, at that) a periodical for 1200 editors, including some of the most accomplished and authoritative in the field!

Luckily, as shown to the right of this column, others help to produce CBE Views. Also, readers, knowing all too well the challenges and pitfalls of editing, are proving tolerant and kind. And I am coming to view Views not only as a publication for editors but also as one with 1200 editors and

related experts to draw on.

The current issue of CBE Views makes new use of some of this talent. For some years, readers have wished for an index. CBE member Winfield Swanson has kindly agreed to be indexer. An index to volume 21 (1998) thus appears in this issue. The index is bound into the center so readers can either keep it there or remove it to store with their issues from 1998. Winfield is continuing to index CBE Views as it appears, and we also hope to publish an index covering the last several years. If you have ideas for making the index more useful, please let me know.

Reprinted in this issue is an article on editing that appeared in *Interfaces*, a journal of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. The article addresses especially well how an editor can help steer a journal, and thus a discipline, into new areas. If any of you see articles that seem well suited to reprint in Views, please do call them to my attention.

Indeed, the literature on science editing and related topics is widely scattered—in scientific journals, in communications journals, and elsewhere. One role of CBE Views is to help keep readers abreast of this literature. Therefore, we are developing a column summarizing selected articles on the communication of science. The first installment of this column, along with an introduction to the columnist, is expected to appear shortly. Meanwhile, if articles—current or classic—strike you as good ones for attention in the column, please tell me.

We still have openings for additional columnists. In addition, we are seeking an advertising manager for CBE Views so we can pursue advertising more systematically and energetically and respond more effectively to inquiries about advertising opportunities in Views. If you think you might like to be advertising manager, or if you would like to nominate someone, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Although editing a publication for 1200 editors can indeed be intimidating, editing a publication with 1200 editors is a rare privilege. I look forward to having more of you take active roles.

Barbara Gastel.

CBE VIEWS

MAY — JUNE 1999 ♦ VOLUME 22 ♦ NUMBER 3

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