

Student Contributions to Science Editor: Thanks and Prospects

For most of us who read or contribute to *Science Editor*, November and December bring one or more holidays. Among them are holidays often associated with gifts, especially gifts for young people.

Looking back on 2001, I am especially grateful for gifts from young people. In particular, I am thankful for the contributions that graduate students have made to *Science Editor*. Special appreciation goes to Linda Wang and Gabe Waggoner, who, while completing master's degrees in science and technology journalism, served as graduate assistants in the editorial office. They have brought much to these pages and also helped much behind the scenes. I hope they have benefited in return.

When I was approached 4 years ago about editing the forerunner of *Science Editor*, *CBE Views*, I wrote in the requested vision statement, "At least

initially, my main innovation would be to involve graduate students." Doing so, I said, "would allow me to produce a better publication than I otherwise could, and giving students such experience appears highly consistent with the educational mission of [the Council]."

Since that November 1997 statement, other innovations also have occurred, including transformation of *CBE Views* to *Science Editor*. Throughout, however, involvement of students—both as graduate assistants and in more limited ways—has remained important. I appreciate all that students have brought to the publication, and I am grateful to the Council for providing the sup-



Barbara Gastel

port that helps enable such involvement.

In 2002, I hope to broaden involvement by students and others relatively new to science editing. Thus far, the students contributing to *Science Editor* have been mainly those studying with me at Texas A&M University. I am glad, though, also to give opportunities to others who are starting to learn about science editing. If you know of students or beginning science editors who might like, for example, to write a report for *Science Editor*, I hope you will let me know—or, perhaps better yet, have the candidates contact me.

In keeping with a suggestion by an Editorial Board member, *Science Editor* also is thinking of starting a department featuring items that are for, by, or about science-editing students or that are related to the teaching and learning of science editing. If you have ideas regarding

such a department or if you are willing to contribute, please let me know.

For now, let me thank both the students who contributed to *Science Editor* in 2001 and the more senior people who contributed to the publication throughout the year. Particular thanks go to Grace Darling, Norman Grossblatt, Tiffany Inbody, and Roxanne Young, whose contributions pervade every issue. Special thanks also are due to annual-meeting editor Ann Morcos, who this year successfully obtained reports on every session at the CSE annual meeting. Many of the reports appear in this issue or appeared in the previous one, and I look forward to publishing the remaining reports early in 2002.

May you have an excellent holiday season. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the new year.

Barbara Gastel
Editor

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