

## Looking Ahead: Science Editor in 2003

As editor of *Science Editor*, I ought to know not to predict. Research manuscripts and other unsolicited pieces arrive on unexpected topics and from unexpected quarters. Commissioned pieces take unforeseen directions, arrive late (or occasionally early), or never materialize. Political and other events affect production and distribution and suggest topics to cover. Job changes, career changes, and personal circumstances take away staff members, board members, and CSE personnel. Other talented individuals emerge to take their place.

Despite the surprises, *Science Editor* has, I believe, maintained reasonable consistency in the 3 years since it replaced *CBE Views*. We plan this year to publish a similar range of material while exploring some new subjects and publishing work by some new authors. Peer-reviewed

articles are in the pipeline, feature articles have reached various stages of preparation, our columnists and book-review editor remain hard at work, and CSE officers and committee chairs continue contributing updates. As usual, we look forward to covering extensively the CSE annual meeting and publishing reports on other conferences of interest.

Staffing is an area in which we expect some changes. As readers may have noticed, beginning with the November-December issue Jane C Lantz has been deputy publication manager. Jane has agreed to become publication manager later this



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year, when Grace Darling steps down. I look forward to publishing a piece introducing Jane and thanking Grace for her tremendous contributions as publication manager since 1997. Let me express my gratitude to Martha Tacker, who preceded me as editor, for creating the position of publication manager and appointing such an able person to it. I have greatly enjoyed working with Grace and look forward to working further with Jane.

Also, we hope to have on board by midyear a deputy editor—editor-designate of *Science Editor*. When this column was written, a search, led by former Council President Blaire Mossman, had recently begun. If all goes as hoped, the candidate chosen will take progressive responsibility for the publication and then become editor when my appointment ends in May 2004.

Efforts to broaden the editorial board to reflect a wider range of sciences are continuing. Although the recruitment process has, in keeping with the life of an editor, taken some unexpected twists, it appears that the next member of the board will come from the earth sciences. I hope to announce the appointment soon. Suggestions of candidates from outside biology and medicine are gratefully received at any time.

Now in my fifth year as editor of the Council's periodical, I know better than to make firm predictions. I hope, though, to provide you with a useful and interesting publication this year. And I hope that many of you will surprise me with unsolicited ideas and contributions.

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