

# Dirk Steps Down as Views Afield Columnist

## Tanya Nading

Lynn Dirk, who has overseen the Views Afield column for *Science Editor* since 1999, is stepping down from the department. Her last column appears in this issue.

“We appreciate the thought and skill Lynn has devoted to writing columns for Views Afield”, says Barbara Gastel, editor of *Science Editor*. “And we’re grateful to her for reviewing columns that others have written for this department.” The idea for the Views Afield column came from Dirk’s experience while working for the University of Florida’s Department of Anesthesiology as a biomedical editor from 1978 to 1996. One of her responsibilities was to act as the department’s librarian. During her time there, many journals crossed her desk, including *Science* and *JAMA*. While looking in the journals for guides for authors, she noticed that many had articles related to biomedical editing from time to time.

“Because these articles were so widely scattered among journals at irregular times, I thought it would be a good idea to highlight them similar to a book-review column”, Dirk says. The Views Afield column has consisted mainly of annotated lists of articles on science editing or related topics that have appeared in periodicals other than *Science Editor*.

Dirk says that a part-time job in abstracting anesthesiology articles for a secondary anesthesiology journal from 1982 to 1992 helped influence her work on Views Afield. Dirk both wrote Views Afield columns and oversaw guest columns by interns and others.

Dirk is stepping down as editor of this department to pursue a project that she has set on the back burner—a series of children’s books based on all the academic disciplines, each one to explain that aspect of the world.

“I’ve enjoyed doing Views Afield immensely”, Dirk says. “Working with

TANYA NADING prepared this article while an intern for *Science Editor*.

## Topics of Views Afield Columns in *CBE Views* (1999) and *Science Editor*

Year	Vol(No)	Page(s)	Title/[Topic]
1999	22(4)	124-5	Scientific Literacy, Ignorance Studies: Reflections from <i>Science Communication</i>
	22(5)	162	Reader Expectations and Lexical Difficulty
2000	22(6)	203	Henry Oldenburg: The First Science-Journal Editor
	23(1)	19-20	The Council: Looking Backward and Forward from 1987
	23(2)	53-4	The Desserts and Deserts of Authorship
	23(3)	94-5	The Original Rap [discovery and related topics]
	23(4)	132-3	The Scientific Paper: Through the Magnifying Glass
	23(5)	167	Intriguing Reading
	23(6)	204	The Importance of Being Written [the journal <i>Written Communication</i> ]
2001	24(2)	59	Raising the Bar: Legal Perspectives on Scientific Communication
	24(3)	99	On the Bias
	24(4)	129	The Scientific Body Electric
	24(5)	165	The Eyes Have It [visual communication of science]
	24(6)	201	Some Gems from Geology
2002	25(1)	24	A Public Matter [public understanding of science]
	25(2)	57	The Many Facets of Science: Five Decades of Science Studies
	25(3)	98	The Editorial Rod and Staff [articles about <i>The New Fowler’s Modern English Usage</i> and <i>Roget’s Thesaurus</i> ]
	25(4)	133	Brave New Text [computers and communication]
	25(5)	165	The Path to a Nobel Prize [selected papers on density functional theory]
2003	25(6)	203	Science News: A Medium Rarely Well Done?
	26(1)	21	Tabula Rasa: A Call for Guest Columnists
	26(2)	59	A Wrench in the Works [scientific misconduct]
	26(3)	99	Harvard’s <i>Nieman Reports</i> Looks at Science Journalism
	26(4)	133-4	Suppose There Were No Printers [reprinted from an editorial by Frank Davidoff]
	26(5)	167	Conflicting Interests
2004	26(6)	200	Peer Review and Technical Editing in Biomedical Journals: What Do We Know About the Effects?
	27(1)	27	Raising the Standard of Pharmaceutical Publication Practice
	27(2)	55	Science and Television: Stereotypes and Truths
	27(3)	97	Transatlantic Views: <i>European Science Editing</i>
	27(4)	129	Practical Makes Perfect [ <i>Science and Engineering Ethics</i> ]
	27(5)	165	Marine Ecologists Explore Science-Journal Issues
	27(6)	197	Mapping Knowledge Domains
2005	28(1)	26	Basic Advice from Editors to Scientist Writers
	28(2)	55	Statistical Savvy
	28(4)	130	Lingua Academia [ <i>Journal of English for Academic Purposes</i> ]

Barbara [Gastel, editor of *Science Editor*] and then later with the interns has been a great pleasure. I hope that Views Afield will continue in some form or other and bring as much pleasure to a new contributor as it did to me.”

Dirk graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville with a bachelor's degree in English education. She also has a master's in mass communication, specializing in science communication, specifically journal peer review. After obtaining her bachelor's degree, she found it difficult to find a job teaching English and instead worked in biomedical editing from 1978 to

1996. She then was editor for the institutional review board at the University of Florida from 1996 to 2002.

Dirk was then recruited to an administrative position at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Brain Rehabilitation Research Center. While working there, she was inspired by the center's director and other investigators to return to school to study linguistics. She is now a graduate



**Lynn Dirk**

student in linguistics and is working part-time for the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center, where she helps with administrative projects, such as annual reports and creating databases.

Dirk says she loves to edit, but opportunities in Gainesville, where she lives, have been limited. She says that if an opportunity arises in Gainesville for her to edit she would take it “in a heartbeat”. For now, she says, she will continue to study linguistics and write children's books. *Science Editor* thanks Dirk for her time and dedication over the years. 🙏

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