

Science Editor: Looking at the Past, Present, and Future

Members of a profession can benefit from considering the past, attending to the present, and looking to the future. Accordingly, *Science Editor*, as a periodical for those in science editing and related fields, includes historical perspectives, reports and reflects on current practices and issues, and discusses possible future developments. The current issue is a case in point.

Three pieces in this issue focus on editorially related history. One (p 39) traces the science-editorial career of Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, who was a long-time editor at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Another, the Word Hawk column (p 53), celebrates the 250th birthday of dictionary compiler Noah Webster. And Council Classics (p 57) reprints the article, published in the *Council of Biology Editors Newsletter* in 1968, that first presented the Council's foresighted definition of primary scientific publication. Historical content also appears in the report on the recent American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) annual conference: The section on Norman Grossblatt's receipt of AMWA's highest award (congratulations,

Norman!) summarizes his acceptance address, which recounted how manuscript editing has changed during his 50 years in the field.

Other parts of this issue address what is happening now. For example, an article on the Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium (p 47) describes a current attempt to increase the efficiency of peer review by allowing the use of previously obtained peer reviews when a rejected manuscript is sent to another journal. Our annual committee-highlights article (p 69) reports on what CSE committees are doing now. The piece on the AMWA conference includes information on current practices, trends, and recommendations regarding format of scientific papers, planning of papers, and testing of editors. As usual, the book-review section (p 50) discusses publications of current interest, and the Solution Corner column (p 55) offers multiple views on an editorial quandary of current concern. And the feature article on blogging and related pursuits (p 43) definitely focuses on a current phenomenon.

The article on blogging also looks to the future. So, of course, do the articles on the upcoming annual meeting (p 65) and on this year's CSE short courses (p 67), which will include a new one, on journal metrics. Also focusing on future events of science-editorial interest is the calendar, which appears on the last page of each issue.

Other Than Editing (p 59), as always, profiles an editor with an avid extra-editorial interest. Featured this time is editor, poet, and poetry enthusiast Mary E Knatterud, who chooses the content for our poetry section, Peer-Renewed (p 63). As for the poem featured in this issue? Perhaps it transcends time.

Whether your interests tend toward the past, the present, the future, or a mix, we hope you will contribute to *Science Editor* or suggest topics for us to pursue. As editors of this periodical, we look forward to continuing to serve a profession with a distinguished past, a vibrant present, and a promising future.

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