

## COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

Editorship of a scientific journal changes hands quietly and, if done well, the transition is generally invisible except to those who are submitting or reviewing manuscripts. As you read in the December issue, Dr. Lee Meserve stepped down as Editor of the *Ohio Journal of Science* to pursue other professional and personal interests. He handled this job with integrity, diligence, modesty, and humor, attributes that Lee brings to any task. It was Lee's good experience with the Editorship that led me to seek the position when his retirement from the *OJS* was announced.

With the support of Kent State University and the Department of Geography, the *OJS* editorial office has moved across the state from the wide horizons of Bowling Green to the wooded hills of Kent. Except for the scenery out the editorial window, there will not be any immediate changes to the *OJS*.

The *Ohio Journal of Science* is the most prominent symbol of the Ohio Academy of Science to most of our members and to the larger scientific community. It will remain a peer-reviewed scientific journal open to quality manuscripts in science, engineering, technology, and science education. In this role, the *OJS* assists the Academy in meeting our goals of encouraging the discovery, understanding, and dissemination of science; facilitating research and education; and promoting interdisciplinary interaction. The *OJS* continues to seek a broad range of disciplines to be represented on its pages.

Who is publishing their research in the *Ohio Journal of Science*? To answer that question, I examined the last fifteen years of the *OJS* for the affiliation of the authors of articles and brief notes. There were 147 employer affiliations among 1,185 authors of 566 articles during this period. The affiliations represented a wide

spectrum of public and private colleges and universities, state and federal government agencies, and corporations from 33 states and five nations.

The fourteen most common affiliations accounted for over two-thirds of the total. The Ohio State University led the list with 22% of all *OJS* authors in this period. Miami University, Bowling Green State University, the University of Akron, and Kent State University rounded out the top five, emphasizing the historical grounding of the Ohio Academy of Science in Ohio universities. But there were also authors from Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Purdue, Rutgers, Harvard, and 85 other universities, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Historical Society, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Proctor and Gamble, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Monsanto Company, Smithsonian Institution, Ada High School, Eastwood Public Schools, Texaco Corporation, and The Nature Conservancy, to name just a few. Has a more diverse group ever been brought together in the dissemination of science?

Disciplines listed by *OJS* authors over the past fifteen years were primarily biology (30%), zoology (15%), geology (11%), botany (6%), and geography (4%). Nearly fifty other disciplines were represented including such diverse sciences as dentistry, gerontology, dairy science, chemistry, education, wildlife management, environmental health, sociology, and electrical engineering. If these scientists are brought together in one scientific journal, we are certainly promoting interdisciplinary interaction!

Assistant editor Jeanne Appelhans Schmidlin and I (yes, we can argue editorial issues over the dinner table) look forward to receiving manuscripts from you and your colleagues. We will strive for the continued success of the *Ohio Journal of Science*.

THOMAS W. SCHMIDLIN  
EDITOR