

Editorial

Passing the Torch

As my term as editor for *ajer* comes to a close I am happy to reflect on the work that has gone well because of the expertise and generosity of so many people. Like my predecessors I have worked to extend *ajer's* readership and range of scholarly research and enquiry. The *ajer* team of associate editor, book review editor, consulting editors, technical editor and proofreader, and administrative staff is a strong one that has ensured the continuing quality of this eclectic, scholarly journal.

I am pleased to welcome George Buck as the incoming editor of *ajer* with an appointment effective July 1, 2000. George is a faculty member in the Department of Secondary Education at the University of Alberta. He is responsible for the Technology Education and Resources areas of the Career and Technology Studies program. George is also an adjunct professor in Educational Psychology where he instructs courses on creating computer-assisted instruction. George Buck has a broad background and research interests, which include technology education, educational psychology, and especially the development of instructional devices in education.

George Buck has been serving as Associate Editor for *ajer* and has also served as a consulting editor for a number of years. In addition to carrying responsibility for copyright and computer technology policies and practices (including our Web site), George has continued his contributions as a consulting editor and has been extremely helpful in sharing the editorial work when any kind of assistance was needed. I have appreciated his excellent editorial skills and good judgement.

Ajer's consulting editors serve as reviewers themselves and suggest appropriate potential reviewers on the basis of abstracts sent by e-mail. This network keeps the editor up to date with contacts across the academic community. I have greatly enjoyed my collegial contact with consulting editors and have been grateful for their prompt communication and punctual reviews. This past year Roberta Mura of Laval University retired as consulting editor. My thanks to her for the active and helpful role she played as consulting editor. The names of all consulting editors are listed on the masthead, and to each one I express my thanks. I appreciated the congenial correspondence and was grateful for help with manuscript reviews and searches for reviewers.

For all who have served as reviewers during my time as editor I also express my thanks. I was impressed with the constructive, collegial, genuinely helpful quality of reviews. Because the tone of the reviews was encouraging and the suggestions for improvements were also clear and specific, the authors and I were able to benefit from these. Authors frequently expressed their appreciation of the reviewers' responses. Similarly, when reviewers read revised manuscripts they often commented that their suggestions had been put to good use. As editor it has been my privilege to be part of this scholarly community

and to see peer review at its best. The names of all reviewers who served in 1999 are listed in the 46.1 issue of **ajer**.

During the last two years four issues of **ajer** were published each year, and these included two special-topics issues. I am grateful to the guest editors of these special-topics issues. Their undertakings with these two peer-reviewed issues were large-scale and well done. They made immense contributions to the work of **ajer**. Todd Rogers of the University of Alberta guest edited the issue on *Measurement and Evaluation* (volume 45, no. 4). Hans Smits of the University of Calgary guest edited the issue on *Globalization and Education* (volume 46, no. 1).

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Hans Smits for serving as Book Review Editor. This has been a large responsibility and I have appreciated Hans' generosity and excellent work. Hans served as Book Review Editor while also being an active and valuable consulting editor and reviewer for **ajer**.

During the last two years I have worked hand-in-glove with Edie Peters, the Editorial Assistant for **ajer**. No journal editor could ask for a better partner. **Ajer** had a high level of activity during these two years, and it is thanks to Edie's generous efforts, carefulness, organizational ability, and unfailing good nature that things went so well. Thank you Edie!

Finally I wish to express my appreciation to Joyce Hiller; Fran Harder; and Carolyn Yewchuk, Associate Dean of Research, for their administration of **ajer**; and to Naomi Stinson and Karen McFarlane for their meticulous work in the technical production of the journal.

During the last two years I enjoyed the opportunity to read other people's manuscripts and reviewers' responses to these. I was impressed by the extent of collegial support in our academic community. My only wish is that it continue. It was wonderful to see scholars helping other scholars to do their best work. I highly recommend **ajer** to scholars as a good place to send one's manuscript. I am also convinced that as a widely indexed, eclectic educational research journal with an international audience, **ajer** is an important venue. I believe that the **ajer** team works well to support excellent contributions to scholarship in education. Thus my last thanks go to the funders and subscribers who make **ajer** possible.

Julia Ellis
Retiring Editor