

## From the Editor

The *Alberta Journal of Educational Research* (**ajer**) has a lengthy tradition as an eclectic, scholarly journal publishing reports on systematic inquiry into education for a national and international audience. As the new editor of **ajer** I wish to continue the excellent work of my predecessor, Beth Young, in seeking to extend **ajer's** readership and the range of pertinent scholarly research and enquiry that is reported in this journal.

Continuing in the tradition of previous editors, I encourage the submission of manuscripts on many subjects in an effort to make **ajer's** coverage of research in education as wide-ranging as possible. Each year the journal will continue to sponsor one issue dedicated to a topical theme in education.

In March 1996 Beth Young introduced **ajer Research Notes** as a new section for the journal. This section has provided a means for educational researchers to communicate with one another about their research-in-progress. Because **ajer** is so widely indexed nationally and internationally, it is effective in supporting such exchanges. The *Research Notes* have also been a useful means for reporting on smaller research projects that have one or two findings of particular interest but do not warrant full-article treatment. I encourage more active use of the *Research Notes* option. Guidelines are provided at the beginning of the section.

During the two years ahead I look forward to strengthening the *Book Reviews* section of **ajer**. To this end I am grateful and pleased to welcome Hans Smits as the newly appointed Book Review Editor for **ajer**. After three years at the University of Regina, Hans Smits has moved to the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary to work in the area of social studies education and to continue his work in the areas of action research and hermeneutics as applied to education. Books submitted for review should continue to be sent to the **ajer** office at the University of Alberta. Once review requests are documented the books are forwarded to Hans Smits.

Another one of our goals is to increase subscriptions to **ajer**. The journal competes for funding support, and its subscription levels are an important factor in such applications. An order form for subscriptions and/or individual issues of particular interest is included in each issue as well as on our website at <http://www.education.ualberta.ca/educ/journals/ajer.html>.

I am also pleased to anticipate a special issue of **ajer** entitled "Measurement and Evaluation: Current and Future Research Directions for the New Millennium," scheduled for Volume XLV, Number 4, the last issue in 1999. The issue will contain papers presented by leading scholars from across Canada who shared and discussed their research in cognition and assessment, psychometric modeling, test score validity, standard setting, computerized testing, and classroom and large-scale assessments at the Banff Conference held in the fall of 1998. Both recently completed research and research-in-progress were discussed and critiqued with a view to establishing a research agenda for the next century. The guest editor for the issue will be Todd Rogers (University of Alberta).

During my first months as editor of **ajer** I have had the benefit of the prior work and current support of many people. My predecessor Beth Young and **ajer's** Editorial Assistant Edie Peters developed a number of systems and structures for keeping **ajer's** work on track. Beth was also generous with her time and in sharing helpful information and advice during our transition period. Edie Peters is an invaluable daily partner in **ajer** work. George Buck, the Associate Editor, has been wonderful to work with in his responsibilities for issues related to computer technology (including our website) and copyright. Joyce Hiller, Administrator for the journal, and Grace Malicky, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies have been a welcome source of support. Consulting editors (named on the masthead) and reviewers (to be listed for all of 1998 in our next issue) have been unfailingly helpful and supportive. I have felt fortunate often to find reviewers who were in fact interested in completing the reviews and whose written responses were welcomed as helpful and useful by authors. It has been a privilege to witness and participate in a genuine community of scholars, taking interest in and supporting each other's work in constructive ways. Most of all I wish to thank all who have submitted manuscripts to **ajer**. I have already had many comments from reviewers expressing appreciation for the quality of manuscripts sent to them for review.

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