

EDITORIAL

In the December 1995 issue of *The Ohio Journal of Science*, outgoing editor Dr. Lee Meserve wrote that he had every confidence that the new editor, would “find in editorship the challenge, the joy, and at times the frustration that I have encountered.” Yes Lee, I did.

This issue marks at least two milestones. My term as editor ends with this issue. It has been a joy to work with eager and talented scientists to bring their research into print. Hundreds of reviewers have given their time and expertise to the task of assuring the highest quality in the science that appeared in the *Journal*. I am grateful for the assistance provided by the Editorial Board in finding qualified reviewers, to Ardella Pierce for typesetting, and Lynn Elfner and The Ohio Academy of Science for their strong support for the *Journal*. Most of the work in the editorial office actually falls to the assistant editor. I was fortunate to have a talented copy-editor and master organizer in the assistant editor, Jeanne Appelhans Schmidlin. Our daughters think that normal dinner conversation consists of jog notes to reviewers, manuscripts returned from review, debates of electronic citation styles, and glacial tills!

A more important milestone with this issue is the 100th anniversary of the *Journal*. From its beginnings with the November-December 1900 issue of *The O.S.U. Naturalist*, this journal has evolved into a respected and often-cited multi-disciplinary science journal. It has an international distribution and a rich history. Bill Burk provides an interesting and valuable history of the *Journal* in this centennial issue.

State and regional science journals struggle to survive among the proliferation of specialty journals. Our flow of manuscripts is too slow and reviewers are sometimes difficult to find. We are challenged to keep readers

interested in specialized articles published in a general science journal. I urge all members of The Ohio Academy of Science to submit their own research to the *Journal*. Pass a copy along to colleagues, especially those new to Ohio, and suggest the *Journal* as an outlet for their research. The strengths of our Academy are in the common values we hold for science, science policy, and science education across the breadth of disciplines and varied work settings. The *Journal* conveys that breadth to the extent that you, the scientists, submit the results of your research for review and dissemination.

The last five volumes of *The Ohio Journal of Science* included 86 peer-reviewed research articles and 37 book reviews over a total of 620 pages (not including the annual abstracts issues). The 86 articles were primarily in the life sciences (61%) and earth/environmental sciences (29%) and were written by 199 authors. Authors were primarily from colleges and universities (83%), but 11% were in state or federal government, and 5% were in private practice. Authors hailed from 27 different colleges and universities. The Ohio State University provided 24% of all authors over the past five years, followed by Bowling Green State University (9%), Kent State University (9%), Miami University (5%), and University of Akron (5%). Although most authors (92%) were from Ohio, they also came from six other states and two were based overseas. I hope that our traditional base of scientists in academia publishing in life sciences and earth sciences will remain strong in the next decade, as we reach out for authors in government and private labs and to research colleagues in science education, the health sciences, and social sciences.

Serving as editor has been personally and professionally enriching. I enjoyed the opportunity and thank all of you who helped.

THOMAS W. SCHMIDLIN
EDITOR