

Educating the newsroom. Most of us who teach like to think we already do that. And we do, giving our students skills, experiences, perspectives, insights they use as starting points when they begin their newspaper careers.

But the contributors to this issue's special section, titled "SPECIAL REPORT: Educating the Newsroom," suggest that our job as educators may not be finished when our students leave the campus. In newsrooms all over the country, training directors, coaches and consultants are in demand to help reporters and editors keep up with new technology and information, as well as to refresh those former students on some of the basics.

This special section, the focal point of this issue of *Newspaper Research Journal*, grew out of a panel session sponsored by *NRJ* at last summer's AEJMC convention in Minneapolis. Two of the professionals on that panel – Jack Hart of the *Portland Oregonian*, and Doug Ramsey of the Foundation for American Communications, an LA-based educational consulting group – suggest some specific areas in which newspapers need continuing education. They offer some good advice for J schools concerned about shrinking enrollments in a time of economic downturn. Carl Crothers, assistant managing editor of the *Tampa Tribune*, describes the kinds of remedial and continuing training his paper provides to get new reporters up to speed and to keep older reporters current.

And *NRJ* associate editor Ted Pease reports on the results of an *NRJ* survey of AEJMC members about their own continuing professional activities. The responses from 652 of you indicate that there is both expertise and intense interest out there to fill the kinds of demands for continuing education the professionals describe.

All this within the context of research and commentary from other contributors: Holly Stocking and Jennifer Pease Leonard on newspapers' performance in covering environment news, and John De Mott and Emmanuel Tom's examination of who and where the environment reporters are. Then there's Dean Nelson's series of interviews with those responsible for the *New York Times'* expansion of business reporting in the 1970s, Jeanne Rollberg, Sonny Sanders and M.D. Buffalo's evaluation of how well papers report election campaign polls, and George Stevens' analysis of the legal pitfalls of classified advertising.

Taken together, this issue of *NRJ* contains some suggestions for journalism and mass communication educators about their relationships with the news industry. Whether it's new technology or old skills, legal questions or environment coverage, we may still have a role to play in the careers of those former students that will enrich our classroom talents and professional lives as well.

– The Editors