

## **Beginning of a Journey: A New Editor's Observations**

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### **Introduction**

As the new editor of the *Journal of Construction Education*, my academic publishing journey has just begun. Judging from the last few months' work, this will be a delightful challenge. The manuscripts that have recently been submitted for review will undoubtedly add to the body of knowledge for educators, students and industry professionals alike. My hope is that future articles will build upon the pedagogical foundation currently in place and will continue to add more knowledge for the teaching profession.

At this time, it is appropriate that those of us who have followed the birth and growth of the *Journal of Construction Education* recognize and acknowledge the efforts and time invested by Dr. Ken Williamson of Texas A&M University. Ken is the immediate past editor of the *Journal*; in fact, until my tenure began this summer, Ken has been the only editor of the *Journal*. Without his efforts, and without the support of the board members of the Associated Schools of Construction, it is probable that as educators, we would not have this additional avenue that allows us to meet some of the publishing demands of our respective colleges and universities. Thank you, Ken, for a job well done. In addition, I personally want to thank Ken for the many hours he has spent trying to educate me in the processes required to continue in his footsteps, especially during a very trying time in his life as he continues a valiant fight against cancer.

My thanks also go out to Dr. Thomas Mills of Virginia Tech. As my associate editor, he has given much wise counsel. Having served as an associate editor to Ken Williamson for some time now, Dr. Mills is familiar with the processes necessary to edit and publish the *Journal*. I look forward to working closely with him in the future and value his experience and counsel.

Finally, my thanks also go out to all of those who have submitted manuscripts and to those who have graciously taken their time to review those manuscripts for publication. This is a wonderful service you do for our profession. Without your efforts, the *Journal of Construction Education* would cease to be. For those of you who have not published or who have not volunteered to be reviewers, please consider this an invitation to help make the *Journal* even better.

As I begin this journey, I have no preconceived plan to suggest any major changes to the current editorial or review processes of the *Journal*. The mission of the *Journal of Construction Education* remains the same. We will continue to do our best to encourage well-written research articles that deal with construction education and pedagogy. In addition, we intend to provide an

outlet in the near future for articles that deal more specifically with construction practices and methodologies.

### **By Way of Introduction**

Now, let me say just a few words of introduction about your new editor. Like many of you, I was born and reared in a family that relied on the construction industry for its financial survival. Several generations of building contractors and lumbermen precede me in our family lines. A number of them were instrumental in helping tame a small part of wilderness area in Southern Utah. Of necessity I was involved in the building business from a young age, often working in our family's lumber yard after school and on Saturdays, selling and delivering building materials to job sites near my home town in Central California. Some 25 years ago I made a conscious decision to follow in my father's footsteps as a general contractor. For some 15 years I was an owner/partner in construction companies that built and developed residential and light commercial projects in several western states. None of these were huge projects, but the experiences I gained have proven invaluable to me while teaching construction management courses at Brigham Young University during the past 11 years.

Of course, it would be inappropriate to fill in the blanks of my past life at this time, but I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities I have had to teach young men and women who are focusing on a professional life in our industry. Like many of you, I choose to teach, not for the financial returns, but because I feel I have a chance to make a difference in the lives of my students. And that is one of the reasons I am excited about the opportunity to edit this journal. It is now my privilege to read, edit, and make available manuscripts that will hopefully help each one of us as educators to improve our teaching and research.

### **Conclusion and Challenge**

Because our profession of teaching construction management at the college level is relatively young, as compared to many of the social sciences and even to architectural- and engineering-related curricula, there is much work to do in order to strengthen the existing foundation of pedagogical research. As construction-management educators please consider how well you are presenting the theories and practice of our profession to enthusiastic, inquiring young minds. What kind of meaningful experiences can you share with your colleagues to help them improve their teaching?

At this time I would like to issue a personal challenge to each of you to devise well-planned research projects that will allow you to share new knowledge with your colleagues so we can provide richer learning experiences to our students. As we work to improve ourselves as researchers, it is my hope that the manuscripts published in the future will serve to elevate the image of the *Journal of Construction Education*, in addition to providing a source that will allow each one of us to become better educators.