Changes at Chemical Engineering Education

CEE was stable for so long—Tim Anderson had been editor and Phil Wankat associate editor since 1995 and Lynn Heasley managing editor since 2005—that the journal’s operation was smooth and efficient. There were many behind-the-scenes improvements, including upgrading all office equipment as well as our publishing, bookkeeping, and circulation software; launching the ability to again include color images for papers and advertising after decades of strictly black-and-white; and broadening our indexing coverage to include ERIC, CAS Abstracts, Compendex, and Scopus. Most notably Tim, working with the University of Florida library system, completed a multiyear effort to provide open access to every one of our past issues online at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00000383>. Outwardly the journal appeared largely unchanged, and most readers were unaware of these improvements.

Then, in 2013 Tim accepted the position as dean at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He very quickly realized that despite how hard and efficiently he worked he could not be both dean and editor of CEE. At that November’s meeting of the CEE Publication Board Tim announced that he was resigning effective Dec. 31, 2013. Tim turned over the reins of CEE to co-editors Phil Wankat and Jennifer Curtis plus associate editor Rich Dickinson. Fortunately, CEE had the experienced and steady hands of Lynn Heasley and Chair of the Publications Board Stewart Slater to help during the transition.

Although stability is good, periods of personnel change bring the opportunity to try new approaches. In 2014 CEE’s economic health improved mainly due to Jennifer’s efforts to obtain more ads. During 2014 Lynn worked to secure a platform for electronic subscriptions to CEE. After considerable effort and beta testing, Lynn was successful in this effort. Our goals is to have electronic subscriptions available in October for the 2016 issues.

During 2014 CEE has also had new developments in services. At the 2013 Publication Board meeting Don Visco suggested that CEE put together a special reprint issue of papers that would be of great interest to new faculty. CEE liked the idea, but could not afford an extra print issue that we would give away. Instead we decided that we could do essentially a virtual issue. To reward Don for suggesting the idea he was made co-editor of the project along with Phil. In November 2014 right before the AIChe meeting, Startup: A Teaching Guide for New Faculty, was placed on the CEE web page <http://www.che.ufl.edu/cee/>. Suggest to your new faculty that they take a look at this free resource. We hope they find it to be useful.

Towards the end of 2014 more changes in the editorial staff occurred. Both Daina Briedis, editor of the Class and Home Problems feature, and Bill Koros, editor of the Learning in Industry feature, decided that it was time to provide the opportunity for new volunteers to contribute to CEE. We thank Daina for her five years of service and Bill for his 20 years of service and membership on the publication board. CEE will miss both of these dedicated editors. Fortunately, there were more good people ready and willing to volunteer than we could employ as replacements. Lisa Bullard will replace Bill as the new editor of a recast and renamed column on Lifelong Learning. David Silverstein agreed to replace Daina as editor of Class and Home Problems.

In 2015 CEE is publishing volume 49. Because of lead times for publishing a journal, we are well along in developing our golden anniversary celebration for volume 50 with a special winter 2016 issue.

If you have ideas for helping CEE better serve the chemical engineering education community, please let any of the editors or Stew Slater know.

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