TCE 2000

A new millennium approaches and with it the opportunity for us all to reflect on the past and approach the future with a new vitality. Here, at *The Chemical Educator*, we are no exception.

The past has been an unforgettable experience: we have met many challenges (Modems were slow. Web formats were limited. Would the Web be accepted as an acceptable refereed publication medium? What about abstracting and publication credit?), and many new friends (readers, authors, referees, column editors); seen technological development unimaginable in early 1995 when this journal was conceived; and marveled at the advances, acceptance, and influence of the Internet and World Wide Web. Our concept has been molded by these experiences and by the comments, suggestions, and criticisms of our readers, reviewers, authors, and friends. Still, our primary objective, as the first chemical education journal to use the power of the Internet, remains the same. We want to disseminate your ideas, innovations, and concerns to your colleagues quickly, accurately, and usefully.

Journals on the Internet have grown (quickly) in acceptance; certainly, the entry of the American Chemical Society (they have been quite forward-looking in considering the potential of the Internet) into this realm has supported, if not advanced this trend. Our publisher, Springer-Verlag, as well, has embraced this medium for their journal offerings. And so have most other publishers. We are proud to be one of the first Internet-only journals; we are privileged to be chosen as one of the first Internet-only publications to be abstracted by Chemical Abstract Services, and, in spite of our initial fervor, somewhat amazed at the influence the Web has had on all of us. Previous concerns about the continuance and ownership of the Web have been pretty much answered. Copyright and other laws have been extended to encompass the Web and Web publications. The Web has a positive effect on our daily lives making us more efficient, more worldly, more connected, and more informed.

Looking forward to the year 2000, we will make some changes. Beginning with Issue 1 of Volume 5, our millennium issue, you will see a new reader-familiar and more print-friendly article format. This format will substantially reduce the number of pages needed to print an article and will feature page numbers for easy collating of issues. We will continue to offer full-color graphics within our articles and the same supporting material, which includes student handouts, computer programs and input files, video clips, and any other information that can extend the article and make it more useful to busy educators. In addition to our new .pdf format, we are looking to make HTML versions of all articles, not just sample articles, available for reading or download. This is intended to make our offerings more accessible to all Internet users.

Because, since inception, our primary goal, has been to publish information in a manner that is both timely and easy to use, we began our journal with a series entitled “Chemistry and the Internet,” which presented information available on the World Wide Web that was of use to chemistry educators. This issue previews a similar, but new, series that has been inspired by the opportunities available to educators using new technologies. This section is written by Dr. Hugh Cartwright of Oxford University, an expert in the field of artificial intelligence in chemistry education, and will continue in our 2000 volume, Volume 5. This series of articles explores how artificial intelligence can be used in chemistry, and discusses ways in which it can form the basis of challenging and rewarding undergraduate projects.

Similarly, the “Chemistry and History” section has improved. It now contains regular articles by our History Editor, George Kaufmann. He presents articles that chronicle the important events, persons, and publications that make up the rich history of chemical science. The history of chemistry, of course, has taken place against the background of world history, and the articles in this section often make that very clear. Chemists and their research are influenced by current events. These articles are intended to describe the setting in which important discoveries occurred and to humanize their discoverers.

We take this unique opportunity to thank our supporters, to encourage their feedback so that we can continue to make this journal an informative and useful publication, and to wish everyone a new millennium that meets their most extraordinary hopes and dreams.

Clifford LeMaster
Editor-in-Chief