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From the Editor

Susan Fingerman

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From the Editor

Susan Fingerman



Transition is a theme much on my mind as I write this editorial. There is the natural transition of the seasons, from summer to fall, and winter seems imminent as the temperatures fall through the 50's (F) in the Mid-Atlantic states of the US.

The idea of change is the watchword of our US electoral season as well, touted by both candidates be they multi-term or less than single term members of congress. And of course there are huge changes occurring in the global financial and industrial economic sectors.

Transitions are being felt by many information professionals as we continue to redefine ourselves and our organizations, reluctantly leaving print behind as necessary, and moving more to "guides" to the literature and database usage rather than the primary user of those services.

And finally there is the transition of our SLA leadership, as the second year of the new January-December terms begins. As evidenced by Engineering Chair Daureen Nesdill's message this issue, units are still grappling with the changes in election dates, conference planning, and program planning in general. We're getting there, but the June conference where most of the "new" leadership meets their constituents still seems a bit awkward to me.

The other major transition on my mind, that of a change in editor for *SciTech News*, is yet to happen. However, I do hope that a new editor will be found before the February issue, in which case this may be my final editorial. Therefore,

I will briefly thank all those who contributed so much to my term, including the chairs and other officers who contributed much of the content and adhered closely to the issue deadlines. The faithful columnists such as Earl Mounts, who has been writing on new journals for many years, and those who started contributing on my watch; Bob Buchanan with his *Beyond the Chemistry Web*, and Lisa Johnston with her thematic *Website* columns which also add much value to *SciTech News*. And I would never forget my assistant editor, Christina Pikas, who spends many hours "pasting up" the issues, wrestling with the software, and even, dare I say it, editing some items that I miss. My husband, who serves as copy proofreader and, as a non-librarian engineer often asks thought-provoking questions, also gets my thanks.

I have been very fortunate to have had two terrific advertising managers in Martin Jamison and Carol Lucke, who greatly increased the number of ads per issue. Heidi Porth has been a stalwart subscription manager, in spite of taking care of ill relatives and creating a thriving quilt business with her husband.

Whatever the future format of *SciTech News*, online, in print or a combination of both, I will join you as a reader of its varied and valuable content.

I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and the most successful of transitions to 2009 and beyond. ❖

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