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From the Editor

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From the Editor

I am really so happy to be the Editor of SciTech News (STN). Not only is it a privilege and a pleasure, it's definitely been beneficial to my work here at the Laboratory. That's because I must read each and every piece of content that appears in each issue.

Now that I read SciTech News regularly and thoroughly, it has moved to the top of my recommendation for our members and subscribers "required reading" list. I honestly find something of use in every issue, whether it's a new book or journal to order or read, a web site that answers an immediate question, a product I should investigate, or news of a colleague that I need to contact. This issue is a particularly good example of why that is so.

The SLA Conference session reports are examples of the rich content. How many of us are frustrated by the number of concurrent sessions that we would like to attend? I have been for years, especially since SLA stopped taping sessions. Well, in our August issue, you have your colleagues' annotated reports of many of the sessions you missed, enriching the pure content of PowerPoint or session description with their insights and reactions.

Regarding conference reports, I would like to solicit reports on a broader range of conferences other than SLA. I understand that some training budgets are being cut, while others are quite generous. It would be helpful in making good choices to hear from our colleagues about other conferences that they attend, whether they were worthwhile and how they contributed to their professional growth. Short summaries would enhance the information. These could include conferences on management, specific subject matter and disciplines, even those that we attend because our customers do, such as SIG meetings. I'm not sure how many of us do this but I know more of us should.

Welcome to our new advertisers Zubal Books and Elsevier's Science Direct. Marty Jamison, our Advertising Manager, has done yeoman's work with our vendors. We've heard from other advertisers that STN has been valuable in their marketing and sales efforts. More will be starting with our November issue.

Congratulations to Chemical Abstracts Service

Susan Fingerman



(CAS) and CSA, the Science-Technology Division vendor partners who each won a full page free ad at the Annual Meeting drawing. Their ads will appear in the February 2007 issue.

Thanks to the Sci-Tech Division Board and to Anna Ren, I am excited to announce that we have put a sample STN issue up on the Science-Technology Division website at <http://units.sla.org/division/dst/>. This is the August 2005 issue, which was chosen because it is as content rich as all August issues.

As for the future of STN as an online product, an informal "survey" was taken at most of the contributing Division's annual meetings. The result was that less than 50% of those attending wanted an online only product. There are also ever-present concerns about paid subscriber's access etc. I do appreciate the helpful suggestions about how to enrich the content IF it was put online, and perhaps adding a page with the many links in each issue to the Science-Technology website. We are considering how that could be done efficiently by our very small staff. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions on the topic of an online version of STN. This has been under consideration for many years and as I've written in past editorials, I hope to resolve it under my watch.

Finally, I would like to thank those who responded to my "advertisement" for a new subscription manager for STN. I was rather overwhelmed with the number of people willing to support our divisions and the publication. I'm very pleased to announce that Stephanie White will be taking over the position starting with the November issue.

Hope you could take some time to relax and regenerate this summer.

Til next time,

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