
April 2004

From the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Osif, Bonnie (2004) "From the Editor," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 58: Iss. 2, Article 2.
Available at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol58/iss2/2>

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Another annual conference ahead of us. Nashville is a great city for a conference. I've been there a few times before and must say there is a lot to see and do. And the food, always something I pay attention to, is great! The conference looks to be very interesting with some great programs scheduled. Do note the programs listed in the pullout section and attend as many as you can. I know I plan to.

The featured division this issue is the Science-Technology Division. ST is an interesting division since it is the parent division for many of our more subject-specific divisions and sections. In some sense that means the focus isn't as clear. I'm a member of both Transportation and Engineering Divisions and I know exactly what they are. Their names describe their purpose. ST, on the other hand, is more general and its purpose might seem more nebulous. I actually see that as one of its strengths. There are a number of members from all types of libraries. Ideas can be shared and the multidisciplinary nature of the group is exciting. I always recommend that science librarians join ST and then a specialized division. They will benefit from each.

With such a diverse membership, it was both a pleasure and a challenge to find articles for this issue. Susan Makar has written an informative article about NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology). I find the NIST Web site a treasure trove of information and find her article to be a great introduction to the institute. We also have a profile of Catherine Lavallee-Welch, librarian at the University of Louisville.

As usual, our columnists have come up with interesting and informative pieces on this issue's theme. Dave has found so many wonderful Web sites he will continue the column next month! Dr. Noit provides a timeline of science and technology with a short commentary. It is amazing how far we have come. Equally amazing is how far we have to go. I'm always amazed at the number of expressions and items that have changed since I was college age. I know teaching college students can keep one young and I love my job. But there are days

when I realize how much things have changed and it makes me wonder. I mean, I remember taking notes on index cards. There was nothing wrong with that. Copiers were great and when I had the option—and the change!—I began to copy pages and underline. But now—insisting that everything must be electronic so it can be “copied and pasted”! Really! At times like that, I do realize there is a slight gap between me and my students. Dr. Noit provides some framework for the evolution of our science and technology through the centuries. I wish it had been longer since there are so many inventions and discoveries. Earl and Ellis once again give us a list of publications we should review.

I would like to thank the many people who help with *STN*. The columnists, Earl, Dave, Ellis, and Dr. Noit work so hard to provide the information for you. Ann has been a wonder keeping the books, paying the bills, and being a great listener for my complaints. She will “retire” as the business manager and ST treasurer this year and I will miss her. Barbara Parkinson is also retiring after more than a decade working with *STN* as business manager and subscription manager. I've appreciated getting to know her via phone and all of the wonderful work she has done. Thanks from all of us, Barbara. If you see any of these people in Nashville, give them your personal thanks.

In an interesting case of parallel worlds, I recently caught my class ignoring a word in two of their required readings. The word was Luddite. They needed to know what it meant to understand the article, but somehow forgot to look it up. We talked, as they say! Well, thanks to James Manasco, I now know who the norns were! I greatly appreciate (and don't deserve) his very kind words, but I'm always looking to learn something new and sure did this issue! Thanks to all of the chairs for their support and humor.

I hope to see you in Nashville. Note the special invitation below from Linda Hall Library who provides our covers each issue. Stop by and say 'thanks.' Until next issue, all of the best.

Bonnie

Reception at SLA!

Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology invites *Sci-Tech News* readers to a reception at the SLA Annual Conference on Sunday evening June 6th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Hermitage C Room of Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

Hope to see you there! Kathy Alshouse