Involvement: A Theme and a Benefit

For some, March and April mean kites and showers. For us at Science Editor, preparing a Mar-Apr issue includes providing an advance look at the CSE annual meeting and compiling the annual CSE committee roundup. We hope that you will enjoy and find useful these and associated items in the CSE News section of this issue.

Taking part in the annual meeting and serving on committees are two main ways to be involved in CSE. As I have found especially in working on Science Editor, the rewards of CSE membership—in knowledge, in collegial ties, in a sense of contribution—tend to increase with one’s involvement. I hope that you can attend the annual meeting this May, and I look forward to seeing many of you take active roles in the meeting.

Likewise, I hope that upon reading in this issue about activities of CSE committees, those of you who do not serve on committees will consider offering to join one. To express your interest, you can get in touch with either CSE headquarters, the chair of a committee that appeals to you, or a member of the CSE board. You can even get in touch with me; I will be glad to convey the word. CSE committees tend to appoint new members around the time of the annual meeting, so if there is a committee that you might like to join, now is a good time to become a candidate.

Explicitly or implicitly, the theme of involvement pervades not only the CSE News section, but also much else in this issue of Science Editor. For example, the special article marking the 10th anniversary of the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) shows the tremendous initiative, time, and thought that members of BELS have devoted to building this organization and thereby advancing high standards in science editing. Also in this issue, the Departments section reflects involvement both by columnists who contribute to issue after issue and by some of the growing group of readers submitting unsolicited material for potential publication in Science Editor.

This issue contains the last reports from the 2000 CSE annual meeting. Over the last few months, Science Editor has run reports on nearly all the annual-meeting sessions. We thank the more than 20 annual-meeting attendees who reported on at least one session apiece. And we especially thank Ann Morcos, annual-meeting editor, for coordinating the effort. If you might like to report on an annual-meeting session this May, please tell Ann Morcos or me. Serving as an annual-meeting reporter is a fine way to become more engaged without needing to commit time throughout the year.

Whether you take a major role in CSE and its periodical or your circumstances limit you to occasional participation, I hope that you will reap the benefits of involvement in the Council. And I look forward to seeing many of you soon at the annual meeting.

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