

Words, Numbers, and More

For science editors, words and numbers are crucial elements of the craft. The current issue of *Science Editor* offers pieces focusing specifically on words and on numbers. It also offers much more, including a synopsis of the recent CSE retreat.

Readers who crowd the language sessions at the CSE annual meeting may be especially pleased to learn that *Science Editor* once again has a language columnist. The new columnist is Bob Johnson, and the first installment of his column, The Word Hawk, appears on page 59.

Johnson's recruitment as columnist attests to collaboration among CSE members. Last year, Grace Darling, former publication manager of *Science Editor*, called my attention to an especially eloquent item on the BELS listserv. Johnson, who had written it, agreed to develop it into a Guest Editor

column—which appeared, under the title “I Call Myself an Editor”, in the July-August 2004 issue.

On reading the column, our associate editor, Cheryl Iverson, saw in Johnson a candidate for author of a regularly appearing language column—something *Science Editor* had lacked since Lorraine Loviglio retired as The Word Watcher in 2000. Fortunately, Johnson accepted our invitation to become a *Science Editor* columnist. We hope you will like his current column and those to come. For more about Johnson, please see page 50 of this issue.

Numbers, as well as words, are important to science editors. Recognizing this importance, CSE is offering this year for the first time a short course on statistics. (For more about this short course and the others preceding the annual meeting, please see page 65. And for information on

the annual meeting itself, please see page 64.)

Likewise, the current issue contains two pieces about statistics resources: The Views Afield piece describes three articles or sets thereof that can increase editors' statistical savvy. And the Net Results piece profiles several Web sites that provide instruction in statistics. Thanks for preparing those two pieces go to the fall 2004 *Science Editor* intern, Claudia Clark, a science and mathematics writer with a graduate degree in mathematics.

Clark's experience as a *Science Editor* intern also included attending the CSE Retreat on Conflicts of Interest in Scientific Publication, held



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in October 2004. Her synopsis of the retreat appears on pages 39-43 of this issue. We hope readers will enjoy and learn from the account of the thought-provoking retreat. We also hope readers will gain from the other conference reports in this issue, including reports of international conferences held in China and Mexico.

Other offerings in this issue include our annual CSE committee roundup (my thanks to the committee chairs for contributing reports), a profile of editor and fly-fisher Bruce Dancik, and reviews of some noteworthy books. Whether words or numbers or other aspects of science editing interest you most, we hope you will enjoy this issue.

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