Reviews Department Welcomes New Editor

Tanya Nading

Science Editor is pleased to introduce its new book review department editor, Edith Paal. Paal is taking over for Beth Notzon, who is stepping down because the demands of her job as scientific publications manager at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have increased. As editor of the reviews department, Notzon says she has particularly enjoyed the new people she’s been brought into contact with. “Each [person] has been delightful—some of these people I’m unlikely to have ever had any contact with otherwise”, she says.

Paal, a research-compliance auditing manager in the Office of Research Compliance at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, says she finds her work fascinating. “I have had the opportunity to learn about hugely divergent areas of research”, she says, “everything from studies involving new oncology drugs to disease prevention to behavioral research”. Previously, Paal worked for Biotechnical Services Inc as a technical writer and editor and for the Associated Press out of Little Rock, Arkansas. For her job with the AP, Paal reported, wrote, and edited stories on a variety of subjects, including a light-hearted piece on the “cold war” between Texas’s Blue Bell ice cream and Arkansas’s Yarnell’s ice cream. Paal has also written reviews for Science Editor.

Paal and Notzon are collaborating on the department during the transition period between editors. Paal hopes to feature titles that will prompt members to read outside their usual fields of interest. “We’re looking at putting together a ’summer reading’ article”, Paal says. It “would include titles that are still relevant to the [editing] field but that are appropriate to take along on vacation when one is trying to relax”. Science Editor welcomes Paal to the department.

TANYA NADING prepared this article while an intern for Science Editor.

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