

COMMENTARY FROM THE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Kenneth R. Tremblay, Jr.

Serving as Executive Editor of *Housing and Society* for six years was a privilege. I want to thank HERA members for entrusting me with the association's prime publication outlet. I also want to extend my appreciation to the authors of manuscripts who decided to submit their work to this journal and to the reviewers who gave freely of their time to help ensure that only the best manuscripts were accepted for publication. The two Associate Editors Craig Birdsong and Anne Sweaney were invaluable. Additionally, I appreciate the administrative support provided by my department head Mary Littrell and Extension director Deborah Young for their administrative support.

The journal would not have been publishable if it were not for the technical editors who formatted each issue. LaVon Blaesie was instrumental in developing the procedures for reviews, editing, formatting, and printing. For the first seven issues she kept me organized and on schedule while completing her technical editor duties. For short time periods I used graduate students as technical editors, Tracy Zarubin and Julie Chang, and as we know graduate students tend to complete their studies and move on. Fortunately, LaVon returned to help with the final issue of 2008. I thank HERA Executive Director Michael Vogel for paying bills in a timely fashion and his assistant Barbara Allen for handling the *Housing and Society* portion of the HERA Web site.

Publication of the journal is a major expense for HERA, and the association was fortunate to obtain funding from several sources over the six year period. I especially want to express my gratitude to the National Kitchen and Bath Association for partial funding of two special issues focusing on kitchen and bath research. The National Apartment Association Education Institute helped

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with a special issue on multifamily housing and residential property management. The National Consortium of Housing Research Centers partially funded a special issue highlighting its members' research efforts. Colorado State University Extension and the Healthy Homes Partnership (USDA/CSREES and HUD) also provided financial assistance. I hope that funding can continue to be secured to defray some of the publication costs as well as provide special issue topics to potentially broaden the number of authors.

In looking back at my commentary as the new Executive Editor that appeared in Volume 30, Number 1, 2003, most of what I outlined was accomplished. Two issues appeared each year in a relatively timely fashion. Changes in printers (from Center to Citizen Printers) and technical editors, a monster snow storm, and my own work load did result in some delays, and I apologize for that. The publication of the Tessie Agan Award winning graduate papers was successful as well as the continued publication of high quality scholarly articles. Not so successful was the addition of the commentary and program note publication categories. I had hoped that these categories would attract some authors without a great deal of research expertise but with insightful comments on housing or successful Extension programs.

During my six year term 12 issues of *Housing and Society* were published, for a total of 1,480 pages. There were 11 commentaries or special issue introductions and 85 articles. The average issue contained seven articles. A variety of topics were covered with housing for the elderly, homeownership issues, housing satisfaction, universal design, and housing preferences remaining as popular topics. Not surprisingly, there was an increase in the number of articles on multifamily housing and kitchen and bath design as a result of special issues. We also saw an increase in articles dealing with aspects of healthy homes such as indoor air quality, recycling, and energy. All journal editors have their own philosophy and this does have a slight influence on what is published. I tended to be more receptive to interior design articles as well as those heavy in visual content than past editors.

The journal is now in the able hands of Becky Yust as the new Executive Editor along with Marilyn Bruin and Christine Cook as Associate Editors. I wish them the best in meeting the challenges of publishing a journal. Please continue to regard *Housing and Society* as the premier journal in the housing field and your preferred journal in which to publish and read.