



Celebrating 20 Years of the Journal of Statistics Education

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To commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the Journal of Statistics Education (JSE), former editors of JSE were asked to share some of their thoughts, reflections, and memories.

E. Jacquelin Dietz, Meredith College (Founding Editor from 1993-2000)

I remember the early days of JSE as both an exciting and a scary time; it really felt like we were entering uncharted territory. I'm sure that starting any new journal would be somewhat intimidating, but our decision to use the electronic medium at a time when there were very few examples of successful electronic journals made the enterprise seem that much more daring. We started JSE to provide a publication outlet for scholarly work in statistics education, but we also introduced other innovations of which I am very proud. In addition to being the first electronic journal in statistics, I believe that we were the first statistics journal to use double-blind refereeing. We also implemented the practice of sharing referees' reports (anonymously) among all referees in an effort to improve the quality of those reports. From the start, we encouraged participation in the journal by a wide and international audience by making widespread appeals for referees, authors, and readers, and by introducing technical innovations carefully and slowly so that the journal would remain accessible to a broad audience. It is amazing and gratifying to see that, 20 years later, JSE is still thriving, growing, and innovating.

Thomas H. Short, John Carroll University (Editor from 2001-2003)

After founding editor Jackie Dietz had guided the JSE ship into the port of ASA, I was thrilled to be named to follow in her footsteps. JSE was ASA's first completely online journal, which seems prescient in retrospect as ASA's publication portfolio migrates away from traditional print format. Publishing exclusively online brought opportunities and challenges, ranging from making author-contributed software reliably active and available to floundering attempts to generate advertising revenue through online banners.

During my term as editor of JSE, the first issues of the Statistics Education Research Journal (SERJ) were in the works, and there was some anxiety about whether JSE and SERJ would overlap too much for either to thrive. Time has demonstrated that each has a niche, and that both provide value to the statistics education and statistics education research communities around the world.

Serving as the editor of JSE was the most engaging and most satisfying experience of my career, to date. I am grateful to have had the opportunity, and for the many interactions with old and new friends that it spawned.

William Notz, The Ohio State University (Editor from 2007-2009)

I have many wonderful memories of my term as editor of JSE. The earliest is being surprised, but delighted, that I was being considered as a possible editor. Teaching has always been a passion of mine, so the opportunity to edit JSE was very appealing. Among the joys of editing JSE (or any journal) is meeting new people who share your passion. I was blessed to have both a great editorial board and a great editorial coordinator (Jean Scott).

One of the rewards of editing JSE is the exposure to the latest research in statistics education and having a role in disseminating that research. As editor, I read every paper that was submitted, both the good and the bad. I learned a lot as editor. And one last thing I won't forget was putting together my first issue. I don't know if everyone realizes that the editor and editorial coordinator of JSE create the web issue, including any html programming and updating all web pages. At the time, all articles had to be turned into html documents. We spent countless hours just getting formulas to look right.

John Gabrosek, Grand Valley State University (Editor from 2010-2012)

It was a cold blustery Michigan February day (aren't they all?) in 2009 when word reached me that I was chosen as the next Editor of JSE. The news was a beacon of light in the otherwise ten weeks of continual grey skies that afflict us every year. As the fifth Editor of JSE, I took my main task as, "Don't screw this up, Gabrosek." I immediately set to work as the Editor. Fortunately, 2007-2009 Editor Bill Notz was kind enough to remind me that my tenure didn't actually commence for another nine months. I went back into hibernation.

Bill roused me from my deep slumber with the news that as the in-coming Editor I would begin handling new submissions on September 1, 2009. I steeled myself for the deluge of papers. The

first paper received was submitted by Jennifer Kaplan, Diane Fisher, and Neal Rogness. The paper would eventually go through a couple sets of reviews and be published in July 2010 under the title, “*Lexical Ambiguity in Statistics: How students use and define the words: association, average, confidence, random and spread*”

(<http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/v18n2/kaplan.pdf>). Yes, it’s true. At that point the success rate of papers submitted under my Editorship was 100%. Take that, Michelle Everson! Unfortunately, the success rate would drop ever so slightly to about 22%.

The next three years were a blur, and not only because I really needed a new prescription for my glasses. Associate Editors came and went, tears were shed, cupcakes were eaten, \$70 lunches were provided at JSM.... JSE chugged along due, in no small part, to the efforts of JSE Editorial Coordinator Jean Scott. I was overjoyed in spring 2012 when I learned that Michelle Everson was selected as the next Editor of JSE. Partly because it meant my time was almost done, but mainly because I knew JSE was in great hands for another three years. I sum up my time as JSE Editor in the following words; challenging, exhilarating, enlightening, goofy, and humbling.

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