

Message from the Editor

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As Kevin noted in his message, AJ Hamlin will assume her duties as the Engineering Design Graphics Division's Director of Publications and Editor of the Engineering Design Graphics Journal during the 122nd ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition in Seattle. AJ has served as the Journal's Associated Editor and is intimately qualified to assume these duties. I know you all will provide her with at least the same level of support you've provided me during my tenure.

In my final message to the readers of the Journal and to the Division's membership, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody and the various entities that supported me during my two terms as the Division's Director of Publications and in particular as the Editor of the EDGJ. I'm sure I'm going to overlook some, and for that I apologize in advance.

The online EDGJ is a reality because of the Public Knowledge Project's Online Journal System, one of several open-source applications designed to manage peer reviewed academic journals. And while OJS has its own counter plugin, which facilitates counter statistics and reporting, the EDGJ also uses a freemium web analytic service, Google Analytics, to track and report on its website traffic.

A note of thanks and appreciation needs to be extended to a colleague, Biwu Yang, a staff member with East Carolina University's Global Academic Initiatives office, for his continuous support since the inception of the online EDGJ. I'd also like to extend a note thanks and appreciation to ECU for allowing the Division to house the Journal on one of its servers.

I also need to recognize another colleague, William Joseph Thomas, Assistant Director for Research and Scholarly Communication, Joyner Library, who's been onboard since 2009. He's been instrumental in identifying possible options and opportunities for improving the viability of the Journal. While we've come a long way, we still have a way to go to ensure the sustainability of the Journal. I know we can count on Joseph to continue providing us with the necessary guidance.

One of the initiatives that we kicked off thanks to Joseph's encouragement was that of becoming the sole source for archiving the scholarship activities of the Division. While there is still work to be done, we have made some headway by archiving past issues of the Journal. This was made possible when Kathy Holliday-Darr and Mary Sadowski scanned many of the past issues of the Journal. The patient required and arduous task

of uploading the scanned issues was accomplished by a Faizan Khaja, an ECU graduate assistant and Master of Science in Occupational Safety student. Go to <http://www.edgj.org/index.php/EDGJ/issue/archive> to check out the past issues that he's uploaded.

A hearty thank you needs to be extended to our current Circulation Manager and Journal Treasurer, Nancy Study. She served as the Associate Editor during the transition from the in-print edition of the Journal to the online edition and was responsible for ensuring that authors were able to upload their papers and for ensuring that the reviewers were able to complete their reviews during the transition. In order to ensure hiccups were minimized, she spent countless hours learning the system, tutoring and providing just-in-time training and did troubleshooting on behalf of authors and reviewers. Upon completion of her tour as AJ's predecessor, she brought AJ up to speed on working with the system and the reviewers and authors.

My predecessor was La Verne Abe Harris. Thanks to her patience and persistence, we were able to begin fleshing out the online Journal with issues that she'd published. And as time permitted, we collected files from her predecessors and backfilled at the same time new issues were published.

And speaking of reviewers, the quality of the Journal and of the feature articles published is a result of our reviewers' insightful assistances. The efforts expended by our reviewers has been done quietly and more often than not go unrecognized except for their bylines—see <http://www.edgj.org/index.php/EDGJ/about/displayMembership/2>. In addition to completing reviews, our reviewers also help to recognize EDGJ authors with the Editors Award—see <http://edgd.asee.org/awards/editors/index.htm>.

From what I can tell, the online EDGJ is a reality because of Kathy Holliday-Darr's message dated Saturday, February 02, 2008 4:10 PM. The Subject line was "[et-graphics] EDG Journal: On-line vs printed". That message and the fact she was the Journal's Circulation Manager and Treasurer was probably what got the Division's membership to begin debating the merits of an online EDGJ.

Taking a vision and making it a reality requires a great deal of tenacity and stick-to-itiveness. This is where Cody Skidmore, who is currently the Help Desk Specialist at Duke University, entered the scene and who over about a two year period beginning in 2009 helped the online EDGJ gain traction.

It's been a pleasure and an honor to have worked with all the aforementioned, the six Executive Committee Chairs, the members of the Executive Committee, the readers of the Journal, and the Division's membership. There have been times, in particular at the onset, when a fine line had to be walked but thanks to everybody's willingness to engage in civil discourse, the online EDGJ is where and what it is today.