EDITOR'S FORUM

A Final Note of Thanks

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After serving as Editor for eleven issues of the National Forensic Journal, it is now time to "pass the torch" to both a new Editor, Deborah Geisler, and a new editorial staff. In doing so, I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to express my appreciation to those who have assisted and supported my efforts for over five years.

First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the National Forensic Association for their philosophical and financial support of the Journal. Begun just ten years ago, NFJ was created as an outlet to serve both debate and individual events in the broader forensic community. As I recall the breadth of topics explored in the Journal over the past ten years, I truly believe NFJ has served that purpose. Hopefully, NFJ has come to represent a valuable outlet that explores a variety of issues from various perspectives. By doing so, I believe that NFJ has also encouraged research and writing from a new generation of forensic scholars.

Second, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Jack Kay, Professional Resources Editor, and my staff of Associate Editors. Many of these individuals served with me throughout the publication of all eleven issues, and without their conscientious review of manuscripts and resource materials, there would have been no Journal. I value their expertise, and I am grateful for their willingness to share that expertise with the greater forensic community.

I would also be remiss if I didn't single out one individual, Kevin Dean, who not only served as an Associate Editor, but served as a guest Editor for one issue and enthusiastically compiled a ten-year index for the Journal. Kevin's commitment to forensic scholarship is clearly evidenced through his own writings, his conscientious review of manuscripts, his thought-provoking ideas for development of the Journal, and the quality of competitors he has produced over the years. Above all, Kevin has served as a valuable "sounding board" for me both as a colleague and in my role as Editor.

Third, I would like to thank two colleagues at my own university. Don Boileau, Chair of the Department of Communication at George Mason University, is one of those rare administrators with a back-
ground in forensics who wholeheartedly supports the activity and its value to students. Though I know he often wished it could have been more, I appreciate his willingness to find resources to assist me with computing services, xeroxing costs, and mailing expenses. Also, I wish to extend a "special thanks" to Sandy Slater in Computing Support Services at George Mason University. Sandy composed all eleven issues of the Journal beginning with hard copy or disks, and she tirelessly saw them through to completion as they were placed in the hands of the printer. Next to me, I know Sandy is most grateful that this project is coming to a close.

And finally, I wish to thank Bruce Manchester, Director of Forensics at George Mason University, for his assistance and support from beginning to end. As both a mentor and a colleague for sixteen years, Bruce has always encouraged me to "carve out" my own identity and offer my own unique contributions to the forensic community. Though he might have selfishly discouraged me from taking on this task, given the demands of coaching and travel in an active program, he selflessly carried an extra portion of the load at times so that I might enjoy this truly unique opportunity. Above all, I am grateful for his insight, experience, enthusiasm, commitment, humor, and enduring friendship.

To Deborah Geisler and her staff, I applaud their commitment to the National Forensic Journal and wish them only the best as they create their vision for its success. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as Editor, and I look forward with great anticipation to the continued growth and development of the National Forensic Journal during the coming decade.

Sheryl A. Friedley
Editor