

A New Decade, New Leadership

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A member from my university's marketing department learned that I was recently named editor of *Chemical Engineering Education (CEE)*. They wrote a brief article on the subject and took a few pictures. During the interview, they asked me "why you and what are you going to do?" Some of you reading this may also ask "who are you?" I want to answer those questions in my first editorial for *CEE*.

With that, let me introduce myself. My name is Don Visco and I am a professor of chemical engineering at The University of Akron, which is a comprehensive university less than an hour south of Cleveland in Ohio.

I have my B.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering, both from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. I started my professional career at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee in 1999 and moved to Akron in 2011 to become the associate dean for undergraduate studies (engineering). After five years in that job, I spent two years as dean for the College of Engineering (one as interim and then was the candidate chosen after a search). About a year and a half ago, I made the decision to return to the faculty.

Throughout my entire career I have tried my best to merge teaching, research and service. My cv has evidence of contributions and successes in all of those areas. I never thought of myself as a faculty member who put research first or teaching first or service first. They all contribute to the whole and each are very important in their own way.

While the above attempts to answer the "who" question, it also lays the groundwork for the "why" part. I have a fairly comprehensive background and the opportunity to serve as editor allows me to utilize this skill set for the benefit of the journal (and the chemical engineering education community, at large). My vision is for *CEE* "to be the premier educational platform for chemical engineering and related educators throughout the US and internationally."

Platform is the important word in that vision. While the print and digital aspects will always be at the center, *Chemical Engineering Education* will engage the community in multiple ways that are relevant to the needs of chemical engineering and related educators.

To develop and implement that vision, changes in the structure of *CEE* have occurred. We increased the *CEE*

Editorial Staff to include up to four assistant editor positions. We have also added formal development and implementation responsibilities to our Publications Board that goes beyond their much valued advisory role. We have worked to better integrate and enhance our interactions with both the ASEE Chemical Engineering Division and the Education Division of AIChE.

The journal started nearly sixty years ago and this issue is the first (of four) for volume 54. It has an international reach, with departments or libraries in over 30 countries owning subscriptions to *CEE*. The journal regularly publishes contributions from international authors. Chemical engineering departments outside the US advertise in the *CEE* Graduate Guide. Clearly, *CEE* has a broad and wide-reaching impact, which will only increase as we work towards the vision.

There are a lot of people to thank as I transition from associate editor to editor of the journal this year. First and foremost is the outgoing editor, Dr. Phillip C. Wankat. His patience, guidance and perspective are very much appreciated. In the following pages, people will reflect on the impact Phil had on their careers, and I had the pleasure of experiencing that first-hand. Dr. Joseph H. Holles, our associate editor, played a crucial role in learning the online journal system to improve and increase workflow through this digital portal. The other members of the editorial team, Dr. Lisa G. Bullard and Dr. David L. Silverstein, played important roles in moving the journal forward during the transition. This also includes *CEE*'s access editor, Dr. Carlos Rinaldi, and I am grateful for his past and ongoing support for *CEE*. Additionally, I am indebted to Dr. Milo D. Koretsky, chair of the *CEE* Publications Board, for his counsel and support. He, along with Publications Board vice-chair, Dr. Adrienne C. Minerick, played an important role in providing feedback and perspective on the development and approval of the *CEE* bylaws. Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Erin Stevic, *CEE* publications manager, for her positive and supportive attitude as she learns the ins and outs of running *CEE*. Of course, I am forgetting several people and I apologize if I have missed you.

If you have an idea or comment for the journal, all you have to do is reach out to us at cee@che.ufl.edu. □