

# Editorial—

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## *Changing of the Guard*

Three years ago we began a quest to determine if invitational theory had a strong enough following and, indeed, was sufficiently substantive to produce a refereed journal. As with many births, the beginning of this journal had its anxieties and moments of uncertainty. Now, with the close of this third volume, I am pleased to proclaim that our infancy has been successful, and we are ready to move toward further stages of development. With this milestone complete, it is an appropriate time for new leadership to take charge. In that regard, the Alliance announces that John M. Novak has accepted appointment as the journal's editor for the next term.

Dr. Novak is professor of education at Brock University in Canada and is a founding member of the Alliance. For many years, John has been an international spokesperson for invitational theory, and has researched and published widely about invitational thinking. Among his works is co-authorship with William Purkey of the cardinal book, *Inviting School Success*, soon to be released in its third edition. John Novak is well suited to take this journal to higher levels of scholarship and research, and I am honored to have preceded him in this endeavor.

I encourage you to submit ideas, research summaries, and reports of successful practice to John for publication. This journal has flourished due to the courage and effort of many authors who have willingly participated in its birth. Its future will depend on the scholarly pursuits of writers who are willing to share their work with others; writers such as those featured in this sixth issue.

The first article in this issue is by Judy Stillion and Betty Siegel. In it, they summarize their remarks at last year's conference of the Alliance in Lincoln, Nebraska. Their treatise on the transformational college teacher moves invitational theory beyond its basic concepts to a deeper and richer meaning for student-teacher relationships and the task of learning.

In the second article, Cheryl and David Aspy explore the importance of self-invitations in teaching. As the Aspy's indicate, teachers might benefit from examining the "self-invitations" that urge them to teach. These self-invitations need to be compared and contrasted with "other-invitations" that often detract from the personal reasons that originally encouraged teachers to enter the profession.

Grace Davis presents a practical summary of a peer mediation program at the senior high school level. Peer mediation has been successful in helping students learn alternative methods of conflict resolution. In her article, Dr. Davis outlines a step-by-step approach to implement a peer program, and shares the results of one program in its first two years of service at the school where she is an assistant principal.

In another article, Tommie Radd reports the findings of a study that used a classroom guidance program founded on self-concept theory. The study showed that teachers who used the program were perceived as "more inviting" by their students, and students who participated in the program demonstrated more self-control.

This issue ends with a personal perspective from Dave Aspy about how society could be more inviting toward its senior citizens. Dave is an internationally known educator and a pioneer whose writings and research have influenced invitational theory. His article, a personal perspective, has meaning for all of us as we each strive to extend our lives, and hope this prolongation consists of active participation and involvement.

All these articles exemplify the progress this journal has made in its short life-span. As we close this chapter of the journal, I express sincerest appreciation to all the authors who have submitted articles for consideration, the members of the editorial board who have diligently reviewed manuscripts, and the Alliance for its support in publishing the first three volumes. The opportunity to edit this new journal has been most rewarding and instructive. It has been a good beginning, and I look forward to the future with John Novak at the helm.

John J. Schmidt  
Editor