

# An Overture

## We Did It Our Way

It's been a fast and frenzied three years but I feel very, very good about the reshaping of *ABT* and the remarkable accomplishments of our authors, editors, and Advisory Board members. With this issue of our journal, my term as editor ends, and I've been experiencing the customary "fade into the sunset" thoughts and emotions that go with passage from one key phase of life to another.

It's been a team effort from the beginning—a consolidation of vision and hard work enthusiastically contributed by many NABT members. I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to

- Ivo Lindauer, who inspired me to take on the weighty responsibilities of the *ABT* editorship;
- Diana Baber, a journalist of the first order, who gave *ABT* a new look and provided the needed energy to keep everyday operations moving;
- Our department editors Charles Barman, Ted Crovello, Maura Flannery, and Emmett Wright, who provided the courage and productivity necessary to explore new editorial directions;
- Our Advisory Panel Members Clark Adams, Alton Biggs, Joan Bray, Rodger Bybee, Don Dean, David Duvall, Don Emmeluth, James Hawk, Jon Hendrix, Dennis Gathman, John Koran, Ivo Lindauer, William Mayer, Randy Moore, Exyie Ryder, Frances Vandervoort, and James Wandersee, who provided both constructive criticism and creative inspiration;
- Our NABT Presidents Ed Kormondy, Jerry Resnick, Jane Kahle, and Marjorie King who provided stable but vigorous leadership;
- LeRoy Lee, Acting Executive Director, and Wayne Moyer, Former Executive Director, who kept the NABT ship afloat;
- Guest editors Rodger Bybee, David Duvall, and Ted Crovello who produced magnificent special issues; and
- Editorial Assistant Susan McCormack for her day-to-day hard work which included many weekends and holidays.

Thanks also to our many contributors and reviewers—far too numerous to mention individually—who created the essential written words necessary for journal publication. They are wonderful people.

Like a biological entity, *ABT* has evolved and metamorphosed. It has a new, crisp layout style, an attractive type-set, and more color. We've developed issues around themes whenever possible, and emphasized updates of bioscience frontiers and practical classroom how-to-do-its. We've experimented with some new departments—Biology Today, Projector Center, Biology Olympics, Computer Center, Are There Really Animals Like That? and R & D Center—while maintaining and reemphasizing the How-To-Do-It, Perspectives, Teacher-to-Teacher, and Book Review departments. We now have a working Panel of Advisors and a journal evaluation system (under the direction of Alton Biggs) that operates continuously. It's been a group effort, sometimes tedious, sometimes fun—always challenging. Not all journal changes have been accepted with equal enthusiasm, but we mustered the courage to experiment, and we did it our way.

Thanks to you, our readers, for your support and kind words during the past few years. And, best of luck to the next *ABT* editorial team. I have one parting bit of advice for our successors—Do it *your* way!

Alan J. McCormack, *editor*