

Associate Editors by the time you read this. I am always looking for potential Associate Editors. Right now, the greatest needs are in Family Studies and Sociology, though having an additional person in Social and/or Clinical Psychology would be helpful as well. If this is something that you are considering (even if you feel that you are a year or two away) feel free to contact me ([Mongeau@ASU.edu](mailto:Mongeau@ASU.edu)) and I can put you on the list of individuals I bother occasionally to gauge their interest.

Finally, one of the interesting aspects of being editor is how far one has to look ahead. For example, as I type these words in early September, I am correcting the October proofs, getting the February 2008 issue ready to send to Sage, and I have the April 2008 issue about half-filled. I am also considering a special issue to appear late in 2009 or early in 2010. Stan Gaines recently did a fine job in editing a special issue (August 2007) on personality and relationships. I can't thank him enough for his help. If you have any ideas for something that would make for an interesting special issue, again, feel free to contact me. Special issues should be of interest to a variety of JSPR readers (as well as draw new ones), draw from a variety of disciplines, and present scholarship that will be widely read and cited.

## **Editor's Report on *Personal Relationships***

**by Rebecca G. Adams, Editor**

**B**y now you should have received the first three issues of *Personal Relationships* (Volume 14, Issues 1, 2, and 3) produced by my editorial team (Associate Editors: Susan Boon, Psychology, University of Calgary, Canada; Mario Mikulincer, Psychology, Bar-Ilan University, Israel; Denise Solomon, Communication Studies, Pennsylvania State University, United States; Rodney Cate, *Emeritus*, Family Studies, University of Arizona, United States; Catrin Finkenauer,

Social Psychology, VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; and Susan Branje, Adolescent Development, Utrecht University, The Netherlands and Editorial Assistant: Brandi McCullough). Note that in my editor's prefaces to the first two of these issues, I discuss how we are working to achieve my editorial team's goal for *PR* to become more international and interdisciplinary and the importance of placing personal relationships in structural and cultural context. I would urge potential authors to read these prefaces, because they provide insight into the types of issues that might be raised as a manuscript is reviewed. Associate Editor Mario Mikulincer authored the Editor's Preface to the third of these issues and discussed the importance of building personal relationships theory, raising issues relevant for the future of our field. At the time of this writing, our fourth issue is all-but-finalized. The tentative table of contents is included in this issue.

The Editorial Board will probably remain fairly stable for the rest of our term. Eighty-three scholars, who represent twelve countries (USA, Canada, The Netherlands, England, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, Greece, Austria, and Portugal) and eight disciplines (Communication Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Gerontology, Management Information Systems, Family Studies, Philosophy, and Women's Studies), serve as members of the Editorial Board. The representatives from Psychology include Social, Developmental, Applied, and Counseling Psychologists.

My editorial team and I try to have each manuscript reviewed by three scholars from two countries and two disciplines, including at least one member of the Editorial Board and sometimes including a fourth reviewer who is a new scholar. For this reason, we are always interested in hearing from new reviewers, especially volunteers who are from outside the United States or non-Psychologists. Two hundred and ninety-six established scholars and 93 new scholars have each reviewed one or more of the 313 manuscripts which were submitted to *PR* between June 1, 2005 and May 31, 2007 (note these reviewers' names and affiliations

will be listed in *Personal Relationships*, Vol. 14, Number 4, December, 2007). Thirty-one established scholars and sixteen new scholars who have not yet reviewed for *PR* have expressed interest in doing so. Together our 327 ad hoc reviewers and 109 new scholar reviewers add considerable diversity to our editorial team, including scholars from France, Spain, Ireland, Wales, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, Japan, and Finland and scholars representing the disciplines of Nursing, Consumer Sciences, Statistics, Demography, Neuroscience, Mass Communications, Marriage and Family Therapy, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, Public Health, and Media, Clinical, Evolutionary, Cultural, Health, Family, Educational, and Personality Psychology.

We are constantly striving to increase the international and interdisciplinary diversity of our submitting authors. If you hear a good paper about personal relationships at a conference, especially by a scholar from outside the United States or from an under-represented discipline, please suggest the author submit the paper to *PR*. The first authors of the 137 submissions (June 1, 2006-May 31, 2007) represent 19 countries (US=59.1, Canada=8.8%, UK=6.6%, The Netherlands and Australia=4.4% each, Israel=2.9%, Italy=2.2%, Portugal, China, and Turkey=1.5% each, and 1 manuscript each from Iran, Japan, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Taiwan, Sweden, Columbia, and Norway). They represent many disciplines including: Psychology=61.3%, Communication=14.6%, Family Studies/HDFS/Child Development/Adolescent Development/Life Course Development=5.1%, Sociology=4.4%, Behavioral Science/Social Sciences/Human Ecology=4.4%, Social Work=2.9%, Psychiatry=1.5%, and nine other disciplines=one manuscript each. Approximately a third of the first authors of the submitted papers are graduate students (33.5%).

The Editorial Office calculates statistics for each half year period. The acceptance rate for the first year of our term (June 1, 2005-May 31, 2006) will probably be between 20 and 24%, which is what Sue Sprecher estimated the acceptance rate was during her team's term. It is too early to predict the range of the possible acceptance rate

for the submissions we received between June 1, 2006, and May 31, 2007. We received fewer submissions the second year (137) than the first year (176), however, so the acceptance rate will probably be higher. It takes us about 4 months on the average from the time of submission to reach an initial decision. It takes the authors who receive invitations to revise and resubmit about 3 months on the average to do so. Note that it is important that authors who have received invitations to revise and resubmit do so in a timely way, because this team's last issue will be submitted to Blackwell in August of 2009. There is a wide variation in the time from submission to acceptance, but on average it takes about 17 months from submission to acceptance and about 4 months more until publication. Thus far this has meant that as soon as a manuscript is accepted it is submitted as part of the next issue, but we are finally working a bit ahead of deadline and so in the future authors will experience bit more of a delay.

It has been a delight to work with now Past-President Sandra Petronio, the IARR Board, Treasurer Michael Cunningham, Publications Chair Dan Perlman (now conveniently in residence at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), the Editorial Board, the reviewers, and the authors. I would also like to give special thanks to the Associate Editors and Brandi McCullough, *PR*'s Former Editorial Assistant, for their hard work. Please join me in welcoming Sarah Hosman, who will replace Brandi as *PR*'s Editorial Assistant. Brandi has been busily training her and assures me Sarah is going to do a terrific job. She will now be responding to the [Predasst@uncg.edu](mailto:Predasst@uncg.edu) email address our reviewers and authors know so well. The Associate Editors, my new editorial assistant, and I look forward to the remainder of our term.