Dear Readers

Robert Kleinmann

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Dear Readers,

I hope that you are having a great summer, if you are in the northern hemisphere, and a great winter if you are not. This issue contains papers by authors from eight different countries, which certainly illustrates how international this journal has become. Similarly, the papers represent research on a broad range of topics, including geothermal energy, aquatic geochemistry, environmental impacts, and potential ways of minimizing adverse environmental effects of mining. In short, this is my favorite type of issue; all of our readers should find something of interest here.

In the previous issue, I asked for volunteers to serve as associate editors. Dr. Danita LaSage, an environmental scientist with Kentucky's Division of Mine Permits, stepped forward and is embracing her new position with enthusiasm. Thank you, Danita! However, we need one or two more individuals like Danita to join our ranks. The job of associate editor is not that difficult, nor is it terribly time consuming. Our associate editors take justifiable pride in helping our fellow professionals present their research in this fine journal. It also looks impressive on a resume! I encourage you to join us, and I also encourage you to reach out to other individuals who you think might be interested in such a position and encourage them to apply. Applicants have to be IMWA members and should obviously have good English skills, but there are no other requirements. If you are interested, please e-mail me at: editor@mwen.info.

I personally find that being an editor of this journal is one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. It was only a few years ago when I was able to

handle all of the editorial duties by myself. But the number of manuscripts being submitted has probably tripled since then! New associate editors are needed so that we can continue to process all of the submitted manuscripts in a timely manner without reducing our level of quality control, and without overtaxing our existing associate editors.

Finally, it is time to remind you to register for the 2013 IMWA Conference at the Colorado School of Mines, in August, at <http://www.IMWA2013.info>, if you have not already done so. The conference organizers have done a great job, and you could not ask for a better place to learn what others in the field have accomplished and to network with other practitioners. I look forward to seeing you all there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Kleinmann".

Best Regards,
Bob Kleinmann, Editor-in-chief

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