Farewell Editorial

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At the beginning of my term as Editor of the *Journal of Behavioral Education*, I did not feel that I had enough to say to warrant publishing an editorial “kickoff.” I saw my role as continuing to nurture the growth of the Journal and authors who submit to it. I set out intending to execute my duties with integrity, maintain the Journal’s rigor, and “not mess it up.” Now, 5 years later as I prepare to welcome the new Editor, I have decided to share some reflections on my term and some thoughts about the future of the Journal.

To begin, I am deeply grateful for all of the colleagues who have contributed to the Journal’s success over the past 5 years. The former Editor, Brian Martens, has always modeled for me a unique combination of flexibility and integrity. He handed over the journal in excellent shape and made the transition as smooth as possible. Further, he has been fully accessible and always responded to my questions with his characteristic enthusiasm. When I accepted the role of Editor, I wanted to give Brian a much-deserved break from editorial duties, but I also wanted someone with similar research skills to serve as a consultant to me. Thus, I established the formal position of Consulting Editor, and Craig Kennedy, a translational researcher who regards as central the interests of individuals with special needs, agreed to serve in that capacity. I have only needed to consult with him two or three times, but the issues were significant and his responses were quick and astute. I also occasionally queried my own graduate mentor and former Editor of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, Dave Wacker. For over 20 years, Dave has served as my informal consultant for all things professional, and I can always count on him to help me see issues from multiple and varied perspectives and make hard decisions with confidence.

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As most journal Editors will tell you, the real work is done by the Associate Editors. The *JOBE* Editor appoints four AEs and individually negotiates the length of their terms. I have been supremely fortunate to work with some of the brightest and most thoughtful AEs imaginable. Flo DiGennaro Reed has served every day of the 5 years of my tenure as Editor, and I thank her for serving such a long time. Cynthia Anderson, Robin Coddington, Terry Falcomata, Guilio Lancioni, Mark Shriver, and Zuilma Gabriela Sigurðardóttir have served the journal well and have made substantive contributions to the journal. In addition, I have made liberal use of Guest Associate Editors and have had the pleasure of working with more than 25 scholars in this role. Regardless of whether these folks held the official role of AE or accepted an invitation to serve as Guest AE, whether they handled over 30 manuscripts or a single manuscript, each one took the assignment seriously, used a supportive tone in providing authors with critical feedback, and worked to shape manuscripts into the best possible paper prior to publication. The goals of our journal are for every author to receive a set of high-quality reviews and that the editorial process reinforces their consideration of *JOBE* as an outlet for their work, regardless of whether their paper was eventually published. *JOBE* has benefitted from the service of very strong Reviewers and Guest Reviewers. In these times when there are increasing demands for service, it is sometimes hard to find individuals who agree to review manuscripts. This has seldom been the case in *JOBE*, and on behalf of the AEs and Guest AEs, I thank each and every reviewer for agreeing to provide comments and for consistently finding and commenting on the praiseworthy aspects of papers as well as the shortcomings. Finally, it has been a privilege to read every paper that has been submitted to the Journal, many of which I have read several times in the course of the editorial process. I appreciate the authors' grace, patience, and persistence during the editorial process.

There have been a number of highlights of the past 5 years. Most recent is the news that the collective work of all those I mentioned earlier, from the former Editor through the authors, has been formally recognized via *JOBE*'s acceptance by Clarivate Analytics to receive an Impact Factor. Beginning with the Volume 24/Issue 1, 2015, *JOBE* will be indexed and abstracted in:

- Social Sciences Citation Index®
- Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition
- Current Contents®/Social and Behavioral Sciences

According to Research Gate, the 2015/2016 Impact Factor is 1.52. Scholars differ in their regard of impact factors, but for those scholars and institutions, including publishing houses, who find it useful or important, this is a major accomplishment. Surely the caliber of the papers published in *JOBE* and cited by other authors in other journals contributed to the acceptance of our application for an impact factor.

JOBE has published some outstanding articles over the past 5 years, addressing a range of topics relevant to behavioral education and utilizing a variety of rigorous research methods. I have been particularly pleased to handle papers that are at the cutting edge of translation of learning processes, such as stimulus equivalence. Further, I am proud *JOBE* has published a number of papers that have used highly

creative methods to address specific challenges in education. *JOBE* has published a number of Special Issues over the past 5 years and those issues have represented some of the most timely issues in behavioral education. I have enjoyed working with the Editors of the Special Issues and appreciated the commentaries. I am eager to see what is on the horizon for *JOBE*. For example, electronic publishing has led to terrific improvements in our dissemination efforts. What innovations technology and social media will bring are beyond what I can imagine, but there is no doubt that the next Editor of *JOBE* will further advance dissemination and accessibility of our scholarship. Beyond innovations in publishing, I look forward to seeing the innovations in our science and practice that are sure to unfold in the coming years. I thank *JOBE* for giving me this incredible opportunity, and I am confident that the next 5 years will be good ones for the journal.