Editorial

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It is with some considerable regret that we announce the retirement, after 18 years, of Dr. Joseph Antoine Rard as Joint Editor in Chief of the Journal of Solution Chemistry.

Joe, with Dr. Don Palmer, took over the editorship of the Journal in 2003, following the retirement of Robert Kay, the Journal's founding editor, and continued in this role with Earle Waghorne after Don's retirement in 2009.

Joe brought his intelligence and scientific rigor to his editorship and these shaped the Journal over the past 18 years. Joe and his co-editors strongly believe that science and those who carry it out deserve only the best treatment and this is shown most obviously, perhaps, by the fact that the Editor(s) in Chief read all submitted manuscripts and edit all those that are accepted for publication. The manuscripts that Joe assigned to the associate editors were always accompanied by his comments, which were precise and accurate but at the same time proactive.

Of course, Joe was already established as an outstanding scientist before he joined the Journal. He took his B.A. at Illinois University at Edwardsville and his Ph.D. with Professor Frank Spedding at the Iowa State University of Science and Technology. He then spent 2 years as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Ames Laboratory of the AEC and then two further years as a Visiting Research Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign before joining the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a Chemist in the Geochemistry Group. After his “retirement” Joe continued his connection with Lawrence Livermore as a Participating Guest and Visiting Scientist.

Joe's expertise across the physical chemistry of solutions is well recognized. Among his 130 research articles are, of course, papers on isopiestic measurements, where Joe is probably the leading exponent, but also on studies using measurements of conductivity, viscosity, enthalpies, standard state entropies, diffusion coefficients, densities, solubilities and cell emfs, as well as a number of papers involving developments of theoretical approaches to the solution chemistry of electrolytes. In many cases Joe's measurements are the accepted standards and his h-index of 37 attests to the significance of his work. The clarity of his writing makes

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his papers deceptively readable and certainly was a benefit to the many authors whose manuscripts he edited.

Among Joes publications one can also find “A monstrose form of *Stapelia engleriana*.”, published in *Cactus and Succulent Journal* (**90** (2018) 189–191). This is an outcrop from Joe’s passion for these plants of the deserts. He regularly showed plants and collections at Cactus and Succulent shows in California and won numerous awards.

Working with these prickly plants, which occasionally flower spectacularly, is perhaps a perfect preparation for editing a scientific journal.

All of the editorial team much appreciate Joe’s inputs, both scientific or editorial and less formal. The photos of his Star Trek Christmas display are fondly remembered.

Our personal feelings are well summarized in the brief appreciation below, written by Dr. Luigi (Gino) Paduano, who knew Joe best. We all share his feelings and wish Joe a very happy retirement.

1 Joe Rard, An Appreciation

There are things in life that go beyond the everyday and are moments of great intensity, like having the pleasure to write about a friend like Joe Rard.

I met Joe for the first time in February 1986 at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, I had only been there a few days when I saw him appear. I was a young graduate student at the time and had a fellowship with a very distinguished man, Dr. Donald G. Miller, and I met this tall, thin gentleman with a long beard and a great liveliness in his eyes. Over the next few months, we became friends and Joe taught me to be precise in experimental practice and careful in data analysis. A lot of things that you don’t find in books and that only someone with great passion can teach you. I personally think that his manuscripts are some of the most rigorous, careful and detailed scientific works on electrolyte solutions in the literature.

In the following years, we met several more times both in California and in Texas at Texas Christian University (TCU) with Prof. John Albright, another very distinguished man. In Texas, we often met, usually at the end of the summer, and I remember his irony: “...now that it’s getting cooler in California, I’ve come here to Texas...” the outside temperature is between 100 and 105 Fahrenheit degrees.

I’ve had the pleasure of meeting his lovely family. It is always a pleasure to spend time with Joe and we’ve had very long conversations ranging from the aromatic herbs he grows in his garden to his personal jerky recipe.... and his worldview.

When, several years later, I was invited by Joe to join the editorial board of *Journal of Solution Chemistry*, I was delighted by the confidence he showed in me, and by the chance to work closely with him again.

Joe is a mild-mannered person with a great respect for science and a great sense of duty.

Now that he is about to retire, it is with great pleasure that I thank Joe for his contribution to my scientific growth, but above all for his friendship.

It was a great honor for me that our lives crossed.

Joe, my sincere good wishes.

Gino.