



MESSAGE FROM HASTI 2015-2016 PRESIDENT AND 2017 CONFERENCE CHAIR

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"Like the phoenix rising..."

I don't normally like evoking such hyperbole, but I think in this case, it may be appropriate. And it is a reflection of some very real emotions about *The Hoosier Science Teacher*.

In January of 2013, Jude Bingham, the long-time editor of *THST* and 1987 recipient of HASTI's Edward L. Frazier Distinguished Service Award, died in a fire in her home. When I received the email informing the Board of this tragic loss, I was in shock. I had communicated with Jude during the process of submitting and editing articles, and while I did not know Jude well, it was a real loss. Jude's death was quite a blow to many of us in the HASTI family.

In the coming months, the Board wrestled with the question of what to do with the journal. Patty Zeck, a past president and contributor to *THST* as an author, a reviewer, and a member of the editorial team, agreed to serve as editor. She was able to put out four issues in the next year... a huge task at any time, but even tougher in the given circumstances. We thank her for that effort.

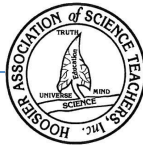


The Board also began discussions of whether to convert the journal to an electronic publication, continue only in print, or produce a hybrid of the two. The discussions were long, and not always easy.

But the Board has long felt *THST* is an important part of HASTI, and we were determined to make whatever changes we needed to continue producing a journal that serves as a valuable resource for science educators, and an outlet for sharing the professional knowledge of our members.

With a focus on what best serves HASTI members and fits within the current budget of the association, the decision was made to go electronic. While there is a very real benefit to a hard copy journal, the electronic format provides benefits the Board felt should be considered. The articles in the new journal will be accessible for an extended time, even to readers from outside the organization. The “searchability,” if I may use that as a word, of digitally published text is a feature that, as a writer and researcher, I know many of our members wanted for a long time. As it turns out, the journal will also be much cheaper to produce, and gives more flexibility in the types of media included and timeframe in which articles are posted.

During the process, Dr. Matthew J. Benus, the current District 1 Director and a professor at Indiana University Northwest, offered to serve as the new Managing Editor, and he has been hard at work developing an electronic version. He brings a vibrant vision of what the journal can be to the Board, and I have been delighted to have him working with the publication. I know he has personally contacted many presenters from the recent HASTI Conference, and I’m optimistic that his energy will help re-build a strong journal for all of us.



And now, here we are, in the first issue of a new format for *The Hoosier Science Teacher*. The release of the new version is closely tied to a new platform for the HASTI website. I am extremely grateful to Matt and the other Board members who have contributed their ideas to the Publications committee. One of my priorities as President has been to reestablish *THST*, and it means more than I can describe to see this issue... and the number of people who have expressed interest in contributing to the journal!

For this first issue, Matt has spent more hours than I care to count reviewing previous issues of *THST* to find some articles that offer timely “retrospective” content. The late Dr. Hans O. Anderson, past president and prolific contributor to *THST*, wrote one of the retrospective articles. But we also need YOU... the readers of *THST*, to renew your efforts as contributors to the journal.

With this issue, I offer an enthusiastic invitation and urgent request... Please consider sharing your expertise, your creativity, your stories, and your ideas! The process is not as scary as many believe, and we are an eager audience who wants to help you publish!

You can learn more about submitting manuscripts to *THST* at...
<http://www.hasti.org/journal>

I’m also extending an invitation and a call for members to serve as reviewers, editors, and members of a new Editorial Board who will help Matt develop policies and procedures to make sure we have a rich and lively publication for HASTI members and the science education community in general. If you would be willing to volunteer to read and evaluate submissions well suited to your experience please e-mail Matt at THSE@hasti.org.



So here's to the renewed publication *The Hoosier Science Teacher*!! It is a momentous occasion, and Matt deserves both thanks and congratulations. May *The Hoosier Science Teacher* serve your needs for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Tom J. McConnell, Ph.D.
2017 HASTI Conference Chair
2015-16 HASTI Past-President