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Forum: Twenty Years of *MCQ*: Forum Introduction

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Forum: Twenty Years of *MCQ*

Forum Introduction

Kathy Krone

Forum Editor

In this issue we celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Management Communication Quarterly*. To do so we invited the previous editors to reflect on their experiences providing leadership for the journal. In what follows, each editor looks back on his or her vision for *MCQ*, how his or her hopes for the journal were realized (or not), and the challenges he or she faced during his or her tenure as editor. As two of the founding editors, JoAnne Yates and Christine Kelly (Editors, Volumes 1 to 6), reconstruct the impetus for the journal by describing its interdisciplinary origins and their hope that the availability of a journal such as *MCQ* could help build and legitimize “management communication” as a field that would cross the more traditional academic boundaries of communication, English, and management departments. Katherine Miller (Editor, Volumes 7 to 10) then reflects on a complex set of commitments she made to showcase the growing scope and richness of organizational communication theory and research while also honoring the journal’s interdisciplinary roots and further establishing its reputation as an outlet for high-quality scholarship. Next, Patrice Buzzanell (Editor, Volumes 11 to 13) reflects on her intentions to continue building the journal’s reputation for quality; to create space for voices representing organizational, managerial, business and corporate communication; and to make more explicit a variety of forms of diversity in editorial board membership and in the nature of publications. Theodore Zorn (Editor, Volumes 14 to 16) then reflects on his experience shepherding the journal into and through the first few years of the 21st century, characterizing his experience in terms of a set of tensions that included maintaining both an international and national focus, working on both familiar and unfamiliar ground, maintaining commitments to both improving practice and critiquing it, and his desire to highlight but also separate the “faddish” from ideas that endure. Last, Charles Conrad (Editor, Volumes 17 to 19) speaks to

his goals of maintaining *MCQ*'s reputation for quality, his efforts to sustain the journal's interdisciplinary identity despite the emergence of a variety of institutional constraints (at least in the United States), and his commitment to internationalize *MCQ* in a variety of ways.

Taken together, this collection of essays tells the story of *Management Communication Quarterly*'s first 20 years of development guided by the dedicated, gifted, and able leadership of this group of editors. *Management Communication Quarterly* approaches its 21st year rooted in their collective experience of working to establish the journal's reputation for quality, interdisciplinarity, and internationalization. Although its interdisciplinary roots have been challenged on pragmatic, conceptual, or institutional grounds, there remains a willingness to cultivate and remain open to those possibilities, particularly across the traditional disciplinary boundaries of management and organizational communication. As it turns out, what it means to be an interdisciplinary journal devoted to management communication is neither a clear nor a straightforward matter. Similarly, what it means to be an international journal of management communication remains a work in progress, but it is a challenge worth taking up over the next 20 years and beyond.