

EDITORS' COLUMN

Welcome to the June 2011 issue of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science (JTAS)*. As publication time for this issue neared, we looked back at the five articles within it, each reviewed by at least two volunteer subject-matter experts and then recommended for publication by a section editor from our editorial board. Each article then underwent a minor transformation under our hands as it was made to conform to the style and format of the *Journal*. And each underwent yet another transformation in the hands of the expert personnel at Allen Press who put them all into shape for publication. Now we find great satisfaction in knowing we had a small part in moving these documents from the point of submission to publication.

With every issue of *JTAS*, we continue to be instructed as we read the results of research conducted by scientists from various disciplines and from many sections of Tennessee. We hope the readership of the Academy shares out sense of pride in the published results.

In this issue, we present several original articles from the disciplines of zoology, geology/petroleum engineering, and mathematics. A methodological report on sampling the decreasing turtle populations of our state and our world leads this issue. A reevaluation of some old records of pygmy salamander, along with presentation of new records of this species from Monroe County, follows. We then present a second methodological study, this one involving the compressive strength of shale in eastern Tennessee, a subject of much interest to the petrochemical industry. The final research article employs correspondence analysis to evaluate final exams in a statistics course.

In this issue we also take part in celebrating the upcoming bicentennial of the 1811–1812 earthquakes that formed Reelfoot Lake by concluding with Hugh Turner's review of parasitology studies that have resulted from field work conducted in the Reelfoot Lake Region.

Of course, the centennial of the Tennessee Academy of Science next year is also fast approaching, and with it will come some changes to the *Journal*, including a different cover color—all issues of volume 87 will feature the light blue that characterized the journal for many decades during the Twentieth Century—as well as some new style and format elements. In addition to research and review articles, we also welcome centennial-related material for the upcoming year. We invite authors to complete and to submit centennial-related manuscripts by early January 2012. Please feel free to contact the managing editor regarding centennial-related topics.

In the September/December issue we will present, along with more research articles, the abstracts of papers and posters presented by students who attended the Collegiate Meetings of the Tennessee Academy of Science during April 2011. Each spring, meeting coordinators from the three grand divisions of Tennessee create a forum where undergraduates present their research findings. We applaud the work of these undergraduates and their advisors, and we are indebted to the institutions and coordinators who make these events happen every year. These experiences are essential in training and educating the next generation of scientists.

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