

COMMENTARY from the Executive Editor

Kenneth R. Tremblay, Jr.

I appreciate the opportunity provided to me by the Housing Education and Research Association (HERA) to become executive editor of *Housing and Society*. I want to thank former executive editor Julia Beamish and her Virginia Tech colleagues as well as the guest editors and manuscript reviewers for *Housing and Society* for their time and talents over the past six years. I would also like to thank my Colorado State University colleagues Nancy Hartley, Dean of the College of Applied Human Sciences, Mary Gray, Associate Director of Cooperative Extension, and Linda Carlson, Head of the Department of Design and Merchandising, for their support of my application for the position of executive editor.

The two new associate editors are Anne Sweaney of the University of Georgia and Craig Birdsong of Colorado State University. Their expertise will be valuable during the next three years and I appreciate their willingness to serve in this important role. An impressive group of 26 reviewers representing 19 universities and four countries have volunteered to serve on the editorial board. They are listed on the inside front cover of the journal. Their careful assessment of manuscripts is the cornerstone of the review process and the production of a high quality journal. LaVon Blaesi, a computer and editing consultant, has agreed to be the technical editor of *Housing and Society*.

Housing and Society will maintain its emphasis on scholarly research-based articles. However, the journal will be adding new content to better meet the needs of HERA members. This includes a commentary on housing reflecting the views and perspectives of housing professionals. Each commentary can include up to 2,500 words. The Tessie Agan graduate student award winning paper will also be published in the journal, as it represents the best research paper representing housing graduate programs. It is important to note that the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* contains guidelines on how to convert a student paper into a journal article.

The journal has sporadically published shorter articles as notes, and I wish to expand that publication opportunity. There are three types of notes:

1. Academic—innovative teaching ideas,
2. Research—research that is exploratory or is not heavily theory-based or statistically analyzed, and

3. Program—development, implementation, and/or evaluation of Cooperative Extension or other housing programming efforts.

Notes should be submitted as 10 – 20 double-spaced pages or 2,500 – 5,000 words. They will be reviewed by two reviewers. The three types of notes are represented in this issue of the journal.

Authors are requested to prepare manuscripts in accordance with the fifth edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Besides formatting and referencing information, authors should follow the guidelines in Appendix A: Checklist for Manuscript Submission. Also refer to the guidelines provided in this journal. Following submission guidelines will prevent delays in the review process. Remember that there is a \$35 submission fee to cover costs associated with the review process.

Look for *Housing and Society* information on the HERA web site that was developed by executive director Mike Vogel at Montana State University. Special thanks to Chris Mee for his design and detail work on the web site.

HERA web site = www.housingeducators.org

The HERA web site, organized for consumers, students, and members, includes: HERA state contacts, officers, sections, and committee chairs; membership information; conference information; past conference papers; links to housing and consumer topics; classifieds; and much more. *Housing and Society* information on the web site contains:

- Journal abstracts from current volumes
- Manuscript submission guidelines and style guidelines
- Reviewer guidelines (suggestions for critiquing manuscripts)

All reviews are blind and author and reviewer identities are anonymous. Reviewers are asked to add their professional comments and carefully look at manuscripts to rate specific criteria:

Significant subject for HERA	Relevant implications
Sound theory/conceptual framework	Up-to-date and relevant references
Appropriate research design	Tables/figures that increase interest
Accurate interpretation of results	Clear writing style
Appropriate conclusions	Logical organization

and—if the contact author observed submission criteria.

My goals are to publish exceptional issues of *Housing and Society*, do more electronically, and publish two journal issues each year in a timely fashion. Please let me know your thoughts about having one on-line issue on the HERA web site each year with selected articles. It would focus on articles with more visual impact using charts, graphics, and photos.

I appreciate you telling others about HERA and its journal, *Housing and Society*. I welcome your input and look forward to working with you.