

Welcome to the Electronic *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*

Michael P. Clough, Editor

Welcome to the electronic Iowa Science Teachers Journal (ISTJ)! Prior to 1994, members of the Iowa Science Teachers Section received a hard copy Iowa Science Teacher Journal as part of their membership. When running for the office of ISTS President, I wrote that my primary objective would be to revive ISTJ for members of ISTS. Towards that end, Jeff Weld and I put forth a proposal for creating an electronic ISTJ to the Iowa Academy of Science Board and they enthusiastically supported the proposal. We are pleased to serve ISTS and its members, and appreciate the support of the Iowa Academy of Science Board in our efforts. Here are a few features of the new electronic ISTJ:

1. The journal will be issued three times per academic year (Fall, Winter and Spring issues). Thus all issues will arrive during the school year, when teachers are most likely to need and use ideas in the journal. While the electronic format is new, we wish to acknowledge the past efforts of many others who devoted their time and talents to publishing ISTJ before it was discontinued. Since we are reviving the former ISTJ, this issue is identified as the Fall 2005 publication, Volume 32, Issue 3.
2. I have agreed to serve as the ISTJ editor for a three-year term. Toward the end of that term, the ISTS executive leadership team (President-Elect, President, and Past-President) will select a new editor from those who apply for the position. The new editor will serve for a three-year period. Joe Taylor has taken on the extensive duties of the managing editor and done a superb job of completing all the tasks necessary to reestablish ISTJ and publish this first issue.
3. ISTJ will emphasize the key role of the teacher in education reform. Too often, education literature gives the mistaken impression that good activities alone are sufficient for effective teaching and learning. But even the best activities do not by themselves effectively teach students to reach the important goals we have for science education. All articles in ISTJ, including the many classroom activities that will be published, will make explicit the key role of the teacher in promoting the learning goals we have for children.

For ISTJ to be successful, we need to receive manuscript submissions. For those of you who are presenting at the ISTS conference on Thursday, October 20th in Des Moines, we hope you will turn your presentation into a manuscript and submit it to ISTJ. Joe and I will be presenting a session about ISTJ at this fall's ISTS conference in Des Moines. Important information about submitting to the journal can also be found at <http://ists.pls.uni.edu/istj/submit/>. We encourage you to submit a manuscript, and will do our best to assist you through the submission and publication process.

Speaking for the entire ISTS leadership team and the ISTJ editorial team, we are determined to make ISTJ a very useful source for your professional development. We took on this responsibility because ISTS members deserve a journal that is devoted to helping them teach children. We encourage you to contact us regarding ideas for improving the journal, and look forward to receiving manuscripts from those of you willing to share your expertise. Again, a sincere welcome to the electronic Iowa Science Teachers Journal (ISTJ)!