

## Foreword

As President of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators, I am thrilled to welcome you to our organization's third monograph.

Unlike many organizations in which you may participate, the AMTE *Monograph Series*, *Connections Newsletter*, *Annual Conferences* and the sponsored section of *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education* (CITE Journal) provide you with an opportunity to focus on your craft as a mathematics teacher educator — to examine and discuss current issues in mathematics teacher education and professional development and share related ideas and information.

The concept of a monograph series was first conceived at the AMTE Board meeting in Orlando, Florida on April 5, 2001 when Susan Beal, Tad Watanabe and Denisse Thompson asked the Board to consider developing a journal, sponsored by AMTE, that would discuss the practical issues of teacher education and applications of research. After a lively discussion, the Board suggested that the organization first consider generating a monograph series and gave Tad the charge of informally surveying the membership during the AMTE reception.

A year later in Las Vegas, Nevada, he submitted a formal proposal to publish a monograph commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. Tad suggested that the proposed monograph should be “a collection of articles that address day-to-day practices of mathematics teacher educators.” With the Board's vote, the monograph series was established.

From these initial steps to the present, the monograph series has been shaped and reshaped at each succeeding meeting of the Board. At the April 2003 meeting, the Board approved a proposal from East Carolina University (ECU), to publish the final product of its NSF supported MIDDLE MATH project to improve the undergraduate preparation of teachers of middle grades mathematics. The project facilitated the collaboration of mathematics and mathematics education faculty, providing a better sense of the changing content and pedagogical knowledge required to teach middle grades curricula reflective of the calls for reform, a greater knowledge of the experience of others who have set down this path, and an awareness of how the growing body of research on the teaching and learning of middle grades mathematics and undergraduate mathematics might impact a teacher preparation program. The publication and dissemination of this second monograph was supported through funding provided by the National

Science Foundation, the North Carolina Statewide Systemic Initiative and East Carolina University.

In 2004, the Board provided additional structure for the future of the monograph series. It was decided the odd numbered monographs would be general Conversations on Mathematics Teacher Education, in the spirit of the first monograph, and the even numbered monographs would each have a specific focus. The fourth monograph was selected to be a forum for mathematics teacher educators to discuss the ways in which they have used published cases to help preservice and/or practicing teachers develop their knowledge base for teaching (i.e., knowledge of content, pedagogy, and students as learners) and the capacity to reflect on and learn from teaching. The working title for the fourth monograph is *Cases in Mathematics Teacher Education: Tools for Developing Knowledge Needed for Teaching*. Susan Friel and Peg Smith were chosen as editors.

Perhaps the most important decision regarding the monograph series made at its 2004 Board Meeting in Philadelphia was the Board's recognition that a monograph series editor was needed to maintain quality and consistency throughout the series. The Board unanimously recruited and appointed Denisse R. Thompson to meet this challenge.

With the completion of the first monograph, the Board determined in 2005 that it was important to provide the monograph series to all current AMTE members. Rather than warehouse and sell copies, the series would be archived on the web in a "members-only" section. Members would be granted permission to download, copy and distribute monograph chapters for educational purposes.

In 2006 the Board voted to include the Monograph Series General Editor as a non-voting member at all Board meetings and on the Board's list serve. Under Denisse's guidance the Board established a timeline for monograph production and a structure for the selection of future editors and their editorial boards.

AMTE members are learning to anticipate a *Call for Manuscripts* each spring with a summer deadline. The call for manuscripts for the fifth monograph will be announced at the 2007 Annual Conference and will be posted on the web during the spring semester. The co-editors for this monograph are Fran Arbaugh and Mark Taylor.

The Board will be entertaining proposals for topics and recommendations for appropriate co-editors for the sixth monograph in time for appointments next spring.

Before closing, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the efforts of the AMTE members who made this monograph possible. From across the country and representing all of the multifaceted dimensions of mathematics teacher education, twenty-two chapters

were submitted. Space limitations forced the *Third AMTE Monograph* Editorial Board to select only nine of these for inclusion here. On behalf of the AMTE members, my thanks to the authors who cared enough to share their thoughts and experiences, to the hard working members of the editorial board who carefully reviewed, reflected and debated through the selection process, to the co-editors who worked with the authors to craft and shape the product you are holding, and finally to the Monograph Series General Editor, who assured that quality and integrity were maintained throughout the process.

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Whether it's synchronously through the AMTE *Annual Conference*, or asynchronously through the *Connections Newsletter*, the sponsored section of the CITE Journal, or the AMTE *Monograph Series*, your AMTE membership provides *colleagues across the hall* to help you reflect on the issues that shape your professional life.

*Sid Rachlin*

*AMTE President 2005–2007*