

Editorial - Journal History

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As I prepare this final issue of the *Journal of Psychological Inquiry (JPI)* in my capacity as managing editor, I want to reflect on the journal's origin. In *JPI*'s first issue (1996), I commented,

“a more extensive discussion about starting this journal occurred at The Fourteenth Annual Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention held in Kansas City, MO on February 18 and 19, 1994.”

Although that statement was accurate, it did not tell the entire story. I would like to describe some of the events that preceded and followed that February meeting.

The earliest formal discussion of a student journal, which would become *JPI*, occurred at the inaugural meeting of the Nebraska Psychological Society (NPS) on September 25, 1993 at Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU) in Lincoln, NE. The minutes of that meeting recorded the names of faculty in attendance from Bellevue College (now University), Creighton University, Doane College, NWU, University of Nebraska at Kearney, and University of Nebraska - Lincoln. The minutes also reported, “Keith suggested that ... NPS sponsor a student journal, wherein outstanding student papers could be published.” The next paragraph read, “... issues were deferred to the Caretaker Executive Board.”

Members of that board, including Ken Keith, Richard Miller, Robert Rycek, Roxanne Sullivan, and Mark Ware, met at NWU on January 21, 1994. The following quotation from the minutes of that meeting constitutes documentation of a strong impetus for establishing an undergraduate journal.

“The group talked at some length regarding the possibility of sponsoring an undergraduate psychology journal ... the board agreed that we should act to develop more information. Further, it was agreed that, should we become involved in the future, Ware might make an excellent editor for such a journal - a possibility that he was willing to take under consideration.”

During the next month, discussions followed with members of PERK and the Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention (GPSPC) and in particular with Stephen Davis from Emporia State University. The outgrowth of those discussions resulted in the “more extensive discussion about starting this journal at The Fourteenth Annual Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention.”

Further momentum for initiating the journal occurred at the NPS retreat on April 29, 1994 in Omaha, NE. Discussion focused on a memo MW had written on April 1. That memo included suggestions for the number of editors and their responsibilities as well as for the review process, production, and funding. During that spring, there were several suggested titles for the journal, including *Journal of Psychological Inquiry*, *Studies in Psychological Science*, and *Psychological Investigation*. Before the end of the spring semester, Richard Miller submitted a proposal for a Special Features section to the new journal.

The first meeting of the nascent *JPI* editorial board convened on June 9, 1994 in Overland Park, KS at the Best Western Hallmark Inn. Persons in attendance included Stephen Davis, Gwen Murdock, Robert Rycek, Marilyn Turner, and Mark Ware. Topics for discussion included eligibility for submission, instructions for contributors, the review process, subsequent processing of manuscripts, journal production, cost of production, and sources of funding. Additional discussion included creating a separate nonprofit corporation (Great Plains Behavioral Research Association) for processing funding and securing copyright protection for the journal.

Among outcomes of the first editorial board meeting was the addition of a Special Features section with Richard Miller as its editor. Additionally, we agreed to hold reviewer workshops at future gatherings of the GPSPC. The purpose of such workshops was to introduce reviewers to the philosophy, policies, and practices of the journal. The first such workshop was held at the home of Stephen Davis in Emporia, KS on March 31, 1995. The appearance of *JPI*'s first issue was in the spring of 1996. For those of you who are counting, the gestation period for *JPI* was almost half again as long as that of an Asian elephant, but I think the wait for the journal was worth it!

Finally, I would like to reiterate my comment in the editorial that appeared in this year's first issue of *JPI*. “I am pleased to announce that Susan Burns from Morningside College in Sioux City, IA has accepted the position of Managing Editor-Elect for the *Journal of Psychological Inquiry*.” Please direct future inquires regarding *JPI* to Susan at burns@morningside.edu

Mark E. Ware
Managing Editor