

## Editor's Reflection

### *Encourage Young Scholars*

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In this issue you'll read the work of an up-and-coming young scholar by the name of Emma Bedor. The credit for discovering Emma goes to Assistant Editor Miglena Sternadori, who met Emma at the ICA conference in Boston in May 2011.

Miglena had spotted "No Fat Moms! Celebrity Mothers' Weight-Loss Narratives in *People Magazine*" on the ICA schedule. She attended the presentation of this paper by Emma and her co-author, Atsushi Tajima, of the State University of New York at Geneseo. Miglena encouraged them to submit the paper to our journal, which they did in July 2011.

The submission was interesting, thorough, and well written. For Miglena, it was fascinating to read this paper from the perspective of a second-time mom. Although she didn't "have her body back" yet, people often praised her for looking slender. It seems that when a woman has had a baby, people almost feel obligated to judge her appearance. As I thought about the cultural scripts we conform to, I realized that I too often compliment a new mother on her appearance.

After tightening and polishing, the paper went off to reviewers. Their feedback was positive. Emma and Atsushi revised the paper, and the reviewers recommended acceptance.

Like many of the journal's other authors, Emma was exemplary—conscientious, patient, and hard working. What makes her stand out is that she co-authored this article while still an undergraduate. Not every master's student could accomplish what she did.

A great deal of credit goes to her co-author, who had taught Emma since freshman year. Emma proposed this ambitious project during her junior year, and while the two were brainstorming, Atsushi realized Emma's passion for research.

According to Atsushi, "Emma's dedication, competency, and performance were truly remarkable. She was always 120% on library search, data gathering, and beyond. We are happy about how the paper turned out, especially as it's the first real paper for Emma and the first paper on this subject for me (eventually, I found this subject very fascinating). It was not like 'Oh, we have to write this paper.' It was a very positive collaboration."

Congratulations, Emma, on your first scholarly publication! We'll be watching for others.

I hope Emma's story encourages all of us to help our top students research, write, and submit scholarly articles. Especially that rare undergraduate like Emma.