A Special Anniversary Issue: JLR Turns 40

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At the *JLR* Associate Editor Board meeting in Baltimore last fall one of the current AEs suggested that we do a special issue in recognition of *JLR* 's 40 years of history. We all thought it was a wonderful idea. We felt a special issue would give us the opportunity to reflect on how JLR has both changed and remained the same over the years. I contacted previous editors and asked them if they would like to contribute to this special issue; four agreed to participate. They were not asked to write about a specific issue, but rather were asked to reflect on the history of the journal and/or the research that has appeared in the journal. Their papers are all unique and I thank them for their contributions.

As a way of looking back, we decided to republish some of the first papers that appeared in *JLR*. Thus, the papers in this special issue were all published in the first five years of the journal's existence. Selecting which papers to publish was not an easy task. We wanted to offer a variety of topics from our field. For space reasons we were limited to 10 papers. Unfortunately this meant that there were many papers that were left out. There were easily another 10 papers I would have liked to have included. The selected papers are presented here in chronological order. These papers provide many insights into our current understanding of leisure and recreation.

As noted on the first page of all current issues, the *Journal of Leisure Research* is devoted to original investigations that contribute new knowledge and understanding to the field of leisure studies. Studies that do not clearly focus on leisure or recreation are not suitable for *JLR*. This criterion is the driving force for the first screening of submitting papers. There are few journals that focus primarily on leisure or recreation, and thus this mission has been and should be protected. Clearly there is more to learn about leisure and recreation, and I look forward to reading about this new knowledge in future issues of *JLR*.