

*Editorial***THANK YOU**

Pamela Stewart Fahs, RN, DSN, Editor

Thank you is a simple expression of gratitude that at times like these seems inadequate; yet is heartfelt and so deserved. I want to thank Dr. Jeri Dunkin for her extraordinary efforts as Editor –In – Chief over the last decade. The *Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care* is an outstanding journal and it reflects the leadership in Rural Nursing by Jeri Dunkin as well as her commitment to excellence for the journal. Jeri and I have been working together over the last few months to make this transition as smooth as possible. I hope that the transition will be seamless for you, the reader. However, the reality is that there is a rather large learning curve to taking on this endeavor, so I beg your patience and understanding as I move into a new role and the journal moves into a new home at the Decker School of Nursing (DSON), Binghamton University. As one of the reviewers noted when she learned I would be taking on the Editorship of the journal “you have some big shoes to fill in following Jeri”. I completely agree.

I have discovered that it takes many people to make this journal a reality. I want to thank those who review for the *Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care*, their services are invaluable not only to the Journal but to the discipline of nursing and those that we serve. Even in my short time moving into this role I have found that the reviewers give of themselves every time they review a manuscript, their comments and support of the authors is amazing. I want to thank Dr. Steven MacCall from the University of Alabama for his assistance in helping us learn the “nuts and bolts” of publishing online. I also want to recognize the work of Erin Ruston, Associate Librarian, Binghamton University who will be the new Managing Editor for this journal. I would also like to thank the Administration and staff of the DSON for their support in moving the journal to Binghamton. Dr. Joyce Ferrario, Dean was instrumental in bringing the journal to Binghamton University. Dr. Mary Ann Swain, Professor and Director of the PhD in Nursing, currently the only PhD in Nursing focused on Rural Nursing, was able to garner funds to purchase a new server and upgrade the software needed to publish this journal. My thanks go also to Cynthia Altmansberger, Assistant Dean, Scott Pionteck, Sr. Program Analyst, Information Technology Services, and Brenda Holcomb, Secretary for their assistance in actually making this all happen. Finally I want to thank the Board of Directors of the Rural Nurses Organization for their support and guidance during this period of transition.

I want to assure our readers that the Rural Nurse Organization (RNO) and the Editorial Board of the journal remain committed to keeping an open source journal, which is freely accessible by all and focused on the nursing and health care of rural populations. My goal is to uphold the quality of the journal that has been obtained during the tenure of Dr. Jeri Dunkin and hopefully contribute to this great journal as we move forward.

I look forward to meeting many of you October 5, 6, and 7, 2011 at the Rural Health Conference co-sponsored by the RNO and the Decker School of Nursing entitled **The Canopy of Health Care for Rural and Underserved Populations: Strengthening the Root System**. It is an honor to be the new editor for the Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care.