Taking the Reins – with Pleasure

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Abstract
[Excerpt] I consider it a great honor to begin a term as editor of Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly. Although I have been processing submissions since July 2002, this is the first issue for which I am responsible. I have been handed the reins from Professor Michael Lynn, who served as editor of Cornell Quarterly for the past year and a half. It is my hope that I can continue the good work done by Professor Lynn to increase the rigor and relevance of the journal, and also leave my own mark by continuing to improve Cornell Quarterly.

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Comments
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From the Editor

I consider it a great honor to begin a term as editor of Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly. Although I have been processing submissions since July 2002, this is the first issue for which I am responsible. I have been handed the reins from Professor Michael Lynn, who served as editor of Cornell Quarterly for the past year and a half. It is my hope that I can continue the good work done by Professor Lynn to increase the rigor and relevance of the journal, and also leave my own mark by continuing to improve Cornell Quarterly.

As editor, I do not foresee making any fundamental changes to the underlying philosophy of the journal. I see the mission of the journal—to provide research-based insights for the practice of hospitality—as remaining unchanged. I will continue to seek manuscripts in all hospitality-related areas and using all methodologies. I will also continue to work with the editorial board and at least two reviewers per submitted article to help ensure the quality of the manuscripts ultimately published in the journal.

It is my intention to assemble quality articles that help to bridge the divide between research and practice. I want to publish articles that are based on thorough and rigorous treatments of important issues, but I also want those articles to be communicated in such a way as to help inform practice. So, although I do not limit the nature or topics of submissions, I do expect each article to clearly answer the "so what?" question. That is, I want each article to have a useful lesson or principle that practitioners can take away. At the same time, however, this does not mean that every article has to appeal to every potential reader. Thus, while I expect that some articles will be specialized, I am resolved that readers learn something from each edition of Cornell Quarterly and will come away from each issue with ideas about what they should do differently.

I also want to begin my term as editor by thanking all those who make this journal possible. This journal cannot succeed without the help of the journal's staff, editorial board, reviewers, contributing authors, and readers. The staff members work hard behind the scenes to prepare each issue for publication. Each editorial board member reviews up to six papers a year and provides useful feedback to contributing authors. Board members receive little more compensation than a mention on the masthead and a complimentary copy of the journal. Though reviewers receive written thanks but once a year, I truly appreciate their helpful comments and assistance. Along that line, I am constantly seeking potential expert reviewers, and I encourage any interested parties to contact me.

As a critical matter, the journal can succeed only if there are a sufficient number of high-quality contributions from authors. These papers must be clear and rigorous, but also of practical value. This often proves to be a difficult balance, and I appreciate the efforts made by those who have contributed in the past, as well as those who are working on future contributions.

Most important, Cornell Quarterly can thrive only if it has an interested readership. It is the complex audience comprising sophisticated practitioners, hospitality academics, consultants, applied researchers, and students of the industry that makes contributing to this journal both difficult and exciting. Ultimately, the success of the journal will be determined by its readers. I encourage readers to contact me directly with feedback. I also hope that readers will show their peers and colleagues copies of the journal to help extend its reach.

I am proud to begin my term as editor with a special issue on the implications of September 11, 2001, on the hospitality industry. Although dedicated to a single topic, this issue addresses a broad range of topics and points of view. I hope you find the contents interesting, thought provoking, informative, and useful.

I am looking forward to this interesting personal and professional journey as Cornell Quarterly editor. I thank all those who have made it possible, and thank in advance all those who will contribute to its continued success.—M.C.S. (Michael.Sturman@cornell.edu)