
The Role of the *Journal* in Mentoring Students

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I joined A&WMA (then the Air Pollution Control Association) in 1968. As a young faculty member, I was welcomed into the Association by Art Stern and other leaders in the field and encouraged to become active by joining the Education and Training Committee (now the Education Council). One of the committee's main areas of interest was the role of the Association in mentoring students. It was recognized that a good way to mentor was to offer low-cost student memberships to the premier environmental professional organization, thereby providing direct access to the *Journal* and other association benefits.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of the *Journal* to students. Whether they have the *Journal* delivered to their mailboxes or they access it on the Association's Web site, students are able to read, at their leisure, classic peer-reviewed papers in a range of areas. The *Journal* also provides a good model to students, many of whom are writing their own first papers.

The *Journal* has also supported students by allowing teachers to provide copies of seminal articles to their students at reduced or no cost. Credit goes to former editor Hal Englund for supporting this policy. In tandem with its role of mentoring students, the *Journal* has also played a critical part in the continuing education and professional development of its members. For example, as early as 1971, the Education and Training Committee published its first overview of air pollution training in the United States.¹ This was expanded in 1976 and 1978 to include programs in Canada.^{2,3} In 1978, the Association began sponsoring a Student Paper Session at the Annual Meeting. The *Journal* supported this by publishing either a summary of the session or the paper abstracts. The first attempt to look at international programs was published in 1983.⁴ The *Journal's* early support of this work helped spur development of a range of publications currently available through the A&WMA Bookstore.

In summary, the *Journal* has served quite ably in the mentoring of new professionals in the broad environmental field thanks to its editors, the Association's Publications Committee, and to the many outstanding authors who have contributed to A&WMA publications over the years. ☺

REFERENCES

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