

A NEW BEGINNING: EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The National Speleological Society has demonstrated its dedication to the thorough exploration and study of caves by published refereed documentation of our activities in karst research in the *NSS Bulletin* for over 30 years. Throughout the years, leaders of the Society worried that the *Bulletin* was too esoteric to best serve the dues spent by most of our members. But, whenever the question was placed before the membership, you have strongly expressed your satisfaction and pride in our scientific journal. Many scientists in our Society cite the *Bulletin* as their main inspiration in pursuing professional careers in karst research.

NSS members have been great supporters of the scientific community within the Society and now we hope to expand the *Bulletin* to make it more interesting and valuable to all of our members. After a year of discussions, an editorial in the *NSS News*, and many letters from members, the NSS Board of Governors moved to make dramatic changes in our scientific publication. With the current volume, you can expect to see the following changes:

The name of the publication will change from *The NSS Bulletin: Journal of Caves and Karst Studies* to *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies: The National Speleological Society Bulletin*.

There will be three issues (formerly only two issues) per year which will typically be two regular issues and one theme issue.

Duties of the present editor will be split amongst two people in the future. The "Editor" will be responsible for controlling the refereeing process and general content of the publication. The "Production Editor" will be responsible for typesetting, proof-reading, and dealing with the printer and mailing.

Advertising for science-related products and publications will be solicited.

While the majority of the *Journal* will contain refereed articles similar to the previous content of the *Bulletin*, separate sections will include editorials, conference announcements, conference reports, news briefs, and the abstracts from the annual convention.

Brief biographies and photos of the primary author of publications will be included with each issue.

This issue also marks another transition. Andy Flurkey took over the editorship of the *NSS Bulletin* in 1987 and has served with distinction for nine years. At the time of his appointment, the *Bulletin* was over a year behind in its publication schedule. Andy has steadily and successfully worked to make the *Bulletin* both on time and a valued product. The dramatic changes we plan today are only possible because of the strong foundation Andy has built for the *Bulletin* during his tenure. The Society owes Dr. Flurkey a great debt of gratitude

as he has chosen to retire after his many years of outstanding service.

Fred Wefer, the NSS Executive Vice President, asked me to serve as the Interim Editor for the first issue of the new *Journal*. I will continue as editor after this issue if the NSS-BOG chooses to confirm my appointment in March. Wefer also asked Dr. James A. Pisarowicz to act as the Production Editor. He also will continue if the position is confirmed by the board.

Louise D. Hose, Interim Editor



James A. Pisarowicz, Louise D. Hose, and Andrew Flurkey—left to right.

EDITOR - LOUISE D. HOSE, PH.D.

Louise D. Hose of Littleton, Colorado has been appointed Editor of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* pending NSS Board of Governors approval in March. Hose recently retired after five years as editor of *Geo²*, the NSS Cave Geology and Geography Section tri-annual newsletter and as associate editor for exploration for the *NSS Bulletin*. She has a Ph.D. in geology and taught at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs during the past seven years.

Hose is an active caver with an impressive record of exploration in Mexico, the western US, and elsewhere. Two articles by her on the Purificación system in northern Mexico, which passed through the refereeing process before her appointment, appear in this issue.

PRODUCTION EDITOR - JAMES A. PISAROWICZ, PH.D.

James A. Pisarowicz of Montrose, Colorado was appointed Production Editor of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* pending NSS Board of Governors approval in March. Pisarowicz is the former Executive Director of the Death Valley Natural History Association and was the publisher of 16 books. He was the Guest Editor for a Special Topics issue of the *NSS Bulletin* on the Black Hills. Pisarowicz has a Ph.D. in psychology and currently teaches psychology for Mesa State College.

Pisarowicz has been honored with the Lew Bicking Award for his outstanding exploration efforts in Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Mystery Cave in Minnesota, and Wind Cave, South Dakota.