From the Editor in Chief

This issue marks the final installment of Remedial and Special Education (RASE) for which I will serve as Editor in Chief. In my “Letter from the New Editor in Chief” in the first issue for which my name appeared on the masthead, I noted that RASE publishes high-quality interdisciplinary scholarship that bridges the gap between theory and practice in the education of learners for whom typical instruction is not effective, and I observed the importance of such an outlet in the era of school reform and evidence-based practices. I believe that during the past 4 years RASE has fulfilled its mission to the field to publish and disseminate important and applicable scholarship. The importance of RASE as an outlet for such scholarship has been evidenced, I think, by the fact that although many journals in our field struggle for submissions, the number of submissions to RASE has increased by nearly 15% annually during the 4 years of my term. Importantly, the quality of those submissions remained very high, and I am grateful to the scholars who have submitted their articles to RASE.

I am grateful to Don Hammill and Judy Voress at PRO-ED and the Hammill Institute for their confidence and trust and for extending the privilege of editing RASE. PRO-ED/ Hammill Institute editors have the support of an incredible team in Austin, and I’d like to acknowledge the contributions of Peggy Kipping, Periodicals Director; Lisa Tippett, Managing Production Editor; Melissa Tullos and Max Romero, both who served as production editors for RASE; and, from SAGE, production editors Jim Ballinger and Debbie Sourgen. I am also very grateful to the RASE Editorial Board. There is a reason that journal editorial responsibilities are listed under service for university promotion, tenure, and merit purposes. During the course of the past year, I have solicited almost 500 manuscript reviews, and the bulk of those were performed by Editorial Board members who, almost unfailingly, provided thoughtful, timely, and high-quality reviews. It amazes me still that scholars as well respected and as busy as are the members of the RASE Editorial Board continue to provide this critically important service to the field, and although my simple “thank you” is not sufficient, it is genuinely offered. In addition, RASE relies on ad hoc reviewers whose names don’t appear on the masthead but without whom we would be unable to meet the demand for reviews. To the literally hundreds of scholars who have provided ad hoc reviews for RASE over the past 4 years, I express my gratitude and thanks. I would also like to acknowledge the support of my department chairperson, Chriss Walther-Thomas, during my tenure at RASE.

The past 4 years have been transitional years for RASE. We successfully moved to an online submission, review, and decision-making platform and then, with other PRO-ED journals, became part of the Hammill Institute on Disabilities and SAGE Publications, along with which came the opportunity for publishing RASE articles online first. I have served on the Editorial Board of RASE since 1999, and it has been fulfilling to culminate my service (for now at least!) to RASE as the Editor in Chief. After all this time and effort, I would not be comfortable leaving this role unless I was fully confident that RASE was in the hands of someone who can build on the advances made during my term and previous editors’ terms and to move RASE forward. I have the utmost faith and confidence, however, that the new Editors in Chief, Kathleen Lane and Erik Carter, will do just that. Kathleen and Erik have served admirably on the Editorial Board and, during most of my term as Editor, as Associate Editors. Both are well-regarded scholars whose scholarship has contributed significantly to the quality of RASE over the past several years. I am pleased they have agreed to take on this role, am excited by their vision for the journal, and know that RASE and the field will benefit from their efforts. I wish Kathleen and Erik all the best.

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Remedial and Special Education