

## Major Transitions at *OMJ!*—A New Editor and a New Publisher

[Bill Ferris, Editor-in-Chief](#)

*Organization Management Journal (OMJ)* has undergone one significant transition and is about to undergo another. The first transition is an editorial one. We are very grateful for our four initial years as a journal to have had Jeanie Forray as our first editor. Effective this past January, I took over for Jeanie and could not be taking over for a more competent and visionary editor. Jeanie championed the journal's birth and deftly guided it through its first several years to a point where we now have some 800-plus subscribers. We can count a great number of excellent articles among our three volumes of issues through 2006 as well. As her last gift (to date) to us, she has helped us through the process of finding a publishing partner, a process which has culminated in an imminent contract with Palgrave Macmillan (PM), a UK based publisher of journals and books. Beginning in January of 2008, as per the vote of the Board of our sponsoring organization, the Eastern Academy of Management (EAM), all submissions to *OMJ* will be made to the Palgrave Macmillan interactive website, PM will take an active role in copy-editing and marketing the journal, and we can expect our journal to be included in databases that will make it available in institutions around the world. Be sure to tell your library to subscribe to the Palgrave Macmillan journal database!

What other changes will this new partnership with PM entail? As those among us who count ourselves as EAM regulars know, in order to be an official EAM member, you must have either registered for the annual conference or if you missed the meeting, you must contact the Treasurer and pay a nominal fee to become a member or maintain your membership. As a member, you are currently entitled to a CD containing the Proceedings of the Meeting, and now, for the first time, you will be entitled to an annual subscription to *OMJ*. In other words, we are moving to a subscription base though all current subscribers from the free subscription model will be grandfathered until 2009. Alternatively to the subscription that will come automatically with your EAM membership (similar to the Academy of Management model in which Academy membership entitles you to Academy journals), for \$10 annually you may become a subscriber without becoming a member of EAM. And, of course, as always, you can pay a minimally higher fee to the EAM Treasurer and get both EAM membership and automatic subscription to the journal.

Why are we partnering with Palgrave Macmillan? We are doing so because we believe we can provide significant professional, distribution, and recognition advantages to authors, subscribers, and EAM as a result. PM is a widely recognized international publisher with a stable of over 50 journals and with marketing, administrative, and editorial experience that will help us bring *OMJ* "to the next level." That next level will bring a wider range of authors and articles to us, allow us to publish more articles, and help us gain wider recognition so that we can continue our drive to become a more and more desirable outlet for the best work in the field of management studies. We are also enthused that PM is excited about our initiative as a pioneering online-only journal. We are committed to the concept of online publication of scholarship for its myriad of advantages, including but not limited to timeliness, distribution ease, richer contexting of scholarship

through increasing use of hyperlinks and other AV techniques, and enhanced communication linkages within our academic community through email links. While many say there will always be a place for print-only journals, online journals are the future.

It is fitting that this first issue of the year 2007—Volume 4, Number 1—should come out just as the 44th annual meeting of the Eastern Academy of Management has concluded in New Brunswick this May. And just before the International EAM meeting in Amsterdam in late June, I might add. Why is it appropriate? Because we have an Experiential Learning Association (ELA) extravaganza with the three exercises that were nominated for Outstanding Experiential Exercise at last year's EAM annual meeting as a special feature in the issue. As you may know, the ELA is a subset of EAM members who have long been interested in helping themselves and others craft and present outstanding experiential exercises in management and other classrooms. ELA is almost as old as EAM itself. The exercises Don Gibson, Chair of ELA, is presenting in this issue have been honed and polished as a result of presentation at the 2006 EAM meetings as well as the comments of both EAM and OMJ reviewers. They now include extensive teaching notes to help potential users produce the aha! experience that usually comes with a good experiential exercise. We also have Eric Kessler's Presidential Address from that 2006 meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY. In it, he provides a brief historical overview of EAM and goes on to chronicle changes he has championed on his watch, including but not limited to introducing electronic elections to the organization and pioneering presidential stewardship of a series of white papers that OMJ has undertaken to publish; the first white paper series just came out in the last issue of the 2006 year—Volume 3, Number 3 of OMJ.

This issue is not all EAM! In addition to the four contributions mentioned above, we lead off with three other significant contributions. Mensch, Armandi, and Sherman have given us a very interesting and extensive organizational case study in the health care field. Richard Ringer presents a case study of the exemplary leadership of Robert Oppenheimer in leading the Manhattan Project at the Los Alamos laboratory during World War II. And Margaret Lucero offers several neat classroom techniques using published arbitration cases to teach various management lessons. These three unique approaches to teaching and learning will give management educators new possibilities to freshen up their classrooms. In fact, all six of the articles presented in this issue involve management pedagogy. While that is not usually the case with OMJ, we welcome the opportunity in the issue to provide so many new resources for management curricula.

Before closing, I would like to encourage anyone interested in our journal, what it has been and how it can continue to grow in helpfulness and stature within our academic community, to come to any of the many panels and open meetings we will be holding in the next few months at the Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference ([www.obtc.org](http://www.obtc.org)), the International EAM ([www.eaom.org](http://www.eaom.org)), the Academy of Management ([www.aomonline.org](http://www.aomonline.org)), and in September of this year, at the Academy of Business Education meeting in Bermuda ([abe.sju.edu](http://abe.sju.edu)). As editor, I am committing to spread the word in many other academic communities beyond that of the Academy of Management and its affiliates to help enrich the final product, our journal. Talk to me about a submission and encourage your friends to contribute and to cite our work.