A Message From the Incoming Editor

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In 1975 (JAVSO 4, 1), Professor Charles (Chuck) Whitney outlined two principal challenges that he faced as the newly-appointed Editor of this journal: to encourage contributions from both amateurs and professionals, and to convey the continued importance of amateurs’ work. Looking at issues of the journal, over the years, it’s clear that Chuck has more than met these challenges. JAVSO is a vibrant, accessible source of interesting, useful publications by amateurs, professionals—and students. They illustrate the ever-growing partnerships between these three parts of “the astronomical community” that is the hallmark of the AAVSO. Chuck has also been part of an AAVSO Headquarters staff team that has, together with the Council, continued to raise the Association’s profile and effectiveness: it is one of the world’s best-known and most-respected “citizen science” organizations. Chuck has served for a remarkable thirty-four years. On behalf of all AAVSO members, observers, and friends, I offer our heartfelt thanks for his service, and best wishes for a well-deserved second retirement.

Speaking of which, by way of introduction: I have just “retired” after forty-one years as a faculty member in Astronomy and Astrophysics, and in Science Education at the University of Toronto. But I continue to be active: I am thoroughly immersed in several International Year of Astronomy projects; I am enjoying giving lectures and courses for later-life learners; I continue to supervise variable star projects by enthusiastic undergraduate and senior high school students (their results are frequently published in this Journal). And my new appointment as Editor enables me to continue to serve an organization which is dear to my heart. But if I were to serve for thirty-four years, I would retire (or die) at the age of 101!

So please continue to contribute to JAVSO. We welcome contributions on any aspect of variable-star science, techniques, education, history, and related topics. A few years ago, the AAVSO organized a workshop (http://www.aavso.org/aavso/meetings/spring06wkshp.shtml) to encourage you to do so, and to provide useful advice on how to prepare your manuscript. Manuscripts are received first by Production Editor Michael Saladyga. He forwards them to