Editor’s Comments

In this fourth year as Editor of the Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research (JSAER) I have seen the publication make important progress toward the goal of becoming a regional journal recognized for high quality. The additional peer review process started in 2004, and the procedures of multiple reviews adopted in 2005, were continued. I believe these have both contributed to improving the quality of the JSAER. Todd Brashears was elected as Editor-Elect for the 2007 Volume and will assume the Editor role in 2008. In addition, the JSAER was approved by the National Serials Data Program of the Library of Congress for an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). Both of these were important steps in ensuring the accessibility and permanence of the JSAER.

Following the procedures first implemented in 2004, articles found acceptable for publication in the Proceedings of the 2006 Southern Region AAAE Research Conference (SR-AAAERC), whose authors had indicated that they be considered for publication in the JSAER, were submitted to a second peer review process. The Co-Chairs of the SR-AAAERC, Dr. Randol Waters, University of Tennessee, and Dr. Carrie Fritz, University of Kentucky, served as the Co-Editors and worked hard to meet deadlines. The four members of the Southern Region AAAE Research Committee served as the Editorial Board for 2006 JSAER. The members for 2006 were Scott Burris, Texas Tech University; Mark Kistler, Virginia Tech University; Tracey Kitchel, University of Kentucky; and T. Grady Roberts, Texas A&M University. They were a joy to work with, and their thoughtful and thorough reviews contributed to the quality of this issue.

In all, 23 articles, accepted through the SR-AAAERC review process, were submitted to be considered for publication in the 2006 JSAER and accepted for review by the JSAER Editorial Review Board. Of these, 16 were published. The review procedure, adopted with Volume 55, allows JSAER reviewers to “Accept with Major Revision,” and “Accept with Minor Revision” in addition to the “Accept” and Reject” options available to reviewers in Volumes 53 and 54. Given these options, the following decisions were made. Three articles were Accepted, twelve were Accepted with Minor Revision, seven were Accepted with Major Revision, and two were rejected.

Following additional reviews of the 21 articles, five were removed from consideration by their authors, leaving 16 articles to appear on these pages. The acceptance rate could be viewed as 16/23 or 69.5%. The Editorial Board established a policy that the Editor would publish the total number of articles accepted in the JSAER divided by the total number of unique submission to the Southern Region AAAE Research Conference. There were 42 articles submitted to the 2006 SR-AAAERC, 36 were published in the conference proceedings (86%), and 16 were published in Volume 56 of the JSAER for an official acceptance rate of 38%.

As Editor, I am committed to the continuous improvement of the Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research. I believe the JSAER Editorial Board has established a strong foundation for quality in the Journal, and I look forward to working with the Editor Elect on Volume 57 to attain our long-term goal of establishing this journal as an important source of regional literature in the field.