New Voices in Psychology has become firmly established as a journal that concentrates on entry-level articles, giving first-time academic authors the opportunity to publish their work. The challenge has always been to do this without compromising on academic quality, while fostering cutting-edge, innovative work. To achieve this, we have established a review process that avoids destructive criticism and instead emphasises working with prospective authors to fine-tune their manuscripts.

In 2009 the journal will become an integral part of the Research Consultation Masters course at Unisa. The research consultation students will work together in a collaborative learning environment to build their research capacity and to assess manuscripts for possible publication. These students will be members of the editorial team. The editorial team, with the assistance of staff of the Department of Psychology, will act as mentors of authors whose works have been selected for publication. In this way, we intend to further improve the quality of the articles we publish, and to develop New Voices into a fully accredited journal.

In addition to the support we provide to authors whose manuscripts have been selected for publication, we are developing a system that will give authors whose manuscripts have not been selected for publication the opportunity to participate fully in the academic discourse around the journal. The intention is that submitted manuscripts will be enrolled in a collaborative online rating and feedback system, allowing authors to iteratively make improvements. All manuscripts that have passed through this system will be published online, with a selection of these also appearing in the published journal.

Whereas New Voices has always catered for authors from all South African universities (and international authors as well), the new system will allow us to accept more submissions, since manuscripts can be routed to online or print publication as appropriate. We therefore look forward to receiving more submissions from universities other than Unisa. While we cannot promise that all the
articles that we receive will be published, prospective authors can be assured that their manuscripts will be seen by a larger audience. We hope that in this way we can foster a more vibrant conversation around issues in psychology in Southern Africa and the world among those who are new to the profession. For more information on how to submit a manuscript, see the section on Instructions to authors.

Finally, we would like to draw readers’ attention to the Southern African Student Conference in Gaborone, Botswana from 26 to 27 June 2009 (see the conference advertisement elsewhere in this issue). We hope that the conference will act as a catalyst for the growth of an active network of local psychology students, and that New Voices will play an important role in this network.

Eduard Fourie (Editor)
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