

Message from the Chair

Kevin Devine
Illinois State University

This year's 69th EDGD Midyear Conference placed me in a rather unique position. As the Chair of the division, I strive to look at the "big picture" of the division and maintain the proverbial 30,000 foot view of things. As the 69th Midyear conference chair, I needed stay abreast of many conference details and keep my view at ground-level. My dual role at the midyear conference helped me recognize and appreciate the teamwork, professionalism, and collegiality of the many individuals who make up the EDGD organization. There are many amazing, talented people in the EDGD who are willing to share their talents with others. Many thanks to those who have helped organize this midyear conference, especially Judy Birchman who served as the Program Chair and helped prepare the conference printed materials.

The coming year brings with it many changes for the EDGD leadership team. Nick Bertozzi has left his role as Communications Director and is now the Vice Chair of the division. Many thanks Nick for his contributions as Director of Communications. Lulu Sun is now the Director of Communications and is already working effectively in her new role. I am grateful Lulu has agreed to serve the division in this important office. Long-term executive board members Norma Veurink (Secretary-Treasurer) and Bob Chin (Director of Publications) will see their terms end in June. While we can still look forward to having Norma and Bob serve out their current terms on the executive board, their departure from office will require transition planning. Things that happened "automatically" will take more planning and coordination as newly elected officers learn their new roles.

Last year's EDGD Chair, Dennis Lieu, set our division focus on various aspect dealing with membership recruitment. As a division, we must continue exploring ways to expand our membership. Towards that end, Diarmaid Lane, our Membership Director, is coordinating several recruitment efforts for the division. At Diarmaid's request, time was set aside during this midyear conference to continue the efforts in this regard. Thanks to Diarmaid and his team for leading this important effort.

While we do have a team working on various aspects of recruitment, we must recognize that the responsibility of membership recruitment does not fall on just a few people. We must all explore ways to introduce the EDGD to our colleagues. Perhaps invite a colleague or graduate student to collaborate with you on a research paper that will be published in the EDG Journal. Invite a junior faculty member to co-author a paper that will be presented at the ASEE Annual or 70th EDGD midyear conferences. As I stated earlier in this report, I have come to appreciate the many amazing, talented people in

the division who are willing to share their talents with others. Let's use these talents to position the division for continued success.