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Introduction and Remembrance

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Greetings, Middle Level Colleagues!

This issue, published in May 2020, comes during a time of pandemic as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has led to widespread changes across the state, nation, and world. Teachers and students all around shifted on short notice and with little advance preparation to online teaching and learning. In a time of quick changes, teachers and students responded admirably to new scenarios.

In this issue, we offer two articles based in our current context of distance learning as a reality of education in the time of Coronavirus, or what can be called “quaranteaching”. Christi Pace, Stacie Pettit, and Kim Barker outline several best practices for teaching online; although these strategies are collected in response to Coronavirus, they also can be implemented at any time to supplement curriculum and instruction. Amanda Wood and co-authors offer glimpses into one teacher’s experiences with “quaranteaching” and how she adapted her teaching to a new context.

This issue also comes soon after the passing of legendary educator John H. Lounsbury on April 2. Dr. Lounsbury was one of the Legacy Leaders of the middle school movement and has been known as the conscience of middle level education. On the national level, he was instrumental in several versions of *This We Believe*, and he also edited *Middle School Journal* for many years. He was part of the founding of the National Professors of Middle Level Education (NAPOMLE). Dr. Lounsbury was also a great part of middle level education right here in Georgia. He joined Georgia College in 1960; the College of Education there now is named for him. He was involved with Georgia Middle School Association (now Georgia Association of Middle Level Education) as well. *Curriculum Integration: Twenty Question—With Answers*, which Dr. Lounsbury co-authored with Gert Nesin, was published by GMSA in 1999; a digital version of this text is in Volume 30 of *Becoming*. Dr. Nancy Mizelle wrote a tribute that is posted on the NAPOMLE site (www.napomle.com/tribute-to-john-lounsbury), and there is a tribute from AMLE (www.amle.org; “In Celebration of Dr. John H. Lounsbury”).

In one of his columns for *Middle School Journal*, published in 1984, he encouraged middle level educators to “Put It In Writing” and commit their philosophy of teaching, or vision for teaching, to writing: “Certainly just writing out one’s beliefs is not enough,” he wrote, “but the chances of implementing a philosophy that has not been put down in black and white are slight. So wrestle with your set of middle school beliefs, firm up your educational philosophy, and put it in writing.”

Amanda Wall, Editor