

EDITORIAL

We're So Glad We Had This Time Together

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Conclusions and endings can have personal meaning, but goodbyes can also have cultural and social significance. Endings can be memorable, popular, and meaningful, and endings often signal beginnings, as we see in college and university ceremonies annually (or semiannually) around the world. With apologies to Carol Burnett and her then-husband Joe Hamilton, we have borrowed the first line of the song that Carol would sing at the end of every episode of her television variety show. There are famous endings in numerous shows. The TV series *M.A.S.H.* had its final episode watched by 106 million viewers, a record number of viewers in the United States for a scripted TV program (Campbell, 2019)—demonstrating that endings can be incredibly popular. The movie *Thelma & Louise* (Scott, 1991) has a very memorable ending; Two best friends start on an adventure, but after a series of events (some serious), the main characters do find a way out (IMDb, 2020). As we exit our editorial tenure at *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology (STLP)*, we aspire to a less dramatic exit than Thelma and Louise.

In 2007 the Society for the Teaching of Psychology sponsored their Best Practices conference (now called the Annual Conference on Teaching) with the theme of “Beginnings and Endings.” An edited volume containing much of that scholarship from the conference exists (Dunn et al., 2010). For our readers who would like more about endings, the chapters in that volume are highly relevant. Neil Lutsky from Carleton College was a keynote speaker at the conference and provided the penultimate chapter in that volume (Lutsky, 2010), based on his undergraduate course, “The Psychology of Endings,” that he has taught at Carleton for decades. Endings are worthy of study because they are ubiquitous. They allow for the recognition of accomplishment, provide an opportunity for closure, and like so many times on a college or university campus, endings—or commencement if you will—signal the beginning of something new.

For an ending there has to be a beginning. The beginnings of *STLP*, or its origin story, is a testament to the increased visibility of research on teaching and learning. In the editorial that was the opening bookend and companion to this one, we were pleased to see so many champions of the scholarship of

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teaching and learning (SoTL) weigh in on developments in this area. Now six years later, we are proud to have featured peer-reviewed articles of many significant researchers from diverse areas of psychology. *STLP* in many ways accomplished what it set out to do, bring together cognitive scientists, educational researchers, social, developmental psychologists, and even experts from diverse disciplines contributing to a one-of-its-kind, cross-fertilization article type. *STLP* was also able to introduce brand new articles types such as pedagogical primes (essays to catalyze further work on teaching) and the virtual file drawer (articles with heuristic promise that may not have statistically significant outcomes). We take it as a compliment that other outlets in SoTL have also added similar parallel article types. The rising tide of pedagogical innovation lifts all boats. There is still much variability in learning to be predicted, and we all need to redouble our efforts to better understand the contextual factors and individual differences at play. Furthermore, as the events of 2020 have shown, it is particularly important for us to work harder for inclusive teaching.

As our time as the editorial term comes to an end, we are incredibly thankful to the readers and subscribers of *STLP* for confirming the belief that another outlet for high-quality work SoTL in psychology was necessary. We are grateful for the researchers and scholars over the past six years who have shared their work with *STLP*. We are thankful for the reviewers who ensured we could publish robust material. We congratulate our colleague and dear friend Dr. Dana Dunn from Moravian College on his selection as the next editor for *STLP*; we know that placed in his talented hands and with the continued support of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publications team, the journal is poised for continued success.

We worked with various individuals during our editorial term, and we want to thank them here. We appreciate the opportunity that former APA Publisher Gary VandenBos gave to us in 2013. Very few individuals get the chance to serve as a journal editor during their careers. Still, even fewer are inaugural editors of a new journal—To be in on it from the beginning and help shape it was exciting. Three individuals that we currently interact with at APA Publishing make working on the journal a joy. Please realize that there are many more individuals behind the scenes that make it all work, and by omission we do not mean to slight anyone, but these three individuals have been our most frequent contacts over the past six years. Steve Barnold, Peer Review Coordinator, has unparalleled patience and organizational skills with authors, reviewers, and yes, editors. Thank you, Steve, for all of your hard work. Ajla Terzic, Journal Production Editor, did fantastic work to assemble journal issues, resolve problems, and keep the journal within page limits and on the scheduling pace that it needed to be. Thank you, Ajla, for your dedication to the journal. Last but not never least, the current Publisher of APA Journals and Books, Dr. Rose Sokol-Chang was an absolute pleasure to work with. Her steady leadership, unwavering support for the journal, and enthusiasm for SoTL are refreshing and encouraging.

In the end(ing), when possible in your professional life, take on challenges like serving as the inaugural editor of a journal with one of your best friends on the planet. The burdens of the work are lessened, the joys of the work are enhanced, and when the work is done, you will be glad you had this time together. Or it might be a Thelma and Louise moment. Either way, it will be the end.

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