

Commentary

A bouquet for our former editor: Dr. Elnita Ostrom Stanley

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Editorial

A Bouquet For Our Former Editor: Dr. Elnita Ostrom Stanley

Dr. Elnita Stanley served as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Orofacial Myology* for over two years, beginning early in 1979. During that period of time she earned the deep gratitude and respect of the IAOM membership in general, and of the editorial staff, past and present, in particular. She made us all feel good about our *Journal*. We welcome this opportunity to offer a public expression of our sentiments.

Dr. Stanley joined the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1964. She has since risen to the position of Professor in the Department of Counselling and Special Educational Programs. Not many females have been elevated to full Professorship in the Texas University system.

She has published articles in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, as well as her contributions of both articles and insightful editorials in *IJOM*. In addition, she authored the scripts for a series of eight video tapes dealing with tongue thrust therapy for the Rocky Mountain Instructional Materials Center, Greeley, Colorado.

Dr. Stanley has offered numerous workshops around Texas dealing with orofacial myology, for both Dental Hygienists and Speech Pathologists. She also developed a graduate course covering this field; she taught the course for the first time last summer, and reports that it went very well. Her son, O'Brien

Stanley, is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Political Science; his wife is a speech pathologist, practicing in Nacogdoches.

Perhaps only another Editor can fully appreciate the stark and desolate terror of facing the responsibility of an ever-approaching *Journal* deadline – with nothing worthy or appropriate to place between those stately white covers. Elnita made it look easy.

It was not easy. It is quite facile to mention the "countless hours" absorbed by this job. When one has spent every spare moment, day after day, for even a few weeks, in the fight to stay abreast of its relentless demands, it is only logical to question the extent of one's sagacity in accepting this unpaid and thankless position. Unpaid it will remain, but there will be no scarcity of thanks to Dr. Stanley for her performance over the past two years. She deserves every plaudit. She really worked at it.

Our publication had begun to flounder somewhat when Elnita stepped in. Each issue seemed a little thinner and a bit later. The turnaround was immediate. From her first issue, quality soared. She hounded potential authors for suitable manuscripts. She instituted a procedure for the evaluation of each manuscript by a panel of Associate Editors. Changes and corrections were required of authors, resulting in a marked upgrading in the level of material published.

She searched the journals of many allied professions, seeking the rewriting or reprinting of articles pertinent to our specialized field. While she met with small success, she requested written copies of every presentation made at our annual conventions.

Something should be done to improve the latter state of affairs. We may chide our members who fail to attend conventions, when they later inquire about the information presented; even these merit consideration. However, Elnita has carried our *Journal* far beyond the confines of our membership. Standing subscriptions now take each issue to the libraries of some 75 medical and dental schools, many of these spread through 10 foreign countries. We will be hard pressed to maintain Elnita's standards of excellence that justify such broad distribution.

Despite the full-time pressures of her University position, Dr. Stanley accepted still other tasks for us – labelling and mailing newsletters, assembling and mailing membership packets, etc. It will now require a staff of people to handle what she did almost single-handedly during much of her tenure.

Mere thanks seem inadequate; ours are particularly heart-felt. We hope that your step is now much lighter, having laid down the burden of the *Journal*. Since you have graciously consented to accept appointment as Assistant Editor, we will continue to ask for guidance. For now, enjoy!

M.S.
R.H.B.