

From the Editor

*B*USINESS ETHICS QUARTERLY now has completed twenty years of publication. To mark this anniversary, we are publishing a number of commissioned “new directions” articles in which teams of scholars review recent work in a topical area and develop the implications of that work for future research in business ethics. The July 2010 issue of *BEQ* included “new directions” articles on business strategy, political philosophy, international business, and legal studies. In this issue, we continue the process with “new directions” articles on ethical theory, leadership studies, marketing, organization theory, and corporate governance and finance.

In addition, for this issue of *Business Ethics Quarterly*, we invited each of *BEQ*'s previous editors in chief—Patricia Werhane and George Brenkert—to provide short works in which they address what they see as important issues and ideas in business ethics practice and research. We also invited short reflections on the state of business ethics from a wide range of scholars involved with *BEQ* in various ways over the years (especially its early years)—as associate editors, editorial board members, or Society for Business Ethics officers. I am pleased that twenty-nine of these individuals were able to offer the short reflections published in this issue.

Another small milestone reached recently by *Business Ethics Quarterly* is the achievement of its highest-ever “journal impact factor” score in Thomson Reuters's *Journal Citation Reports* database. For 2009, *BEQ* achieved an impact factor score of 1.615. This is the highest score of any rated business ethics publication, and *BEQ* also ranked fourth among the thirty-four rated journals in the “ethics” category, and thirty-third among eighty-seven rated journals in the “business” category. This is a very good showing for a specialty journal.

Twenty years of this kind of success is not possible without the diligent work of many people. A number of individuals and institutions deserve special recognition and thanks for their dedicated work during the last twenty years in establishing *Business Ethics Quarterly* and developing it into the respected and high-quality journal that it is. Founding editor Patricia Werhane—then at Loyola University Chicago—is owed special thanks for getting *BEQ* established in 1991, and for giving it, from the start, the eclectic, open approach to business ethics that still characterizes *BEQ* (e.g., the first volume of *BEQ* included works by scholars in philosophy, the social sciences, business disciplines, religious studies, and law). She was ably assisted by associate editor Al Gini (also, and still, at Loyola Chicago), who has been in-

strumental in playing multiple roles for *BEQ* over these twenty years—variously making editorial decisions, managing authors and reviewers, and keeping track of production in the many years of paper-based manuscripts, and then transitioning to oversight of *BEQ*'s book reviews when the journal moved from paper-based to all-electronic manuscript and review processing. For ten of those years, Al was assisted at Loyola by Mark Schneider. George Brenkert, of Georgetown University, succeeded Pat Werhane as editor in chief in 2000, and continued developing *BEQ*'s emphasis on quality research across multiple fields for the next five years, in part by bringing a larger array of scholars into editing and editorial board roles, and by working hard to gain *BEQ* greater recognition in the broader scholarly world. In more recent years, *BEQ* also has enjoyed the assistance of managing editor Elizabeth Scott and an increasing array of associate editors representing the different disciplinary strands that collectively constitute business ethics research (Denis Arnold, Bruce Barry, Norman Bowie, Jerry Goodstein, Guido Palazzo, Andreas Scherer, Marshall Schminke, and Alan Strudler). *BEQ* also always has had the active support and help of the Society for Business Ethics, its board, and especially its executive directors since 1990—John Boatright, Joe Desjardins, Ron Duska, and Jeff Frooman—plus the diligent involvement over the years by area and advisory editors, book review editors, and the many editorial board members and ad hoc manuscript reviewers.

Business Ethics Quarterly also has depended on important institutional supports. Most prominently, I want to acknowledge the founding and ongoing support of Loyola University Chicago. Loyola was willing to support Pat Werhane's original vision, and Pat and Al Gini's deep and ongoing involvement in *BEQ* over the years. Additional important early support for *BEQ* came from the University of Virginia's Darden School, and more recent support also has been provided variously by Georgetown University, Seattle University, and the University of Delaware.

Finally, it is essential to note the good work of our publisher, Philosophy Documentation Center, and in particular George Leaman and Greg Swope at PDC. It has been extremely easy to work with such a responsive publisher, one who is open to trying new ideas for improving *BEQ* and diligent in making sure that routine matters are addressed with care.

Anyone who has valued any of *BEQ*'s publications owes these people significant thanks, and on behalf of *BEQ*'s authors, subscribers, and readers, I offer sincere thanks to all of them.

Gary R. Weaver, Editor in Chief