

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Ross J. Loomis, Colorado State University

This issue of *Visitor Studies Today!* marks the completion of Volume One of our new publication. A hearty thanks to Kris Morrissey, Editor, and to all of our members who have made this publication possible! This issue is filled with information related to visitor studies and the association. I want to comment on some of these items.

First of all, I am very pleased with the attention to students you will find in this issue. Student interest and work is vital to the future of visitor studies. Steve Yalowitz is our new student member of the VSA Board of Directors. He is eager to make contact with students about VSA and can be reached at yalowitz@lamar.colostate.edu or through the VSA office.

Secondly, there are a number of housekeeping items that are covered in other places in this edition. Note that there is a call for proposals for the 1999 Conference in Chicago. Chicago has long been a great center of visitor studies work and the program, being developed by Beverly Serrell, promises to be one of the best ever. So, don't delay. Get that proposal in early!

Now is also the time of the year to nominate someone for the April Award. Each year the financial base of this award grows, thanks to the April Award Luncheons that are fast becoming a VSA tradition. Please



Ross Loomis, VSA President

take time to think of someone who would benefit from support to attend VSA this summer in Chicago.

Every two years VSA has elections for officers and Board of Directors positions. Please review the call for nominations in this issue. We have been fortunate to have hard-working volunteers serve the association in these different positions.

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It is very important to involve new people with the work of the association. Think of someone you know who would make a good worker for VSA and nominate him or her. Thanks to Molly Hood for once again heading up the Nominations Committee.

Another committee that has been at work is Membership under the leadership of Conny Graft. VSA has not changed dues rates or membership categories since the association was founded. The committee is reviewing categories and benefits. Take advantage of the current membership prices by completing the early membership form in this issue, which is valid through the end of 1998.

The close of 1998 also marks the successful transfer of VSA office functions to Colorado. I want to give a special commendation to Brenda Ward for her hard work as Office Coordinator. In a matter of a few months she has become a valuable worker in VSA activities and a friend to all of us visitor studies types. Brenda has served the association far beyond the amount we have paid her.

I am looking forward to 1999 and an exciting conference in Chicago! And, of course, there will be new 1999 issues of *Visitor Studies Today!*