

## Editor's Notes

Hello, and welcome to *Physical & Health Education Nexus*, the physical and health education research journal (or *PHEnex*). If you are reading this Editorial note, then you are participating in a history-making occasion – this issue marks the launch of the first ever Canadian-based, on-line, open access, peer-reviewed journal focused on a broad range of pedagogical, social and cultural issues in Physical and Health Education. It is the purpose of this journal to publish empirical, theoretical, and methodological research, position papers, and reviews and critical essays by Canadian and International authors.

Many of you reading this will recall *Avante*, a paper-based journal published by CAHPERD, the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. As a paper-based journal *Avante* demanded a great deal of financial support. In the end, despite the best efforts of many people, as well as dedicated support from CAHPERD, *Avante* was unable to continue publishing, and Canadian physical and health educators lost not only a valuable and highly valued resource, but also a window onto the world. As much as *Avante* served to share health and physical education research among Canadian theorists and practitioners, it also provided a means of communicating Canadian research to the world. *Avante* officially ceased production on March 31, 2006 and the final issue appeared as a CUPR Special Edition in 2007.

Now we have a "PHEnex", arisen from the ashes of *Avante*, and winging up to greet us all. But this journal was not a case of spontaneous combustion. Many people contributed a great deal of their time, effort and expertise to fan the flames and ignite the flight of this 'bird'. Among the most significant was the formation of an *ad hoc* 'Journal Renewal Group' at the CAHPERD National conference in Regina in 2006. There were eventually 14 people involved in this group - Tim Hopper (Victoria), Joannie Halas (Manitoba), Aniko Varpalotai (Western); Charlotte Beaudoin (Ottawa), Susan Markham Starr (Acadia), Tanja Harrison (Acadia), Andrea Grantham (PHE Canada), Nancy Francis (Brock), Jeanne Kentel (Leeds Metropolitan, UK), James Mandigo (Brock), Ken Lodewyk (Brock), Antony Card (Memorial), and Pierre Boudreau (Ottawa), as well as me. This group has provided not only consistent, sensible and enthusiastic advice and support for this project, they have willingly formed the nucleus of the editorial board which will

continue to guide the progress of this journal. This PHEnex would never have achieved lift off without the sustained and sustaining contributions from every one of the members of this group.

During the course of developing and preparing this journal for launch, it was often my e-mails or my phone calls that were received by the renewal committee members, but the real, driving force behind the production of an on-line, open-access journal has, from the beginning, has been Tanja Harrison, librarian to the School of Recreation Management and Kinesiology at Acadia University. Without Tanja's persistence, patience, and problem solving abilities, this journal would probably still be simply an idea waiting to happen. For example, you will notice that all of the articles included in this first issue are reprinted from former *Avante* issues. This was done to illustrate not only the various areas wherein prospective authors may contribute, but also to honour and remember Avante's contribution to Canadian physical and health education scholarship. It was Tanja who, among the many other things she has done to prepare for this launch has organized each section, researched and located appropriate articles from past journal issues, and tracked down individual authors to ensure that permission was granted to reprint articles in electronic form.

All of the people who have been engaged in the task of developing and launching this journal hope that you like what you see and like what you read well enough in this issue that you are motivated to make your own contribution to this journal in the near future. This PHEnex is ready to fly, and we will soar as high as you are willing to send us.

Ellen Singleton, Ph.D.  
University of Western Ontario  
Interim Associate Content Editor

**Interim Editors:**

Ellen Singleton teaches in the University of Western Ontario's Althouse Faculty of Education and is a past Chair of the Council of University Professors and Researchers. She has been acting as

Interim Editor as this journal has been prepared to launch, and has volunteered to continue in the role of Associate Content Editor. Ellen's e-mail is [elsingle@uwo.ca](mailto:elsingle@uwo.ca).

Susan Markham-Starr of Acadia University (<http://www.acadiau.ca/~markham>) has volunteered to assist as *PHEnex's* Associate Managing Editor. Susan teaches in Acadia's School of Recreation Management and Kinesiology and is Past President of the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies. Her duties for *PHEnex* would be to ensure that the submission, review, acceptance, publication process rolls along as seamlessly as is possible. She sees her role as that of an academic sheepdog! She can be reached at [susan.markham@acadiau.ca](mailto:susan.markham@acadiau.ca).