A Message From the Incoming Editor

John R. Percy
Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON M5S 3H4, Canada

percy@astro.utoronto.ca

Dr. John R. Percy

In 1975 (*JAAVSO* **4**, 1), Professor Charles (Chuck) Whitney outlined two principal challenges that he faced as the newly-appointed Editor of this journal: to encourage contributions from both amateurs and professionals, and to convey the continued importance of amateurs' work. Looking at issues of the journal, over the years, it's clear that Chuck has more than met these challenges. *JAAVSO* is a vibrant, accessible source of interesting, useful publications by amateurs, professionals—and students. They illustrate the ever-growing partnerships between these three parts of "the astronomical community" that is the hallmark of the AAVSO. Chuck has also been part of an AAVSO Headquarters staff team that has, together with the Council, continued to raise the Association's profile and effectiveness: it is one of the world's best-known and most-respected "citizen science" organizations. Chuck has served for a remarkable thirty-four years. On behalf of all AAVSO members, observers, and friends, I offer our heartfelt thanks for his service, and best wishes for a well-deserved second retirement.

Speaking of which, by way of introduction: I have just "retired" after forty-one years as a faculty member in Astronomy and Astrophysics, and in Science Education at the University of Toronto. But I continue to be active: I am thoroughly immersed in several International Year of Astronomy projects; I am enjoying giving lectures and courses for later-life learners; I continue to supervise variable star projects by enthusiastic undergraduate and senior high school students (their results are frequently published in this Journal). And my new appointment as Editor enables me to continue to serve an organization which is dear to my heart. But if I were to serve for thirty-four years, I would retire (or die) at the age of 101!

So please continue to contribute to *JAAVSO*. We welcome contributions on any aspect of variable-star science, techniques, education, history, and related topics. A few years ago, the AAVSO organized a workshop (http://www.aavso.org/aavso/meetings/spring06wkshp.shtml) to encourage you to do so, and to provide useful advice on how to prepare your manuscript. Manuscripts are received first by Production Editor Michael Saladyga. He forwards them to

me, to double-check that they are appropriate for the journal, and to ask for suggestions about possible referees. The manuscript is sent to a referee (or two, if necessary); the referee's comments and suggestions are then sent to the author. Mike and I, and the referee if necessary, look at the revised manuscript; the AAVSO Headquarters scientific editorial staff—Associate Editor Elizabeth O. Waagen and Assistant Editor Matthew Templeton—will then look at it also. Indeed, I took on the editorship cheerfully, knowing that Mike, Elizabeth, and Matt did most of the work, and did it with judgement, efficiency, and good cheer! Our goal is to enable you to publish a paper of high standard, that you will be proud of, and that I and your other fellow readers will learn from and enjoy.

Good observing, and good writing!