We began our examination of this month's theme by asking whether or not it was possible to bridge the gap between the neurosciences and education. And the answer seems to be, maybe. And maybe not. Or maybe, not yet. The theme section presents some widely varying points of view.

The lead article, by Renate and Geoffrey Caine, suggests that brain research must be carefully examined before the appropriate implications for education emerge. John Bruer feels that education should put brain science on the back burner. David Sousa tells us there is no perfect formula to make teaching and learning a perfect process, including brain research. He feels we should seek out and evaluate the research that might be sufficiently reliable to enhance our practice. Susan Kovalik and Karen Olsen provide some fascinating suggestions about the way emotions enter into brain function, memory, and learning. And there's lots more on this fascinating topic.

In the Features section, Ralph Jasparro suggests that developing and implementing a comprehensive written curriculum evaluation plan can provide educators with information they need to meet new demands for accountability as they work on school improvement initiatives. Ivan and Lee Hannel detail a practical way to develop and apply critical thinking skills through systematic Socratic questioning. Murray Mitchell thinks that the incident reports filed by school nurses may be one of the best sources for analyzing and preventing school injuries. And Frank Ambrosie suggests that the value of making things is the forgotten standard.

In the Departments, we return to the theme of brain-based learning with reviews of the two most recent books by Geoffrey and Renate Caine: Education on the Edge of Possibility and Unleashing the Power of Perceptual Change: The Potential of Brain-Based Teaching. In the "Research Brief," ACT's Gail McLure details the connection between high school mathematics course taking and achievement among college-bound students in 1987–1996.

Back in the March issue, I mistakenly attributed the song "Kids" (which turned out to be from Bye Bye Birdie) to Flower Drum Song, which has a somewhat similar song called "The Other Generation." In any case, many kind and amused people have called to let me know that I goofed. Thanks, folks, and allow me to make my apologies to Bye Bye Birdie. Next time, I'll look it up!

So, enjoy what our authors have to offer this month, have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you in September! ~B

—ECP