

## Editors' Statement

A variety of topics in education is covered in this issue of the Education Quarterly.

Ferdinand B. Pitagan's research on "Interaction Effects and Cognitive Engagements of Collaborative Groups in Online Asynchronous Discussions" looked into the nature of online discussion boards and has implications for the formation of discussion groups in online courses.

In "Life-Based Narratives: Effects on Student Concept Understanding and Decision-Making Skills in Biology," Esperanza I. Arcilla and Rosanelia T. Yangco investigated a teaching approach that makes use of students' life-based narratives in their understanding of biology concepts and their ability to make decisions. Results show a positive effect on the former, but not on the latter, variable.

Children with special needs (CWSN) cause stress in the family, most especially the parents. The study of Ivan Neil B. Gomez and Marie Grace Gomez, "Quality of Life of Parents of Filipino Children with Special Needs" describes the determinants of parental QOL and recommends the creation of programs that will support the families of such children.

The research "Development of Composing Skills in Filipino Among Second Graders Through Directed Reading Lessons" by Jo Anne S. Reyes and Felicitas E. Pado found DRLs to have positive effects on children's composing skills, and that good writing by young learners is the result of explicit, structured teaching of craft and convention, implicitly learned book language, and writing style.