

FOREWORD

This guest-edited issue of the **MCGILL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION** focuses on themes and concerns in the education of girls, internationally and in Canada. The guest editors, Claudia Mitchell and Marilyn Blaeser, have brought together the work of researchers and administrators in sub-Saharan Africa and Canada to create a remarkable cross-cultural debate on this question of global significance: how girls fare in schools and what the consequences are for them and for their communities. As these articles vividly illustrate, educational opportunities – or the lack of them – lead to powerful differences in social and economic development. The education of girls in different societies has been recognized as being crucial to a nation's success because of the complex interrelationships between the knowledge, health, employment and income of girls and women and the well-being of their communities as a whole. These four articles – and the accompanying guest editorial – do much to make accessible such concerns of both policy and pedagogical practice. The articles invite comparisons and parallel studies from other countries and cultures to probe more deeply the issues of single-sex and co-education; gendered identity in post-colonial settings; safe schools; and gender issues in the social integration of minority students.

MCGILL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION NEWS

This issue completes volume 35 of the **MCGILL JOURNAL OF EDUCATION** in its redesigned format. I am delighted to report that it also announces a new annual prize made possible by the generosity of the Journal's founding editor, Margaret Gillett. This prize will honour the best article published in each volume, as judged by a jury drawn from the Editorial Board. Full details of the prize can be found on page 209 and 210.

Upcoming issues in volume 36 will include articles on evaluation, literacy, and educational policy in Canada, and an ethnographic study of teaching and learning in Cyprus. One major goal of our editorial policy is to balance Quebecois, Canadian, and international themes and voices, in order to allow cross-fertilization between these different educational communities.

A.B.