From the Editor

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Do you remember life before Post-It Notes? I can't forget being overwhelmed by small pieces of paper. The little slips I used for bookmarks were always falling out of my books, so it was a rare thing when they actually marked my place. I used scraps of paper for scribbling shopping lists, reminders, to do lists, bibliography notes, ideas for classes or papers. Oh, and there were those wayward notes we left for each other saying we'd be late or needed to change our plans. The importance of Post-Its in my never-ending struggle against entropy came to my attention recently, as I sorted through the estate of a scholar who had never used them. I realized then how much they have helped me. They're subtle but ubiquitous in my life now, and I would miss them a lot if they were to disappear. I know, of course, that I could get along without them, but they have made me more organized, more productive, and less frustrated.

Remembering How Things Used To Be is lots easier than Facing the Prospect of Change. Change invokes fear in most of us. Reminiscing, it's hard to remember what life was like Before. And projecting toward the future, it's hard to imagine how profoundly even small changes might affect us. Looking back, we can see the benefits of change. Looking ahead, it's hard to recognize change's potential rewards because our fear that things will be worse keeps getting in the way. Fear stultifies us. It numbs our imagination and distorts our reason. Fear of What Might Happen if we change is probably not going to disappear from our lives, emanating as it does from the primitive parts of our brain. But it's probably good to remind ourselves that a little fear goes a long way, and we might not need all the fear we stir up to avoid change.

Post-It Notes have been a part of my life for about twenty years now. That's just about the same amount of time I've been using a computer. Twenty years ago, Facing the Prospect of Change, I couldn't anticipate how profoundly my lifestyle would be altered by the power of computing. In the beginning, I was grateful to have a better way to calculate and track my students' grades, and it was great having a glorified typewriter

that would allow diacritical marks. When I learned to use and develop computer-based multimedia, I went through a paradigm shift, and when email became ever-present, another one. Now, internet-based multimedia is bringing sound and light to the enterprise. Students' exposure to the real-world language and culture they are studying is bringing us once again to the brink of Facing the Prospect of Change. It's hard to know how best to Make Use of What's New. ◆