

## The editor notes . . .

This issue celebrates the commitment Charles C. Irby had to ethnic studies in general and to the National Association for Ethnic Studies in particular. The issue was Charles's idea; he wanted several scholars to examine where we have been and where we are going in ethnic studies. He did not intend to include his own essay, but the editors thought it was appropriate to reprint the piece which was originally published in the newsletter of the Association. That Charles was thinking about the twenty-first century long before most of the rest of us is testimony to his farsightedness. At the memorial service for Charles last June, Dr. Yolanda Moses, Dean of the College of Arts at California State Polytechnic University, commented that Charles was usually thinking beyond his colleagues, a factor which often made it difficult for those of us with more impoverished imaginations. Those of us who knew Charles well and who loved him often had to admit, sometimes years later, that he was indeed right on some issues about which we had argued strongly with him. Charles was interested in scholarship, but he cared how scholarship affected human beings. He was interested in serious discussions, but he was always playful. He asked us who loved him not to mourn his death but to celebrate his life. We hope that this issue of *Explorations in Ethnic Studies* does just that.

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