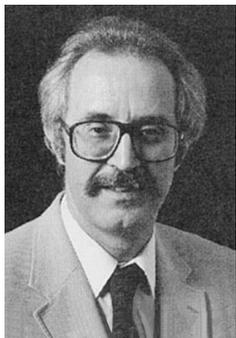

EDITORIAL



Edward R. Dougherty
Editor

This issue is the first one of my second term as editor for the *Journal of Electronic Imaging (JEI)*. I believe that the readers of the journal will be very happy with its quality and scope. Its quality is the result of the many people who have contributed their time and effort over the past three years. When the publications committees of SPIE and IS&T asked me to be the editor for *JEI*, I told them the degree to which I would succeed would be directly proportional to the commitment of those society members who would become part of the journal. Almost without exception, when I asked someone to help, the help was immediately forthcoming and enthusiastic. If this kind of contribution continues, then the success of the journal will continue through my second (and last) term.

I would like to take this space to directly thank some of the people who have made the journal a success. While a number of new people are coming on board, many of those who have helped this far will continue.

A key part of our strategy was to provide a good number of special sections. These have the advantage of placing in a single issue a collection of closely related papers. They also allow experts in a particular area of electronic imaging to offer their hands at bringing excellent papers to the journal. To date the following people have contributed as special-section editors:

Bob Loce, Bob Haralick, Luc Vincent, Ed Delp, Bob Stevenson, Alex Stoyenko, Phil Laplante, Divyendu Sinha, Jean Serra, Dominique Jeulin, Hong Yan, Madan Gupta, Gerhard Ritter, Hongchi Shi, Ling Guan, Sun-Yuan Kung, Jan Biemond, and David Fogel. Their personal commitment resulted in excellent focused collections of papers.

A diverse journal such as *JEI* must depend on its associate editors for getting papers reviewed in a fair and timely manner, recruiting quality contributions, and maintaining the scientific integrity of the journal. Admittedly there have been some delays in paper turnarounds; nonetheless, I believe the associate editors have collectively done a good job in getting papers reviewed by reviewers who are themselves very busy. Let me offer my appreciation here to the entire group, both those who are staying on and those who are leaving. Let me also welcome four new associate editors, Ling Guan, Sunanda Mitra, Sethuraman Panchanathan, and Alexander C. Loui.

Readers of *JEI* should also know there are many people who commit a high percentage of their time to getting papers processed and the journal out in good condition and on time. Here, I would like to mention three people who have significantly contributed. During the first term there have been two managing editors at SPIE, Karolyn Labes and Teresa Forsyth. It has been they who have kept things moving and kept me on schedule. There is also Eric Pepper, who as head of publications at SPIE has been continuously involved with *JEI*. Let me welcome the new managing editor, Mohan Nair, who is taking over beginning with the next issue.

Finally, but not least, we should all offer our appreciation to the societies. They have given me great latitude in trying to build up participation in the journal. Journals have to be paid for, and very often the economics of publication can excessively impact upon

publication decisions. It is to the credit of both SPIE and IS&T that they have put scientific worth and journal credibility ahead of budgets. From the size of this issue it should be evident that the societies are subsidizing *JEI*. This is as it should be for professional societies. Both societies have encouraged the growth of *JEI*, as have the editors of the societies' other journals. This support is evidenced by the fact that the societies allow members to choose between *JEI* and the societies' original flagship journals, *Optical Engineering (OE)* and *Imaging Science*, for membership subscriptions.

Let us hope that the next three years bring further enhancement in quality. This will depend on the efforts of the new people joining us, and the support and submissions of the electronic imaging community.

Finally, let me offer my appreciation to Brian Thompson, who has contributed so much to the success of *OE* and who is now putting that journal in new hands. Brian, while working hard to make *OE* a success, consistently supported the development of *JEI*.