

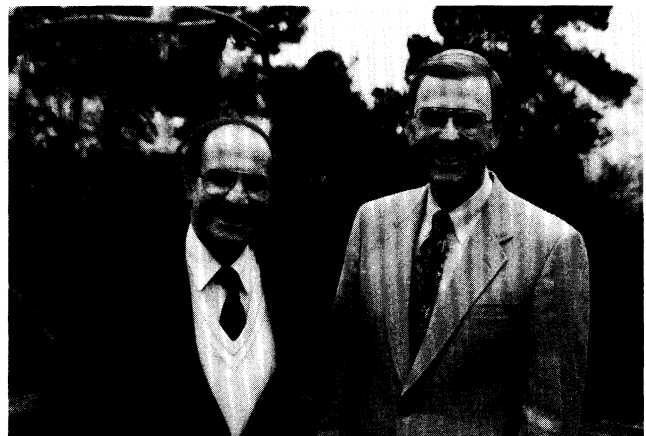
### Welcome to Volume 33

As we launch the new year of 1994, we look forward to another important year for your journal *Optical Engineering*, which will continue to report on “research and development in optical science and engineering.” On behalf of the entire editorial staff in Rochester and Bellingham, I bring you greetings for the new year.

### Goodbye, Joe; Hello, Jim!

We start the new year with a new executive director in place and already running at full speed. We all look forward to working with Jim Pearson to further the mission of SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering. From this editorial page may we say “welcome aboard.” Dr. James E. Pearson is already well known to many of us because he has been, and is, a major contributor to our field of optical science and engineering. His B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering and physics, all from the California Institute of Technology, provided an excellent background for a successful career as scientist, leader, administrator, business manager, and organization builder. His experiences at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Hughes Research Laboratories, and United Technologies speak for themselves. His most recent positions as president and general manager of United Technologies Optical Systems (UTOS) from 1986–93, and as chief scientist/director of Core Competency at United Technologies Research Center from 1991–93 provided the capstone to his on-the-job experience while he has been “in-training” for the executive director’s position. I am sure that Jim is glad that his lengthy apprenticeship is over! Now to the real work!

Jim takes over a Society that has been very successfully managed by Joe Yaver and his team. Joe retires from the



*Joe Yaver (left), retiring SPIE executive director, and Jim Pearson (right), the new executive director.*

position of executive director with a tremendous record of dedicated service. The growth and status of the Society have been unprecedented. It has been my personal privilege to have been associated with the Society through the whole of Joe’s tenure and to have worked with him on many projects both in official capacities as director, president, and editor, but perhaps more importantly as a member. Joe had the great gift of vision for the Society and its programs and the ability to work with staff and members alike to move the Society forward to mutually determined goals. Joseph Yaver, we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude for which a simple “thank you” is not sufficient—but maybe its simplicity makes it the most meaningful tribute. Thank you.

**Brian J. Thompson**  
Editor

*February 1994*

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