

Editorial

As the journal is entering its 18th year of publication it is appropriate to survey the past and reflect on what is in store for us in 2002. The journal was established originally as a Pergamon Press publication, as an outcome of the first World Conference on Engineering Education in Cologne in April 1984. By the standards of the following international engineering education conferences, it remains, as the biggest of its kind ever convened. Over 500 delegates and over 350 papers were presented in the Fair Convention Center in Köln-Deutz, signalling the launching of a series of World Conferences (Sydney 1989, Portsmouth 1992, Minneapolis 1995). Other named conferences have taken over since, the Global Conferences on Engineering Education under the auspices of the UNESCO International Center for Engineering Education (UICEE), and the International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEE). In 1991 the journal was taken over by Tempus Publications, and published from Germany. In 1997 the journal operations moved to Ireland. A journal website was created in 1994 publishing contents and a selection of papers. Since 1997 the website has been operated out of the Dublin Institute of Technology, and is under the excellent care of Donal McCarthy in DIT, Bolton Street. The online pages of the journal now include in addition to full contents, also Engineering Education News, Fora, interactive materials and papers published online only. Access to the journal is available to subscribers either through password or through IP. The IP full contents facilities are mainly utilised by institutional subscribers.

Now, what have we been doing in the past year 2001, and what is in store for us for 2002? In 2001 we continued with our series of special issues alongside our regular issues. Three special issues were published in 2001. Volume 17-1 on Learning Styles, Volume 17-2 on Virtual Universities, and Volume 17-4/5 on Engineering Design Education for the 21st century. We have secured prominent editors for these issues from, North Carolina State, Stanford, Harvey-Mudd, Nuremberg-Erlangen, and Purdue.

In the current issue we continue with our interdisciplinary publication program with our series of philosophical views on the current state of engineering education by Tim Holt, a couple of papers on engineering education in Malaysia: one on its future development and one on its present problems, a couple of papers on Marine engineering: one dealing with research policy, which is also valid for non-marine disciplines, the other with software use. There are two papers on Mathematics, Horwitz and Ebrahimpour covering introductory calculus, and Kabalan et.al covering the application of spreadsheets to polynomial solutions. Papers on device applications in engines and cooling pumps come from New Zealand and the University of Illinois. Design is covered by papers from Rowan University-on design and communication, and by Thompson on a comprehensive studio exercise, leading to a hands on glider production and flight testing.

For 2002 we plan to publish special issues on Assessment—edited by Gloria Rogers of Rose-Hulman, and on Women in Engineering—edited by Jeff Jawitz of the University of Cape Town. Further special issues scheduled are on Mechatronics, Ethics, Problem Based Learning, Distance controlled Laboratories, Nanotechnologies and Manufacturing. Besides the special issues, the number of regular submissions has increased to an extent where we have had to raise the standards for the acceptance of papers to new heights.

The quality of the journal has been acknowledged by its acceptance in the past year by the Institute for Scientific Information for inclusion in the Science Citation Index and it is being listed in Current Contents.

I am also pleased to announce that IJEE has signed an agreement with the steering committee of the International Conference on Engineering education (ICEE) to publish an issue devoted to selected and expanded papers from the ICEE conference which took place in Oslo in August 2001.

I wish to thank all our contributors, referees, and guest editors for facilitating and supporting our journal, and am looking forward to an interesting and varied publication year 2002.

Michael Wald