

Editorial

A few words on the reviewing procedures followed when papers are received may be appropriate at this time. The editor receives hundreds of manuscripts for review each year. At the current rate of publication we accept around 140 papers for publication in 6 issues annually. When a paper is received the editorial office first assesses its suitability for consideration by *IJEE*. Some of the papers are initially rejected before reaching the review stage. The most common points found missing being lack of educational relevance, or largely anecdotal or opinionated submissions bereft of analytical content. In such cases we do not burden peer reviewers with material that is obviously lacking in the criteria for a research paper. Papers passing this initial screening are sent to peer reviewers. If opinions and reports on the paper are in general agreement and comments for revision are complementary the paper is returned to authors for revision. Very few papers would pass the reviewing stage directly to publication without revision. The minimum number of referees is 3—and when if any doubts remain, more referees are requested to review the paper. It needs to be said that like in a school essay appraisal, we occasionally receive contradictory reviews—strong approval as well as strong disapproval for the same paper. The review process is then extended to more referees until a clearer picture on the submission emerges. It is essential however that a referee understands his brief as providing constructive criticism which the author is in general able to follow up in the revision of the paper.

In this issue we publish the first of two installments of the Special Issue on Manufacturing Engineering Education guest edited by Paul Shiue and Thomas Kurfess. I am most grateful for the work they have accomplished in selecting, reviewing, corresponding with authors and finally accepting the papers published in this and the next issue. This issue also contains eight additional papers spanning various other engineering subject areas.

It is my pleasure to welcome our new Associate Editor in the USA—Professor Thomas Kurfess of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Tom obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research centers on Manufacturing and Automation, Mechatronics, System Dynamics, Control, Metrology, CAD/CAM and Precision system Design. Tom has been our guest editor for two special issues in his expertise areas, the special issue on Mechatronics and our current two special issues on Manufacturing. Tom follows Professor Skip Fletcher of Texas A&M to whom I am most thankful for his generous help having served as Associate Editor for over 9 years.

Michael Wald