

# Editorial

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Gunthild Wald was kind enough to send me recently a copy of the very first issue of this journal, published in 1985. It is wonderful to look back from time to time and ponder as one thinks of the future. In the editorial of the first issue, Michael Wald wrote: “The aim of the journal is to become an international forum and source of reference on engineering education. . . . The journal will foster the exchange of ideas between engineering education institutions on an international basis . . .”.

One can say with confidence that this vision for the journal has been followed throughout the years. The strategic objective of the journal remains today the same as it was in 1985: to serve the international engineering education community. The journal evolved over the years to emphasize that the engineering community is built around engineering educators rather than educational institutions.

Another sign of evolution is the fact that the first issue published 11 papers; this number has now almost doubled. Further, the journal attracts the attention of a wider community that is also more diversified geographically. The journal publishes more special issues as well; papers in such special issues focus on themes of current interest in one of the aspects of engineering education. This perhaps matches the evolution of engineering education itself.

The Internet had an impact on the service the journal provides to the engineering community. Among many things, one could use the search tool on the home page of the journal to find relevant IJEE papers of particular interest. The Internet, however, did not sacrifice the journal’s quality: issues are still available in printed format; papers are still subjected to a rigorous review process, professionally copy-edited and skilfully typeset. Although the Internet led to faster communications with readers, authors, and, reviewers compared to the situation in 1985, it also led to a higher volume of submissions that need to be sorted. Perhaps manuscripts files could be transferred from one point to another faster, but the Internet did not change the time needed for a thoughtful reading and reflection. Thinking still requires time.

To return to the present: I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Avraham Shtub, Professor Tom Hewett, and Professor Avraham Parush who guest-edited the current special issue on *Simulators for Engineering Education and for Professional Development*. Their time, effort, and thoughtfulness in selecting the papers gave us a great feast of reading material. The guest editorial of this issue may appear rather unusual, but the guest-editors felt that a special paper is needed as a guest editorial, in order to clarify several important points that the selected papers raise.

Always one hopes that the readers will find the papers to be informative as well as thought provoking.

Ahmad Ibrahim