

Editorial

I am pleased to report that the year 2009 was another successful year for the Journal in serving the engineering education community. The success should be attributed to the authors who contributed important papers, to the reviewers who devoted time and expertise to help authors maintain and enhance the quality of their contributions, to the guest editors who identified topics of current interest to engineering educators and selected excellent papers, and to our readers who showed continued interest in the Journal. To all of them I would like to express my gratitude.

In 2009 the International Journal of Engineering Education published 130 papers that addressed various aspects of Engineering Education. Areas addressed include:

Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Thermodynamics, Structural Engineering, Control Engineering, Robotics, Fluid Mechanics, and Nanotechnology. In addition to Web-based Learning, Remote Laboratories, Design Methods, Education Research, Students' Satisfaction and Motivation, and Global Engineering.

There were six special issues published throughout the year; these issues were devoted to topics of current interest and guest-edited by experts in the topics. Special issues of 2009 included: Simulators for Engineering Education and for Professional Development, guest edited by Avraham Shtub, Tom Hewett and Avi Parush; Outreach to Prospective Engineering Students, guest edited by Kok Kiong Tan, Lawrence J. Genalo, and Igor M. Verner; Instructional Technologies in Engineering Education, guest edited by Kinshuk, Tzu-Chien Liu, and Mohamed Jemni; Educational Applications of Product Lifecycle Management Systems, guest edited by Arturo Molina Gutiérrez, Young B. Moon, and Manuel Contero; Assessment, guest edited by Gloria Rogers. There is also the current special issue which discusses COMSOL in Engineering Education; many thanks to Jos van Schijndel for guest editing it.

Contributing authors this year were from 25 countries with the dominant number of contributing authors being from the USA followed by Spain. Recent statistics on web accessibility shows that the top ten are: USA (18.1%), Spain (14.4%), Taiwan (8.7%), Turkey (6.2%), India (5%), Malaysia (3.9%), UK (3.9%), Canada (3.2%), Mexico (3.2%), and Ireland (2.8 %). Here one could make two observations. First, the top accessibility belongs to the USA and Spain which is similar to the ratios of authors' contributions. However, the interest is not limited to those who contribute papers to the Journal. Authors are not just writing for other authors; the impact is much wider. Second, it is interesting to note that in the editorial of issue 23-6 in 2007, it was reported that the accessibility from the USA represented 51% followed by Spain at 7.6%. Although USA is still in the lead, Spain has shown a significant increase.

As we look towards the future, I wish all of our readers, authors, guest-editors, and reviewers a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ahmad Ibrahim