

## Continuing to Focus

LAST year in this space I mentioned that one technique being utilized to maintain the effectiveness of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power*, despite funding cutbacks with an attendant reduction in the number of manuscript submittals, was the concept of "focused issues," where a common theme was found for a large group of papers. The success of this concept was admirably demonstrated with the July–August 1995 issue of *JPP*, which contained 30 papers from 9 countries, all dealing with the topics of solid-rocket interior ballistics and the synthesis and combustion of high energy solid propellant ingredients. This issue, assembled and edited through the unbelievable efforts of Vigor Yang and Vladimir Zarko, has drawn high praise from all over the world; extra copies of the issue were printed and are still being ordered from AIAA! The final touches are currently being put upon another special issue, soon to be published, which deals with arcjets; 16 papers on the topic have been processed by Roger Myers, with many being based upon work funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the remainder discussing work performed outside the U.S. This discipline has made tremendous strides in the past two to three years, and this group of papers will help to showcase recent progress. Another special issue is well along. This issue is due largely to the efforts of Gary Bennett, recently retired from NASA Headquarters, who proposed an issue describing the multiple technologies being developed and utilized to fulfill the needs for aerospace power. Nearly two dozen papers are being assembled and processed by Dr. Bennett in order to produce this issue, currently being scheduled to be available near the holding of the 1996 Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference. Many of the papers have completed the review process and display an impressive array of power-generation technologies that have reached the stage where they are deemed suitable for the important task of supplying power on a continuing basis to spacecraft, which cannot function without the reliable operation of the concepts and devices described in the special issue.

Other groups of papers are being assembled. One of these is taken from the recent meeting of the International Society of Airbreathing Engines (ISABE) and discusses the current state of the art in ramjets, ducted rockets, and turbojets. Research and development in nearly a dozen countries is being covered by these papers, and the efforts of S. N. B. ("Bg") Murthy of Purdue, Executive Secretary of ISABE, in this matter must be acknowledged with special thanks. The state of the art in terrestrial energy will be the focus of another group of papers being assembled by an incoming Associate Editor, Ashwani Gupta (University of Maryland), whose numerous credits include active participation in the Combustion Institute as well as service as the Chairman of the Propellants and Combustion Technical Committee and a former member of the AIAA Publications Committee.

As in the past, I challenge and invite other disciplines to develop special issues that will highlight the progress made in their specialties. The editorial staff of *JPP* has demonstrated the capability to process, with great effectiveness, papers in a wide range of topics, and guest editors such as Gary have ably supported this process. All of the Technical Committees of the Propulsion and Energy Group have played vital roles in ensuring that prompt, unbiased reviews are made available to the several Associate Editors and to the authors.

The editorial board will suffer several losses this year. Henry Brandhorst (and his able assistant Paula) have covered the energy field for six years in an exemplary manner; their help will be sorely missed. Saadat Syed has covered many papers related to subsonic and supersonic combustion, as well as the application of computational fluid dynamics to reacting flows, while going through major changes in his job responsibilities; this did not impede his ability to function effectively as an Associate Editor. Likewise, Jay Mehta has had to handle combustion-related papers while changing jobs twice but was able to perform his duties ably. Mo Samimy was especially effective in dealing with papers in the fields of boundary layers and mixing; his professional growth during his term as AE was marked by the elevation to the rank of Full Professor. The services of all of these individuals are greatly appreciated, especially since all have had heavy workloads in their professional careers.

As in the past, the new faces on the *JPP* masthead have impressive credentials. As mentioned above, Ashwani Gupta has made many contributions to the combustion community, and I have been waiting

for several years for the opportunity to work with him on *JPP* to the extent that I did as a Director of the Propulsion and Energy Group and as a personal friend. Ian Waitz is another in a long line of distinguished members of the MIT Gas Turbine Laboratory to serve *JPP*; he has also been an active member of the Airbreathing Propulsion Technical Committee for the past two years. Frank Rose has been an active member of the Aerospace Power Technical Committee, with a wide range of contributions to the technical literature, and has established Auburn's Space Power Institute as a center of excellence in this field. Finally, Ann Karagozian (UCLA) is one of the organizers of the forthcoming International Combustion Symposium and is internationally known as well for her work in the fluid mechanics of reacting flows, serving on a number of distinguished technical panels, including her current service on the NASA Aeronautics Advisory Committee. I look forward to working with all of these distinguished individuals.

Another service that Ann Karagozian performed was to train Steve Heister, a former Associate Editor of *JPP*, who came out of retirement this summer to replace Bob Frederick on a temporary basis during a family illness and bereavement. Steve handled a heavy load during this time, being the second-busiest Associate Editor in the third quarter of 1995. We all owe Steve a large debt of gratitude for his cheerful, capable service while he continued on his personal professional growth.

Two Associate Editors have made me breathe easier by agreeing to serve another three years. Long-time friend Rod Burton will continue to process papers in the field of electric propulsion with his customary expertise, and Carl Pian will continue to be responsible for papers dealing with magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) for both energy and propulsion applications. Carl has served ably despite job changes and resultant family disruptions. My thanks to both of them for their willingness to serve another three years; their enthusiasm in agreeing to extensions in their terms was a real highlight of my year.

There is another change in the masthead which must be noted. After nearly a decade of service to *JPP* and three decades of service to the aerospace community, Dick Weiss has retired from a full-time career, although he is still active as a consultant. Thanks for all the help you have given us; your receipt of the Wyld Award was a partial recognition of all your accomplishments. Fortunately, *JPP* will now be able to draw upon the expertise of Dr. Robert C. (Bob) Corley, who serves as Chief Scientist of Propulsion at the Phillips Laboratory Operating Location, Edwards Air Force Base, California, where he has served in positions of increasing responsibility since 1958. His most recent accomplishments have been in organizing the High Energy Density Matter (HEDM) and the Integrated High-Payoff Rocket Technology Program (IHP RTP). Bob will prove a valuable asset as a member of the Advisory Board.

On the editorial side, Jason Peak continues to grow in his role as Managing Editor, serving as the final focal point for all accepted papers. He has assumed more and more responsibility, and it has been a pleasure to work with him over the past two years. Jacqueline Dupree has always been a strong point in the editorial process in her support of Jason and her dealings with Easton Publishing, and I have almost exhausted the terms that can be applied to Norma Brennan as the Division Director for Journals. Her good humor, depth of perspective, and ability to keep everything in focus have been invaluable for me during my 16 years as an Editor-in-Chief and for all of the other volunteers who serve the journals of the AIAA.

Finally, I sincerely acknowledge the authors who have chosen *JPP* as the outlet for their valuable contributions; I know that there are other potential publications, and the trust that they placed in *JPP* and the editorial board by submitting their manuscripts means a great deal to me personally and professionally. The reviewers who have performed an anonymous service in maintaining the high standards of the *Journal of Propulsion and Power* must also be acknowledged here with a great deal of gratitude; without them and their willingness to take time from their busy schedules in order to review manuscripts, *JPP* could not exist. As always, the listing of their names in this issue cannot adequately express my appreciation for their integral role in the preparation of *JPP*.

R. H. Woodward Waesche  
Editor-in-Chief