

Editorial

AS OF THIS ISSUE of the TRANSACTIONS, I am stepping down as editor. My excuse is that I need to return to a normal life, and to recover from the sheer exhaustion that this job seems to engender. Those who know me comment on my almost daily increase in gray hair; although in my case hair of any color is welcome, the inevitable truth is that this job has aged me.

Dan Massé is the new editor. Dan is well known to the MTT community, and has had a distinguished career in the development of IMPATT circuits and devices. The selection committee should be congratulated for their choice, and Dan has my best wishes (and leftover aspirin).

Traditionally, this editorial represents the outgoing editor's chance to brag about the things he has accomplished. I see no reason why I should forgo my opportunity. I have approached this job as a technician, not a manager, and the progress I have made has been more along the lines of technical improvements, not grand initiatives in the area of policy and procedure. The greatest technical challenge we faced has been to bring the TRANSACTIONS' operation out of the dark ages and into the 1990s. To this end I have done the following:

- Added over 300 reviewers to our reviewer list (it is now over 800);
- Completely rewritten the TRANSACTIONS' manuscript-management software (this software is also being used by IEEE MICROWAVE AND GUIDED-WAVE LETTERS);
- Updated and revised our entire reviewer database;
- Implemented the use of electronic communications (FAX and Email) to speed reviews;
- Implemented a system where authors have access to free-lance technical editors to help them polish their papers;
- And of course, processed 900 new manuscripts, 4000 reviews, and published 550 papers.

These changes have reduced the time required to process manuscripts. The median time from receipt to disposition has dropped from approximately 90 to 70 days, and the proportion of disasters—papers that require more than 140 days—has decreased by more than a third.

I would like to thank the people who assisted and supported the operation of the TRANSACTIONS the past two years. First is Nick Alexopoulos, the chairman of UCLA's EE Department, who provided a great deal of support, more than just office space and secretarial assistance. I would also like to recognize the contribution of our two technical editors at the IEEE, first Chris Ralston and later Joe Pagnotta, who regularly turned the raw manuscripts into a finished journal of high quality and readability. Furthermore, I've had a great deal of support from the MTT Adcom, especially from two Publications Committee chairmen, Martin Schneider and Jim Crescenzi, and to them I'm grateful. Most of all, however, I enjoyed the support of 800 reviewers, who worked very hard to ensure that the TRANSACTIONS would be a technical journal we could all be proud of. Their work is most critical and probably least appreciated to all of us.

STEPHEN A. MAAS