

EDITORIAL

Reflecting on progress and setbacks is an integral part of preparing for a new year of publication at *JIFS*. The year 1995 was one of maintenance and striving to stay on top of the publication schedule during our third year in print; 1996 will be a year that will readily focus more on the content of the journal, technologies in intelligent and fuzzy systems.

The topics of fuzzy logic and intelligent systems are making frequent appearances not only in academic and scientific journals, but also in the media of popular culture. As the technology progresses and becomes more available to the public, a forum for its advancement is increasingly necessary. The debate between probability theorists and fuzzy theorists still thrives, but journals such as *JIFS* help illustrate the applicability of fuzzy logic, whether or not it is universally accepted.

Without the proper manuscript submissions and the expertise to judge the value of these submissions, our forum could not exist. We are grateful to all authors who have contributed quality works on state-of-the-art technology and emerging fuzzy concepts. We also thank our distinguished pool of reviewers (those who participated in Volume 3 are listed in the back of this issue) for sharing their time and knowledge.

In addition, we are grateful to the staff at John Wiley & Sons for their exhaustive efforts in producing our journal through its third year. We welcome a new Wiley Editor, Bob Argentieri, who is determined to contribute to *JIFS*' continued success by maintaining close communication with the editorial offices and by monitoring the flow of the journal's scheduled publication. We anticipate a flourishing future with Bob at the helm.

Once again, our editorial office is experiencing growing pains as our Editorial Manager, Valerie Steinmaus, leaves us seeking livelihood as a writer/editor in the Pacific Northwest. She has enjoyed the international contacts she made over the past year-and-a-half and will sorely miss the challenge of working with cutting-edge technology. As her swan song, she leaves behind an

up-to-date publication schedule and more organized managerial procedures for the journal. She also helped reconstruct the journal's administrative boards, as will be evident in our next issue.

Next year's first issue will feature a new list of regional editors, associate editors, and editorial advisory board members as we welcome new names and regretfully part with former associates. Our new associates, along with several partners who have chosen to stay on with us, have pledged to engage in increased responsibilities, which include conceiving special issues, delegating reviews, and regularly submitting new ideas for the quality and format of the journal. We highly esteem those associates who have agreed to join us either for the first time or *in continuum*, and we welcome them on our promising voyage into the next year.

As for this year's statistics, they steadily reflect the progress we reported at the end of 1994. We still receive four to five paper submissions per month, a number that we would like to see increase in the next year. We have accepted slightly over half (53%) of the papers we've received since the journal's inception in 1992, and we continue to accept quality papers on both intelligent and fuzzy systems from academia and industries around the world.

Volume 3 contains 29 papers from various areas, including 10 papers on control, 10 articles on fuzzy systems/learning, 6 papers on neural nets, and 1 paper each discussing signal processing, decision making, and identification. Our third volume features authors from several countries, including 33 authors from the United States; 5 from India; 4 each from Australia and Japan; 2 from Indonesia; 2 each from Finland, Canada, and Korea; and 1 each from Singapore, Spain, and Belgium. We are pleased to represent works from such a broad intellectual and international base.

According to recent statistics, we have seen a steady number of institutional and personal subscriptions over the past three years; however, we would always like to see that number grow. We encourage our individual subscribers to in-

quire about institutional subscriptions at their universities or companies to propel the sharing of fuzzy knowledge.

As always, we are grateful to the persons and institutions who already subscribe to and support *JIFS*, as well as to those who participate in our overall production. Here's to another year of publication and continued success!

October 2, 1995

*Valerie Steinmaus
Editorial Manager*

*Timothy Ross
Mohammad Jamshidi
Editors-in-Chief*