SPECIAL MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I start my new role as Computer's technical editor. During the past few years Computer has blossomed from a newsletter to be the computer industry's leading survey and tutorial publication. Computer plays a vital role in keeping the computer professional informed in a rapidly accelerating technology and science.

What is Computer now? In an attempt to at least partially answer this question the Computer Advisory Board undertook an analysis of the technical articles appearing in Computer over the past two years. The following are example results of that analysis:

- About one-half of Computer's pages are devoted to feature technical articles.
- During 1976-77, technical article subject coverage was distributed as follows:
  - Hardware — 42%
  - Software — 19%
  - Applications — 32%
  - Education — 7%
- During 1976-77, 54% of all articles were survey or tutorial in nature, 28% were research reports, 8% were conference reports, 7% education-related material, and 2% were bibliographies.
- During 1976-77, 35% of all articles were feature articles (not part of a special issue), and 65% were part of a special issue.
- During 1976-77, 54% of Computer authors were from industry and 46% from academia.
- During 1976-77, Computer's authors were distributed by educational level as follows:
  - Doctorate — 55%
  - Masters — 31%
  - Bachelors — 13%
- During 1976-77, Computer's authors were distributed by educational field as follows:
  - Electrical Engineering — 40%
  - Other Engineering — 10%
  - Computer Science — 24%
  - Other — 26%

We can conclude that Computer covers a broad range of topics including hardware, software, and applications; that it strikes a balance between industry and academia; and that it contains primarily tutorial and survey material although there is some coverage of research results.

Is this what we want Computer to be?

How can we make Computer even better? Several people are addressing that question and plans are being rapidly implemented. The Computer Advisory Board, chaired by Merlin Smith, has been formed to review all aspects of Computer and make recommendations for improvements. The staff of the editor and publisher, True Seaborn, is being enlarged with the addition of an articles editor. Five new associate editors are being added to the volunteers that assist the technical editor in selecting technical material. The Publications Committee, chaired by Tse-yun Feng, is planning a survey of Computer Society members to find ways that Computer, as well as other Computer Society publications, can be improved.

Computer's budget has been increased to cover the above activities, as well as increase the number of pages printed and expand the use of color.

Our advertising growth continues, which means added revenues to support these improvements. You, as members of the Computer Society and as readers of Computer, are a vital part of that growth. You can help by letting our Advertising Department know your buying influence and interests, both by using Reader Service Cards and by your participation in our surveys. And, as a leader in your own company, you can help by asking your own advertising manager to check into Computer as a vehicle for your own product advertising. Dawn Peck, our advertising manager, is your contact here.

Every Computer Society member can help us with Computer. We need reviewers in all subject areas. We need papers and special issue proposals. We need ideas for improvements. I hope you will help us.

Portia Isaacson
Technical Editor