Editorial

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

Special Issues: The Backbone of *Optical Engineering*

For many years now, virtually every issue of *Optical Engineering* has been a "special issue," an issue in which a majority of the papers have been devoted to one or two "special" topics related to the field of optical engineering. Although some minor changes have been instituted in this regard, these special issues will continue to be the backbone of the journal for some time to come. Our current plan is to have ten special issues every year, each containing about ten papers related to the special topic, with about ten additional contributed papers on various other topics included in each journal. The remaining two issues, which will be the June and December issues beginning in 1987, will be reserved exclusively for contributed papers and will have about twenty papers each. Consequently, we anticipate that approximately 100 papers related to special topics and 140 contributed papers will be published in *Optical Engineering* each year.

For each special issue, the Editor of *Optical Engineering* appoints one or two individuals to serve as Guest Editor(s). The Guest Editors, who are unpaid volunteers, have several important responsibilities: first, they must convince about a dozen sets of authors to submit papers; then, they must have each of the papers submitted to them reviewed by two referees; next, based upon the referees' comments, they must decide which papers to recommend for publication, which papers require revision, etc.; and, finally, they must forward all of the recommended papers to the Editor for a final decision. Quite a bit of work is involved, and it is helpful if the Guest Editor is well organized and has good secretarial support. On the other hand, most of the efforts are confined to a three or four month period, and the personal and professional satisfaction can be quite rewarding.

With that bit of background, I would like to invite any of you who is interested in volunteering to be a Guest Editor to write or telephone me and let me know of your qualifications and proposed special topic. If you are not interested yourself or don't have the time, please feel free to recommend others who you think might make good Guest Editors. I'm looking forward to getting your suggestions so that we can continue to publish special issues of high quality covering a wide range of topics.