

AESS Publications Report to the Board of Governors
April 24th & 55th, 2009 at Disneyland, CA

1. Budget

Expenses to date for AESS Publications remain within budget.

2. AESS Publication Team Reports

Appendices A-E provide Pubs Teams Reports as follows.

Appendix A AESS Ass't VP Pubs- Dr. Dale Blair

Appendix B AESS Transactions- Dr. Peter Willett, Editor

Appendix C AESS Systems- Dr. Teresa Pace, Editor

Appendix D AESS Tutorials- Dr. Lance Kaplan, Editor

Appendix E AESS Pubs Admin- David Dobson, Administrative Editor, Andy Lim Ass't Admin Editor

3. Pubs Summit

On Friday (4/24/09), the Pubs Team will attend a "Pubs Summit" here with two main purposes.

- a. Reviewing progress with respect to goals and actions defined at the 2008 Pubs Summit
- b. Reviewing requirements and assigning tasks in preparation for the IEEE Pubs Review of AESS, November 2009

Joel F. Walker

VP AESS Publications

Appendix A
Assistant VP AESS Publications Report

By

Dale Blair, Ass't VP Publications

April 24, 2009

IEEE AESS BoG Report
Review of IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine
April 19, 2009

1. Committee Members

- a. Dale Blair
- b. Joel Walker
- c. Iram Weinstein
- d. Teresa Pace
- e. Peter Willett
- f. Andy Lim

2. A telcon was conducted on December 17, 2008 with following agenda and attendees.

Agenda

December 17, 2008

3:30-5:00 pm

3:30 Scope of the Study

3:45 Underlying Assumptions/Ground Rules/Boundaries

4:00 Approach

- o Survey

- o Individual

4:30 Assignments

4:45 End

Attendees

Dale Blair - Y

Joel Walker - Y

Iram Weinstein -N

Teresa Pace - N

Peter Willett - Y

Andy Lim - N

3. Scope of the Study

- a. **Content: articles, technical panels reports, conference reports, society news and activities**
- b. **Format: layout, graphics, font, paper quality**
- c. **Distribution: paper/electronic and periodicity**

4. Underlying Assumption/Ground Rule/Boundaries

A mission of Systems Magazine is to be a catalyst to IEEE AESS Membership/ Involvement and involvement of its membership in systems in general. This will not change.

The technical scope of System Magazine will not change.

Any increase in the cost of the magazine to the society will be carefully measured with respect to its mission.

A change in the name of IEEE Systems Magazine will not be considered.

Moving publication production under IEEE or other source such as Allen Press will be considered.

Bimonthly publication of Systems Magazine will be considered as a measure to improve quality of publication without increases in cost of production or alleviate pressures on volunteer staff and paid staff.

Publication of Systems Tutorial will remain as it is.

5. Study Plan

A survey of IEEE AESS members (and IEEE members with related interest) will be conducted and a sequence of changes will be proposed for the magazine.

- Implementation of Survey
 - Draft the questions for the survey
 - Article on the survey will be written for System Magazine
 - Host survey on IEEE AESS Web Page

- Include paper version of the survey in System Magazine
- Provide incentive to chapters with highest level of participation
- Publish the article in Systems Magazine on the results of survey and response

6. A telcon was conducted on April 9, 2009 with following agenda and attendees.

Agenda

April 9, 2009

10:00-11:00 pm EDST

- Review draft questions for survey
- Review assignments

Attendees

Dale Blair - Y

Joel Walker - Y

Iram Weinstein -N

Teresa Pace - Y

Peter Willett - Y

Andy Lim - Y

7. Assignments.

- Teresa will prepare guidelines on writing a good magazine article. Open
- Dale will prepare notes from the telecon and send to members of the IEEE Systems Magazine Review Team. The notes will include a draft set of questions for survey of members of IEEE AES Society. Completed
- Dale will complete draft of questionnaire and send it to committee. Completed (see next pages)
- Iram, Peter, Joel, Teresa, and Andy to review draft questionnaire for survey and provide edits to the team. Open
- Dale will identify information to collect from member completing survey. Draft completed
- Ron Ogan will identify chapter incentive. Open
- Dale will complete article for Systems Magazine. Open.

8. Please share your experience with the articles in the IEEE AES Systems Magazine by using a 5 to denote Most Often and a 1 to denote Never.

A. Relevant to my interests	1	2	3	4	5
B. New to me and interesting	1	2	3	4	5
C. Increased my knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
D. Timely, up to date	1	2	3	4	5
E. Well-written	1	2	3	4	5
F. Appropriate depth & detail	1	2	3	4	5

9. With respect to IEEE AES System Magazine, please evaluate each aspect of the format and printing with 1 denoting needs improvement and 5 denoting outstanding.

A. Font	1	2	3	4	5
B. Figures and Illustrations	1	2	3	4	5
C. Layout	1	2	3	4	5
D. Print Quality and Paper	1	2	3	4	5

10. With respect to the distribution of IEEE AES System Magazine, do you prefer monthly or bi-monthly distribution?
Monthly Bi-monthly No Preference

11. With respect to the distribution of IEEE AES System Magazine, do you prefer paper or electronic distribution? Paper
Electronic Both

12. Of the monthly issues of IEEE AES Systems Magazine, what percent of the issues do you glance or read superficially? 0
10 30 50 70 90 100

13. Of the monthly issues of IEEE AES Systems Magazine, what percent of the issues include an article that you read thoroughly? 0 10 30 50 70 90 100

14. Do you find IEEE AES Systems Magazine beneficial? Yes No

15. Has IEEE AES Systems Magazine increased your level of interest IEEE AESS? Yes No

16. Are you active in IEEE AESS? Yes No

17. If you are interested in volunteering for IEEE AESS, please provide your name, contact information, and area of interest.

Appendix B

Status of the IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems

By

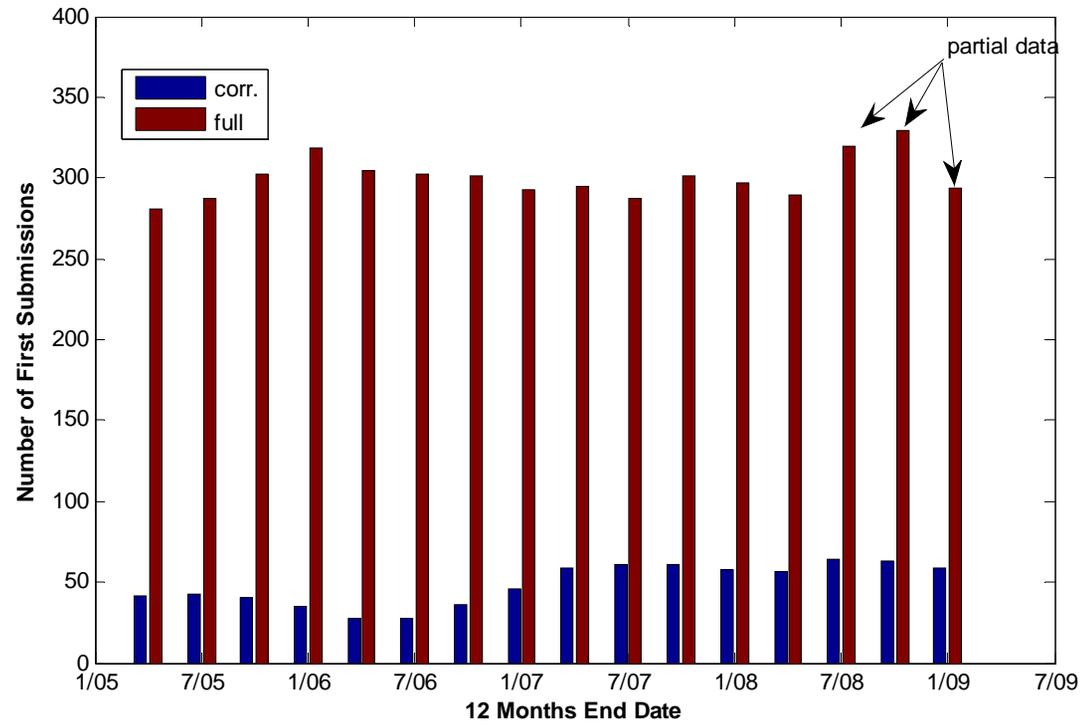
Peter Willett, Editor-In-Chief

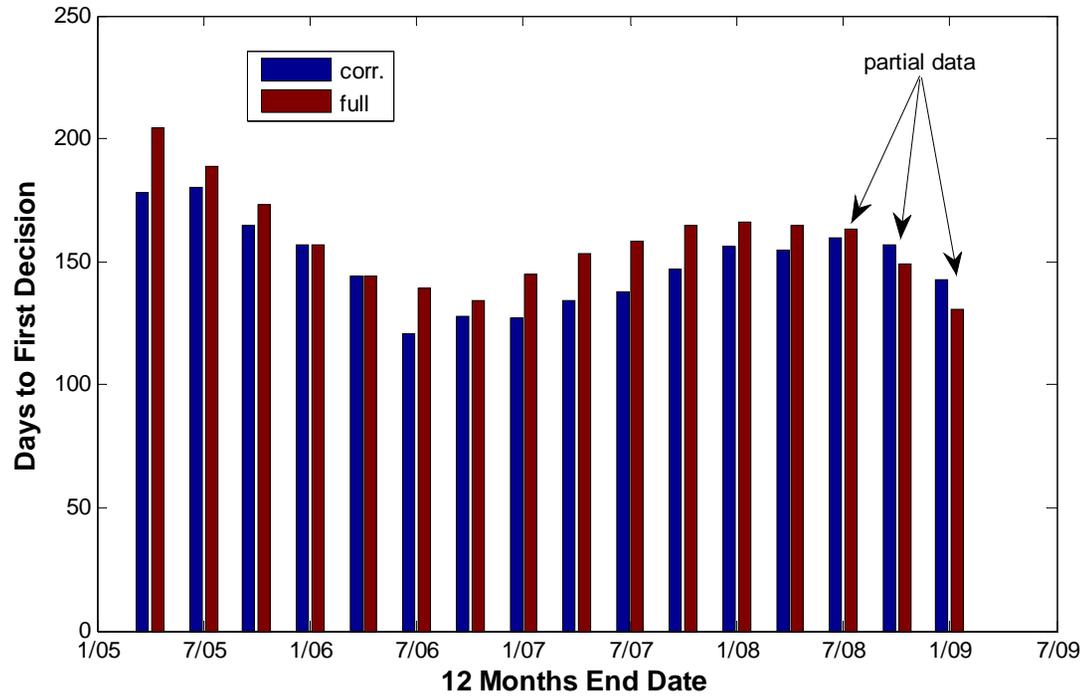
April 16, 2009

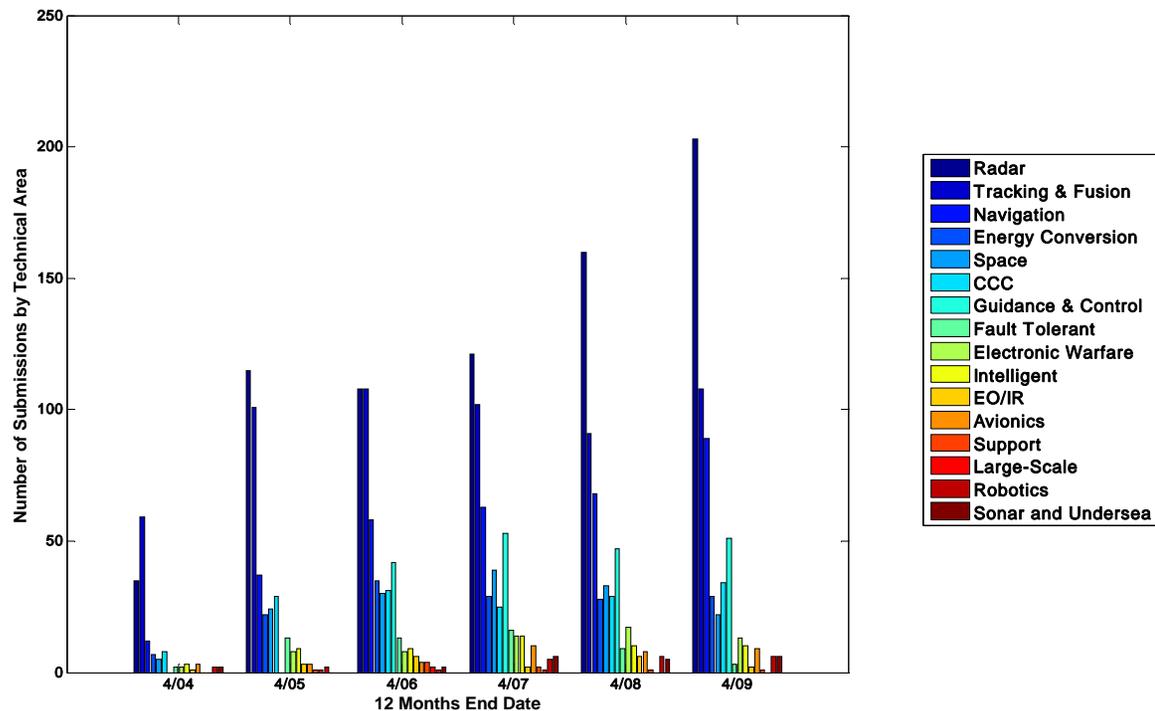
Transactions Overview

Below, please find the data on submissions and times to first decision. We would, of course, prefer to be at a 3 month time to first decision, and now it seems to be 4-5 months – a while ago it seemed as if we were converging on that, but now our times are rising again. To address this, I am considering reducing our 3 month referee time to 2 months. But I have to admit that it is difficult to become too excited about this extra month or so, given the much longer acceptance-to-appearance times that we currently have.

The number of submissions seems to be increasing slowly, which is good news.







The plot above illustrates the technical areas' levels of activity, plotted over time. The trends from the last report continue to hold:

- The radar area continues to increase at a steep rate, and is by far our largest.
- Navigation continues to increase steadily.
- Guidance & Control is maintaining at our fourth-largest. I am proud (and Yaakov Oshman ought to be, too) of this good showing, since there is heavy competition from AIAA and other journals.
- There appears to be a leveling-off in the Tracking & Fusion area – this may be due to friendly competition from ISIF's new JAIF (Journal of Advances in Information Fusion).

- There is some decline in the Space Systems area.
- Command, Control & Communications (CCC) is still small but is clearly growing. We need more AEs in this area. My feeling is that we could be larger still, but we insist on an Aerospace flavor to the manuscripts.

At this AESS meeting we (the publications group) will discuss the production flow process, especially to address the considerable time that elapses between acceptance and publication, and to facilitate early appearance on IEEEExplore.

The Transactions will be subject to its PRAC review in November, for which we must provide data in October.

Author News

I usually use this space to describe problems we have had with authors. There has been a great deal of communication (perhaps 2-3 emails per day, to the EIC) inquiring about reviews and publication/appearance dates. However, there has been very little conflict.

Associate and Technical Editor News

We welcome Jade Morton (Miami University) as an AE for Navigation. Gerard Lachapelle has indicated to me that he will eventually be stepping down as TE for Navigation. We have been in discussion with Michael Braasch (Ohio University) to take over Gerard's role. The date is not certain due to Michael's role in a Center, and Gerard has said that he will stay on as necessary.

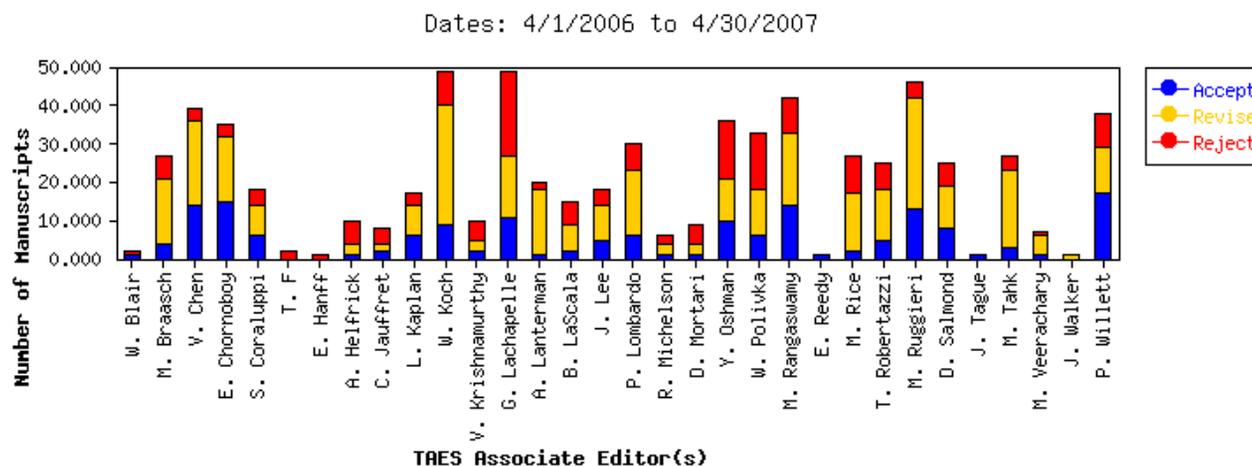
We also welcome Maruthi Akella (University of Texas at Austin) as AE for Space Systems, and Murat Efe (Ankara University) as TE for Avionics.

Barry Carlton Award

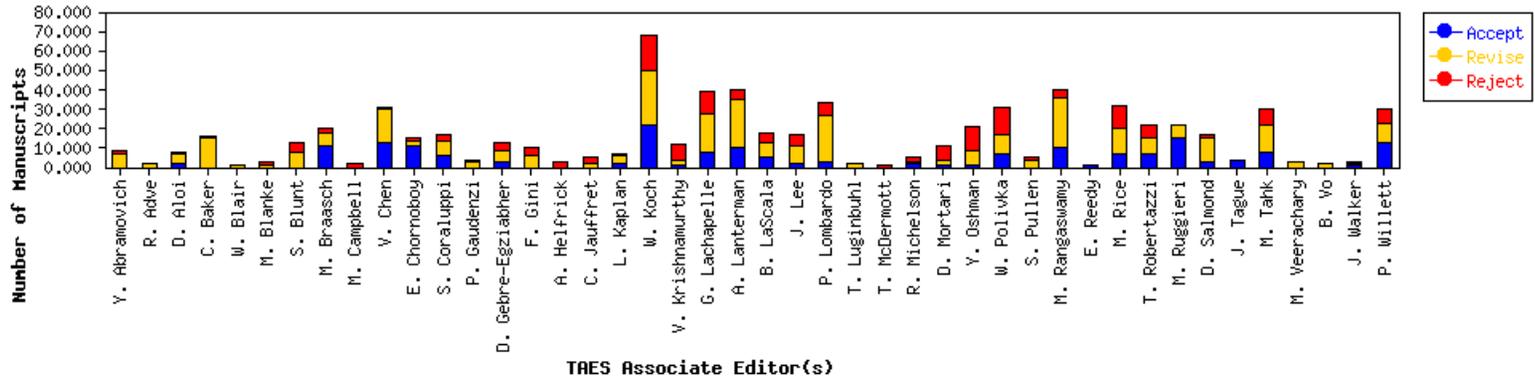
We will soon make an announcement for the 2007 Award.

Manuscript Decision by AE

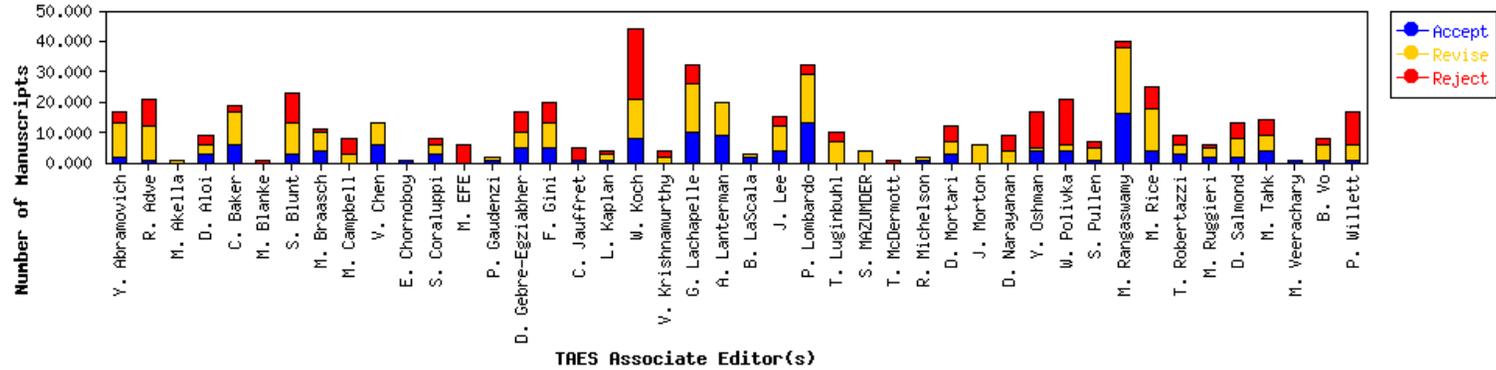
Here is another “guest” table – last report’s showed the percentage of papers that come from each country, as stated by the authors, and this one tracks the initial decisions made by AE.



Dates: 4/1/2007 to 4/30/2008



Dates: 4/1/2008 to 4/30/2009



Appendix C

Status of the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine

By

Teresa Pace, EIC, Systems Magazine
April 21, 2009

Status of the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine

By

Teresa Pace, Editor-in-Chief
April 23, 2009

Began transition of EIC position from Evelyn Hirt (EIC for 5 years) to Teresa Pace in January 2009

- Briefed on responsibilities of EIC and goals of magazine by Evelyn Hirt November 24, 2008
- Introduced in the magazine by Joel Walker February 2009
- Provided first editorial March 2009 outlining basic goals for the magazine
- Still ramping up on the learning curve
- Receiving strong support from Dave Dobson and Andy Lim to understand all of the magazines guidelines, deadlines, and processes

Mission of Systems Magazine

- Act as a catalyst to the IEEE AES Society
- Publish captivating, interesting, well written articles and tutorials from aerospace and electronic systems fields
- Allow readers to gain basic understanding and insight into AES technologies and /or their historical significance
- Provide an archive of information
- Detailed mathematical equations and proofs are not desirable (goal is to excite, educate, and motivate readers without limiting or intimidating audience)
- Support an expansive systems engineering readership

Participated and provided feedback in the April 9, 2009 telecon held by Joel Walker reviewing draft questions for the Systems Magazine survey

Future direction and goals

- Understand feedback from the survey, identify potential areas for improvement, and determine how they can be implemented to improve the magazine

- Bimonthly publication?
 - o Improve quality of publication without increasing cost or production
 - o Alleviate pressures on volunteer staff and paid staff

- AESS Systems Magazine Website
 - o Updated information on editorial staff including active personnel and contact info
 - o Identify link and/or information for electronic manuscript submission
 - o Online magazine survey posting?

- Electronic submission of manuscripts (incorporated into the magazine when they clear the system)
 - o Are we receiving an appropriate number of submissions?
 - o Are we receiving quality articles?
 - o Can the website be updated and/or made more straight forward
 - o Identify active associate and or assistant editors and determine how to identify and incorporate more
 - Is there a reason to limit the number? In order to
 - Should these be listed in the magazine or online to encourage or reward participation?
 - o Understand if search process for reviewers can be made more efficient

IEEE Publications review of Systems in November

- Hopeful that Evelyn Hirt will be able to support this event to bring to bear 5 years of experience as EIC of magazine
- Need to understand all that is required for the review

Appendix D

Status of the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine

By

Lance M. Kaplan, Editor Tutorials
April 14, 2009

- One paper accepted for Tutorial V
- One paper accepted subject to minor revisions
- Two papers under Review
 - Poisson Point Processes
 - Particle Filtering for Navigation
- Five commitments for papers:
 - PMHT Track Filtering
 - ATR Theory
 - Compressive Sensing
 - Video Surveillance
 - Sonar Tracking
 - Graph Methods for Information Fusion
- Actively soliciting papers
 - Sort through AES Magazine submissions
 - Need to consider joint online tutorials and tutorial papers
 - Any suggestions for topics and authors?

Appendix E

Status of the AESS Publications

By

David Dobson, Consulting Administrative Editor

April 20, 2009

January Transactions was completed and ready to mail in late March — another week gain in our efforts to get the issues back closer to schedule. Andy Lim was in the process of relocating to the West coast, so I handled this one - it kept the flow going.

Pioneer Award stories for 2007 and 2008 have been set and are out to recipients for last-minute look-sees prior to inclusion in the April issue. The receipt of the 2007 award was in doubt for some time due to illness and other factors, but patience paid off.

Systems Magazine continues to issue monthly, using contributions whenever they clear the system. We've had several personal calls about the Survey Insert in the March issue — all laudatory.

As mentioned previously, I suggest that you do your best to get Evelyn Hirt to attend the IEEE Pubs review of Systems as she was the Editor for the past 5 years. This is what the review is about. If this is not possible, Teresa and I can support it, as her philosophy as to Evelyn's directions is very similar.

One Tutorial is through the system and ready for the next issue. The status of the Tutorial process and selection of potential contributors was discussed with Dale.

As a continuing concern, I have been debating with myself about the futility of trying once again to get some meaningful attention to the problems of Annual Indexing. The October Transactions had to be held up six weeks or more while waiting for IEEE Hq indexing to do its job. The problem is that the function of indexing has been taken away from the “indexers” and given to the IP department and they do not... well, you can tell where this is going.

Several potential one-of-a-kind inserts for Systems are on the horizon. Time will tell.

Systems Compositor has started on the conversion to an Hq Xplore compatible output with MTT acting as mentor and consultant. Our target for process integration is next Fall, with completion by the end of the year. Those we work with at IEEE Hq are very helpful and understanding.

Casebound copies of 2008 publications are underway with distribution to follow.

Systems Magazine has been submitted (actually submission was requested) for two awards, based on the 2008 issues.

Apex is for competition with similar publications of other like-publishers; Magnum Opus is for the work on one particular issue (October Part H: NASA). The NASA section will also be submitted to the Annual Society for Technical Communication (STC) competition in the Fall. (Eligibility runs from October 1 to Sept 30).

Andy Lin, Administrative Editor

To improve the pubs production process flow and also to reduce timelines, Electronic Processing is being integrated into the Transactions post acceptance work flow. The manuscript submission site (taes.msubmit.net) now automatically notifies me when a paper/correspondence is accepted, the post acceptance file acquisition process can begin the same day.

- Final Submission files are collected electronically
- Page proofs are handled via email, interface between authors and typesetter is handled by me.
- Further use of the taes.msubmit.net site as the drop site for production files is being considered.

Electronic processing for Transactions is being used as a “prototype” to validate and improve our production process. As it matures, we will incorporate it into our other publications.