Editorial

In several previous editorials in January issues, I reviewed the development of the *Journal of Climate* since its inception in 1988. The progress made during 1993 was especially encouraging, as 143 articles, 23 notes/correspondences, and 8 seasonal climate summaries (i.e., 174 total contributions) were published in monthly issues that cumulated to 2520 pages. This volume was 60–105 percent larger than each of its five forerunners, which contained only 1230–1580 pages. The recent tendency for monthly issues to contain approximately 15 contributions is expected to persist into 1994 and beyond, since 267 submissions were received in 1993 and the acceptance rate has remained steady at 65–68 percent for the past several years.

When Dr. Robert E. Dickinson replaced (the retiring) Dr. Peter H. Stone in January 1993 as the *J. Climate* Editor with the primary responsibility for handling papers in the areas of climate theory and modeling, I noted the growing prominence of such papers in each issue of the journal. This gratifying trend accelerated during 1993, to the extent that it became necessary to appoint an additional editor to help process the increasing number of climate theory and modeling submissions. I am therefore pleased to (slightly retroactively) announce that, effective November 1, 1993, and following AMS Council approval, Dr. David A. Randall assumed this important position. He is well qualified for this assignment. Dr. Randall is presently a Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, where he has been a faculty member since 1988. He was previously on the meteorology faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1976–79) and then a Research Meteorologist in the Global Modeling and Simulation Branch of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (1979–88), prior to which he obtained a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of California at Los Angeles (1976). Dr. Randall is the 1994 recipient of the Meisinger Award of the American Meteorological Society. His contributions to the atmospheric sciences were previously recognized through several NASA Goddard awards during 1982–87, a NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement (1988), a NASA Group Achievement Award (1992), and a 1992 Editors’ Citation Award for Excellence in Refereeing from the American Geophysical Union. He served as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* from 1988–90. Dr. Randall’s internationally recognized research in the areas of global climate modeling, cloud-climate studies, and cloud parameterization was reported in more than 20 peer-reviewed journal articles during 1989–93.

Dr. Robert E. Livezey completed a four-year term as Editor of *J. Climate* with the December 1993 issue, during which time he contributed strongly to the development and shaping of the journal. He was responsible for the review of close to 270 submissions (55–75 per year) in an extremely wide range of subject areas, including the diagnostics of climate dynamics, statistical techniques, climate modeling, applied climatology, and climate impact assessment. More than 40 of these manuscripts are still “active” and will require Dr. Livezey’s attention through mid-1994. It is now widely recognized that Dr. Livezey performed his diverse editorial duties in a manner that was versatile yet authoritative, and rigorous but fair. As a result, many manuscripts were significantly enhanced by his input, and the scientific reputation of *J. Climate* was preserved and elevated by his overall scrutiny. On behalf of the national and international climate research community, I would like to thank Robert Livezey for his excellent stewardship as Editor of *J. Climate*.

Since it is crucial that the strong editorial contributions that have so helped the early development of *J. Climate* be built upon, the selection of a new editor to replace Dr. Livezey (who had succeeded Dr. Richard D. Rosen) was therefore a matter of considerable importance. I am accordingly pleased to announce that, effective with this issue and following AMS Council approval, Dr. David S. Gutzler assumes the position of Editor of *J. Climate* in which he will handle papers dealing with the diagnostics of climate dynamics, climate prediction, and statistical techniques. His background for this role is excellent. Dr. Gutzler has been a Research Physicist in the NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory (Boulder, CO) since 1992. He was previously affiliated with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (1980–82) and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado (1985–86), before spending a particularly productive period (1986–92)
as Staff Scientist and Senior Staff Scientist at Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc. (Cambridge, MA). Dr. Gutzler received his graduate education at the University of Washington (M.S., Atmospheric Sciences, 1980) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Ph.D., Meteorology, 1986). He was the recipient of an Outstanding Performance Award from the NASA Goddard Global Modeling and Simulation Branch in 1981 and an Editor’s Award from the American Meteorological Society in 1993, and has been an Associate Editor of this journal since 1989. Dr. Gutzler’s highly respected research into low-frequency atmospheric variability, large-scale ocean–atmosphere interaction, and climate change has been published in 15 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Two additional recent or imminent developments concerning *J. Climate* are worthy of mention. The first involved the reappearance during 1993, after a two and a half year hiatus, of seasonal summaries of the global climate authored by scientists in the Diagnostics Branch of the Climate Analysis Center (CAC) of NOAA. While this publication gap delayed the appearance of a number of seasonal summaries and involved one of them (June–August 1990) being markedly out of order, it did not lead to the omission of any summary. As promised in my January 1992 editorial, these seasonal summaries are now less “boiler plate” and more archival-oriented than previously and feature, where appropriate, more in-depth analyses of particularly distinctive climate system behavior. However, all summaries include a common minimum set of display items, some of which sustain sequences inherited from the long tradition of more U.S.-oriented monthly “Weather and Circulation” articles in *Monthly Weather Review*. Associated with this broadening of scope is the opportunity for scientists from outside of CAC to coauthor the seasonal summaries, especially when their expertise can strengthen the analysis of the distinctive climate system behavior for a particular season. This opportunity has already been exploited in two instances; one of those summaries appeared recently and the other will be published in mid-1994. Scientists interested in contributing to a summary should contact Chester F. Ropelewski at CAC. Unlike their predecessors, the eight seasonal summaries published during 1993 were subject to formal peer-review, which necessitated revisions that ranged from minor to quite major. This practice is continuing. These changes are intended to strengthen the seasonal summaries because of their inherently archival nature and their potential to be valuable reference sources during the coming decades. This development will be further consolidated with the imminent and most welcome involvement of CAC’s Prediction Branch in the authorship of the summaries.

The second of the aforementioned developments will involve a “refreshing” of the Associate Editor roster in early 1994. Many of the present associate editors have now served for 5–6 years, and have always provided critical assistance to the editors when called upon. At the same time, a number of other scientists have increasingly distinguished themselves as particularly effective reviewers, which suggests they could also make valuable contributions as associate editors. We therefore seem to have reached an opportune juncture at which to make some changes to *J. Climate*’s list of associate editors. The new associate editors will be selected from nominations made by the present and recent editors. The main responsibility of all associate editors will remain unchanged—to provide the editors with guidance concerning reviewer selection, the resolution of reviewer conflicts, and manuscripts that are otherwise controversial. As before, the refereeing responsibilities will not be excessively concentrated with the associate editors. Those responsibilities will continue to be distributed as widely as possible.

Last, but certainly not least, James Coakley, Robert Dickinson, Robert Livezey, and I wish to thank the associate editors and reviewers for their invaluable assistance during 1993. Their reports were overwhelmingly constructive and resulted in the improvement of many manuscripts. We continue to be impressed by the effectiveness and integrity of the peer-review process. Along with Drs. Coakley and Dickinson, I look forward to receiving the assistance of David Gutzler and David Randall in the further development of *J. Climate*.

*Peter J. Lamb*

Chief Editor