EDITORIAL

Being associated with the development of the Journal of Climate during the past six years has been gratifying in three strongly interrelated senses. First, the manuscript submission rate has grown dramatically, from less than 190 in 1989 to a projected 310–320 for this year. Second, in response to this growth, the Publications Commissioner, Executive Director, and Council of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) have always been ready and most willing to increase the number of J. Climate editors, which has expanded from two in 1988–89 to six effective with this issue. Third, almost all of the scientists who have been approached about assuming those editorial positions have readily accepted. In the latter regard, I am pleased to announce that, effective with this issue, Edward S. Epstein and Eugene A. Rasmusson are the two latest additions to the J. Climate editorial team. Both are eminently qualified for these assignments.

Edward Epstein will henceforth assume the primary responsibility for the handling of manuscripts that deal with statistical techniques, climate prediction, and climate impact assessment and applied climatology. He has extensive experience in all of these areas. Dr. Epstein recently retired from the position of Principal Scientist in the Climate Analysis Center of the National Weather Service, which he had held since 1984. During the previous eleven years, he served in a succession of positions of considerable responsibility within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—Associate Administrator for Environmental Monitoring and Prediction, 1973–77; Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, 1975–77; Director, U.S. National Climate Program, 1978–81; Chief, Climate and Earth Sciences Laboratory, National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS), 1981–83; and Acting Director, Office of Research and Applications, NESDIS, 1982–83. While serving as the first Director of the National Climate Program Office, Dr. Epstein was the principal author of the first Five-Year Plan for the National Climate Program. Prior to joining the government, he was a faculty member in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences of the University of Michigan from 1959–73, and chaired that department during 1971–73. Dr. Epstein holds a Ph.D. in Meteorology from The Pennsylvania State University. He was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (1971) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, (1978) and in 1993 received an Outstanding Achievement Award for the application of statistical methods in the atmospheric sciences from the Steering Committee of the Fifth International Meeting on Statistical Climatology. Dr. Epstein has also had prior experience in the editorial arena, as an associate editor of the Journal of Geophysical Research (1964–67) and Editor of the Journal of Applied Meteorology (1971–73). His internationally recognized research into atmospheric ozone, probability forecasting, verification, stochastic–dynamic prediction, Bayesian decision analysis, teleconnections, climate change detection, climate impact assessment, and forecast value is reported in an AMS Monograph, a NOAA Monograph, and more than 30 peer reviewed scientific publications.

Eugene Rasmusson’s main area of editorial responsibility will be to handle papers dealing with the diagnosticks of climate dynamics, particularly for the Pacific–Indian Ocean domain and its El Niño–Southern Oscillation phenomenon. He will also likely oversee the review of some of the climate modeling papers that deal with these topics. Dr. Rasmusson’s background for this role is excellent. Since retiring from NOAA in 1986, he has been a senior research scientist in the Cooperative Institute for Climate Studies at the University of Maryland. During the previous 30 years, Dr. Rasmusson held positions of increasing responsibility within NOAA. After beginning as a river (1956–60) and state weather (1960–64) forecaster, he moved into research and research leadership positions at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (1964–70), the BOMAP Project Office (1970–72, Chief Scientist), the Center for Experiment Design and Data Analysis (1972–79, Chief, Research Division), and the Climate Analysis Center (1979–86, Chief, Diagnostics Branch). While in the last two of these positions, Dr. Rasmusson “made major contributions to climate diagnostics, especially of the relationship of the Southern Oscillation to climate anomalies.” These words form part of the citation for the 1989 Jule G. Charney Award that Dr. Rasmusson received from
the American Meteorological Society in recognition of those contributions. Dr. Rasmussen holds a Ph.D. in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was the recipient of a Department of Commerce Silver Medal (1973) and a NOAA Administrator’s Award (1983), was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society in 1983, and was the 1994 Victor Starr Memorial Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Rasmussen’s internationally recognized research into the atmospheric general circulation, sea-air interaction, climate variability, and the global hydrological cycle has been published in a NOAA monograph, more than 20 journal articles, and 12 book chapters.

One of the two above editorial positions was recently created by the AMS in response to the increased submission rate mentioned above. The other appointment is a replacement for Dr. David S. Gutzler, who unfortunately had to resign his editorship because of the pressure of other commitments. During the past year, Dr. Gutzler handled more than 60 manuscripts in a most diligent and fair manner. On behalf of the national and international climate communities, I would like to thank him for that important contribution.

We look forward to receiving the benefit of the long experience of Edward Epstein and Eugene Rasmusson in the further development of the Journal of Climate.

Peter J. Lamb
Chief Editor