

EDITORIAL

Foreword to the Gal-Chen Memorial Issue

As most readers of the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* know, Dr. Tzvi Gal-Chen was its co-chief editor for about two years before his sudden passing in October 1994. He was also an influential and stimulating atmospheric scientist and a warm and much-loved human being. As his close friend and colleague, I accepted the task of standing in for him at the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* for a year and also of collecting and editing papers for a special issue of the journal to be published in the month of his birth.

Tzvi aspired to be a multidisciplinary scientist, with interests and activities in large-scale, mesoscale, boundary layer, and climate dynamics, and with a strong emphasis on remote sensing analysis techniques. As most working scientists know, "multidisciplinary" is a favorite word and expectation of administrators and journalists, but it is often regarded with suspicion in the academic community. Tzvi's earthy way of saying it was, "A multidisciplinary scientist had better be an expert in at least two disciplines, or else he is a charlatan."

I am not a great fan of special issues of an archival journal like the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*. Sometimes the papers are premature, excessively delayed, warmed over, or accepted largely on the basis of their presentation at a conference. I agreed to edit this one on the understanding that papers, though solicited to some extent, would be fully acceptable to the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* under any conditions and that their subject area would be as broad as Tzvi's interests. The result is a nice mix. It includes one paper coauthored by Tzvi as the advisor of a doctoral student; two other papers authored at the University of Oklahoma; another by a close former associate using Tzvi's work as part of the foundation; three papers on geophysical fluids, including a major work in planetary science, an area with which Tzvi was associated in his earlier appointment at NASA; a paper on data assimilation; a paper on TOGA COARE, which was the last observation project in which Tzvi participated; and a boundary layer paper. I feel that all these are contributions that Tzvi would have liked to read. I must admit that in some cases the reviews and authors' revisions were slightly accelerated to meet the publication deadline. I hope and believe, however, that this issue will be found worthy of the high standards of the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* and stand as a small, but fitting, memorial to Tzvi.

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