

## A Message from the Retiring Editor

P. L. KELLEY

It is a great pleasure to welcome Peter Smith as the new Editor of *Optics Letters*. Peter's distinguished research career in optics and photonics will serve him well as Editor.

There is some sadness in my departure. I will miss the opportunities for contact with workers in all the diverse areas of optical science and engineering. Further, I will miss the pleasant surprise of seeing the interaction between author and reviewer result almost invariably in the improved quality and clarity of published articles. The goodwill and dedication of both reviewers and authors has facilitated my work as Editor and contributed to the success of *Optics Letters*.

The anticipated changes in editorial procedure and manuscript management have occurred. The Topical Editors now handle the choice of reviewers and decisions on publication. The manuscript management office has been transferred to Washington, where the manpower resources and personnel continuity provided at the Society Headquarters should improve publication speed and economy of operation.

Finally, let me express my personal appreciation to Robert W. Terhune. As Founding Editor, Bob created a vital medium of communication for workers in our field. We are all in his debt.

## A Message from the New Editor

PETER W. E. SMITH

Owing to the dedication and wise management of first Bob Terhune and later Paul Kelley, *Optics Letters* has grown in just over 10 years from an infant journal with 400 pages published in the first year to a mature publication of roughly 1400 pages per year. The number of published pages continues to rise at a rate of more than 10% per year. The reputation of *Optics Letters* has also continued to grow to the point where it is now the premier journal for rapid publication of exciting new results in optics.

What of the future? We have recently implemented a major change in the operation of the journal with the appointment of seven Topical Editors to take over the major editorial duties of handling the manuscripts. A further change took place on November 1 when the editorial office moved to OSA Headquarters. There will not be any immediate changes in the editorial policy of the journal, but we are looking at some future changes to reduce the average time from manuscript submission to publication and to institute a Comments section.

With the excellent vehicle created and developed by Bob and Paul, the hard work of the Topical Editors, the advice of the Associate Editors, the assistance of the dedicated staff in the OSA manuscript office, and *your* help in submitting and reviewing high-quality manuscripts, we can keep *Optics Letters* on the present road of providing timely information on research progress to the optics community.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.