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From the Editor

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From the Editor...

Better late than never! This issue will be reaching you later than I intended—but it will still be delivered while it is officially spring! Even journal editors have “regular” jobs, and mine has certainly demanded my attention this semester. I hope that, after reading all of the articles in this issue, you will feel that the wait was worth it.

This issue is certainly diverse in content. The topics include carrier rate management, rating carriers, fleet asset management, a new technological tool of the classroom, and saving the Air Force money in a reserve supply chain application. I am very pleased with the variety of topics represented and with the quality of the content. If you like what you find in this issue, please contact me. While I sometimes wish that I could pass it, the “buck” stops on my desk. I welcome your comments and suggestions on this and every issue of *Journal of Transportation Management*.

In the first article, Douglas Smith, James Campbell, and Ray Mundy tackle the complex issue of carrier rate management. They provide a statistical approach to the analysis of rates and customer-specific rate structures that yields both benchmarks for rates and revenues and information for managing “rate relations” with customers. In article two, Brian Gibson and your humble editor [who played a secondary role in bringing this piece to print] use case research to investigate variations in the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of carrier scorecarding programs. Transportation buyers should benefit from the step-by-step model of the scorecarding program development process that is outlined.

Joe Hanna, Drew Stapleton, and Brian Zoll take a look at the considerable problems of equipment management by asset-based carriers in the third article. They present data from three large motor carriers and demonstrate the use of life cycle management and variations in work configuration in achieving better control of equipment maintenance costs. In the fourth article, Steve Rutner [my senior associate editor] describes a new branded technology product that can be used to increase student interaction and participation in the classroom. He tests the effectiveness of the “H-ITT” system with preliminary data obtained from five logistics classes. Finally, Bill Cunningham, Stephen Swartz, and Harold Kahler describe a reverse supply chain employed by the Air Force for reparable assets. They analyze transportation costs and mode selection decisions and recommend alterations to the current system based upon depot-level repair capacity.

Thanks to all of you who had a hand in producing this issue. The authors, obviously, deserve most of the credit. A good portion of the remaining credit goes to members of the *JTM* editorial review board. We would not have a journal without you. Finally, I have failed to credit an extremely valuable asset in recent issues. Carol Waller, of our College of Business Administration Office of Publications & Faculty Research Services, prepares every manuscript for printing. She works wonders in formatting articles and manages to read my scribbled editorial changes—and catches most of my errors. Thanks so much for all that you do, Carol!

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Jerry W. Wilson, Editor

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