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From the Editor

Jerry W. Wilson

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From the Editor...

I am happy to say that the state of the U. S. economy is far better at this writing than the last. The resilience of industry and the American people is evidenced by the continuing economic recovery. While we continue to recover from the aftermath of terrorism, we must remain vigilant and further strengthen transportation security. Our industry is the link that unites commerce and culture around the world.

You will no doubt have noticed the date on this issue of the *Journal*. The Board of Directors of Delta Nu Alpha voted to skip one publication year, in order to "catch up" with the issue date. This issue then, Volume 13, Number 1, Spring, 2002, will reach you in either late spring or early summer. Authors of the articles appearing in this issue will be very pleased with this decision. They will no longer have to explain to their colleagues why their work, published in the current year, carries last year's date. As I have explained to our readers previously, the lag in publication has been due to an insufficient volume of quality submissions—not to slow reviewers! I am confident that this decision to skip publication dates in 2001 is the right one and that it will not be necessary again.

As a subscriber, you may be wondering whether or not you are due a refund of part or all of your subscription. I have been editor of the *JTM* for the past six years, and have published two issues each year, as will be the case in 2002. Since each subscriber will continue to receive two issues per year, each will receive exactly what they have paid for!

The subject matter of this issue is robust, ranging from trucking profitability to transportation policy issues. There should be something here for every reader, regardless of his or her position in industry. The lead article in this issue, by Hokey Min, describes an in-depth case study measuring the impact of lumper costs, empty miles, and shipment size on motor carrier profitability. The second article, by Ted Farris and Phil Wilson, examines attrition in the on-line grocery industry. They focus on logistics principles that play a large part in determining success or failure in this area of e-commerce. Shashi Kumar and Vijay Rajan follow the path of imports from Pacific-Rim nations to New England in the third article of this issue. They use Analytical Hierarchy Process methodology to develop a framework for shippers to use in evaluating intermodal transportation options. Drew Stapleton and a group of graduate students at the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse take a look at the current state of high-speed rail development in the U.S. in the fourth article of this issue. They report on the feasibility of creating high-speed rail options for passengers and freight in several urban market areas. In the final article of this issue, Steve Rutner and Brian Gibson review the literature and research in the area of Transportation Management Systems (TMS). They also identify several relationships between TMS and other types of information systems in use in logistics and transportation firms. They conclude by identifying numerous future research opportunities in the area. As always, I hope you take the time to read each of the articles in this issue.

In closing, remember that we cannot survive and continue to publish without reader support. Please join or renew your membership in Delta Nu Alpha International Transportation Fraternity and subscribe to the *Journal of Transportation Management*. Remember that, if you join DNA at the Gold level, a subscription to the *JTM* is included in your membership! Share this issue with a colleague and encourage him/her to subscribe today!

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