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## From the Editor

Jerry W. Wilson

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## From the Editor...

Welcome to the Spring 2000 issue of the *Journal of Transportation Management*. No, the date is not incorrect. Since becoming editor, I have managed to publish two issues per year—without skipping an issue. However, I have been unable to close the gap between the issue date and the date of printing/ mailing. The problem stems primarily from the small number of quality articles submitted for review. This issue is difficult for an editor to address in the short run. With your help, I can close the time gap. Please encourage your colleagues to submit quality articles to me for publication consideration. A substantial increase in the number of articles submitted would quickly allow me to close this time gap. Remember, the *Journal* is published as a service to the industry and not for-profit. I have no promotion budget!

You may have noticed the changes in staff for this issue. Brian Gibson [Auburn University], my original associate editor, has decided to relinquish the position and become a member of the Editorial Review Board. He will be replacing Jim Adams, who retired from Auburn after serving on the Board for many years. Jim was a valuable asset and will be missed. I'm sure Brian will continue to be a valuable asset for the *JTM*. Steve Rutner has assumed the duties of Senior Associate Editor and will play a significant role in shaping future policy. Finally, our two newest additions to the Logistics faculty here at Georgia Southern, Karl Manrodt and Hong Min, have agreed to join the team as Associate Editors. I welcome their expertise and enthusiasm.

As always, I am indebted to the authors for their patience, quality of research and writing, and for thinking of the *JTM* as an outlet for their work. I offer my sincere gratitude to the members of the Editorial Review Board who contributed to the success of this and every issue. Remember that the reviewers are volunteers—they agree to give their time and expertise and ask for nothing in return. I could not do my job without them.

The lead article in this issue, by Robert Cook and Brian Gibson, reports the results of a study they conducted on management development and retention strategies among third-party logistics firms. They suggest that efforts to improve human resource programs, particularly for junior managers, should focus on improving orientation programs, mentoring, job enrichment, formal career planning, the relocation process, educational support, and training and compensation. The second article, by Joe Hanna and William Compton, is also empirically-based and examines the state of logistics education in the United States. The second phase of the research utilizes the Delphi technique, through the Internet, to determine the future direction of logistics education. Kathleen Gruben, Cathy Owens Swift, and Trey Denton discuss their efforts in assessing the availability of previously written and written-to-order term papers in the area of logistics and transportation in the third article. They also suggest some innovative strategies that can be used by logistics faculty to curb the use of such services by their students. Stephen Parker, John Kent, and Karl Manrodt take a close look at mobile communication systems in the trucking industry in the fourth article of this issue. An interesting result of their

survey of over 500 trucking firms is that only 68 percent of the respondents report having a mobile communication system in their company. In the final article of this issue, Kathryn Dobie, Milt Glisson, and Jim Grant explore a seldom-mentioned aspect of international logistics operations—the impact of terrorism. They also offer suggestions on identifying supply chain linkages that are most vulnerable to terrorist activity and how to strengthen these linkages. I hope that you take the time to read each of the articles in this issue. I think you will be glad that you did.

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*. Share this issue with a colleague and encourage him/her to subscribe today!

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