



## Five Years of Interface

This special issue celebrates the first five years of *Interface*. The first issue of *Interface* was launched the Winter of 1992 with a photograph of the just-named Nobel laureate, Rudy Marcus, on the cover. In each of the following issues, one of the Society's Divisions or Groups has been highlighted by presenting the state of the technology of that Division's or Group's field as well as feature articles on that subject area. The highlight of my tenure as Editor was the publication of another special issue of *Interface* which

commemorated the 50th anniversary of the invention of the transistor and by which I had the opportunity to meet and interview Gordon Moore (with Bruce Deal). The articles in this present issue are contributions from some of the Divisions on a variety of topics as they reflect over the last five years of events in their Division and the ECS.

My own reflection of the past five years of *Interface*, and particularly the last few years as Editor, brings to mind several items. First is the mission of *Interface*. The mission statement says *Interface* is (1) to provide a forum for the lively exchange of ideas and news among The Electrochemical Society members and the international scientific community at large, (2) to stimulate awareness of ECS as a leader on the technology frontiers, through presentation of broad-based technical features and highlights from the field, and (3) to communicate ECS news, information and activities to its members and the scientific community. Hopefully, *Interface* has lived up to these goals and will continue to do so.

But what is in the future for *Interface*? There are plenty of ideas of ways to expand *Interface*, with columns such as product and book announcements or even reviews, educational articles, and current public science and technology debates. Presently, there is a fairly stringent page budget for *Interface* (72 pages). Can *Interface* afford to expand on paper or will it become electronic in part or maybe eventually completely?

Writing topical scientific articles is challenging, particularly for those of us who only write highly technical manuscripts. One of my first undertakings was to develop guidelines for authors. The main guidance is that articles submitted to *Interface* must be written for a diversified scientific audience, with a broad introduction and a wide scope, and enough depth that experts in the field will find the article interesting. This is not easy. However, I have noticed a continual improvement in writing of these topical articles for *Interface*, which not only makes my job easier, but improves the quality of the magazine.

I did not accept the job as Editor of *Interface* because I was experienced in editorship or magazine publishing. In fact, it was quite the contrary. I came to this job with not much more than my enthusiasm for science writing and dedication to the ECS. The learning curve was quite steep for me for the means by which this magazine is published, especially since there were articles handed to me to edit and a deadline to meet immediately for my first issue. Luckily, with the help of the Headquarters staff, especially Paul Cooper at first and then, Mary Yess, as part of the design team and soon afterwards as *Interface*'s Managing Editor, the magazine was published as I learned my new job. I am often asked why I enjoy being Editor of *Interface*. My usual answer is that it would take years of intense psychotherapy to figure it out! Perhaps what it comes down to is simply the satisfaction of completion when I hold a new issue in my hand.

Jan B. Talbot  
Editor

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