

## EDITORIAL

As *Weather and Forecasting* begins its 25th year, we would like to take this opportunity to announce that a fourth editor, Phil Schumacher, has been added to its editorial team. Mr. Schumacher is currently the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and he previously served as an Associate Editor for *Weather and Forecasting*. Mr. Schumacher will be in charge of overseeing manuscripts submitted that are most closely linked to operational meteorology. As a result, *Weather and Forecasting* will continue to provide a forum for operational meteorologists and researchers to share findings that can directly and quickly result in improvements in operational forecasting from nowcasts through seasonal time scales.

Special types of submissions such as NCEP Notes (see March 1989 editorial) and Forecaster's Forum (see March 1988 editorial), unique to *Weather and Forecasting*, were established to encourage participation of members of the operational community. Since that time, collaborations between forecasters and researchers have been facilitated by programs like the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) and the Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research Program (CSTAR). We encourage operational forecasters and collaborating researchers to submit both standard articles and smaller works to these sections of *Weather and Forecasting*. As stated in the terms of reference for our journal, NCEP Notes report on changes to the suite of operational numerical models and postprocessing techniques, while the Forecaster's Forum is available for readers who wish to express opinions about forecasting problems and experiences that are of general interest to forecasters. The American Meteorological Society now has an expedited production process for shorter articles that may be designated as "expedited contributions" (see August 2009 editorial in all AMS journals for details). This could be especially helpful for allowing new forecasting tools and research discoveries to quickly impact operational meteorology.

There are many exciting changes that are now happening within operational meteorology, which should generate questions and elicit strong opinions from our readers. This will have a large impact on operational meteorologists, and our journal provides the opportunity for those in the operational community to discuss how these changes can be adapted to and best used. For example, regional models will soon be running operationally at less than 5-km grid spacing over the contiguous United States. There are many forecasting questions regarding how we can best use these high-resolution models in operations as well as what impact such high-resolution data will have on quantitative precipitation forecasting (QPF), severe storm forecasting, urban meteorology, and various orographic flows. Operational ensembles also need to be improved and verified, which will help forecasters better integrate uncertainty information into the forecast. What is the best way to examine ensemble data, and how do forecasters merge the current deterministic means of creating forecasts into a more probabilistic framework that provides information to users with a variety of backgrounds and needs. Meanwhile, rapid advances in data assimilation using our growing observational network will further improve forecasts, provide mesoscale analyses, and help diversify operational ensembles. New verification and diagnostic tools and approaches are also becoming available, which will allow forecasters to better understand model performance for specific weather phenomena rather than just the basic-state variables. Finally, the operational and research communities now have a common numerical model (i.e., the Weather Research and Forecasting model) that will continue to serve as a useful tool to help bridge the gap between research and operations.

*Weather and Forecasting* has had many successes in its 24-year history, and the number of published papers in 2009 was the most yet. The operational community will play a strong role in the future success of this journal; thus, we look forward to submissions from this community as well as the research community. We are also open to new ideas and approaches to improve this journal, and welcome any feedback.

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