

INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE

PERSPECTIVES MAGAZINE

The International Society of Information Fusion (ISIF) was founded to provide an active forum for the free and open discussion of ideas, applications, and methods for researchers and practitioners working in the new field of information fusion. The community is diverse by its very nature—it requires exploiting techniques that often span multiple technical disciplines and specialties. The ISIF community is also inherently international because the need for information fusion is felt, and felt deeply, in many countries across the globe. It is still a very young field and it is evolving quickly in both methods and scope of applications.

The ISIF community publishes JAIF, the *Journal of Advances in Information Fusion*. It is an established forum for the presentation of high-quality peer-reviewed archival scientific research papers. The community's needs are larger than this however. It has long been recognized that a new and more relaxed forum is needed, a forum in which members can discuss and share thoughts on many things that are important to the life of the community but fall outside the realm of peer-reviewed research. The new *ISIF Perspectives Magazine* is this forum.

The premier issue of *Perspectives* is in your hands. Welcome! It has two feature articles, one devoted to the truly noble cause of saving the rhinoceros in the wild and the other devoted to higher level fusion. We hope to have one or two such feature articles in every issue. In this issue we also have a book review. We plan to include a book review in every issue, with an emphasis on younger authors writing on focused topics and on books that are unlikely to be reviewed elsewhere. We will also include reports on ISIF activities. In this issue you will

find reports on ISIF sponsored events, awards programs, and last year's Fusion Conference in Washington, DC. Future issues will welcome reports on student highlights and upcoming events. The history of the creation of ISIF almost 20 years ago is recounted here by one of its Founders. Much of this story was news to me. Selected obituaries will also be printed from those that are uploaded to the website at <http://isif.org/member-obituaries>. In every issue of *Perspectives* we endeavor to have something of interest to everyone working in information fusion. That is a lofty goal, one that we will always strive toward and hope to achieve.

Pulling together the first issue of a new publication is a demanding and time-consuming task. It happened only because many people, working separately and cooperatively, moved steadily toward a common goal. First and foremost I thank the authors and contributors themselves—without them there would be nothing to print. Every article no matter how small is reviewed (at an appropriate level) to ensure quality of content. For this, I thank the Associate Editors and anonymous reviewers who have contributed much time and effort to the task. I thank the ISIF Board for moving forward with the decision to add *Perspectives* as a forum for discourse. Finally, I thank the members of the ISIF community for their sustained commitment to the international cooperation needed for continued growth and development of the field of information fusion.



Roy Streit
Editor-in-Chief