

## *Editor's Note*

This issue marks two and a half years that I have served you, first as Managing Editor, and then as Technical Editor of the *IJFE*. These have been both trying and exciting times. My tenure as Editor began under a cloud of uncertainty about the future of the *IJFE*. While the Forest Engineering research community, from whom most of the papers published in this journal come, is small, the professional workforce, including engineers, planners, operations managers, and “on the ground” workers is second only to the forest industry manufacturing workforce in size. It is from this perspective that the true importance of the *IJFE* and its survival is derived. Survival of the *IJFE* now appears certain – since the Forest Products Society became the publisher, subscriptions have nearly tripled, with hopes for even larger readership in the future. While all I can take credit for is advancing the proposal that the Forest Products Society publish the *IJFE*, I am very proud and pleased that this growth has occurred during my tenure as Editor.

Changes to the *IJFE* during the past two and half years have been very modest, hence I believe that the *IJFE* still serves the profession in the manner that Jeremy Rickards, the Founding Editor, intended. My intent when I assumed the role of Editor was to find a new and secure home for the *IJFE*; it was not my plan to become a permanent fixture. I have done my job, and it is now time to move on and hand the Technical Editor responsibilities to someone else. I am pleased to announce with this issue that Associate Professor Cornelis F. “Niels” de Hoop of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center will take over as Technical Editor as of January 2008.

Niels comes to the editorship with optimal credentials. He has a BS in Forestry from the University of Kentucky, an MBA from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas, and a PhD in Forest Science (wood products) from Texas A&M. Prior to obtaining his PhD, he worked for 12 years in the forest products industry, in logging supervision, timber procurement, log yard management, and sawmills and plywood, in Canada and the United States. He also has two years of experience in government forestry at the state and federal levels. At LSU, Niels teaches courses in timber harvesting, timber procurement, GIS, and alternative energy. His research activities have included expert systems for diagnosis of problems with veneer lathes, assessment of cut-to-length harvesting, stormwater runoff from log yards, wood supply for chip mills, wood residue supply and demand, accidents in the forest products industry, and biomass energy. Niels has been a member of the Forest Products Society since 1990 and has

been Secretary of the Timber Production & Harvesting Technical Interest Group since 2001. He is a member of both the Council on Forest Engineering and the Society of American Foresters.

*Parting Comment*

As I hand off the editing responsibilities, two things stand out above all else during the past two and a half years. First, the friendship and support of Carol Lewis, the Executive Vice President of the Forest Products Society, made the move to the Forest Products Society possible. And second, I could not have done what I did as Editor were it not for the Editorial Board and the wonderful community of colleagues that have served as reviewers and guest associate editors for the *IJFE*. I am in your debt just as the profession is in your debt. Thank you all.

Regards,  
Marvin R. Pyles, PE, PhD  
Retiring Technical Editor