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Editorial

The *International Journal of Solids and Structures* was founded by George Herrmann in 1965. During the next 20 years he guided the journal to becoming a major archive of original work in the field of mechanics of solids and structures. Charles R. Steele succeeded Herrmann as editor in chief in 1985 and served in that capacity until June 2005. During his 20-year tenure the journal grew both in size and in reputation, becoming one of the premier journals in the field. We have accepted an invitation to serve as editors of the journal as of October 1, 2005, being cognizant of the immense contributions, leadership, and high standards exercised by our two predecessors on the way to making *IJSS* the forum it is today.

The scope of the journal will remain essentially the same: to provide an international forum for communicating original work on all aspects of the mechanics of solids and structures and their interaction with other media. This encompasses all scales, macro, micro, and nano, and all solid materials, inorganic and organic. We intend to publish papers that are of the very highest scientific standards. Our international editorial board should help us keep the standards of the journal at the highest level. We also look to our readership, who are, after all, also the setters of standards of the journal as critical readers and potential reviewers, to help us achieve these ambitions.

A significant change is that the processing of papers is now electronic (see: <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijss>) from initial submission through the review process and to production. Once we are past a short transitional period we expect that the electronic system will result in significant reduction in the submission to publication time. Finally, we are pleased to announce that, from October 2005, all articles published in *IJSS* will be made freely available 24 months after publication via ScienceDirect (<http://sciencedirect.com>). This trial, in which non-subscribers to ScienceDirect will also have free online access to these articles 24 months after publication, will be for an initial period of three years.

We look forward to your participation as authors, reviewers or readers.

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