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Letter from the Editors

On January 1, 1996, the editorial leadership of the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* changed hands and expanded from one to two Technical Editors to handle the increased workload. Howard J. Pincus stepped down as Technical Editor at the end of his three-year term to devote more time to his consulting, family, and personal interests. During his term, the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* continued to prosper, expand in size, and improve in quality. While the number of subscriptions has declined slightly because of the economy, the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* has fared better than many journals that were significantly affected when library subscriptions were canceled. The future of the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* looks promising, and subscriptions are expected to increase as the U.S. economy and the world economy improve.

As new editors, our goal is to continue the trend of our predecessors, such as reducing the time required for peer review, improving the quality of peer review and thus the *Journal*, and continuing with items such as discussions, book and software reviews, and questionnaires. These items will be improved by implementing a number of new initiatives.

In this Electronic Age, we hope to use computers and e-mail to improve communication and to hasten the peer review of manuscripts. A database of manuscripts, authors, and reviewers has been started in the past few months using the Excel spreadsheet. This will allow the Technical Editors and ASTM staff to communicate by e-mail and to track the progress of manuscripts from receipt to publication.

The distinguished Editorial Board will continue to provide the

Journal with an international presence and will possibly expand in number. The role of the Board will also be expanded to include further participation in the editorial process by assisting with manuscript review. It is hoped that this new process will distribute the burden due to the increasing flow of manuscripts and the diversity of topics. At present, there are approximately 100 manuscripts/year submitted to the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* for peer review. Our plan is to actively involve Editorial Board members in the review process and thus expand the level of expertise with a limit of three manuscripts/year/board member.

We hope to continue the goal initiated by Howard Pincus to include at least one review of a recently published book or software. To facilitate this goal, we hope to enlist an Associate Editor for Book and Software Review to help examine new contributions. These reviews plus discussions and questionnaires constitute an important part of the *Journal*.

In closing, we are pleased to have this opportunity to serve the geotechnical community and the members of ASTM Committee D-18. We are also grateful to the Executive Committee of D-18 for selecting us to lead the *Journal* for the next few years. In closing, we would like to thank Professor Pincus for the support, supplemental materials, and guidance that he has provided during this transition period, which will hopefully ease the transition process.

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Technical Editors