

WOOD AND FIBER SCIENCE

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME 41

JANUARY 2009

NUMBER 1

THE 2008 SWST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Dear Friends of SWST,

This is an exciting time for the *Society of Wood Science and Technology*. In November, we had a very successful 51st Annual Convention in cooperation with the Universidad del Bío Bío in Concepcion, Chile. This was our first venture beyond the shores of North America and the excitement felt by the over 115 members and guests resulted in a successful and rewarding convention. Another reason for the success of the Convention were the many contributions (whether it was a poster, oral presentation, or simply from member attendance). Each paper and poster was published as an electronic proceedings and is now available on the SWST web page (www.swst.org).

As a result of this convention, we have now taken that first step to become the premier international professional society in wood science and technology. SWST has long served as the premier professional society for wood scientists, technologists, and engineers across the United

States and Canada. Our new goal over the next few years is to expand those services to our international compatriots in wood science while continuing to provide exceptional service and benefits to our North American members.

After the success of the convention in Chile, we even more convincingly foresee a great future for SWST and for advancing the boundaries of wood science and technology. We invite you to continue your journey with us and hope to see you in Boise, ID, in 2009 and in 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland, with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Timber Committee (UNECE/TC).

We are confident in our future and our future journeys, in large part because of your hard work in making this first major step into the international arena such a success for SWST.

Thank you!

Jerrold Winandy

President, SWST