Welcome to FIE in San Diego!

San Diego is not only sun, sand and surf, but it is also high tech, Pacific Rim and lies on an international border. It is for these reasons that the theme, “Borders: International, Social and Cultural” was chosen for this conference. Internationally recognized as a world capital for wireless communication, biotechnology, unmanned aerospace vehicles (UAV’s), software, hardware, etc., San Diego is not only all about high-tech, but it is all about higher education. With its three outstanding universities, San Diego State University (SDSU), the University of San Diego (USD), and University of California at San Diego (UCSD), high-tech and higher education come together in a unique fashion. Cutting edge industries do not exist without a world-class workforce and a world-class workforce results from exciting, creative engineering and computer science programs that focus on effective teaching, pedagogies that insure each graduate can function immediately in fast-paced and technologically advanced industries. There is no better location to focus on innovative, high-tech education than San Diego. On behalf of the faculty and staff at USD and SDSU, we welcome you to the 2006 Frontiers in Education conference.

The Frontiers in Education conferences rely almost exclusively on passionate educators who devote significant energy and volunteer their time to make each year’s conference a success. As conference co-chairs, we would like to recognize a few individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this year’s conference.

We were fortunate to have an excellent group of program co-chairs who have assembled an exciting technical program. Ann Gates, Elizabeth Eschenbach, and Melinda Piket-May did a great job of handling the papers and WIPs from the review process to placing papers in sessions and finding session chairs. We appreciate the many hours that they dedicated to this monumental task, their creativity, and their willingness to stick with it. Ron Miller did a superb job as Special Sessions Chair and went above and beyond by taking over the coordination of panels and workshops as well.

Bob Hofinger continued his tradition of doing an excellent job as Exhibits Chair. Once again, Russ Meier handled the New Faculty Fellows program splendidly. We also thank Joe Hughes for his service in his second year as Awards Chair. We particularly appreciate the efforts of outgoing FIE Steering Committee Chair Jane Prey in support of FIE06.

We thank these individuals and the many other volunteers in the engineering education community including all authors, reviewers, and session chairs, who have made this year’s conference such a resounding success.

Special thanks to Mary Heberling and her staff at University of Kansas Continuing Education. Since 2000, they have handled the conference logistics and shown immense dedication to FIE. We appreciate their tireless efforts in keeping us on track for FIE06. We simply could not have produced this conference without their professional, proficient, and cheerful assistance. We will miss our weekly conference calls with Mary!

We are grateful to Goranka Bjedov and Dan Budny for their hard work in the huge task of maintaining the website and providing support for the electronic abstract submission, paper review, and production of the final proceedings on CD.

Finally, we would like to thank our families who have patiently supported us throughout the years of planning for this event. Special thanks to Victor Chang, Marissa Rose Chang, and Kyrielle Lord!

Welcome to FIE 2006 and to San Diego! We hope you have a wonderful time, have fascinating conversations with interesting people, learn new things that you can use in your classroom, and join us again at FIE2007.

Susan M. Lord, FIE06 General Co-chair
David T. Hayhurst, FIE06 General Co-chair