

**HONORARY MEMBER OF THE FINNISH ASSOCIATION FOR STRUCTURAL  
MECHANICS PAULI JUMPPANEN 70 YEARS 13.8.2007**



How fitting that our dear friend and colleague Pauli Jumppanen should be the dedicatee of this special issue of the Journal of Structural Mechanics! With pleasure do we extol the accomplishments and virtues of this extra-ordinary individual. Those who know Pauli Jumppanen can attest that we do not exaggerate.

Yet, Pauli bears with humility the bountiful gifts of mind that have marked him as a creative thinker and talented researcher in areas as diverse as structural mechanics, arctic construction, oil and gas technology; as an astute and insightful former editor-in-chief of this excellent Journal; and as a friend whose honesty, sincerity and genuineness enrich all with whom he interacts.

Very early on, Pauli demonstrated his potential as a researcher and original thinker. After finishing his studies at TKK, he worked at the Material Research Laboratory of TU Munich, where he developed a sound understanding of the rigors of international research and recognized the need for high-quality experimental research on structures. The lively scientific atmosphere at TU Munich served as motivation for his academic career in structural mechanics at TKK and contributed to his eventual position as head of the structural engineering laboratory at VTT and his groundbreaking arctic and oil research. Throughout all these endeavors he insisted on the necessity of sound theoretical knowledge for research and product development. His commitment to research and education led him to organize many postgraduate courses on mechanics, structural mechanics and engineering materials. His service also extended to his active involvement in founding the

Finnish Association of Structural Mechanics and, of course, his several years of leadership as editor in chief of the Journal of Structural Mechanics.

To be sure, Pauli's distinctive personality, as much as his experiences, has accounted for his resourcefulness and courage in undertaking new directions in research, education and business, such as his explorations of thermo-mechanical properties of polymers, mechanical properties of ice, and fuel cells. His interest in cold-weather construction was the principal reason why his laboratory at VTT participated heavily in the construction of the Finnish research station on the Antarctic continent.

The Carelian influence on Pauli's life and work must also not be overlooked. He himself notes that he often feels more Carelian than Finnish. That would explain the ease with which he extended his activities into the eastern and northern regions and his chairmanship of the group working to achieve technical-economic cooperation between the Republic of Komi and Finland.

His Carelian leanings might help to explain his penchant for conversation, music and dance, sports, good food, and the company of others, attributes adding to the complexity and aura of our colleague and friend. Skiing and hiking in Lapland, picking mushrooms and berries, encouraging the physical conditioning of his friends, frequenting concerts and summer-music festivals—Pauli exudes energy and hearty “joie de vivre.”

“Life could be worse,” Pauli is fond of saying with deep-seated goodness and humility. He also ascribes to a kindred expression—“happily sad”—coined by him and his fellow Gentlemen of the Deep Coniferous Forest to represent one of the most elevated feelings a Finn can have: for human feelings and the human mind deal not with absolutes but with all shades of ambiguity.

Gentlemen of the Deep Coniferous Forest? Naturally, the group was Pauli's idea, though he eschews group leadership: the Gentlemen purposely have no leader. The group's composition, always fewer than half a dozen, has included individuals, by Pauli's concept, with no direct responsibility to society, with a deep feeling for the importance of the forest in people's lives, and with a willingness and penchant for discussing in depth a wide variety of topics.

For nearly 20 years the GDCF has met, about four times each year, sometimes spending a weekend at a summer home, or visiting with a member's family, or discovering a new and intriguing locale. Upon meeting, the group typically spends some time working together (cutting firewood, sawing, constructing, then perhaps berry or mushroom picking, fishing—and of course sharing food, beverages and the perennial beauties of nature and the world's complexity.

What conversations the group has! No topics are off limits, although scientific and social concepts often form the basis for thought, discussion, and creative outcomes. As the name suggests, there is an almost magical aspect to this unique group that Pauli initiated years ago. Is it the result of trust, mutual respect, innate curiosity of the participants? Whatever the cause, the Gentlemen of the Deep Coniferous Forest owe Pauli much for envisioning a group capable of such stimulating discussions and profound feeling for the group itself.

Pauli Jumppanen: he's creative because he can see possibilities beyond the limits of structure, and curious almost to a fault! He has the inventor's knack for integrating knowledge and consequently fashioning new ideas. He's a friend to so many at all levels of society, from prime ministers to carpenters. To every gathering he brings fresh perspectives and instills a willingness to work together to accomplish common goals.

Not hyperbole, then, but significant accomplishments are the essence of this dedication. Where Pauli Jumppanen's incisive mind will turn next, what new ideas are yet to surface, we will eagerly anticipate. In the meantime, Pauli, thank you. "Life could be worse" – our professional and personal lives stand greatly enriched – because of your thoughtful, caring nature.

Kari Haukkamaa, Pekka Kanerva, John Klus