

Farewell

Matthew Spiegel

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My term as the *RFS*'s Executive Editor has been quite an experience. It has also been more work than I ever imagined! Naturally, I hope that our authors, referees, and readers believe that my efforts have benefited them. But no one person really runs the *RFS*. This is a team effort. Whatever credit may be due, belongs to the many people who have dedicated countless hours to the journal's operations.

The journal's founders wisely created a panel of Editors. They are the ones who actually edit the vast majority of our submissions. More importantly, they do so without "help" or interference from me. This freedom allows our editors to take risks by accepting papers that may have done poorly in the review process. Our editors also spend their time looking for articles they wish to solicit and to run conferences, all with the objective of bring to our readers the profession's top research. So you see, the journal's success over the years is truly due to the incredible job that the editors have done on numerous fronts. With my heartfelt thanks, I believe you all did a wonderful job!

Michael Weisbach
Andrew Karolyi
Pietro Veronesi
Alexander Ljungqvist
Laura Starks
Geert Bekaert
Paolo Fulghieri
Raman Uppal
Joel Hasbrouck
Tobias Moskowitz
Yacine Ait-Sahalia
Robert McDonald
Terrance Odean

Over the past six years, the journal has aimed to advance the profession by running several experiments. Some of these trials, such our now defunct forum, have been total flops! Others, like the SFS conference dual review option, have been quite successful. Many of you do not know this, but the idea for the dual review option came about when then SFS President Wayne Ferson and I were discussing how to link the *RFS* to conferences in a way that would appeal to authors. I credit Wayne Ferson for the original idea. My role was to formalize how it would work. Then with the help of Jim Schallheim and Avner Kalay it was launched as part of the 2006 Utah Winter Finance Conference submission system.

When I began my term at the *RFS* I was fortunate to inherit a very successful publication. For that I owe a special thanks to Maureen O'Hara. The journal clearly prospered while she was its Executive Editor. She was also kind enough to let me experiment with the journal during her tenure as SFS Vice President and then President. Often she wound up blessing changes I wanted even when she thought they would, to put it charitably, "not work out." The now defunct *RFS* minis were one such failure that she nevertheless let me pursue. However, others like the journal's formal appeals process have, fortunately, turned out quite a bit better.

Finally, I want to welcome David Hirshleifer to his new role as the journal's Executive Editor. I am sure he will do a wonderful job. His view of the journal and his role will no doubt differ from mine, just as

mine differed from Maureen O'Hara's and I am sure her's differed from her predecessor. That, ultimately, is good for all of us. A new Executive Editor will take the RFS and, with it, the profession, forward in new ways I never could. Thus, with my very best wishes: Congratulations David, the web server is yours!