

This year, I had the privilege to serve as your president. I spoke with many of you at AIChE national meetings or in your hometown — at a local section meeting or student conference. I also had the opportunity to meet our international members and peers abroad at many global gatherings. And I had the chance to lead the Board of Directors in fulfilling several significant Institute goals for the year.

Indeed, this was a positive and busy year. In 2005, we have reinforced our strong financial position; we expect to end 2005 with a surplus of about \$800,000 in our operating budget. And, we have met these goals while expanding member benefits to include a new Web site, access to e-references, and expanded opportunities with partner organizations like ASME and AMA.

Financial review

Looking back, 2004 was the first year since 1997 that the Institute produced a positive budget balance and, through judicious cash-flow management, did not need to make a withdrawal from its permanent fund. Moving forward, it was essential to the Board of Directors that this impressive financial performance not be an aberration, but the expectation. Although 2005 is not over yet, we expect another strong year with positive financial performance.

We can attribute this year's performance to successful technical meetings in Atlanta and Cincinnati, as well as a number of specialty meetings, including a new conference on LNG and the Ammonia Plant Safety Symposium; the continuing benefits of the restructuring actions taken two years ago; and diligent efforts by the staff to control costs, while maintaining the high quality of products and services available to our members. The Board established a balanced budget for 2006 — and even extended a small dues discount to members who renew early online — and we have every intention of repeating this positive financial performance the third year in a row.

Vision

Even as the Board tends to the fiscal stability of the Institute, it also needs to think strategically and plan AIChE's future. To that end, the Board reviewed all three facets of the vision of the Institute in light of

Looking Backward, Moving Forward

President Sirola reflects on 2005 and sets the stage for 2006

our reorganization. In addition to our vision of AIChE as the global leader of the chemical engineering profession, the Board reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to remain the lifetime center for professional and personal growth and security of chemical engineers, and the foremost catalyst in applying chemical engineering expertise to meeting societal needs.

New products and services

In 2005, we introduced or enhanced a number of new products and services for our members:

- A new AIChE Web site, www.aiche.org, that is more useful, more informative, easier to navigate and a public face for our Institute of which we can be proud. Thank you to all of you who sent us your ideas and contributions, and helped develop the new site — you made this objective a reality. We hope the reengineered site is truly useful for you as you interact with each other and AIChE. What's more, we are offering a discount to those who use the AIChE Web site to pay their 2006 dues prior to December 31, 2005.
- Member access to Knovel, the leading online library of life science and chemistry information, including engineering and scientific references, handbooks, standards, and databases.
- Discounted joint membership in American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Discounted management, project management, and leadership training from the American Management Association (AMA).
- A re-launched employment and salary survey.

And for next year, look for the return of the Volunteer Leadership Conference, a Speakers Bureau for Local Sections and Student Chapters, expanded Continuing Education offerings through our ASME partnership, and other initiatives supporting our members — especially those of you just starting your careers in the ever

diversifying field of chemical engineering.

Moving forward, look for increased energy on energy. Last month at our Annual Meeting, the AIChE Commission on Energy Challenges joined with the Assembly of Fellows in sponsoring an open forum that is helping to define AIChE's role as a volunteer-driven professional society in addressing the complex technical, sociological, economic and sustainability issues of energy production, usage, and conservation.

In follow-up, a Critical Issues Forum on energy will be an important feature of the 2006 Spring National Meeting in Orlando in April. This and other activities are responses to desires many of you have expressed for AIChE to elevate, extend, and enhance our current programs in energy to voice your opinions and contribute your expertise to this critical initiative.

Indeed, I am excited about the coming year and I welcome John Chen as our new president. During 2006, I will still be active in AIChE leadership as past-president and member of the Board of Directors.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your president for 2005. I wish you and your family a joyous New Year.

AIChE Volunteer Recognition

President Jeff Sirola would like to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and support throughout the year. At your request, President Sirola will send a letter to your supervisor to let them know how much value you bring to AIChE and how much you are appreciated. If you'd like such a letter please email the volunteer and membership activities department at vma@aiiche.org.



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1 and 2. Excitement abounds as chemical engineering students race against the clock to optimize their chemically driven cars at the annual AIChE Chem-E-Car Competition. The suspenseful race concluded with Tennessee Tech University taking top honors.

3. AIChE President Jeff Sirola congratulates Maria T. Bruniard, recipient of the John McKetta Scholarship (sponsored by the Dekker Foundation).

4. Student representatives from North Carolina State University — one of AIChE's Outstanding Student Chapters for 2005 — with Richard Zollars, chair of the Student Chapters Committee, and John van Zanten (far right), chapter advisor for NC State.

5. Dale Keairns (left) and Vern Weekman (right) at the Board of Directors Leadership Gathering.



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6. Members of the Young Professionals Advisory Board kick back and relax at the Halloween Student Bash.

7. These top guns are flying high at the Student Bash.

8. Alan Zagoria (left), Kelly Bryant (center) and Jim Cobb (right) at the Volunteer Leadership Recognition Reception.

9. For all the effort in getting dressed as a Japanese geisha (even down to the fine details of the wooden shoes), this student deserves to win one of the evening's best costume awards.



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Dr. John J. McKetta Celebrates His 90th Birthday and 62nd Wedding Anniversary

The Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin threw a Texas-size party to celebrate Dr. John McKetta's 90th birthday and John and Pinky's 62nd wedding anniversary. Over 300 family members, faculty, former students, and



good friends attended the event. During his active career at UT, McKetta served as Department Chair, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Executive Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the entire University of Texas System. Although fully retired now, he is in his office every day where he calls his graduates from many years ago on their birthday to wish them a happy birthday.

In recognition of his service to AIChE as President in 1962, his continued involvement, and his generosity to the Institute, he was presented a plaque* signed by all the living Past Presidents of AIChE. Glenn Taylor, former Executive Director and a student of Dr. McKetta, made the presentation on behalf of current

President Jeff Sirola and Executive Director John Sofranko. In describing the life of Dr. McKetta, Taylor quoted Winston Churchill — "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Taylor cited the many ways that Dr. McKetta

has given to his family, his students, his profession, and mankind. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Tom Edgar, another Past President of the Institute.

Within the Institute, Dr. McKetta and his wife Pinky established an endowment that funds Project Connect, a program to facilitate the transition of graduating chemical engineers into local sections of AIChE.

* Inscription on plaque: "The American Institute of Chemical Engineers, along with its Presidents since 1962, honors John McKetta on his 90th Birthday. On behalf of all the members of AIChE, we express congratulations on this milestone and our sincerest gratitude for your countless contributions to the Institute and chemical engineers everywhere. Your career and your leadership epitomize the best of our profession."

Remembering Nathan Chipman

Dr. Nathan Chipman was a long-standing member of the AIChE Nuclear Engineering Division. Chipman was very well respected for his outstanding chemical engineering contributions to the nuclear industry in the areas of management of spent nuclear fuel, special nuclear materials, high-level waste, and education of chemical engineers. AIChE President William Byers spoke at the 2004 Robert E. Wilson award luncheon and praised Chipman's many achievements, describing him as a role model for future generations of aspiring chemical engineers and educators. President Byers reminisced about Chipman's leadership role in NED "in his formative years" and noted that he had a special place in his heart for students, with education being his prime passion in life.

OBITUARIES

Nate A. Chipman*, 56, Idaho Falls, ID
E. D. Remy, 84, Greenville, SC
Earl A. Schilt, 90, Chicago, IL
Frank M. Stephens, Jr., 85, Lakewood, CO
Fitzhugh L. Turner, Jr., 85, Williamsburg, VA
Frederic C. Tuttle, 86, Ft. Collins, CO

* Fellow member

AIChE[®]

Proudly Announces New Fellows for 2005

The grade of Fellow is a special category of AIChE membership, reserved for those tenured Institute members who have displayed significant service to AIChE and the profession, and who have achieved significant accomplishments in chemical engineering.



Timothy J. Anderson (Syracuse)
Gino V. Baron
Norbert J. Bell (Southern California)
Scott A. Berger
Kamlesh K. Bhatia (Wilmington)
Ali Cinar (Chicago)
Robert E. Cohen (Ichthyologists)
John E. Corn (Central Ohio)
Walter L. Frank (Wilmington)
Clifford E. George (Central Alabama)
Roland H. Heck (Central Jersey)
John L. Hudson (Central Virginia)

Stephen B. Jaffe (Delaware Valley)
John L. Kardos (St. Louis)
William B. Krantz (Ohio Valley)
James M. Lowes (Indianapolis)
Kraemer D. Luks (Tulsa)
Virendra K. Mathur (Ichthyologists)
Robert W. Peters (Central Alabama)
David A. Rosenthal (Delaware Valley)
Narayanan Sankaran (Chicago)
Warren D. Seider (Delaware Valley)
R. Shankar Subramanian (Syracuse)
George A. Swan (Baton Rouge)