

President's Message — Report From New Orleans

For the first time in our history, AIChE recently collaborated on a National Meeting with the American Chemical Society. The combined gathering in New Orleans, LA — April 6–10 — brought together over 15,000 participants, and included joint programming, an exhibition with over 300 exhibitors, and an ACS–AIChE career fair.

AIChE programs on process safety, microreaction technology, the Ethylene Producers' Conference, the Conference on Refinery Processing, the Sustainable Engineering Forum Workshop with ACS, and the special joint session on energy research illustrate the breadth of the Spring Meeting experience.

AIChE thanks Meeting Program Chair Christine Seymour and Co-Chairs Jean Bender and Greg Frank for their work. Anthony Fregosi served as the General Arrangements Committee Chair. Additional thanks go to AIChE staff for organizing and implementing this unique conference. The staff will be gathering feedback from those who attended the meeting. Your experiences and reflections will be valuable in planning future meetings and helping AIChE to better serve members through its conferences.

The Board of Directors and the Operating Councils met in New Orleans, and there is good news to report. The Institute's finances continue to be positive; last year's operations generated over \$2 million. The Scale-Up student initiative — through which industries sponsor undergraduate AIChE membership — has been well-received, with over 8,000 students now members.

The Board approved the goals presented in the draft long-term strategy (posted at www.aiche.org/about/presidentscorner/anewcentury.aspx). The next step is to develop implementation plans for presentation at the Board meeting in July. The Operating Councils will be providing recommendations, and members are invited to comment through the website forum.

We continue to look for new ways to serve members. An agreement was reached with UTEK for a pilot program with the Society of Biological Engineering (SBE) that will provide innovation services to SBE member companies, and possibly to the membership at large.

Additional information can be found on the SBE website: www.aiche.org/SBE/About/Press.aspx.

The work to reach out to the international community continued through an agreement signed with the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICHE) that provides for dual membership. See p. 20 for more information on this partnership.

Looking ahead, AIChE's Centennial Committee is developing plans for a major celebration at the November 2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, including a special convocation and other activities. Read about the celebration at www.aiche.org/100/.

Send your comments to president@aiche.org.



Amy Theis of Fauske presented a paper at the Loss Prevention Symposium. Here she reviews the meeting program to decide what sessions to attend.



Members examine some of AIChE's publications at the Institute's booth. AIChE staff and volunteer leaders were on hand to answer questions about Institute programs, activities and membership services.



American Chemical Society President Bruce Bursten (left) and AIChE President Dale Keairns (right) flank AIChE's Spring Meeting chairs. From left center: Jean Bender and Greg Frank, Meeting Program Co-Chairs, and Christine Seymour, Meeting Program Chair.

—Dale Keairns
2008 AIChE President



AICHE's Spring Meeting corporate sponsors — including **Dow Chemical**, sponsor of the Joint Presidential Showcase — made the meeting possible. Thank you.

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Everywhere one looked, there was a party atmosphere. Perhaps New Orleans heard about AICHE's 100th anniversary....



The Internet cafe was made possible by corporate sponsors Saudi Aramco (Platinum Sponsor) and Honeywell Process Solutions (Silver Sponsor).



Meeting attendees mingle and munch during the Sunday evening Welcome Reception at the New Orleans Convention Center.



Guests at the Welcome Reception enjoy the scene and look forward to the week ahead.



Members say that one of the most important benefits of AICHE membership is the opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues, and to meet new ones.



Panelists at the Monday, April 7, Special Joint Presidential Showcase Event address "Energy Research: Future Challenges and Opportunities."



The 4th Global Conference on Process Safety was a popular event, incorporating programming from the 42nd Annual Loss Prevention Symposium, the 10th Process Plant Safety Symposium, and CCPS's 23rd International Conference.



Exhibits and career fairs — jointly sponsored by AICHE and ACS — were another valuable opportunity for meeting attendees.



Members and leaders of AICHE's Management Division and Environmental Division collaborated on a joint dinner.



AICHE and Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers Announce Collaboration

AICHE and the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICHE) have agreed to promote involvement in each other's organization, including courtesy introductory memberships to each other's members who are on assignment or relocating to the respective countries. AIChE's Scale-Up program will offer complimentary student membership to Indian university undergraduates. The societies will also cooperate on the promotion of AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) and Design Institute for Physical Properties (DIPPR).

The partnership was announced at an April 9, 2008, ceremony, held during AIChE's Spring National Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Copies of the agreement were signed by AIChE President Dale Keairns and, via videoconference, by IICHE President S. Ganeshan.

According to Scott Berger, AIChE's Director of International Programs, "AIChE and IICHE agree that in an increasingly global chemical engineering profession, it is important for IICHE members to also become members of AIChE, while AIChE members having interest in the Indian

chemical business should become members of IICHE."

IICHE, which this year is celebrating its 60th anniversary, has nearly 20,000 members among the Indian academic and industrial communities.



AIChE President Dale Keairns (center) signs the collaboration agreement while IICHE Vice President Sushil Kumar (left) and AIChE Director of International Programs Scott Berger (right) look on.

AICHE and UTEK Launch Open Innovation Alliance

AICHE has signed a two-year agreement with UTEK Corp. (www.utekcorp.com), through which the two organizations will jointly offer UTEK's open innovation services to members of AIChE. The effort will first focus on corporate members of the Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) as an initial pilot program. The services may later be extended to AIChE's entire membership.

Open innovation services enable companies to look outside their own research teams and facilities for available technologies, expertise, licensing opportunities and ideas to solve problems. With one of the world's largest proprietary databases of intellectual properties available for immediate license, and a global network of over 2,000 universities, research labs and companies, UTEK offers clients wide-ranging access to external innovation.

John Sofranko, AIChE's Executive Director, says that the pilot alliance

between the SBE and UTEK will be a great opportunity for both parties, as it will help connect the technology and business needs of SBE member companies with valuable innovations from around the world through UTEK's network. "The alliance will connect AIChE member companies with innovative thinkers and researchers in the scientific community as well as provide our individual members with business opportunities through the UTEK TekScout service," said Sofranko.

TekScout (www.tekscout.com/aiche.aspx) — a clearinghouse for innovation — enables companies and members to post development challenges and an associated reward for solving those challenges in engineering, life sciences, chemistry, sustainable development, computing and the physical sciences.

Read more about the collaboration with UTEK in this issue's special SBE supplement on p. S3.

Taylor Receives Achievement Award

Kevin Taylor, an AIChE member and volunteer from Warren, MI, has received an IEEE-USA Professional Achievement Award.



The award is presented by IEEE for professional, technical and literary contributions to public awareness and understanding of the engineering profession. Taylor was honored for conceiving and coordinating the Future Energy Technologies and Employment Challenges career program. This event drew 150 attendees to Detroit's NextEnergy Center, Michigan's non-profit alternative energy accelerator. Taylor is the chair of AIChE's Detroit Local Section. He has also been active on the Membership Committee and in outreach to AIChE student chapters.

AICHe Members Honored by National Chemistry Organization

The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCHE; www.nobccche.org) recently presented honors to minority students and professionals who have made significant contributions to science and engineering. Several AICHe members were among the honorees who received their prizes at a Mar. 20, 2008, ceremony held in connection with NOBCCHE's 35th Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Christine S. Grant, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at North Carolina State Univ. (NCSU), was awarded the first NOBCCHE Award in Chemical Engineering, which recognizes an outstanding chemical engineer within NOBCCHE. Grant is associate dean of faculty development and special initiatives at NCSU, and a recent past national director of AICHe.

Andre F. Palmer, an associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Ohio State Univ., was awarded the Lloyd Ferguson Young

Scientist Award for early promise and accomplishments in his field. This prize is given to a scientist with up to 10 years of professional experience who has demonstrated the potential to sustain a productive scientific career.

Chemical engineering students **Arlyne Simon** of the Georgia Institute of Technology and **Mycael McDowell** of Michigan State Univ. were the winners of the first Lubrizol Corp. Undergraduate Awards for Outstanding Research in Chemical Engineering.

Additionally, several fellowships and other awards were presented to chemists, biochemists, engineers and teachers for contributions to their fields.

Founded in 1972, NOBCCHE (pronounced no-be-shay) is a professional society of minority scientists and engineers. The March 2008 Annual Conference — titled “NOBCCHE: 35 Years of Catalyzing Scientific Opportunities” — helped to build connections between minority scientists in academia, government and industry.

JOHN SOFRANKO TO STEP DOWN AS AICHe EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John A. Sofranko has announced his decision to leave his role as AICHe's Executive Director to pursue the next phase in his career. He will continue to lead AICHe staff through the Institute's 2008 centennial year.



The Board of Directors has begun a search for Sofranko's successor, and is working with the recruiting firm of Korn/Ferry. For a position description, visit www.ekornferry.com, and search using opportunity code GC486.

Sofranko became AICHe's Executive Director in February 2001. He helped lead the organization through major change, including a significant reduction in operating staff. Efficiency measures and greater volunteer participation in recent years have contributed to a positive financial performance, and have helped to revitalize a number of programs and member services — including meetings, Industry Technology Alliances (ITAs), publications, career services, and a more-dynamic web presence.

Among the important initiatives launched during Sofranko's tenure are the Society for Biological Engineering (SBE), the Institute for Sustainability (IfS), new activities in nanotechnology, and the pursuit of numerous global relationships and opportunities.

Before coming to AICHe, Sofranko was chief technology officer at Lyondell Chemical Co. He earned his BS in chemistry at the Univ. of Delaware, and his MS and PhD, also in chemistry, at the Univ. of Rochester.

Members On the Move

Peter H. Spitz has been appointed Senior Advisor to Arthur D. Little's Chemicals Practice and has joined its U.S. Senior Advisory Board. The founder of Chem Systems, Inc., an international chemical consulting company, Spitz has more than 30 years of chemical industry expertise helping multinational firms develop successful growth strategies. An alumnus of MIT, he is the author of “Petrochemicals — The Rise of an Industry” (John Wiley & Sons, 1988), and “The Chemical Industry at the Millennium” (Chemical Heritage Foundation, 2003), and holds several patents in petroleum refining and chemical processing.

Sanjoy Banerjee has joined the faculty of The Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York as Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Technologies. The appointment will expand CCNY's energy and sustainability research and teaching programs.

Banerjee's vision calls for the Institute to develop sustainable energy technology to generate electricity from renewable, but intermittent, sources as well as from existing nighttime over-capacity, store it efficiently, and deliver it on demand.

Banerjee joins The Grove School from The Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, where he had taught since 1980.

Scale-Up Program Doubles Student Membership

A recent “March Madness” member recruitment campaign — in which AIChE student chapters competed to enroll the largest percentage of their ChE undergraduates in AIChE membership — has helped boost student membership to over 8,000. This is more than double the undergraduate membership recorded in July 2007.

This competition, and other outreach efforts, is part of AIChE’s Scale-Up student membership initiative (www.aiche.org/scaleup/). Launched in Fall 2007 — and funded by BP, Dow, DuPont, Merck, Praxair, Rohm and Haas, and UOP — Scale-Up provides complimentary membership to undergraduate students, and has allowed AIChE to develop new services for student members. It has also permitted AIChE to add staff and resources to improve outreach to students.

In the March Madness competition, five schools enrolled 100% of their undergraduates in AIChE membership: Brown Univ., City College of the City Univ. of New York, Christian Brothers Univ., Oregon State Univ., and Oklahoma State Univ. Complete results are shown at www.aiche.org/scaleup/. Schools that enrolled at least 50% of their ChE students in AIChE membership will be recognized in Nov. 2008 during AIChE’s Annual Meeting and National Student Conference.

The largest increase in membership is among freshman and sophomore students, relatively few of whom had traditionally established membership.

A key to Scale-Up’s success has been its outreach plan. AIChE student coordinator Lowell Aplebaum has visited dozens of schools, delivering information about AIChE’s member benefits. This outreach has helped strengthen the communication and relationships among undergraduate students, their schools, and the national organization.

Bhattacharyya Receives Univ. of Kentucky Great Teacher Award

Dibakar “DB” Bhattacharyya, a professor of chemical engineering at the Univ. of Kentucky (UK; Lexington), was among the professors honored for excellence in the classroom with the 2008 UK Alumni Association Great Teacher Award. He is a three-time recipient of this honor.

Nominations for the Great Teacher Award are made by students, with selections made by the Alumni Association and the student organization Omicron Delta Kappa. The award, first presented in 1961, is UK’s oldest continuous award recognizing teaching.

A Fellow of AIChE, Bhattacharyya has an extensive record of service to the Institute, including national program committee and technical division leadership. He has chaired or co-chaired

several national AIChE meetings, and will co-chair the Nov. 2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. He is a two-time winner of AIChE’s Outstanding Student Chapter Advisor Award, and recipient of the Environmental Division’s Lawrence K. Cecil Award, among many professional honors.

Bhattacharyya earned a BS from Jadavpur Univ., an MS from Northwestern Univ., and his PhD from the Illinois Institute of Technology, all in chemical engineering. He is the editor of the recently published book, “New Insights into Membrane Science and Technology: Polymeric and Biofunctional Membranes.”



Hot Wheels

AIChE student members from coast-to-coast recently participated in nine regional student conferences — featuring paper and poster presentations, career discussions, and the regional heats of AIChE’s Chem-E-Car Competition. At the Apr. 4–5 Northeast Regional Conference, hosted by the MIT Student Chapter, the Univ. of Maine’s hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle nudged out RPI’s “Dreamer” car to take first place in the regional contest. The top regional teams will face off at the national competition, to be held Sunday, Nov. 16, during AIChE’s 2008 Annual Meeting and National Student Conference in Philadelphia, PA.



Any challengers? At the Northeast Regional Student Conference, the Univ. of Maine Chem-E-Car team displays its winning vehicle.

In Memorium — Robert E. Slonaker, Jr.

Robert E. Slonaker, Jr., of Lewisburg, PA, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Bucknell Univ., died April 3 after a brief illness. He was 84.

A veteran of World War II, Slonaker earned a BS from Penn State Univ., an MS from Bucknell Univ., and a PhD from Iowa State Univ., all in chemical engineering. He went on to teach chemical engineering and materials science at Bucknell for 38 years and was department chair from 1964 to 1986. After his retirement in 1989, he helped to establish Bucknell's first study abroad program for junior chemical engineering students.

Slonaker was a respected teacher and colleague — at Bucknell, in his AIChE local section, and through his community service activities. At Bucknell, he received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, and was a long-time member of the Engineering Alumni Association. He was active in Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewisburg, and worked with Meals on Wheels and the Upper Susquehanna Hunger Task Force.

A Fellow of AIChE, Slonaker's contributions to the Institute included many years as an officer of the Central Pennsylvania Local Section, and membership in the national Admissions Committee.



Angel A. Cotté-Cintrón



Angel A. Cotté-Cintrón, vice chair of AIChE's Puerto Rico Local Section, died March 26, 2008, in a car accident while returning home from work. He was 57. A resident of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, he worked as a project manager at Eli Lilly's plant in Guayama. Edgar Hernandez, the chair of the Puerto Rico Local Section, described Cotté-Cintrón as an excellent engineer, a great person and an extraordinary friend.

THE MISSING BEACON IS NOW AVAILABLE

Due to technical difficulties, the April edition of the CCPS Process Safety Beacon, "Gasoline Pipeline Damaged by Construction Causes Fire," did not run in *CEP*. If you are on the CCPS e-mail distribution list for the Beacon, you should have received it around the beginning of April. It appears on p. 26 of this issue.

The topic of the May Process Safety Beacon, "Is Sugar an Explosion Hazard?," was covered in a comprehensive news story in the March issue of *CEP* (pp. 8–14), so that edition of the Beacon will be available only online. AIChE members can download it from the *CEP* website (www.aiche.org/cep), where it appears as part of the May online edition; others can obtain it by searching the Beacon's archives (<http://sache.org/beacon/products.asp>) after June 1. If you are already on the Beacon e-mail list, you will receive it on schedule in the language(s) for which you normally subscribe.

The Beacon will return to its regularly scheduled slot in the June issue of *CEP*.

Register for a free e-mail subscription to the Process Safety Beacon at www.aiche.org/CCPS/Publications/beacon/index.aspx.

OBITUARIES

James R. Anslow, 85, Friendswood, TX

Angel A. Cotté-Cintrón, 57, Guaynabo, PR

Saka Kiyotsuga, 68, Yokohama, Japan

Harry A. Kjellman, 88, Pittsburgh, PA

Joseph A. McGroarty, 91, Rockford, IL

Arthur I. Mendolia, 90, Wilmington, DE

Thomas W. Mix, 81, Wellesley, MA

Isadore E. Rubin, 87, Pine Beach, NJ

Robert E. Slonaker, Jr.*, 84, Lewisburg, PA

*Fellow

AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and registration details, visit www.aiche.org/conferences or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-203-702-7660 (outside the U.S.)

CCPS 1st Latin American Process Safety Conference & Expo

May 27–29, 2008 • Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center • Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.ccps2008.com.ar

2008 Process Development Symposium:

Chemical Product Engineering — The Third Paradigm

June 22–25, 2008 • Jiminy Peak Resort • The Berkshires, Hancock, MA

SBE's 4th International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology

July 22–24, 2008 • University College, Dublin & Stillorgan Park Hotel • Dublin, Ireland

2008 Ammonia Conference

September 7–11, 2008 • Hyatt Regency • San Antonio, TX

2008 AIChE Annual Meeting

November 16–21, 2008 • Philadelphia Marriott & Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, PA

2009 Spring National Meeting

April 26–30, 2009 • Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL