



AICHE to Pump Up the Offshore Technology Conference

In May, AIChE will play a key role at one of the world's most prominent industry-spanning trade shows when it co-sponsors the 2010 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC.10; www.otcnet.org), May 3–6, at Reliant Park in Houston, TX.

Now in its 41st year, the OTC has become the foremost scientific and technical conference for the development of offshore oil and gas resources. Industry professionals in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection gather at the OTC to demonstrate technology and discuss the latest developments at a vast array of exhibits and technical sessions. Last year's OTC attracted nearly 68,000 people from 134 countries — along with more than 2,500 exhibitors from around the world.

In addition to its sprawling exhibit areas, OTC.10 will offer more than 300 sessions about the technologies and innovative approaches that are being used to produce oil and gas from offshore areas that are in deeper waters and harsher environments. Complementing the technical sessions are numerous luncheons and breakfasts featuring discussions that go beyond offshore technologies, on such topics as energy, climate change, and business ethics. Sports fans can also enjoy Houston Astros baseball and Houston Dynamos soccer.

AIChE-sponsored highlights

The technical conference has a three-pronged focus on technical, business, and regulatory issues in the oil and gas industry. AIChE's contributions to this year's OTC include technical sessions, a panel discussion, and an industry breakfast.

The energy infrastructure of the world economy is built on a limited



supply of fossil fuels, which will remain the primary source of energy for at least the next few decades. On Monday, May 3, a panel of experts from companies such as ConocoPhillips, Chevron, IHS CERA, and others will convene for the session "Changing the Game Bit by Bit." The panel will consider the problems of declining fossil fuel production from the known large oil fields, such as those in Alaska and the North Sea, and discuss where future exploration efforts should be focused and what should be done to find the next energy sources needed to sustain civilization.

Although not yet fully developed or commercially viable, ocean energy is emerging as an alternative energy source. On Wednesday, May 5, Richard Meyer, president of the Ocean Energy Council, will preside at an industry breakfast on the subject, along with specialists who will discuss technical progress in the generation and transportation of ocean thermal and wave energy.

Additionally, AIChE has organized sessions addressing technology development in liquefied natural gas (LNG), subsea process technology, and offshore topside processing.

Oil and gas professionals in all areas of business and technology will

benefit from the expertise of the OTC's panelists, presenters and exhibitors — representing multinationals, independents, national oil companies, and service providers. Experts will address jobs and the economy, managing social and environmental risks in international projects, and the costs involved in implementing climate change policies. On the regulatory front, OTC.10's policy sessions will offer diverse and balanced viewpoints — without advocating a particular political opinion.

OTC.10 will also present "The Next Wave," a program aimed at helping young oil and gas professionals aged 35 and under to build technical and leadership skills.

The OTC's global emphasis will be exemplified by case studies from the deepwater "golden triangle" region of the Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, and Africa. Other areas of focus will include the Caspian Sea, Arabian Gulf, and the Canadian Atlantic, as well as offshore China.

Looking to the future, the international success and increasingly global reach of the OTC have influenced the organizers to create two additional conferences. The Arctic Technology Conference will take place in Feb. 2011 in Houston, TX, and address the cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices needed for exploration and production in the Arctic. Offshore Technology Conference–Brazil will debut in Rio de Janeiro in Oct. 2011 and focus on the technical advances, challenges and opportunities for the deep and ultra deepwater offshore activities. As a sponsoring organization, AIChE will play a key role in all of these events.

For OTC.10 registration and program information, visit www.otcnet.org/2010.

New Faces of Engineering for 2010 Two AIChE Members Honored during National Engineers Week

As a youngster, Michael Pepera never really thought about a career path. He followed his instincts. “While in high school, I shadowed a chemical engineer who worked for a petroleum company. I just assumed that I would end up as an engineer,” he says.

Today, the 29-yr-old process engineer’s intuitive career decision is paying off, both professionally and through the notoriety of his selection as one of the New Faces of Engineering for 2010.

An annual recognition program connected with National Engineers Week (Feb. 14–20, 2010), “New Faces” promotes the accomplishments of the new generation of engineers, showcasing their contributions and the impact their work has on society. The campaign puts a public face on what has been called the “stealth profession” — inspiring students to pursue careers in engineering, and enhancing the public’s appreciation of the profession and the people in it.

Engineering societies like AIChE identify the candidates, who receive recognition during Engineers Week, including photos in *USA Today*. Pepera was brought to AIChE’s attention by his employers at CH2M HILL (Bellevue, WA), where he is finding productive outlets for his talent.

Born in Painesville, OH, Pepera graduated magna cum laude from the Univ. of Toledo in 2002, with a BS in chemical engineering and minors in chemistry and business. He began work as a process engineer at Kimberly-Clark in Everett, WA, before joining CH2M HILL as an instrumentation and controls engineer in 2006.

At CH2M HILL, he is lead control system programmer on the Round Bulle Selective Water Withdrawal project, which is restoring the natural salmon run in Oregon’s Deschutes River. Pepera provides automation for the fish collection and water blending systems, and integrates new hardware in the powerhouse control system. The project helps mitigate the environmental impacts of energy production — allowing Pepera to pursue his personal commitment to sustainability and reducing energy consumption through engineering design.

Pepera also performs process engineering for two refineries, working on heater safety instrumentation upgrades and pressure relief valve safety.

“Professionally, I really get excited about process



▲ Michael Pepera is AIChE’s nominee in the New Faces of Engineering program.

dynamics and optimization, and using process control to improve all areas of a process,” he says. “I love it when systems or equipment that I designed or did the automation work for start up and work as intended. It is very satisfying to see everything purchased, installed and commissioned.”

While in college, Pepera gained practical experience through co-op stints with his eventual employer, working at Kimberly-Clark locations in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Romano, Italy. He recommends that students take full advantage of co-ops, even if they delay graduation.

“Also, be willing to leave home for the best opportunities,” he advises. “It will help a lot when the time comes to secure a full-time job.”

Pepera also recommends that young people look to their state schools for their undergraduate degree. “State schools are relatively inexpensive, and you can get an education that will rival any big-name college,” says Pepera. “Undergraduate education is primarily about classroom time and access to professors. At the Univ. of Toledo, all the professors knew me by name, and I was even able to do an independent study on process control with the chairman of the department.”

Pepera’s time away from work is devoted to family life with his wife and three children. He studies theology and is active in his church, and also enjoys rock climbing, Ultimate Frisbee and beer brewing.

As a New Face of Engineering, Pepera remains excited and gratified by his career choice. “I have been amazed by the wide variety of projects and industries that I have worked in, thanks to the strong foundation that my chemical engineering degree has provided me.”

To read about all the New Faces of Engineering honorees, visit www.eweek.org.

Pepera was not the only chemical engineer selected for “New Faces” honors.

Kacey Fetcho-Phillips is a Leaders for Global Operations Fellow at MIT, where where she earned an MS in chemical engineering and an MBA from the Sloan School of Management. Prior to attending MIT, she worked at Eli Lilly in biotech manufacturing, producing medicines for osteoporosis, diabetes, and sepsis patients. She has also worked on alarm-management improvement projects.

Fetcho-Phillips received her BS at Purdue Univ., and is a licensed professional engineer in Indiana. She also volunteers within the engineering community, and has served as a parade marshal for the Indianapolis 500 Parade.



▲ Fetcho-Phillips

AIChE LEADERSHIP WEBINARS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Beginning this month, AIChE will offer a window into the future of chemical engineering when the Institute debuts its Leadership Webinar series — “Visions of the Future from Industry Leaders.” The webinars will feature prominent industry speakers addressing timely chemical engineering topics and leading discussions about the future of the discipline. They will explore the future role of technology, the changing needs of organizations, employment trends, the skill sets required of future engineers, and how chemical engineers can help meet the economic, energy and environmental challenges facing the world.

The inaugural webinar in the series will be conducted by AIChE’s 2010 President, Henry T. Kohlbrand, Global Director for Process and Manufacturing Technology R&D at the Dow Chemical Co., and will be held on April 14, 2010, 2:00–3:00 pm EDT. Kohlbrand will discuss how our capacity to understand the trends that will shape the future of chemical engineering will determine how we need to prepare ourselves personally and professionally.

Subsequent Leadership Webinars will feature: Thomas M. Connelly, Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, DuPont (May 19); Monty M. Alger, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Air Products and Chemicals; and F. Emil Jacobs, Vice President of R&D at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Co.; and others.

For more information, visit www.aiche.org/webinars. Each Leadership Series webinar, like all AIChE webinars, will be archived and available through ChemE on Demand at <http://apps.aiche.org/chemeondemand/home.aspx>.

Petition Candidates for AIChE Board Election Due May 3

Members interested in running for the AIChE Board election or nominating another member can sign up as a petition candidate.

Any Fellow, senior member, or 4-year member of the Institute who would like to run for president-elect, treasurer, or director can file as a petition candidate with the Office of the Secretary by May 3, 2010. Nominees for president-elect must have previously served as an AIChE officer or director.

Petition candidates must submit the support, in writing, of 100 or more Fellows, senior members, or members. This can be done by signing a petition or by e-mail. For information contact election@aiche.org.

Peppas Named Distinguished Scientist

Nicholas Peppas, the Fletcher Stuckey Pratt Chaired Professor of biomedical engineering, chemical engineering and pharmacy at the Univ. of Texas at Austin, is the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Scientist Award from the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA; www.sura.org). He is cited for pioneering contributions to biomedical engineering, biomaterials, polymer sciences and drug delivery. The award was presented on Mar. 10, 2010, at the SURA Board of Trustees meeting at Duke Univ.



The SURA honors are presented to individuals who have worked to support SURA’s mission “to foster excellence in scientific research, to strengthen the scientific and technical capabilities of the Southeast and nation, and to provide outstanding training opportunities for the next generation of scientists and engineers.”

In Memorium

John Frederick Easley of Trumbull, CT, a member of AIChE for 60 years, died on Feb. 3, 2010, at age 91.

After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Easley earned his BS in chemical engineering from Carnegie Mellon Univ. He specialized in plant design, phosphorous technology and sulfuric acid technology, and his engineering career included work at a several companies, including a long tenure with Dorr Oliver Corp. in Lakeland, FL, and later in Stamford, CT. Through his career, Easley was active in AIChE local sections, especially those in Central Florida and Fairfield County (CT).

Later in life, Easley maintained a consulting practice. He also enjoyed researching and writing his family history, and was a member of Toastmasters International in Norwalk, CT.

James O. Maloney, a Fellow of AIChE, died Feb. 4, 2010, in Lawrence, KS, at age 94.

Maloney began his career at DuPont (Wilmington, DE) in 1941, and for much of World War II he was assigned to Columbia Univ. and the Univ. of Chicago for work on the Manhattan Project.

After the War, Maloney moved on to chair the Dept. of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the Univ. of Kansas (KU) from 1945 until 1964, where he was instrumental in developing the department and attaining accreditation. He remained a professor at KU until his retirement in 1985.

His 40 years at KU were punctuated by Fulbright Lectureships at universities in Italy, Egypt, Greece and Korea and by a term at the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank in Washington, DC. He also served as a contributing author of *Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook*.

In Memorium: Chad P. J. Bennington

Chad Bennington, a professor at the Univ. of British Columbia (UBC) and a leader of AIChE's North American Mixing Forum, died suddenly on Feb. 14, 2010, at age 53.



Bennington earned a BS in chemistry from UBC before returning to UBC's Dept. of Chemical Engineering to earn his MS (1983) and PhD (1988). That year, he joined the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (PAPRICAN, now FPInnovations) at UBC as a senior research engineer. His research in chemical reaction engineering applied to a wide range of pulp and paper unit operations. He taught pulp and paper technology and chemical engineering courses for more than a decade.

In 2002, Bennington was named the NSERC/Paprican Chair in Chemical Pulp and Paper Technology at UBC, and in 2006 he was appointed professor in the Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering. His research group was thriving, with 14 graduate students and three postdoctoral fellows at the time of his death.

Bennington was passionate about the outdoors, particularly the west coast of British Columbia, where he kayaked around a substantial portion of Vancouver Island. His accounts and photographs of these trips are presented on his web page at <http://faculty.chml.ubc.ca/chadb/kayaking.html>.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

OBITUARIES

Jorge Wolney Atalla, 81, Sao Paulo, Spain
William I. Braden, 56, Boerne, TX
Anthony G. Cacosso, 79, East Brunswick, NJ
John Hanisian, 88, Kennebunk, ME
William H. Kapfer, 92, Venice, FL
Teh C. Lo, 81, Wayne, NJ
Joseph Pereira, 83, Houston, TX
George A. Randall, 65, Newburyport, MA
Herbert Susskind, 80, Huntington, NY
Michael L. Wisdom, 58, Houston, TX

AIChE Calendar

Conferences



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.)

MAY 2-5, 2010	SBE's 2nd International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering Hyatt Harborside • Boston, MA
MAY 3-6, 2010	Offshore Technology Conference Reliant Park • Houston, TX
JUNE 4-6, 2010	AIChE Leadership Development Conference Hosted by the East Tennessee Local Section, Kingsport, TN
JUNE 27-30, 2010	AIChE Process Development Symposium: Energy Challenges for Process Development The Lodge of Four Seasons • Lake Ozark, MO
AUGUST 1-4, 2010	5th International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology Biopolis, Singapore
SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2010	55th Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium Hyatt Regency • San Francisco, CA
SEPTEMBER 30- OCTOBER 1, 2010	AIChE Midwest Regional Conference Moody Gardens Hotel • Galveston, TX



Scheduled Webinars

Register and view live and archived webinars at <http://www.aiche.org/webinars/>

APRIL 7, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Flame Flashbacks: Causes and Prevention Presented by Dan Banks
APRIL 14, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	AIChE's Leadership Webinars: Visions of the Future from Industry Leaders (Session One) Presented by Henry T. Kohlbrand
APRIL 21, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Gasification: Opportunities and Challenges Presented by Dr. Shuncheng Ji
APRIL 23, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Systems Metabolic Engineering Presented by Dr. Sang Yup Lee <i>(Free for SBE Members)</i>
APRIL 28, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Right from the Start: Mistakes to Avoid While Planning Capital Projects Presented by Adnan Siddiqui
MAY 5, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Laboratory and Industrial Hazardous Chemical Safety: A Code-Based Approach Presented by Jeremy Lebowitz and Jonathan Eisenberg
MAY 12, 2010 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Storage and Flow of Bulk Solids Presented by Dr. Karl V. Jacob <i>(Free for AIChE Members)</i>