

## A message from President Jeff Sirola

It is a great honor and a privilege to begin serving the Institute as your president for 2005.

Over the last year, the board of directors, the operating councils, the staff, and countless volunteer members worked extremely hard to implement the "Essential AIChE." Here is a quick snapshot of some of the progress that has been made:

**Finance** — The Institute is expecting to finish 2004 with revenues slightly exceeding expenses for the first time in seven years. Also, for the first time in as many years, no withdrawals were required from our permanent fund.

**Operations** — Our overall budget, and especially our overhead costs, have been dramatically reduced. The sublease of three-quarters of our office space in New York City was accomplished in 2004, saving approximately \$1.4 million every year going forward. The remaining space is also on the market, as we pursue lower cost headquarters alternatives.

**Outsourcing** — In 2004, partnerships were implemented with ASME to provide educational services and with John Wiley & Sons to provide production services for our technical publications. These partnerships are economically advantageous to the Institute and, at the same time, are extending the reach of our professional training courses and publications to a broader audience.

**Technical Leadership** — In 2004, all three of our new technical communities, the Society for Biological Engineering, the Institute for Sustainability, and the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum, launched successful conferences and symposia in a number of novel formats. Also, both the Ammonia Safety Conference in Denver and the Fall Annual Meeting in Austin were highly successful, drawing near-record numbers of participants.

**Communications** — In the past year, we have worked harder to share more Institute and professional news with you, in *CEP*, as well as through email and newsletters. We have also increased efforts to reach local and national media to pro-

mote the chemical engineering profession.

These have been challenging times. The Essential AIChE has focused on the core services and benefits you told us are essential to your career and to your profession. This focus has included accurate technical information, targeted publications, effective meetings, leadership and networking opportunities, and attractive and affordable insurance programs.

Maintaining this focus and a viable Institute has required some radical redesign of our operations and dedicated hard work by both volunteers and the staff. The changes that have been implemented are intended to be both permanent and sustainable.

In the first years of implementing the Essential AIChE, staff support for some very important programs such as career services and government relations was reduced, although I am gratified by the response of so many who have volunteered to step up and assume some of these roles. We welcome such volunteer effort, but we also recognize that to be effective, even volunteers need staff support. The Board is working hard to implement the most efficient balance.

The AIChE Vision is to be the global leader of the chemical engineering profession, the lifetime center for professional and personal growth for chemical engineers, and the foremost catalyst in applying chemical engineering expertise in meeting societal needs.

In the next year, we will continue to explore alliances with other organizations to continue to enhance our global presence, provide additional revenue and add benefits to our members. A programmatic alliance with ACS is underway, and some of our local sections, and sustainability and biotechnology groups are already working together to help us realize our vision.

We will also begin work this year on some much needed improvements and enhancements to the AIChE web site, [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org). New technologies will allow for better access to data, improved



AIChE President Jeff Sirola is Technology Fellow at Eastman Chemical Co.

e-commerce, a more powerful and intuitive internal search capability and enhanced systems, so local sections, divisions, and committees can have their Web sites integrated within the AIChE system. The AIChE Foundation has launched a campaign to raise money for this effort.

Finally, in 2005, the Board will be working especially on the issues of membership attraction and retention and local section revitalization. The Board has already established task forces looking specifically at issues important to student members, young professionals, members involved in the emerging areas of chemical engineering, as well as members involved in more traditional areas. They will work with the goal of providing value and achieving the AIChE Vision as evidenced by positive membership growth.

Personally, I am very excited about 2005. I look forward to working with all of you to build AIChE into an even stronger society, essential to all chemical engineers and to the organizations in which they serve.

If you have comments or suggestions related to our new Web site, membership growth, or any other aspect of the Institute, write to me at [president@aiche.org](mailto:president@aiche.org).

### Look for 2005 Board Election Results Inside

## Board of Directors Election Results Announced

The votes have been counted and AIChE's newest directors will report for duty this month. The results of the 2005 ballot were examined by the Tellers Committee and approved by AIChE's Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. President-Elect Chen will assume the role of president in 2006. Treasurer Rosenthal will serve for three years, as will directors Grubbe, Kohlbrand, Da Costa, and Yeoman. Congratulations and best wishes to our new leaders.



From left to right:

President-Elect, John C. Chen; Treasurer, David Rosenthal; Directors, Deborah L. Grubbe, P.E.; Henry (Hank) T. Kohlbrand; Andre R. Da Costa; and Neil Yeoman.

## June Wispelwey Named New Executive Director of SBE

June Wispelwey is a chemical engineer and business leader, with vast work experience in bio-pharmaceutical field. She most recently served as vice president, marketing services, commercial operations of Aventis Behring. She previously was the director of Lyondell Chemical's ADI business and director of the firm's performance chemicals business development and R&D efforts.

Among Wispelwey's goals for the coming year will be increasing SBE membership to several thousand by expanding beyond AIChE. "What excites me most is the possibility of growing SBE to be a significant part of AIChE," Wispelwey told *AIChEExtra*. "The US biotech industry has grown by a factor of 3 over the last 10 years. There are now about 350 compounds in the late stage pipeline. Plus, new biological compounds are being created every day."

"Many practicing scientists have not necessarily been educated in the field and the field is changing so rapidly that their education is becoming outdated. This society could help scientists stay at the top of their game through educational services and networking opportunities."

John Sofranko, AIChE's executive director, welcomes Wispelwey's extensive work experience. "We feel so fortunate to have found someone with such vast and high level, corporate leadership experience to help us grow this society. In a sense, it shows June's commitment to give back to the profession that's helped her succeed in her business career."

After only two weeks on the job, Wispelwey was busy at work planning conferences and projects with the SBE

advisory board. "We are going to expand services, including leadership in conferences like our International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, BIO's World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing, AAPS' National Biotechnology Conference, and our own, new integrated bioprocessing conference," said Wispelwey. "New projects are being scoped out that could include biologic databases, modeling programs, and bio publications."

Wispelwey's vast work experience has well prepared her for the challenges of growing SBE. Most recently, when she served as vice president of marketing ser-

es, defined and implemented a global e-business strategy. She was also led market research, competitive intelligence, internet marketing, and supply chain.

Wispelwey started the job on the run by flying down to Austin, TX to accept the position and attend SBE's board meeting. She prepared for AIChE by meeting with potential and current SBE members to better understand the needs of the membership and sponsors. "I became convinced that the potential for SBE's growth is there, the services just have to be developed to meet the needs."

Before joining Aventis Behring, Wispelwey had a distinguished career with Lyondell Chemical (formerly ARCO Chemical) in a variety of capacities in R&D, planning and analysis, marketing, and finance and economic evaluation.

Wispelwey's technical and business education makes her an excellent addition to AIChE. She earned a bachelor of science in chemical engineering from Princeton, and a master of science in chemical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, she completed Aventis' Executive Education Program at the Wharton School of Business. She has been active in the Commercial Development and Marketing Association and was co-president of the ARCO Chemical Women's Management Association.

In her spare time, Wispelwey is an avid reader and traveler. This winter, she is planning a week in the Costa Rican rain forest and catching up on a reading new books from Christmas.

AIChE is excited by the growth of this key strategic area under new leadership. To learn more about SBE, visit <http://bio.aiche.org> or contact Wispelwey at [bio@aiche](mailto:bio@aiche).



June Wispelwey, formerly of Aventis Behring, is the new executive director of AIChE's Society for Biological Engineering (SBE).

vices for Aventis Behring, she learned how to work in a complex environment that integrated a breadth of product lines (72 products), global diversity, hyper-competitive industry, and a stringent regulatory environment while helping to grow markets for hemophilia, immunoglobulin, critical care and wound healing products.

In her many responsibilities, Wispelwey developed business plans for new products, oversaw product relaunch-

## AIChE in the News

In the past year, the AIChE Board and staff have made an effort to share more Institute and professional news with you (see Sirola, page 1). We have also made a concerted effort to promote the chemical engineering profession in local and national media. Recently, during the 20th anniversary of the Bhopal tragedy, AIChE earned notable press for its leadership in process safety. These included the *New York Times*, *Delaware News Journal*, *Chemweek* and the History Channel's "Modern Marvels." Below is a reprint of the letter to the editor that appeared in the Sunday, December 5 edition of the *New York Times*, which has a circulation of over 1,650,000 readers.

### To the Editor:

Re "Bhopal Victims Not Fully Paid, Rights Group Says" (*New York Times*, Nov. 30):

The Bhopal disaster was a tragic but powerful catalyst for change in the chemical industry. In the months after Bhopal, 17 chemical and petroleum companies and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers formed the Center for Chemical Process Safety.

Today, modern chemical facilities have independent layers of protection. Rigorous safety methodologies are followed daily. More plants hold smaller supplies of hazardous chemicals, and often chemical products are produced as needed.

In 1994 there were 29 American fatalities linked to chemical process incidents; that number has since dropped 75 percent. Any number is too many, but our cooperative efforts are bringing improvements. As an industry, as chemical engineers and as world citizens, we are committed to continuous improvement in safety.

**Jeff Sirola**

New York, Dec. 2, 2004

The writer is president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.



The 1984 gas leak in Bhopal at a Union Carbide-owned pesticide manufacturing plant sparked dramatic improvements in how chemical facilities are managed.

## Engineers Week 2005 Expands Its Global Outreach

**Engineers Week 2005, February 20–26, celebrates the global engineering community by connecting engineers around the world, honoring new talent, and introducing students to engineering.**

- Co-chaired by ASME and BP, EWeek, will launch a partnership with **Engineers Without Borders™-USA**, a non-profit humanitarian organization that delivers environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects to communities worldwide to improve their quality of life.

The activities of EWB-USA range from the construction of sustainable systems that developing communities can own and operate without external assistance, to empowering such communities by enhancing local, technical, managerial, and entrepreneurial skills. More information is available through EWB branches or online at [www.ewb-international.org](http://www.ewb-international.org) or ASME online at [www.asme.org/students/ewb.html](http://www.asme.org/students/ewb.html).

- Connecting the World to Engineering** brings together engineering undergraduates and young professionals with business leaders through Internet forums and live teleconferences. Established by EWeek 2004 co-chairs Fluor and IEEE, "Connecting the World" helps undergraduates reach into the global business world for guidance, ideas and encouragement as they go forward in their careers. Forums are moderated by leading professionals and available at [www.eweb.org](http://www.eweb.org).

- New Faces of Engineering** showcases rising young stars in America's engineering profession. EWeek sponsoring societies nominate candidates from industry and academia. Nominees must hold an engineering degree, be employed as an engineer from two to five years, and have been involved in projects that significantly impact public welfare or further professional development and growth.

- One of EWeek's flagship programs, **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day**, is slated for Thursday, February 24. Entering its fifth year, "Girl Day" allows thousands of women engineers — with support from their male counterparts — to mentor and share first-hand experiences of engineering to more than one million girls and young women each year. Organizations, educational institutions, and individuals are invited to participate.

- The Future City Competition™** returns for its 13<sup>th</sup> year, expanding to 38 regional sites after reaching more than 30,000 middle school students in 2004. Students build computer and 3-D models of cities of tomorrow under the guidance of teachers and volunteer engineer mentors, and defend their designs before engineer judges at regional competitions in January. The program offers insights into potential careers in engineering, math and science through hands-on applications and teamwork. Visit [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org) for more information.

Visit [www.eweb.org](http://www.eweb.org) for information on all Engineers Week programs and events.

Is your AIChE Local Section planning an e-week event? Get involved! Visit [www.aiche.org/sections](http://www.aiche.org/sections) to find a local section in your community.

### Are you in the news?

Tell *Extra* about your recent award or latest research. Or share information on innovative new programs you think members would like to hear about. Email us at [news@aiche.org](mailto:news@aiche.org).

## The 2004-2005 ChE Faculty Directory: A Desktop Essential

AIChE has just published the 2004-2005 Faculty Directory (ISBN 0-8169-0966-0, publication no. D48), which lists almost 500 universities and technical institutes throughout the world and provides useful contact information on academic institutions offering chemical engineering education.

The contact information in this directory includes mailing and e-mail addresses, as well as phone numbers of chemical engineering departments and all of the faculty members of almost 500 schools worldwide. Also included is contact information of department heads, student advisors and organizations, and placement service directors. It is organized in an easy-to-use format, complete with an index of all of the academic institutions included in the directory.



**This valuable 268-page directory is modestly priced at \$150. To order in the U.S., please contact AIChE Customer Service at 800-242-4363 or fax 301-843-0159 (outside the U.S., please call 301-374-2522 or fax 301-843-0159).**

### Companies Champion Conference Success

**AIChE would like to thank the following sponsors for helping to make our 2004 Annual Meeting a success in Austin, Texas, this past November.**

AMD, Austin, Texas  
ChevronTexaco Global Marketing, San Ramon, California  
Shell, Houston, Texas  
Emerson Process Management, Austin, Texas  
IChemE, London, England  
National Instruments Foundation, Austin, Texas  
Valero, Texas City, Texas  
Genentech, South San Francisco, California

A special thanks to Glenn Taylor, Tom Edgar, Dennis Griffith, and John Ekerdt, Andre Da Costa and Jean Bender, AIChE NorCal for their role in obtaining sponsors.

To sponsor one of AIChE's premier conferences, contact Jeff Wood, director of meetings at [jeffw@aiche.org](mailto:jeffw@aiche.org) or 212-591-7450.



## 2005 AIChE Conference Calendar

For information, visit: [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences)

### 2005 Spring National Meeting

April 10-14, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

### 20th Annual CCPS International Conference

April 11-13, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

### Offshore Technology Conference

May 2-5, Houston, TX

### Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium

September 26-29, The Fairmont Royal York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

### 2005 Annual Meeting

October 30-November 4, Cincinnati, OH

### AIChE/ACS Management Conference

November 2-4, Cincinnati, OH

## Donald Albert Dahlstrom 1920-2004

Don Dahlstrom died in June of this year in Utah after a long and distinguished career in the fields of mining, metallurgy, chemical engineering and teaching. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and Northwestern University (where he earned Ph.D.s in both metallurgy and chemical engineering).

After serving in the navy, Don joined Eimco Corporation where he held positions in research, development and sales. His designs and systems earned him several patents, as well as international acclaim. In addition, he published over 130



papers and contributed chapters to five books.

Don was president of AIChE in 1964 and also served as the founding chairman of the Environmental Division in 1970-71. This division quickly grew to become AIChE's largest. He also was a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineering, Tau Beta Pi, and the Society of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. After retiring from Envirotech, he joined the University of Utah's Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering as a faculty member.

## OBITUARIES

Melvin Arthur Albright\*, 75, Bartlesville, OK  
James C. Kelley, 82, Lakeland, FL  
Jess E. McCollum, 81, Houston, TX  
John M. Meredith, 62, Louisville, KY  
James R. Styslinger, 77, Houston, TX  
Dorr E. Tippens, 81, Gibson Island, MD  
Andrew Turner\*, 82, Westerville, OH  
Claude Valle, 79, Weston, MA  
Meyer Zonis, 75, West Orange, NJ

\*Fellow member