

## AIChE 2005 Spring Meeting and Global Congress on Process Safety

April 10–14, Atlanta, GA

How are you and your company dealing with the rapidly escalating pressures of our industry? The fierce competition, the finite resources, the need to work "faster, cheaper, better?" Chances are, you're looking for fresh ideas and cutting-edge strategies to support profitability.

### Twice the value

This spring, for the first time, AIChE will present two important industry meetings under one roof — the AIChE 2005 Spring Meeting & Global Congress on Process Safety, April 10–14 in Atlanta, GA. What's more, both the Spring Meeting and Global Congress sessions are open to you at no extra charge, so you'll get more for your money.

You can also access the co-located annual meeting of the American Filtration Society (AFS) for a small additional fee. Plus as an added benefit, there will be a joint exhibit of AIChE and AFS for all attendees.

As an attendee, you'll find a complete package of vital technical information. The AIChE Spring Meeting is the only conference focused on the latest areas of growth and advancement for the professional engineer. The first Global Congress on Process Safety promises to be the world's most concentrated gathering of safety professionals. It encompasses the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Center for Chemical Process (CCPS) International Conference, the 39<sup>th</sup> Loss Prevention Symposium (LPS), and the 2005 Process Plant Safety Symposium (PPSS). This congress will highlight the importance of safety in all operation across chemical engineering industries.

### New track structure

Maximize your schedule with the Spring Meeting's new track structure. For the first time, this wealth of industry-specific information will be organized into 8 focused tracks covering 16 specialized or 'topical' conferences. The tracks are:

- Global Congress on Process Safety (CCPS, LPS and PPSS)
- Ethylene Producers Conference
- Fuels, Petrochemicals and Refining
- Sustaining the Manufacturing Base: Specialty/Fine/Pharma/Food



Exterior (left) and interior (above) views of Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, site of the AIChE 2005 Spring Meeting and Global Congress on Process Safety.

- Tools for Commercial Success
- Profitable Paths for New Process Technology (including IMRET 8)
- Enabling Energy Strategies
- Applying Core Competencies to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Problems

A dynamic keynote address, sponsored by the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division, will be presented by Rich Marcogliese, senior vice president of refinery operations at Valero.

Take advantage of a broad mix of in-depth programming including over 130 technical sessions and panel discussions. Come early and attend the outstanding pre-conference short course program, featuring approximately 20 separate courses, from 2 hours to 1 day, organized by both the AIChE and the American Filtration Society (AFS).

Network with peers and industry leaders from around the globe. Attend the numerous luncheons, dinners and receptions held throughout the four days, which provide a time to unwind, network and exchange ideas with old friends and new contacts.

The AIChE 2005 Spring National Meeting & Global Congress on Process Safety will be held in Atlanta at the Hyatt

Regency — conveniently located in the heart of downtown Atlanta. With shopping and dining within walking distance, there's something for everyone.

So come discover the forward thinking of industry leaders and innovators. You'll leave Atlanta equipped with timely, practical strategies that will increase your value on-the-job and ensure your organization's success, as well as a new global network. For complete technical program details, visit [www.aiche.org/spring](http://www.aiche.org/spring).



**DON'T MISS OUT!  
REGISTER TODAY AND SAVE**

Act now, early-bird savings expires **February 25, 2005**. To register, visit [www.aiche.org/spring](http://www.aiche.org/spring) or call 800-242-4363 or 212-591-8100 (outside of the U.S.)

As always, AIChE members save 30% on conference registration.



## An Interview with John Chen AIChE President Elect

John C. Chen, professor of chemical engineering and former dean of the P.C.Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science at Lehigh University, has been elected to serve as AIChE's President in 2006. Chen served the past 4 years as Institute Secretary.

Chen earned his undergraduate degree at Cooper Union, his MS degree at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now the Carnegie Mellon University), and PhD at the University of Michigan. After graduation, Chen practiced chemical engineering in several different venues — first as a process engineer with the Lummus Company, then as a research engineer at Brookhaven National Laboratory, and finally as a professor at Lehigh University. "Looking back, I feel blessed to have had such excellent opportunities for learning and practice," Chen told *AIChE*Extra. "For me, chemical engineering has been intriguing, challenging, never boring, and often rewarding."

"While all of these positions were rewarding, I must admit that the personal pursuit of teaching and research was the most satisfying of all," Chen added. Indeed, Chen served for over 25 years as professor in two different departments at Lehigh University. His research specialty of multiphase transport phenomena overlapped the fields of chemical and mechanical engineering. He

served as professor of mechanical engineering for 10 years and as professor of chemical engineering for 25 years. At request of the university, Chen also served as chair of department of chemical engineering and as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

An active member since his graduate days, Chen credits his involvement in shaping his overall perspective of the engineering profession. "To a large extent, AIChE and its many realms of activities defines for me the profession of 'chemical engineering,'" said Chen. "The opportunities it provided for learning at the frontiers of our field, for networking with colleagues worldwide, and for practicing volunteer leadership are of inestimable value."

Chen recognizes that the chemical engineering profession is in a time of change. "With a broad-based technical education, the chemical engineer is able to think from the microscale of molecules to the system scale of entire plants, and has always been able to contribute to a wide spectrum of technologies and industries," said Chen. According to Chen, this is evident as the new fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology join the legacy industries of chemicals, petroleum, and polymers. Underlying both new and legacy industries, there are the basic needs for energy and sustainability technologies.

"Opportunities abound, but the chemical engineering profession needs to sustain a sense of identity, as future students are educated and disperse to practices in varied fields and industries." Key issues include the question of curriculum balance and specialization in our tertiary education, and, at the practicing level, issues of societal im-

pact, credibility with the public and government, and globalization of industries. To Chen, this begs the question — how can a professional society such as AIChE help the profession and the practicing professional?

As secretary for the last four years and most recently the presidential-candidate for the Institute, Chen has given this question much thought. In his conversation, he outlined his thoughts, concerns, and hopes for AIChE. "Thanks to the cooperative efforts of members, volunteer leaders, and staff, we have weathered a financial crisis, but rational frugality is still necessary."

Yet Chen states, that even in a frugal environment, AIChE and its members can start to build anew. "The objective is to enhance the value of the Institute's functions, activities, products and services first and foremost to members, but also to our industries and to society in general," said Chen.

This upward route will take several years to negotiate, admits Chen. The first step is due diligence by volunteer leaders and staff to understand causes, set goals, and develop strategies. Input from all parts of our Institute is very necessary and most welcomed. Indeed, "Presidents Bill Byers and Jeff Sirola and Executive Director John Sofranko have taken steps in addressing these concerns. I look forward to working with them, with volunteer leaders, and with members and staff as we revitalize our Institute," said Chen.

As President Elect, Chen plans to work with volunteers and staff in analyzing membership trends, to discern root cause-and-effects for declines or growth. He will also work to identify technological sea changes of the future that offer opportunities for enhancement and growth for AIChE.

## Tsunami Relief: ChemE Companies Give Generously

Eight South Asian nations and Somalia were severely affected by the 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunamis that hit on December 26. From airplanes to medical supplies, many companies have made significant donations to the relief and rebuilding effort. Below is a partial list (Source: CNN, 12.31.04). **Is your company sponsoring the relief effort? Tell us about it at [news@aiiche.org](mailto:news@aiiche.org).**

**AmeriCares**, which is providing pharmaceutical and medical supplies, has received donations from firms including Abbott Labs, Baxter, Hospira, Glaxo Smith-Kline, Proctor & Gamble, Purdue Pharmaceutical, Tyco and the Altria Group, which donated \$150,000 to underwrite the airlifting of supplies from Amsterdam to Sri Lanka.

**BP and Bristol-Myers Squibb** each donated \$1 million to the Red Cross. Bristol-Myers Squibb will also ship medicines and match employee donations.

**ExxonMobil** gave \$5 million to the effort, and affiliates in the region have donated planes and medical supplies. They will also match employee donations.

**Johnson & Johnson** will ship 6 containers of first aid equipment, medicine and other medical supplies.

**Merck** pledged \$250,000 to the Red Cross, will ship medicine, and has a matching program for employees.

**Pfizer Inc.** will give \$10 million to relief organizations, \$25 million of healthcare products, and will match employee contributions.

## Web Foundation Campaign: Log on and Join in

For many chemical engineers, AIChE's Web site, [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org), is invaluable in delivering the core benefits of AIChE membership.

However, in the last six years, Web technology has improved dramatically. There is a significant gap between what [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org) is and what it can be: a tool to increase membership, join members in community, and provide state-of-the-art information to chemical engineering professionals around the world.

AIChE has begun preliminary planning for a new site. The proposed site will offer faster, easier navigation, an enhanced member-only area with newsletters, chat rooms, and forums to expand networking opportunities, plus richer, more comprehensive content through the hosting of AIChE's local sections and divisions. The new site will feature a more powerful and intuitive internal search engine allowing another means to locate items on the site and increase usability, and a flexible architectural design that will facilitate the addition of new content, without disrupting usability to keep members up-to-date.

Six years ago, AIChE members and the foundation were invaluable in raising money to build the current site through the 21st Century Campaign. Last November, the Foundation Board recog-

nized that the Web redesign and upgrade was an important project for the health and progress of the Institute, and it was selected as the number one priority for a fund-raising campaign.

So far, through donations from 100% of AIChE's Board of Directors and others, the foundation has raised over \$30,000 of the \$300,000 needed.

AIChE spoke with Tom Edgar, chair, Board of Trustees for the AIChE Foundation, on the foundation's effort to raise money for a new site.

"I am a great believer in Web sites as a principal way to communicate with our members. In a sense, it is the AIChE encyclopedia on-line."

Edgar, who was president in 1997, made development of a first class Web site then a high priority. "As part of the 21st Century Campaign, we were able to get corporate and member financial support for that effort and did not have to rely on the annual organization budget," said Edgar. "Now we need to do this again, six years later, and not rely on the AIChE budget, which is very limited at this time."

The foundation will approach members for their contributions, input, and feedback—which will directly shape this critical project. "Through member involvement, we will be able to identify

those functionalities that will make the Web site of highest utility to the largest number of members, whether they are in local sections, divisions, student chapters, or another group," said Edgar.

"This will require some continuous improvement over time and will be based on member feedback."

The goal is to raise \$300,000. "To date, we've received a wide range of donations from \$50 to \$5000, and we are hoping for a significant number in the category \$1000 and above," Edgar continued.

Donors will be recognized on the new site, in a Builders Wall. "Placing this recognition on the site itself will be more noticeable to our members than having names on a plaque in the New York office," said Edgar. We are also instituting a recognition program that will provide ribbons to donors at our annual and spring meetings each year.

Contributions can be made by check, payable to AIChE Foundation and identifying the Web project. Forms will be provided in the mailings and can be found on the AIChE Web site at [www.aiche.org/webfund](http://www.aiche.org/webfund).

According to Edgar, members will shape the future site. "With your help, the new [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org) can be as cutting-edge as the technologies engineering professionals work with every day."

### New Member Benefit: Knovel Virtual Library



In order to provide members in industry and academia with access to the latest and most comprehensive engineering information, AIChE has partnered with Knovel. Starting later this month, Knovel's impressive virtual library of life sciences and chemistry information will be available to all AIChE members.

Knovel's collection of industry reference books, standards and handbooks for technical researchers is presented on an interactive Web-based platform, with dynamic tables, keyword and fielded searches, live graphs, and equations.

• **A powerful partnership.** "Our members need the up-to-date research and best-of-breed industry references at their fingertips to help them work faster and smarter," said AIChE Executive Director John Sofranko. "This partnership will give our members access to more than 300 chemical reference books and databases 24 hours a day 7 days a week."

• **Highly regarded content.** Knovel aggregates content from 27 highly regarded publishers into 16 subject areas, including: adhesives, biotechnology, construction engineering,

environmental engineering, general engineering references, mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, plastics, safety, semiconductors, and electronics.

• **Easy access to a wealth of information.** Knovel's dynamic Web interface is easy to search and use. Interactive tables allow users to sort, filter, and find relevant data. Interactive graphs and equations give users the freedom to graph, digitize, make calculations, and export information to a number of formats.

• **Deeply searchable.** Knovel's library can be searched page by page or by keyword and/or data searches. What's more, Knovel's interactive library will continue to expand, with an average of 15–20 titles added each month.

• **An essential member benefit.** AIChE Members will enjoy access to this valuable tool in late February 2005 through AIChE's Members Only Online Community, found at [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org). For more details on Knovel, visit [www.knovel.com](http://www.knovel.com).



## Enrique Galindo Wins IFS Sven Brohult Award

Professor Enrique Galindo from the Department of Cell Engineering and Biocatalysis, Institute of Biotechnology of the National University of Mexico, was awarded the 7<sup>th</sup> International Foundation for Science (IFS) Sven Brohult Award on November 29, 2004 in Vienna, Austria. This prestigious award of \$10,000 is presented every three years to an IFS grantee, in recognition of his/her excellent research work. The award is named after Dr. Sven Brohult, the first President of IFS.

A member of AIChE, Galindo is a member of the Executive Council of AIChE's North American Mixing Forum. He was recognized for his contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge in the field of bio-processing engineering, particularly in complex fermentation processes.

Galindo has worked on different aspects of the production of microbial polysaccharides using xanthan gum as



the main model. This polysaccharide is produced by *Xanthomas campestris*. He contributed to the development of new methods to screen, preserve and characterize the xanthan producing strains. In addition, he contributed to the better understanding of different aspects of process engineering, such as the rheology of fermentation broths, the optimization of mixing conditions, the efficient

use of power drawn by agitation, and xanthan recovery by precipitation.

Galindo has also studied the production of alginate by *Azotobacter vinelandii* and he has shown in his work that the use of genetically engineered mutants with interesting characteristics improves the possibility of creating custom made polymers. The latter could compete with the current commercial alginate that is extracted from marine algae.

Galindo has built an important experimental infrastructure in the field of mixing and accurate power drawn measurements thanks to his IFS grants and other sources of funding.

He also holds four Mexican patents, and has participated in the development of four biotechnological processes that have been transferred to industry. Galindo has published 67 papers in numerous international peer-reviewed journals.

### Dimitrios Tassios Elected to the Executive Board of EFCE

Dimitrios Tassios, professor of chemical engineering at New Jersey Institute of Technology until 1987 and since at the National Technical University, Athens, Greece, was elected member of the Executive Board of the European Federation of Chemical Engineers for 2005-2008. Since 1953, EFCE has worked to promote scientific collaboration and support the work of engineers and scientists in 28 European countries. Today it represents more than 100,000 chemical engineers in Europe. An emeritus member, Tassios joined AIChE in 1967.

## 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

## OBITUARIES

Randhir C. Chopra, 71, Livermore, CA

Anthony Etter, 76, Avon Lake, OH

Robert T. Jackson, 52, Ballwin, MO

G. M. Kahn, 77, Flushing, NY

Bernard Kleban, 88, Wilmington, DE

Richard Lunn, 75, Pittsburgh, PA

Edward B. Trepper, 85, Wilmington, DE

Herbert L. Watts, 76, Houston, TX

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