

## Katrina Hits Home

**H**urricane Katrina has left the Gulf region with environmental wreckage that is unprecedented in its severity and scope. On behalf of the more than 40,000 members worldwide, AIChE extends its condolences to the victims of the hurricane, and to our 2,500 members who were directly impacted.

The work of recovery and reconstruction is moving forward steadily, and news is unfolding faster than we at AIChE can print it. At press time, electricity has been restored to nearly all of Mississippi. More than 73% of affected drinking water systems in Louisiana have been restored and 78% are restored in Mississippi. Major gasoline pipelines are now in operation, the breaks in the levees have been closed, the pumps are running, and the water in New Orleans is receding by the hour. However, challenges will continue to emerge as the months pass.

"The breakdown in communications took everybody by surprise," said Anthony Fregosi, current Chair of the New Orleans Local Section of AIChE. "With mobile phones and landlines not operating, e-mail has been the only form of telecommunication for many of the local section members," he said. Since Tulane Univ., which has been hosting AIChE's New Orleans section website, is still out of commission, Fregosi is hoping to secure a webpage on the Baton Rouge local section's site through which he can disseminate information (e-newsletters, meeting information) to the 350 or so section members who have dispersed since hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on their lives.

"Several members' homes are completely inundated with water, and in many cases, spouses and children have relocated to other cities or states, while members work in yet another location," he explained. "Some members have not been allowed to return to salvage what is left of their property."

Against this backdrop, several chemical companies on the Gulf Coast are providing a broad range of resources, services, as well as onsite temporary housing for displaced employees. Many of these firms, including refineries, are up and running at or near full capacity.

"Adequate housing is a foreseeable problem," said Fregosi. "With so many folks coming to New Orleans to lend a hand, or mobilize reconstructive efforts, along with returning citizens who may have lost their home, this dilemma will only worsen." Near New Orleans, Biloxi, and other cities, police and firefighters, and the other workers who are rebuilding these cities, are sleeping on ships brought into the Port of New Orleans — and more ships are on their way to the region.

Fregosi surmises that several members are involved in recovery efforts beyond their own facilities, but it could be weeks or months before the New Orleans Section is able to coordinate efforts of its own.

### Universities open their doors

Engineering universities joined hundreds of others across the country and overseas in offering help to more than 100,000 university students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Tulane University was among those hit hardest. President Scott Cowen announced at the beginning of the Labor Day weekend that its 13,000 students would not be able to return this fall. Georgia Tech has led the way in terms of offering assistance on several fronts. When all of the shelters from New Orleans to Atlanta were filled to capacity, Georgia Tech allowed the American Red Cross to take several hundred evacuees to its Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The university is also offering admissions to some Tulane students.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) is accepting up to 100 students who were enrolled at Tulane and Xavier Universities. In addition, RPI is waiving the entire semester's tuition, fees, and room and board for students enrolling in its new Gulf Coast Visiting Scholars program and has established a website, [www.rpi.edu/Katrina](http://www.rpi.edu/Katrina), for those who are interested.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported that it has about 90 students from Gulf Coast areas affected by the hurricane. Further, more than two dozen universities in the United Kingdom have offered to accept American students from the hurricane zone. They have posted the openings on

a British Council website  
[www.britishcouncil.org/usa-hurricane-katrina.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/usa-hurricane-katrina.htm).

### Making it personal

While the response to hurricane Katrina has uncovered some communication breakdowns, it has also revealed the amazing generosity and effectiveness of America's corporate and private charitable efforts (Box). Within two weeks of the disaster, Americans had already contributed more than \$600 million to the relief initiatives. Others have opened their homes to the survivors, donated blood, and organized groups of volunteers to implement wireless communication systems, offer expertise, or deliver supplies. Professional scientific and engineering societies are providing many forms of assistance to help the Gulf Coast regain equilibrium. Visit Argonne National Laboratory's website, [www.anl.gov/special/katrina\\_relief.html](http://www.anl.gov/special/katrina_relief.html) for a comprehensive list of such organizations.

Individuals who do not belong to a professional organization, but wish to put their technical expertise to good use can contact their local chapter of The American Red Cross via [www.redcross.org/donate/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/donate/volunteer). This charity has an ongoing need for engineers who are trained in disaster response and ready for deployment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA; [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) also needs engineers, but only those who have pre-registered and trained with the agency will be included in the disaster response teams.

In a similar vein, the USA Freedom Corps has created an information clearinghouse, available at [www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov), through which it is working with partners in the non-profit and national service community to inform Americans how they can help in the Katrina relief effort. The Corps also ensures that all aid, including volunteers and private giving, is collected and delivered in an effective manner.

*At present, AIChE is seeking opportunities for our members to donate their technical expertise when communities and organizations are ready for this assistance. If you know of any opportunities for such volunteers, please contact Sarah Fewster [[saraf@aiche.org](mailto:saraf@aiche.org) and (212) 591-7257] so we can share this news with our members.*

### Generous Corporate Gestures

The chemical community response to Hurricane Katrina was quick and generous. There are many who have given money, supplies and services, and continue to help the impacted communities as the need arises. A few of the many donations made include those of the GE family, which is contributing more than \$22 million in cash, products and services; and ExxonMobil Corp., which has pledged \$500,000 each to the Red Cross Houston Area Chapter and the new United Way Katrina Relief Fund. This \$1 million grant is part of the \$7 million ExxonMobil has committed to Hurricane Katrina. Moreover, Johnson & Johnson has announced an initial cash contribution of \$5 million, Merck has donated more than \$7.2 million in medicines and vaccines, and Amgen announced it is providing an initial cash contribution of \$2.5 million. Additional corporate contributions are listed at [www.aiche.org/Katrina](http://www.aiche.org/Katrina).

As CEP goes to press, Hurricane Rita, currently a category five storm, is moving towards the coast of Texas. On behalf of our 40,000 members, AIChE offers its care and concern to all those in the affected regions.

## AIChE Annual Meeting Notables

This month, over 4,000 chemical engineering professionals from around the world will attend the 2005 AIChE Annual Meeting, October 30–November 4, in Cincinnati, OH. Known as a "must attend" for its up-to-date research and networking, the Annual Meeting offers 16 in-depth topical conferences, over 300 sessions, and a host of receptions and dinners. The conference spans emerging and core fields, with a special focus on energy and bio.

Highlights include:

### Energy Forum • Sunday, October 30 • 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Amid a new national energy policy and growing worldwide energy demands, AIChE will present an Energy Forum, co-hosted by the AIChE Fellows and the Executive Committee as part of a larger energy initiative

### Institute Lecture • Wednesday, November 2 • 10:45 – 11:45 AM

Rakesh Agrawal, Winthrop E. Stone Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University and former Air Products Fellow at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., will present the Institute Lecture, "Energy Supply Challenges and Opportunities."

### Society for Biological Engineering Frontier Tutorial

Sunday, October 30 • 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Professor G. Georgiou and K. Dane Wittrup will discuss the "Discovery and Early Stage Development of Proteins Therapeutics." *Registration fee required.*

### Chem-E-Car Competition • Sunday, October 30 • 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Cheer on student teams from across the country as they race shoe-box-sized cars that run solely on a chemical reaction — fuel cells, lemon batteries, beef liver, baking soda and vinegar, and more.

### Cosponsored Conferences: Management • DIERS \* AES

Three conferences co-located with the AIChE Annual Meeting promise an even broader spectrum of programming: AIChE & ACS-sponsored Management Conference, "Innovation: The Engine for Growth," Nov. 2-4; DIERS' Third International Symposium on Runaway Reactions and Pressure Relief Design," Nov. 1-3; and the Annual Meeting of the American Electrophoresis Society (AES) Oct. 30 – Nov. 4.

For more highlights, check out [www.aiche.org/annual](http://www.aiche.org/annual)

## 2006 AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and to register visit [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-212-591-8100 (outside the U.S.)

### 2006 Spring National Meeting, in conjunction with World Congress on Particle Technology

- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual CCPS International Conference
- 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Loss Prevention Symposium
- 8<sup>th</sup> Process Plant Safety Symposium

April 23–27, 2006 • Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort • Orlando, FL

### Offshore Technology Conference — OTC.06

May 1–4, 2006 • Reliant Center • Houston, TX

### Process Development Symposium

Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future

June 11–14, 2006 • Doral Desert Princess Resort • Palm Springs, CA

### Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium

September 10–14, 2006 • Hyatt Regency • Vancouver, Canada

### 2006 Annual Meeting

November 12–17, 2006 • San Francisco Hilton • San Francisco, CA

## AIChE Campaign for Web Excellence

The AIChE Foundation wishes to thank the East Tennessee Section for its generous contribution to the development of AIChE's new website, slated to launch in November. Donations from individuals and groups make this new website possible. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$90,000.

Members have also been central to the site design and testing process. Thanks to member feedback, the new website will feature: easy to use navigation; intuitive search engine; robust system; improved member directory, and clear and consistent look and feel.

To learn more and to support the Foundation's Campaign for Web Excellence, visit

[www.aiche.org/webfund](http://www.aiche.org/webfund)

## AIChE Call for Papers

### 2006 Spring National Meeting

Open Now: [www.aiche.org/spring](http://www.aiche.org/spring)  
November 14, 2005

### 2006 Process Development Symposium

Open Now: [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences)  
October 31, 2005

### 2006 Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium

May 1, 2006

### 2006 Annual Meeting

May 1, 2006

### 22nd Annual CCPS International Conference

September 2006

### 2007 Spring National Meeting

November 2006

### 41st Annual Loss Prevention Symposium

November 2006

### 9th Process Plant Safety Symposium

November 2006

\*Conference dates may be extended or changed. Please check AIChE's website for the most current dates.

## Networking with Peers: AIChE-Boston Launches Executive Forum

The AIChE-Boston Executive Forum was co-founded by Larry Evans, candidate for AIChE President-Elect and founder of Aspen Technology, and Rob Reintjes, Chair (2004-5) of the Boston local section ("the Ichthyologists") and Principal, New England Equity Group.

"We envisioned a group which would pull together senior technical executives from New England companies that utilize chemical engineering technology, and which would also include chemical engineering department chairs from the 12 universities AIChE-Boston serves," says Evans. "The group provides an opportunity for participants to enjoy the benefits of shared experience, while building bridges between academia and industry."

The primary purpose of the group, which will meet bi-monthly, is for executives from a broad spectrum of industries to get to know each other better.

Mark Farrell, an executive at Koch Membrane Systems, commented, "At the meetings I attend, all we talk about is membranes. I want an opportunity to interact with technical executives from a wide range of industries."

The invitation list included executives from diverse sectors of industry, including traditional industries such as chemical and biochemical, pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals, plastics, metals, coatings, membrane filtration, water treatment, and also new ventures such as energy, biotechnology, nanotechnology and materials science.

"Our meeting format was designed to encourage dialogue between participants through facilitated networking" Reintjes explained. "We also feature speakers on topics selected by the group. A key component of the Forum is that it's designed from the inside out — the format will be adjusted in response to the needs and interests of the members."

At the first breakfast meeting, held in Waltham, MA on June 22, Dr. Roshan Jachuck, Director of the Process Intensification and Clean Technology (PICT) group at Clarkson University's Chemical Engineering Dept., gave a presentation on process intensification.

The benefit of the Forum to AIChE-Boston is increased expo-



*Pictured left to right: Andy Irwin, Vice-Chair (2004–2005) of the Boston Section and President, Irwin Engineers; Larry Evans, founder of AspenTech; and Rob Reintjes, Chair (2004–2005) of the Boston Section and Principal, New England Equity Group.*

sure to senior technical leaders in companies who hire chemical engineers. As the senior executives participating in the Forum learn about the benefits of membership in the local section, they encourage the chemical engineers employed by their organizations to attend meetings. They also provide valuable insight regarding ways to improve the programs and services offered by the local section.

After having developed the framework of the Forum, Evans and Reintjes put together a steering committee comprised of area executives to further refine the plan.

Evans and Reintjes would be happy to provide ideas and suggestions to other local sections interested in developing similar programs to improve connections between AIChE and industrial leaders. Contact Rob Reintjes at [reintjes@newenglandequity.com](mailto:reintjes@newenglandequity.com).

## Institute for Sustainability Passing the Torch and Milestones Achieved

Earl Beaver, managing partner of Practical Sustainability in Chesterfield, Missouri, has become Chair Emeritus of AIChE's Institute for Sustainability (IfS). Under Beaver's leadership, IfS, which was formally chartered by the Board of Directors in April 2004, has passed a number of milestones. Incoming IfS Chair, Calvin Cobb, 2001 president of AIChE and currently president of Calvin Cobb and Co., said "the technical foundation that Earl Beaver laid for AIChE's sustainability activities has positioned IfS for growth."

In the past 18 months, IfS has, through a grassroots project involving many AIChE members and others interested parties, developed a shared definition of sustainability; delivered workshops in a variety of venues; worked with AIChE's Sustainability Engineering Forum to program topical con-

ferences at AIChE national and annual meetings; and been a major participant in other events, such as the Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Chemical Society. Moreover, several major companies have joined IfS' Center for Sustainable Technology Practices (CSTP), which is developing shared training materials and metrics. Much of the CSTP work is being supported by a grant from the EPA. Charlene Wall, BASF's manager of Eco-efficiency in North America, is leading the industry group. Beaver, with support from Beth Beloff of Bridges to Sustainability, is continuing as principal investigator supporting the CSTP projects.

IfS, in cooperation with the UN Foundation and support from the Oxygen tele-

vision network, sponsored organizational meetings for the Youth Council for Sustainability. The Youth Council will provide a home for students and young adults who share a commitment to responsible, technically informed, sustainable development. Additionally, under a grant from the National Science Foundation, IfS has taken the lead in creating sustainability curricular materials for use in high school chemistry classes.

Going forward, IfS leadership is turning its focus to developing measurements of sustainability progress that have industry buy-in and support, establishing alliances and partnerships with other sustainability organizations, and securing additional funds for expansion of programs. For more information, visit IfS on the Web at <http://www.aiche.org/sustainability>.

## Bill Hammack Named Jefferson Science Fellow

Member Bill Hammack, a professor of chemical and of biomolecular engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been named a Jefferson Science Fellow by the U.S. Department of State.

Hammack is one of five tenured research scientists and engineers chosen to work alongside senior diplomats and policymakers for a year in Washington, D.C. Jefferson Science Fellows are asked to advise and also to educate.

Candidates for Jefferson Fellowships are selected based on their scientific achievements, communication skills and their ability to describe scientific topics accurately for non-expert audiences. They must also be interested in issues at the intersection of science, diplomacy and foreign policy.

Committed to enhancing what he calls engineering awareness and to adding a human face to the engineering enterprise, Hammack produces "Engineering and Life," weekly radio essays on topics from air conditioning to Tupperware. The two- to three-

minute essays are distributed by Illinois Public Radio. Hammack also teaches an engineering course for non-majors, "The Hidden World of Engineering."

The Jefferson Science Fellows program was started in 2003 with grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Carnegie Corp. The fellowships are named for President Thomas Jefferson, who was interested in experimentation and promotion of scientific discovery as a citizen-scientist.

Hammack received his bachelor's degree from the Michigan Technological University in 1984 and his masters and doctorate, both from the University of Illinois, in 1986 and 1988, respectively.

Hammack has won the Excellence in Teaching Award in the University of Illinois' School of Chemical Sciences, the President's Award from the American Society for Engineering Education, and the award for Distinguished Literary Contributions Furthering the Public Understanding of the Profession from the Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers.

### Flying J Executive Jeffrey Keith Utley Dies in Motorcycle Accident

**Jeffrey Keith Utley**, Sr. Vice President of Flying J's Refining Operations and Big West Oil, LLC, died on August 5, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on U.S. Highway 31 about seven miles southwest of Victor, ID. He was 48 years old.

A well-respected man in the petroleum and refining business, Utley was the key figure in Flying J's overall refining business and instrumental in its recent acquisition of Shell Oil Co.'s refinery in Bakersfield, CA.

Utley's 19-year career with Flying J began with the 1986 acquisition of the

U.S. downstream assets of Husky Canada, which included a refinery in North Salt Lake City, UT, where he was employed as chief process engineer. He was promoted to refinery manager in 1987. Utley attended the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in chemical and fuels engineering. He served on the State of Utah Hazardous Waste Board and was a current member of AIChE and Utah's Air Quality Board. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and their three children, Eric, Jesse and Stefan.

### Nuclear Expert W. Kelly Woods Passes Away

**W. Kelly Woods** passed away on August 4 at his home in Salem, Oregon, at the age of 92. He was a graduate of Stanford University and received a doctorate in chemical engineering from MIT. He worked for over 30 years in the nuclear industry, including the Manhattan Project at Hanford, Washington, and the GE Nuclear Power Div. at San Jose, CA. In 1972, he moved to Salem, where he served on the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council and lectured on nuclear engineering at Oregon State University. Kelly is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lydia, children Keith Woods of Richland, WA, Linda Woods of Spokane, WA, Margo Shafer of Berkeley, CA, Neale Woods of Melbourne, Australia, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

Myron J. Burkhard, 104, Dahinda, IL  
Robert K. Collins\*, 92, Knoxville, TN  
Curtis W. Clump\*, 82, Bethlehem, PA  
Robert C. Davidson, 89, Ventura, CA  
James E. Deas Jr, 80, Conyers, GA  
Kenneth Decossas, 80, New Orleans, LA  
Robert Derenda, 41, Ledbetter, KY  
Edward F. Eckert, 87, Burlington, NC  
Harland H. Ehlers, 63, Athens, GA  
Norbert J. Foecking, 81, Chardon, OH  
Paul W. Garbo, 94, Freeport, NY  
Jaime J. Gonzalez-Duke, 61, Woodland Hills, CA  
William R. Goode\*, 79, Tuscaloosa, AL  
Alan R. Graff, 84, Lanark, IL

Theodore R. Haddad, 85, Tacoma, WA  
Howard Kehde\*, 84, Fresno, CA  
John J. Kelly, 69, Baton Rouge, LA  
Robert L. Kingman, 73, Columbus, OH  
Aubrey Kirby, 84, Swarthmore, PA  
Chris S. Kovach, 39, Avon, OH  
Jacob P. Krumbein, 88, Birmingham, AL  
Edward L. Lantz, 83, Hollister, CA  
Robert R. Loos, 80, Novelty, OH  
James M. Meyers, 88, Chatham, NJ  
R. McMurtrie, 83, Midland, MI  
Lawrence C. Mohr, 80 San Marcos, TX  
Donald R. Napier, 74, Corpus Christi, TX  
Johnnie L. Pearson, 57, Youngsville, NC

Thomas Ponder, 84, Houston, TX  
H. W. Prengle, 86, San Antonio, TX  
Robert H. Reed, 85, Thomasville, NC  
Robert P. Selm\*, 82, Salina, KS  
William S. Shamban, 90, Santa Monica, CA  
Chung S. Shen\*, 84, St Louis, MO  
Raymond V. Smith, 83, Sun City, AZ  
Ernest Tereck, 84, N Royalton, OH  
Thomas N. Tackett, 82, Austin, TX  
William H. Tilley, 84, New Bern, NC  
Wendell Waterman, 92, Franklin, WI  
Leonard A. Wenzel\*, 82, Bethlehem, PA  
James Wilding, 84, Buffalo, NY  
Donald K. Wunderlich, 83, Richardson, TX

\* Fellow member