

## Introducing the Inaugural AIChE Sustainability Index

In the June 2007 issue of *CEP*, the Institute for Sustainability (IfS) published an article (pp. 38–42) introducing the AIChE Sustainability Index (SI), which assesses the sustainability of the chemical industry along factors specific to the industry. Here, IfS launches the inaugural analysis, which includes eleven chemical companies representing a diverse range of markets and products\*.

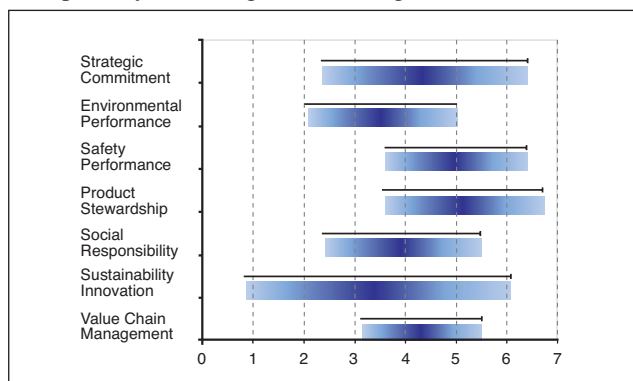
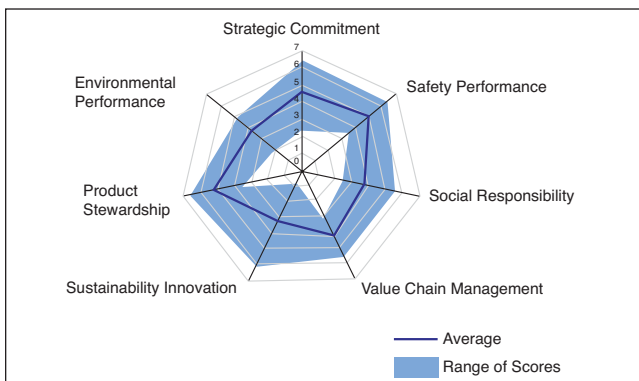
Ranges of scores from the analysis are shown both on a “spider web” (left) and on a bar chart. The maximum score of seven represents ideal best practice. Average for all companies reviewed (shown in dark blue) provide a starting benchmark for comparison, while the ranges indicate that significant variability exists in the perceived performance of the companies.

The variability is especially significant in strategic commitment and sustainability innovation. Larger companies and those with brands well known to consumers tend to receive

greater stakeholder pressure and hence committed themselves to broad and aggressive sustainability performance targets, which are also reflected in the breadth and depth of their public sustainability reports. Sustainability has also become an important innovation driver for companies engaged in specialty materials, industrial gases and nutrition.

Additional details and insights from AIChE SI will be presented in future issues of *CEP*. Topics to be covered include: comparing companies with annual revenues above and below \$10 billion; examining several chemical sub-sectors; and reviewing, in detail, the factor, strategic commitment to sustainability.

The AIChE SI provides practical benchmarks along a number of well-defined metrics. Individual companies can subscribe to the indexing service to learn how they compare their peers by contacting [ifs@aiche.org](mailto:ifs@aiche.org).



\*The following companies are included: Air Products, Akzo Nobel, Ashland, BASF, Celanese, Dow, DuPont, Eastman, Lyondell, Praxair, and Rohm&Haas.

## Going Back to Our Roots — 2008 Centennial Meeting to be held in Philadelphia

A major observance of the centennial celebration will be centered on the Institute's 2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the city where AIChE was founded. That meeting will be held November 16–21 at the Philadelphia Marriott and the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Some centennial activities will also be featured at the AIChE's Spring National Meeting, April 6–10 at the New Orleans Convention Center. The Spring Meeting will, for the first time, be co-located with the American Chemical Society's Spring Meeting, and attendees will be able to participate in both organizations' offerings.

To help members who'd like to take advantage of the special April and November events in AIChE's centennial year, a significantly discounted registration package for both the Spring and Annual meetings is available (see ad on inside front cover).

To help support these events along with other centennial activities (e.g., an interactive website on chemical engineering history and a special “Centennial Edition” Chem-E-Car competition designed to expand public awareness of alternative energy technologies), the AIChE Foundation Board of Trustees has launched a campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000.

To date, nearly \$75,000 has been donated. As part of AIChE's thanks to those making contributions, the Institute's website features the Centennial Celebration Builder's Wall. Currently on this wall are: four Centennial Sponsors who have donated over \$3,000; eleven Centennial Sponsors who have given in the range of \$1,000–\$2,999; and 485 Centennial Donors who have contributed in the range of \$1–\$999. To view the wall, go to [www.aiche.org/About/Foundation/CentennialCelebrationActivities/Donors.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/About/Foundation/CentennialCelebrationActivities/Donors.aspx). If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Cathy Diana at [giving@aiche.org](mailto:giving@aiche.org).

## Chicago Local Section:

## Advancing Chemical Engineering Education

Over 100 attendees came to listen to experts discuss developments in refining, energy and biotechnology at the Chicago local section's two-day symposium held at Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) on Sept. 25–26. In addition to the wealth of technical knowledge, the symposium also focused on engineering education. John Anderson, the newly appointed president of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and a 40-year member of AIChE, opened the symposium with a plenary speech on developments in chemical engineering education.

The symposium also featured a high school outreach program designed to address the shortage of engineers nationwide. Some 225 Chicago-area high school students and their counselors received a focused, fun look at engineering as a career choice. As part of this event, over 300 high school students, counselors and engineering attendees dined together to enhance the interac-



1. Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) president John Anderson kicks off the meeting with a discussion on chemical engineering education.  
2. Over 200 high school students listen intently to discussions on engineering careers.  
3. The job fair was a great success, matching companies with prospective employees.



tion. Also new and well received was the Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB) of AIChE job fair for college students who will soon be seeking employment.

"The event was a success thanks to the efforts of over 35 Chicago section volunteers who staffed the event," said the Symposium chair Jeff Perl of Chicago Chem. "I'd also like to thank the 15 Chicago-area companies that



gave generously to sponsor the event, and UIC for its extensive assistance during all phases of planning and execution," he continued. To learn more about the symposium, go to [www.aiche-chicago.org/symposium](http://www.aiche-chicago.org/symposium).

## John Swearingen, 1918–2007

John E. Swearingen, 89, an oil executive who led Standard Oil of Indiana to become the sixth largest U.S. company, died Sept. 14 in Birmingham, AL. Born in Columbia, SC in 1918 to John E. and Mary Hough Swearingen, he graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1938 with a bachelors in chemical engineering. A year later, he earned a masters of science degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. Swearingen was a Fellow of AIChE, and a long-standing AIChE member for 68 years.

Directly after college, Swearingen went to work for Standard Oil doing research. He rose through the ranks to become chairman in 1965, after having served as president since 1958, chief executive officer since 1960, and as a director since 1952. He retired in 1983. According to his memoir, "Think Ahead," which was published in May 2004, during his 44-years of service, the company's profits rose from \$84 million to \$1.8 billion. Standard Oil eventually became Amoco, which then merged with BP.

Swearingen was also a leading industry spokesman.

Perhaps his most memorable moment as the voice of the industry was during his role at the helm of the American Petroleum Institute during the energy crisis of the 1970s.

In 1984, Swearingen took over the troubled Continental Illinois National Bank, at the behest of the Federal Deposit Insurance Co. He worked there until 1989.

Swearingen was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame, the Chicago Business Hall of Fame, and the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame. He was also the recipient of numerous awards, including the Herbert Hoover Humanitarian Award by the Boy Scouts of America (1980), the Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers (1980), the Washington Award by the Western Society of Engineers (1981) and the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement by the American Petroleum Institute (1983). He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Bolding Swearingen, two daughters, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Ryan T. Gill,  
University of Colorado



Aaron M. Scurto,  
University of Kansas



Benjamin Wilhite,  
University of Connecticut

## AIChE Members Among the 40<sup>th</sup> Class of DuPont Young Professors

Sixteen young professors from eight universities in the U.S. and from six institutions in four other countries have been named to the 40th Class of DuPont Young Professors. Selected by the DuPont Fellows Forum, which consists the top scientists within the company, each Young Professor in the U.S. will receive a grant for \$25,000/yr for three years. The DuPont Young Professors Program is designed to provide unrestricted start-up assistance to promising young and untenured research faculty working in areas of interest to the long-term business interests of DuPont. Each faculty member is nominated by a member of the DuPont technical staff who agrees to serve as the liaison between DuPont and the faculty member. "The purpose of the DuPont Young Professor grants is to help young university faculty members within five years of full-time appointment start their research careers," Uma Chowdhry, DuPont senior vice president and chief science and technology officer, said. "We all remember how difficult it was to get started on research. The grants are intended to encourage highly original research early in a professor's research career." Among those named are three members of AIChE:

**Ryan T. Gill** completing chemical and biological engineering advanced research at University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

**Aaron M. Scurto** for research in chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

**Benjamin Wilhite** for research in chemicals, materials and biomolecular engineering at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

## Call for Original Book Material

AIChE's New Books Subcommittee is looking for material for original books on chemical engineering and related fields, including bioengineering and related fields, including biomedicine, nanotechnology, environment and sustainability, alternative energy technologies, microsystems engineering, and process safety and security. These books, if approved by the New Books Subcommittee of the AIChE Publication Committee in cooperation with John Wiley & Sons, will be published by the AIChE/Wiley Press.

AIChE's New Books Subcommittee, charged with acquiring, reviewing, and publishing original books on chemical engineering and related fields, is chaired by Joseph Alford, and its members consist of Thomas Edgar, Karl Schnelle, Patrick Mills, Jan Lerou, and Joel Fried, representing a broad spectrum of chemical engineering.

If you or any of your colleagues are interested, please contact Joe Alford at [jmalford5@earthlink.net](mailto:jmalford5@earthlink.net) or Haeja Han at [haejh@aiche.org](mailto:haejh@aiche.org).

## OBITUARIES

Carl S. Carlson, 94, Whiting, NJ

John Dabrowski, 66, Colts Neck, NJ

Jozephus J. Draaisma, 83,

Voorburg, Netherlands

Robert T. Edmunds, 86, Waterbury, CT

Elmer A. Fike, 88, Charleston, WV

Carlo Giraudi, 81, Venice, FL

Elliott Goldberg, 87, Fort Lee, NJ

David J. Grant, 70, Minneapolis, MN

Joseph P. Ligeour, 54, Westwood, NJ

George A. Rial, 93, Monterey, CA

## AIChE Conference Calendar

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

### 2008 SBE's International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering

January 20-23, 2008 • Coronado Island Marriott Resort • Coronado, CA

### 2008 Spring National Meeting

April 6-10, 2008 • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, LA

### 2008 Process Development Symposium: Chemical Product Engineering — The Third Paradigm

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

### 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