

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kristine Chin
(212) 591-7662
krisc@aiche.org

**MANAGING
EDITOR**

Cynthia F. Mascone
(212) 591-7343
cynm@aiche.org

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR**

Matt McKeon-Slatery
(212) 591-7317
mattm@aiche.org

**CONTRIBUTING
EDITORS**

Terry McMahon
(201) 585-2050
mcmahontec135@aol.com

Gerald Parkinson
gparky@cox.net

REGULATORY

William A. Shirley
(888) 674-2529
envtllaw@charter.net

PATENT LAW

Henry Heines
mhh@townsend.com

**PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR**

Karen Simpson
(212) 591-7337
kares@aiche.org

ART & DESIGN

Jesse Gunzel
(212) 591-8678
jessg@aiche.org

ILLUSTRATOR

Paula Angarita
design@aiche.org

AICHE

GENERAL INQUIRIES
1-800-AICHEM
(1-800-242-4363)

MEETINGS/EXPOSITIONS
(212) 591-7324

**MEMBER ACTIVITIES &
SERVICES**
(212) 591-7329

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

John A. Sofranko
johns@aiche.org

**GROUP
PUBLISHER**

Stephen R. Smith
steps@aiche.org

**EDITORIAL
ADVISORY BOARD**

Andre Da Costa
Chevron

Dennis C. Hendershot
CCPS Consultant

Marc Karell
Environmental
Resources
Management

Bruce Vaughen
DuPont TeijinFilms



Editorial



A Positive Experience in SLC

Having just returned from a week-long trip to Salt Lake City for the AICHE Annual Meeting (Nov. 4–9), I was energized by the unbridled enthusiasm of the students and volunteers, as well as the many attendees who commented positively on the session topics and special events. Unofficially, the attendance hovered around 5,000, of which 1,000 of them were students coming for the Student Conference held Nov. 3–4.

On Sunday, I found my way to the cavernous hall where the 9th Annual ChemE-Car competition was held (p. 17) to watch the final 15 minutes of the event. As I came in, all I could hear was the roaring of the crowd. As I approached the actual racing area, I gazed upon the leader board to see which university was in first place. To my surprise, my alma mater, Cooper Union, was in the lead. Cooper held on to win the competition, but just by the narrowest of margins — 0.5 in. — over Carnegie Mellon Univ. (which just happens to be the alma mater of Cindy Mascone, *CEP*'s managing editor).

On Monday, I had a chance to attend the panel discussion "Challenges and Opportunities for Chemical Engineers in a Changing Global Energy Economy." The ballroom was packed with about 500 people attentively listening to the panelists share their points of view on the global energy situation. An interesting Q & A session followed, which included discussions on such topics as the viability of algae-based fuel. On Monday evening, I had the pleasure of dining and networking with my fellow Chinese-American colleagues at the Chinese-American Chemical Society banquet. The National Science Foundation's Maria Burka, the invited speaker, inspired many of the young chemical engineers in the audience to look into applying for grants to conduct "transformative" research.

Speaking of transformative research, one of Tuesday's featured events, "International Benchmarking of U.S. Chemical Engineering Research Competitiveness," drew a crowd of approximately 200 attendees. The focus of the session was the findings of a panel of academic and industrial leaders, charged by the National Research Council of the National Academies, to investigate this area. Their conclusion: "The U.S. is presently, and is expected to remain, among the world's leaders in all subareas of chemical engineering research, with clear leadership in several subareas. U.S. leadership in some classical and emerging subareas [e.g., materials-oriented research] will be strongly challenged."

On a personal note, this was my first trip to Salt Lake City, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect. What I found was a beautiful and friendly city. Coming from New York, I'm not quite used to having cars stop for me on a major road just because I am carrying around an orange flag. With that, I will bid my readers a farewell. I have thoroughly enjoyed publishing *CEP* for nearly seven years, but it's time for me to move on. I won't be far away though ... I'll be nearby in AICHE's technical programming department. So, this isn't quite a final goodbye, as I hope that I will see many of you at future AICHE meetings. My contact information will remain the same, so if you would like to send me comments about AICHE meetings, please don't hesitate to email or call.

Kristine Chin,
Editor-in-Chief