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Editorial



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

January is a time to reflect on the year just past, and to look ahead at the year that is beginning. For AIChE, 2007 was a very good year, with positive membership growth for the second consecutive year, a net operating income of roughly \$3 million, the launching of a new student membership initiative, and the CCPS sponsor list expanding to over 100 among the many highlights.

This year promises to be a good one as well. Our financial situation remains strong. With regard to membership, we are forecasting a further 3% increase in general membership, and targeting a 50% increase in student members to bring the total to 9,000 undergraduates. And, we expect to see more of you at our meetings, such as the Spring Meeting in New Orleans Apr. 6–10 (at the same time and place as the American Chemical Society's meeting) and the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Nov. 16–21, which will be the grand finale of our Centennial Celebration.

Throughout this year, AIChE will be looking back at the achievements of the past century and the contributions of countless chemical engineers. The Centennial Celebration Committee has been hard at work identifying these accomplishments and individuals. On pages 62 and 63 of this issue, we unveil the committee's list of Fifty Forerunners in the form of a quiz. See if you can match the achievement with the person responsible for it — without using Google! The answers will be posted on the AIChE website, www.aiche.org/100. In future issues, we will highlight other important milestones and contributors to the history of chemical engineering.

AIChE is also looking ahead to the future. To carry the organization into its next century, the Institute is developing a strategic plan that will allow us to respond to new opportunities and meet new challenges in real-time. Members will be asked to comment on the draft plan via web-based discussion forums before the final version is unveiled later this year.

As you look to your own future, we hope you find *CEP* to be a valuable career resource — with technical articles that provide problem-solving guidance, news pages that keep you informed of technology developments and important trends, and the Institute News section that helps you stay connected with your profession. Let us know how we are meeting your needs in these areas, and what we can do to serve you better.

On a personal note, I'm excited about this January issue because it marks the beginning of my new role as editor-in-chief of *CEP*. I'm honored that AIChE has placed its trust in me and given me this opportunity. I'm eager to try new things to make *CEP* an even better magazine. I have some ideas and plans of my own, and I welcome your suggestions.

Many of us mark the transition from one year to the next by making New Year's resolutions. Maybe you vowed to exercise more, eat less, stop smoking, or spend more time with family and friends. My resolution is based on my vision for *CEP* — to capitalize on its many strengths, fine-tuning where necessary and adding new features as warranted, to create an engaging publication that AIChE members will find interesting and valuable.

Whatever your goals for this new year, I wish you success in your efforts.

Cynthia Mascone
Editor-in-Chief