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A Mid-Year Progress Report

A politician trying to find out why her opponent won kept hearing the same question: What have you done for me lately? With the second half of the year well underway, now seems to be a good time to let you know what we've done for AIChE members lately.

Without a doubt, the launch of ChemE on Demand last month signaled an important step for AIChE. This fully searchable, multimedia resource puts a wealth of chemical engineering and career-enhancing information at every member's fingertips. ChemE on Demand is an ever-growing repository of information that includes content from meetings and webinars and will expand to incorporate other material as well. I urge you to see for yourself at www.aiche.org/chemeondemand.

As part of AIChE's strategic plan, we made a commitment to make greater use of web-based tools to reach the global community of chemical engineers. One way we've done that is by offering webinars on technical and business-related subjects. Through the end of July, we've conducted 22 new webinars and additional ones are scheduled through the end of the year. You can see the upcoming schedule and access archived webinars at ChemE on Demand.

In March, we launched AIChE SmartBrief, which provides members a weekly digest of articles about chemical engineering and the chemical industry. Delivered to your e-mail inbox every Tuesday, each item that appears in AIChE SmartBrief contains a link back to the original source so you can read items of interest in depth. I think AIChE SmartBrief is an excellent way for busy professionals to keep up with what's going on in industry and the latest technological developments. You can subscribe at www.smartbrief.com/aiche.

Coming up this month, the Institute for Sustainability (IfS) is leading the First International Congress on Sustainability Science and Engineering. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Univ. of Kentucky, it will bring together a wide range of disciplines to exchange information and ideas about forging a path to a sustainable future. Scheduled for August 9–12 in Cincinnati, OH, the Congress will be followed by a workshop on water resources on August 13. Visit the IfS website at www.aiche.org/ifs for more information.

In early October, the South Texas Section hosts the AIChE Regional Process Technology Conference in Galveston, TX. Last year we made a commitment to work with local sections to help make top-quality conferences more accessible to members. We began that effort in Chicago in September 2008 and are pleased to be supporting this year's event in the Gulf Region. Learn more about it on the Conference section of the AIChE website.

I'm also happy to announce that Miriam Cortes-Caminero has joined our staff as Executive Director of the Society for Biological Engineering (SBE). Miriam is a biochemist and pharmacologist with experience in international sales and marketing positions in biopharmaceuticals. Miriam will initially focus her efforts on identifying new research projects for industrial consortia, developing a "web lab" for academic institutions, and increasing SBE membership.

It's been a busy year so far and there's more to come. I'll update you as we make further progress.

June C. Wispelwey

