

# The Newsletter of AIChE's Fuels and Petrochemicals Division

# Flashpoint

Volume 23, Issue 2

Summer 2011

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## The Chair's Corner By Colin Bowen

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge all the members and friends of the Fuels and Petrochemical Division (F&PD) on the outstanding, collaborative effort, which made the 2011 Spring Meeting in Chicago a great success. Although the temperature was a little colder than we hoped, taxis kept us warm when traveling to event dinners offsite. Attendance for the meeting was above our expectations and the quality of technical sessions was great.

As usual, the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division contributed significantly to the technical sessions at the Spring Meeting. The F&PD hosted 165 presentations plus the Spring Meeting Keynote Address, Gas Utilization Luncheon Keynote Speech, and a new Welcome Session on Monday morning prior to the keynote presenter.

Keynote Address – F. Emil Jacobs (ExxonMobil), "The Energy Challenge: Providing Sustainable Supplies to Meet Growing Demand"

Welcome Session – Sam Thomas (Chart Industries, Inc.), "What Are We Going to Do with All This Natural Gas?"

Gas Utilization Luncheon – Heinz Bauer (Linde Engineering), "History of LNG in Germany

During my term as F&PD Chair, I will continue to encourage students to join AIChE and our division. The students receive access to the AIChE e-library with its wealth of information and other benefits, including opportunities for mentorship. I encourage other F&PD members to do the same and reach out to

younger professionals and solicit their participation in the organization.

As a final point, I come from the Ethylene Producers Confer-



ence (EPC) and bring a point of view to the division for the Petrochemical part of F&PD. We have a couple 3-year Directors from EPC to bring balance and diversity in F&PD to keep it strong. I see more collaboration between F&PD and EPC this year and beyond.

I look forward to seeing F&PD members this fall in Minneapolis for the 2011 AIChE Annual Meeting, October 16-21, 2011 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Upcoming Meetings
2011 Fall AICHE Meeting
Minneapolis Convention center
Minneapolis, MN
October 16-21, 2011

Regional Process Technology
Conference
Moody Gardens Hotel and
Convention Center
Galveston, TX
October 6-7, 2011

2011 Spring AIChE Meeting Hilon Americas Hotel Houston, TX April 1-5, 2012 Volume 23, Issue 2

# Fuels and Petrochemicals Programming Update By Belma Demirel

For the next two years, I will be the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division new programming chair, as well as a Director. The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division (FPD) is looking forward to the upcoming AIChE Annual and Spring Meetings. Please join us to learn more about recent advances and future challenges in energy, fuels and petrochemicals industries.

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#### Annual Meeting; October 16-21, 2011, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

Main focus of the FPD at this year's annual meeting is to cover recent advances in alternative fuels and new energy technologies, energy storage, and refining and solid-liquid separation in petroleum industry in addition to advances in oil drilling technology under extreme conditions. Non-technical session will have many papers and panel discussion on developing leadership skills.

Detail information can be found at

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/2011/webprogram/16.html

#### Spring Meeting; April 1-5, 2012, Hilton-Americas and George Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

The Fuels and Petrochemical Division will have a very rich program covering the areas in Gas Utilization, Refinery Processing, Alternative Fuels and New technologies, Petrochemicals and Derivatives and Non-Technical Programming. Sessions offered under each topic include but are not limited to are Hydrogen Management; Coal, Biomass and Natural Gas to Liquids; LNG; Gasification technologies and Gas Clean-up; Production of Fuels and Chemicals from Fisher-Tropsch Hydrocarbons; Syngas to Ammonia; CO<sub>2</sub> Conversion; Greenhouse Gases and Sequestration; Aromatics and Petrochemicals Processing; Process Control and Optimization; Advances in Hydroprocessing; Advances in Design and Operations of Crude, Vacuum and Delayed Coking Units; Advances in Separations; Advances in Sulfur Recovery; Energy Optimization; Biofuels; and Non-Technical Programming. Spring meeting has had more industrial focus and we anticipate a larger audience from Houston area. This is a very good opportunity to learn more about industries and their challenges.

FPD will open with a welcome session on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a keynote speaker, Michael J. Dolan, SVP, Exxon Mobil Corporation. In addition, there will be Gas Utilization luncheon and FPD Dinner.

Call for Papers to present at the AIChE 2012 Spring Meeting is open until October 14, 2011. We look forward to your contribution to FPD.

A complete list of all sessions and topics can be found on-line at

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s12/webprogrampreliminary/index.html

Below are the links for specifically FPD tracks:

Topical 6: 12<sup>th</sup> Topical Conference on Gas Utilization:

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s12/webprogrampreliminary/T6.html

*Topical 7: 15<sup>th</sup> Topical on Refinery Processing:* 

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s12/webprogrampreliminary/T7.html

Group 16: Advances in Aromatics and Petrochemicals Processing:

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s12/webprogrampreliminary/16.html

Topical 4: 24<sup>th</sup> Ethylene Producers' Conference:

http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s12/webprogrampreliminary/T4.html

Look forward to you seeing you at our upcoming meetings in Minneapolis and Houston.

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# AICHE Regional Process Technology Conference by Allan Rossiter

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the Third Annual AIChE Regional Process Technology Conference. Don't miss out! This is a major event that we will be running, together with the AIChE National organization, in Galveston, October 6-7. Registration is now open at the conference website,

http://www.aiche.org/Conferences/2011Regional/Galveston.aspx, so why not sign up today?

The goal of the conference is to provide an affordable, easily accessible, high-quality technical program for chemical engineers in the Greater Houston area, focused on issues that are relevant to local industries. Here are some of the important elements for this year's conference:

- The program includes sessions on advances in chemical technologies, distillation and separation, thermodynamics and process simulation, process safety, reaction engineering/catalysis, energy efficiency, and refining.
- Our keynote speaker this year is John Lienhard, the voice and creator of NPR's "The Engines of our Ingenuity (http://www.uh.edu/engines/)".
- We are adding several new features this year, including a Young Professionals track and a Professional Ethics seminar provided by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.
- We have an additional workshop on Carbon Capture and Storage, sponsored by SECARB.
- There will also be an exhibition, providing an opportunity for users and providers of products and services in our industry to meet and network
- The speaker at the conference dinner on the Thursday evening (October 6) will be Al Sacco, the First Professor of Chemical Engineering in Space.

The conference website contains additional information http://www.aiche.org/Conferences/2011Regional/Galveston.aspx ...

If your company has five or more attending we would be happy to provide a group discount (10% saving, rising to 20% for 20 or more people). Please contact me to register your group. The early registration deadline is September 1, so if you'd like the double benefit of early registration fee rates and group discount, please register your group before September 1.

In addition, if your company is interested in exhibiting or sponsoring the conference, opportunities are still open. Details are available on the website at

 $http://www.aiche.org/uploadedFiles/Conferences/PTC\%202011\%20Sponsor\%20Brochure\%20RPTC\%20Update\%20v2.pdf\ .$ 

## **Flashpoint is Now Accepting Advertising**

.Flashpoint, The Newsletter of the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division, is published three (3) times per year. It is distributed electronically to our membership and other interested parties (nearly 1,500 people, mostly chemical engineering professionals) in March (prior to the Spring AIChE Meeting), July and October (prior to the Fall AIChE Meeting) and it is also posted on F&PD's website. Contact Lori McDowell if interested.

 Ad Size/# of Issues
 Quarter Page
 Half Page
 Full Page

 1
 \$75
 \$125
 \$200

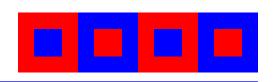
 3 (full year)
 \$200
 \$300
 \$500

F&PD will once again be participating in the Annual Student Conference just prior to the Fall AlChE Meeting. If you plan to attend the Annual Fall meeting and will be there on Saturday, please stop by the F&PD student session and help intoduce students to careers in the Fuels and Petrochemical Industry

F&PD is looking for sponsors for events at the Spring and Fall meeting. Events can include coffee breaks, lunches, student receptions, awards and YPAB Events. If interested send email to: communications@aichefpd.org

F&PD is now on the professional networking website, LinkedIn. To connect with other professionals and expand your professional network, please connect with us on LinkedIn at

http://www.linkedin.com/in/aichefpd.



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#### F&PD Awards -Call for Nominations

#### Notes from the Editor by Lori McDowell

Nominations are open for the four F&PD awards that are given at the Spring National Meeting. Details about these awards can be found at:

http://www.aiche.org/DivisionsForums/ViewAll/FandP.asp

<u>x</u> Fuels & Petrochemicals Division Awards. This award recognizes individuals who have made substantial technological contributions to the advancement of the fuels and petrochemicals industries. The award recipient is the speaker at the Division's award dinner, held at the AIChE Spring National Meeting. Fuels & Petrochemicals Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes an individual's outstanding service to the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division. The candidate must have participated extensively in a variety of division activities demonstrating leadership, and have served the division a minimum of five years. Send nominations for both of the above to the F&PDs Past Chair pastchair@aiche-fpd.org.

#### **Harry West Student Paper Award**

This Award is presented to the undergraduate student member of AIChE and F&PD who submits the best paper on any subject relevant to fuels, petrochemicals or safety. Papers are not restricted to research topics and may include design case studies and reviews. All papers must describe the student's own original contribution but may be part of a larger project to which the submitter contributed. Papers should be submitted to the awards committee, c/o communications@aiche-fpd.org.

Deadline for the above awards is November 1, 2010.

#### F&PD Scholarship

F&PD awards two- \$1,000 one-time Scholarships to exemplary high school seniors. F&PD is committed to introducing high school students to careers in Fuels & Petrochemicals through its programs, helping to fuel the industry's need for top talent. Eligible applicants are graduating high school seniors with exemplary academic records and demonstrated leadership potential. Eligible applicants must plan to attend an accredited four year university in the fall and major in engineering or science. Deadline is January 31, 2011. Send the application, along with all required documentation to communications@aiche-fpd.org.

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer! I don't want to take a position on climate change, but I have lived in Houston for 12 years now and this is definitely the driest, hottest summer we have ever had. And I think the rest of the country is experiencing some unusual weather as well. If only some engineer can figure out an affordable way to move all the rain that is flooding half the country down to Texas and the Southewest, we'd be in great shape!. On a positive note, I used to live on a canal off Lake Houston, and now I have beachfront property! Hopefully a small tropical storm with a lot of rain and not much wind will hit Houston soon.

So I cannot believe I have been editing Flashpint for almost 3 years. This will be my last issue as editor, and the next issue will be prepared by F&PDs new Communications Director, Kristine Chin, who will be taking over in the next few months. Many of you may know Kristine from her days with AIChE, where she has been very valuable. Well Kristine has decided to take a new position in NYC with less travel, so she can spend more time with her family, but that now means we are lucky to have her as a volunteer! I have definitely enjoyed editing the newsletter and loved all the feedback, submissions and comments I received over the past few years! Flashpoint has changed a lot in the past three years, and I want to thank all the past editors for bringing us to where we are today. I will be continuing to contribute to the newsletter, as an F&PD officer, and maybe as a writer, so you won't get rid of me just yet. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Thanks.

Lori

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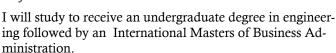
## Meet our Scholarship Winners—Christina Ramsey and Dustin Wood

Christina Ramsey—1st Place \$1,000 Scholarship. Christina will be attending University of Houston in the fall.

1. What University will you be attending?

I will be attending the University of Houston Honors Engineering College in the fall.

2. What are you planning to major in?



3. What was your favorite subject in high school?

As a part of my International Baccalaureate diploma I am enrolled in a higher level art class that provides a chance for me to use my creativity.

4. Do you have any pets?

I love animals but I do not have any.

5. Favorite book?

My favorite book is Click by 10 Authors.

Click editor Arthur Levine says that "in many ways this book is a construction of a life. It's a photographer's life seen from many different angles and with many different people's perspectives, and that's just how anyone's life is."

6. Favorite movie?

Johnny Depp does incredible job acting in Edward Scissorhands, which is my favorite movie.

7. Favorite hobby?

I love to go sailing. Two years ago I received my ASA 101 Sailing certificate while in the British Virgin Islands.

8. Who is your hero or who inspired you the most?

My grandmother has inspired me the most. She is the most hard working and giving person I have ever met.

9. Any advice for other high school students?

My advice to fellow students is stay focused, work hard and do your best!

10. What are you looking forward to the most in college?

I am looking forward to meeting people from other countries and perhaps studying abroad some during college.

11. Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself? I sincerely want to thank everyone for investing in my fu-

Dustin Wood—2nd Place-\$500 Scholarship. Dustin will be attending Brigham Young University this fall.

- 1. What University will you be attending? BYU Provo
- 2. What are you planning to major in? MicroBiology

3. What was your fa-

- vorite subject in high school? Advanced Health Occupations 2 (EMT)
- 4. Do you have any pets? One dog named Teddy
- 5. Favorite book? Eragon
- 6. Favorite movie? Knight and Day
- 7. Favorite hobby? Basketball and tennis
- 8. Who is your hero or who inspired you the most? Big Brother Derek Wood, He always did amazing work in and out of school and I always wanted to be like him
- 9. Any advice for other high school students? Never procrastinate and always turn you work in
- 10. What are you looking forward to the most in college? Being totally independent and making new friends.

Congratulations to both Christina and Dustin. Hopefully they will keep us up to date on their progress in becoming future scientists and engineers.

If you would like to nominate a high school student for next years scholarship, please see the information on awards on page 4.



Have an idea for a future issue of Flash-point? Send all ideas and contributions to Communications@aiche-fpd.org



**Tim Olsen** 

Praxair, Inc.

# Fuels and Petrochemicals Division 2011-2012 Executive Committee

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