

I want to thank you for the honor and trust you accorded me with election. In my campaign statement of 2004, I noted the premier status of our Institute, but also identified several serious and interrelated issues facing AIChE: declining membership, brief residence time for entering members, reduced participation by industrial members, and the changing environment of the profession.

I believe the continuing decline in membership is our most pressing issue, one that in fact is a measure of how well we deal with all the other issues. I propose a three-prong strategy to address this issue.

- Improve relevance of AIChE's portfolio of programs
- Enlarge the playing field — take AIChE global
- Develop a theme to energize the profession

**Relevancy Initiative.** Relevance is in the eyes of the beholder, and I believe that different segments of our membership desire programs of different character. We should examine AIChE's portfolio in the context of individual members' interface with core chemical engineering technology, *i.e.* for developers of technology (researchers), users of technology (application practitioners), trackers of technology (managers and strategists), or participants in the profession (retirees, students, teachers).

We have completed a first-ever Institute-wide audit of all 89 AIChE programs, measuring each for relevance to the different segments of our membership. The Board devoted a strategic planning session to assess this portfolio and select opportunities for enhancement.

One example of an immediate opportunity is the Speaker's Bureau. Member feedback indicates that this program has been truly missed. We have already taken steps to reinstitute a "Speaker's College" as a resource for local sections and student chapters.

**Globalization Initiative.** The clear shift toward international capitalization of new chemical, petroleum and energy plants argues that chemical engineers in all technology segments need to function productively regardless of national boundaries. AIChE must develop activities, programs, and affiliations on the international front that enlarge the professional field for our members and extend the influence of our Institute globally. In addition to our existing international affiliations of the North American

## Jumping into the New Year: Three Initiatives for Growth

### John Chen Takes the Helm of the 2006 AIChE Presidency



Chemical Engineering Society and the World Congress of Chemical Engineering, we should look for new opportunities to promote international exchanges, grow AIChE membership world wide, and recruit international companies for our Industrial Technology Alliances, as well as many yet unconsidered possibilities.

Toward this end, AIChE has held meetings and discussions with the British Institute of Chemical Engineering (IChemE), Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSCHE), Chinese Industry and Engineering Society of China (CIESC), Chinese Academy of Sciences, and some of the major chemical/petroleum firms in China. Our objective is to aid our members in becoming more effective professionals globally, and to support our industrial stakeholders in their global enterprises. The issues are complex, and the right path for our Institute must be diligently sought.

**Energy Initiative.** Our profession, especially for the younger and entering members, would be strengthened if we lay claim to an initiative that truly exemplifies the triple mission of AIChE to promote the professional well-being of chemical engineers, the advancement of the profession itself, and the service of the profession to society.

Arguably, there is no other socio-techno challenge that will impact the chemical enterprise, the professional opportunities for our members, the well-being of nations and humanity, and for which chemical engineers are so well suited to provide essential contributions, as the challenge of energy supply, production, utilization and conservation. Our profession and our Institute must be proactive and seek to be positive contributors to the necessary solutions.

We have started with several specific steps. AIChE's Commission on Energy

Challenges was formed in the summer of 2005 to recommend programs and activities that would enable AIChE and its members to exert the greatest beneficial impact on this field.

Many AIChE members have experience, knowledge, or even just ideas in the energy area. To obtain the benefit of this body of intellect, an open Forum on

Energy was held at the 2005 AIChE Annual Meeting. It was a thought-provoking event and I hope many of you had the chance to participate (Comments can also be sent to [energy@aiche.org](mailto:energy@aiche.org)). We anticipate the Commission's report and recommendations by the 2006 Spring National Meeting.

Even as we await the results of the Commissions deliberations, AIChE has begun to raise its level of activities on energy. In 2005, AIChE officers met with US Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and AIChE held an inaugural conference on LNG with CSCHE. Next year, a Critical Issue Forum on Energy, organized by our Government Relations Committee, will be held at the '06 Spring National Meeting, and plans for increased technical sessions on energy are in the works for future conferences. My hope is that AIChE will be a significant participant and contributor in the milieu of energy challenges.

AIChE is a volunteer driven organization and we members are the real resource of the Institute. To a very large extent, the three initiatives I lay in front of you will succeed only to the level that our combined volunteer efforts will push them. I trust you have confidence in the potential benefit that my three initiatives could bring to our members, our profession, and our Institute, and that we can join together to use them in leveraging AIChE to a bright future.

Thank you and I look forward to our continued work together.

## Engineers Week 06: Engineered to Impress

Your participation in National Engineers Week, or "E-Week" February 19–25, is an important way to increase local awareness and interest in the fields of engineering, math, science and technology and demonstrate how engineers are essential to our quality of life. AICHE local sections and individuals make this week a success. Every year, more sponsored activities are added to the celebration, and this year is no exception.



**ENGINEERS WEEK™ 2006**  
February 19–25

Highlights for the 2006 E-Week include:

**Engineering: Improving Our World.** The National Academy of Engineering's essay contest invites students in grades 4–9 to write about their own ideas about changing the world. The deadline is January 20, 2006. For details, see [www.eweek.org/site/Teachers/2006\\_NAE\\_contest.pdf](http://www.eweek.org/site/Teachers/2006_NAE_contest.pdf)

**Super CYBERCHASE Science.**

Held January 30 to February 24, this TV/Web event on PBS Kids Go! taps into kids' curiosity about the world around them. The month-long event features four theme

weeks: how things work; measuring up; making predictions; and puzzling patterns. CYBERCHASE TV episodes are linked to games and activities for kids, parents and teachers that explore how math can be used to unlock science ideas. Learn more at [www.aiche.org/About/Press/Articles/index.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/About/Press/Articles/index.aspx)

**Introduce A Girl To Engineering Day.**

With recent focus on the importance of encouraging girls and women to pursue engineering, this event takes on a new urgency. Held February 23, 2006, "Girl Day" reaches out to 1,000,000 young women and girls worldwide to encourage them to consider a career in engineering. To learn how companies and universities are getting involved and to sign up, see [www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2006\\_nationalpledgeroster.shtml](http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2006_nationalpledgeroster.shtml)

**Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering.**

Focusing on the issues of retaining and encouraging women in engineering fields,

this online forum will run for 24 hours from March 23 at 12 noon EST through March 24 at 12 noon on [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org). Dozens of presentations and Q&A sessions will address issues among pre-college, college and young career women, and examine issues such as retaining women in college engineering programs and the workplace.

For more information about 2006 E-Week events and activities, as well as in-depth examples of successful local programs from 2005, visit [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).

One of the highlights from 2005 was "Connecting the World to Engineering Teleconference" in which James B. Porter, Jr., former AICHE Board member and Vice President of DuPont Engineering and Operations Chief Engineering, gave a presentation on "Tips for Successful Transition to the Working World." To view a video of the presentation, go to [www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2005\\_Telconference.shtml](http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2005_Telconference.shtml).

If you already have events planned for E-Week, please share them with your AICHE colleagues by contacting Felicia Guglielmi at [felig@aiche.org](mailto:felig@aiche.org) or call (212) 591-7329.

### NSF Seeks Assistant Director for Engineering

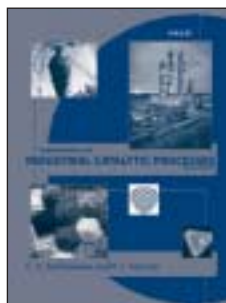
The National Science Foundation seeks your assistance in the identification of candidates for Assistant Director for Engineering (ENG). The Assistant Director, ENG, manages a Directorate comprised of six divisions: Bioengineering and Environmental Systems; Chemical and Transport Systems; Civil and Mechanical Systems; Design and Manufacturing Innovation; Electrical and Communications Systems; Engineering Education and Centers; and the Office of Industrial Innovation.

The Screening Committee will look for candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the engineering community in the areas of education and research; proficiency in the administration of large-scale facilities and centers; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF management team. Information on qualifications and detailed job description can be found at [www.aiche.org/About/Press/Articles/index.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/About/Press/Articles/index.aspx). Recommendations should be sent by January 31, 2006.

### New AICHE Publications

**Fundamentals of Industrial Catalytic Processes**

C. H. Bartholomew and R. J. Farrauto



This textbook/handbook on catalytic processes is a comprehensive source of catalyst science and technology, which bridges the gap between the fundamentals of catalysis with its practice. Includes expanded coverage of fuel cell, nanophase materials, hydrogen generation and environmental catalysis, computational chemistry, and combinatorial methods. Order at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

**Continuous Direct-Heat Rotary Dryers: A Guide to Performance Evaluation**  
AICHE's Equipment Testing Procedures Committee



This procedural guide provides technical information about a detailed acceptance test on new equipment, how to calculate its optimum use, and the method of collecting accurate data for maintenance or troubleshooting. It offers standardized methods, real-world numbers for computer simulations and designs, and various equipment testing practices. Order at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com).

## 40,000 Members, 1 Dynamic Portal: AIChE Relaunches [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org)

Next time you're on the Web, take a look at the AIChE Web site — [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org) — and you may be surprised at what you find. Reengineered with constant member input, AIChE's new Web site offers bundles of new features.

"The goal was to create a powerful, easy-to-use Web site that gives members the technical and professional information they want while making everyday transactions like registering for a conference fast and easy," said Past President Jeff Sirola.

The site features simpler, three-click navigation and a vastly improved search function. Members can log in for members-only content-like *CEP* articles, documents, and directories and even update their own contact information. There are also new sites for the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), Institute for Sustainability (IfS) and Society for Biological Engineering (SBE).

The site runs on powerful new servers, allowing for faster page loads and information retrieval, as well as impeccable security.

A successful project, the Web site was completed on time and under budget. In the next two phases of development, to be implemented over the next two years, members will be able to create an individual profile requesting information of interest to them, including technical interest, AIChE community, or job field — industry, academe, student. Local Sections and Divisions/Forums will have access to the same functionality.



### Top New Features

#### Easy to use navigation

- Organized directories
- Content you need less than 3-clicks away

#### Intuitive search engine

- Powerful
- Searches related PDFs and documents in other file formats
- Find it Fast locates frequently-used information in one step

#### More robust Web experience

- Faster page loads
- Faster information retrieval
- Impeccable security
- Server redundancy, to prevent any lapse in service
- Upgrade to .NET, state-of-the-art system software

#### Superior member directory

- Update your contact information
- Lookup other members by Name, Company, Location, Local Section or Division/Forum, Student Chapter, Industry, and Keywords

#### CEP access

- All members can now access *CEP* online.

#### Member-focused and members-only content

- Easy access to members-only products, services, and conferences
- Log in for articles, documents, and directories
- Personalized "My AIChE" and online communities planned for Phase II and III of future Web development

#### Modern design with universal appeal

- Clear and consistent look and feel

#### New Web sites for: Center for Chemical Process Safety, Institute for Sustainability, Society for Biological Engineering

- Unique look
- Distinct navigation

#### Inviting new members

- "About AIChE" section illustrates the benefits of membership
- Individuals can join easily online
- The value of AIChE membership is promoted throughout the site, with information on conferences, publications, programs, and services

Redesigning the site was a community effort. More than 75 AIChE members worked on a cross-functional steering committee for 12 months to redesign the site. Armed with membership surveys, they made sure member input was translated to action. The Foundation launched the Campaign for Web Excellence, raising \$150,000 in member donations toward the goal of \$300,000.

"This was a remarkable group effort," said Sirola. "Our members donated over half of the cost through the AIChE Foundation's Campaign for Web Excellence. Thanks to our members' generosity, we can start to look at next steps for this Web site."

### THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

The new Web site was possible thanks to generous donations from members. All donors are recognized for their dedication on a Builders' Wall, found on the new site at [www.aiche.org/Webfund](http://www.aiche.org/Webfund).

The Foundation is still soliciting donations for the continued development of the site. Donations can be made at this Web page.

## Rutherford Aris

September 15, 1929 – November 2, 2005

Rutherford Aris, Regents Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering and Classics at the University of Minnesota, died on November 2, 2005 after a long and distinguished career. Born in Bournemouth, England, in 1929, Aris completed a first class honors degree in mathematics at the University of London at the age of 16, but the university did not think it proper to award a degree to someone so young, requiring him to wait until he was 19 to receive the degree.

After working in industry at ICI Ltd. and taking academic positions at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Minnesota, Aris received Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees from the University of London. He first joined the University of Minnesota as a research fellow in 1955 and became a regents professor in 1978.

Among Aris' most important technical contributions are his detailed explanation for sudden temperature runaways and oscillating behavior of processes involving chemical reactions. His work in this area led to better design and control of potentially explosive chemical processes and safer industrial operations. At the same time, he led the way in developing new mathematical techniques for optimizing



and controlling chemical manufacturing processes and teaching these new methods to engineering students and industrial practitioners. His work on chemical kinetics and chemical reactor design provided a deeper understanding of observed phenomena and allowed much improved design of chemical processes.

Aris had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed pranks. Sometime after he was listed in *Who's Who*, the publisher began sending him a second questionnaire to complete under the name Aris Rutherford. Even after repeated letters to the publisher stating that there was no such person, the questionnaires kept coming. So Aris completed the questionnaire for this fictitious person in his wonderful style. Aris Macpherson Rutherford was listed as a colorful professor of distillation who had trained at the Strath Spey and Glenlivet Institute of Distillation.

Aris is survived by his wife of 47 years, Claire Holman Aris, brother John (Ursula), sisters Margaret Boyt (Dennis) and Dorothy Slater (Thomas), brother-in-law Charles Holman (Gloria), special niece Trea Cannoy and grand nephews Jacob and Brendon, as well as several other nieces and nephews.

## 2006 AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and to register visit [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-212-591-8100 (outside the U.S.)

2006 Spring National Meeting and  
2nd Global Congress on Process Safety

- 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Loss Prevention Symposium
- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual CCPS International Conference
- 8<sup>th</sup> Process Plant Safety Symposium

## Plus, the World Congress on Particle Technology

April 23–27, 2006 • Disney's Dolphin Hotel • Orlando, FL

## Offshore Technology Conference — OTC.06

May 1–4, 2006 • Reliant Center • Houston, TX

Process Development Symposium  
Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future

June 11–14, 2006 • Doral Desert Princess Resort • Palm Springs, CA

Safety in Ammonia Plants and  
Related Facilities Symposium

September 10–14, 2006 • Hyatt Regency • Vancouver, Canada

## 2006 Annual Meeting

November 12–17, 2006 • San Francisco Hilton • San Francisco, CA

Remembering  
John Griffith

John Griffith passed away November 5, 2005 from a stroke. Griffith was a founding member and enthusiastic supporter of the International Pump Users Symposium. He was an innovator in mechanical seal designs and applications and an all around great rotating-equipment engineer. His beaming smile and vigor for life will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

Born May 8, 1929, Griffith served in the U.S. Navy, Aircraft Carrier, during the Korean War. He received his B.S. in chemical engineering from Kansas State University in 1955. He worked with Conoco for over 30 years (8 yrs in corrosion and metallurgy, 10 yrs in plant maintenance, 13+ yrs in the Rotating Equipment Section with 4 years as the chief engineer) and Champion Group, Inc., where he spent 18 years as chief design engineer, and also handled technical training.

## Are you in the news?

Tell *Extra* about your recent award or latest research. Or share information on innovative new programs you think members would like to hear about.

Email us at [news@aiiche.org](mailto:news@aiiche.org).

## OBITUARIES

Arthur J. Archung, 82, Chattanooga, TN  
Charles Cuthbert, 88, Petersburg, VA  
John T. Hoffman, 43, Huntington, MD  
Yorke P. Phillips, 73, Hampden, MA  
Harry W. Reamer, 72, Satsuma, AL  
Richard D. Ross, 77, Morristown, NJ  
Sidney Sanders, 70, Circleville, OH  
C. William Shipman, 81, Prospect Harbor, ME  
Avtar S. Sokhey, 53, Lewisburg, OH  
Robert J. Thompson, 88, Silver Spring, MD

\* Fellow member