Notes from the Chairman

As yet another academic year comes to a conclusion, I address you for the last time as Department Chairman. I have decided that after spending five years as Chairman it is time to return to my research and teaching. I am quite satisfied that the Department has made significant progress during my tenure as Chair. Research funding has reached an all time high and our instructional program has produced an excellent crop of chemical engineers who have been intensely recruited by industry and by graduate schools. Our young faculty have matured rapidly and are all productively engaged in research and teaching. Dr. Lacks is a strong candidate for a Dreyfus Foundation Teacher Scholar award as his name was selected from a very strong group of candidates from the Uptown campus at Tulane University. For the first time, it is possible that we will be graduating ten PhD's this year, the largest group ever from the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Although we regret the departure of Professor John Walz, who left to take a position at Yale University, we are indeed very lucky to have been able to attract Professor Daniel DeKee from Sherbrooke University in Quebec, Canada. Daniel has a strong background in rheology, having published close to one hundred papers in scientific journals. He has co-authored four books and is currently completing his fifth, a text book in engineering mathematics.

We are indebted to the great support from our alumni in answering our solicitation for financial support. These funds are absolutely essential for our survival in an academic climate of diminishing academic resources. We are still exploring ways in which we might obtain funds to renovate the Francis Taylor Building next door to Boggs. I would entertain suggestions from interested alumni as to how to go about generating an interest in this renovation project. A realistic estimate to perform the much needed restoration is approximately one million dollars. In particular, I would be delighted if we could find a group of alumni who would help us spearhead this drive. Current space for expansion is insufficient and productive emeritus professors such as Ray Bailey and Sam Sullivan have not even been able to secure office space.

As I leave the Chairmanship I am pleased to report that my successor, Kyriakos Papadopoulos has been working together with me to insure a smooth transition. I wish him much success in his job and only hope that he will have the support of not only the faculty, but also the support of our loyal alumni.

Sincerely

Richard D Gonzalez
Herman and George R Brown Professor and Chair
AIChE Annual Meeting Highlights

The department was well-represented at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Los Angeles last November. In addition to eight faculty members, seven graduate and two undergraduate students attended the conference. Christine Lambert, Glen Irvin, Sukanta Banerjee, and Deshian Rangaraj gave presentations at technical sessions, while Nancy Cowger, Mark McGann and Jeremy Milum presented posters. Undergraduates Angela Delcarpio and Stacey Bennett attended the Student Conference, where Angela received her AIChE Scholastic Scholarship award. Kelle Hankton, also an undergraduate at Tulane, was also recognized as a recipient of the AIChE Minority Scholarship award.

The Spring Meeting will be held in New Orleans March 8-12 at the Sheraton Hotel. The 1998 Fall Annual Meeting is November 15-20, in Miami Beach, Florida.

Faculty News

Daniel De Kee presented three papers at the 47th Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference in Edmonton, Alberta last October; and two papers at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Richard Gonzalez presented invited lectures last semester at the University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the 5th International Symposium on Aerogels in Montpellier, France; and the 5th Chemical Congress of North America in Cancun, Mexico. He was gave the Keynote Lecture "Thermally Stable Supported Metals Prepared by the Sol-Gel Method" at the Congreso Brasileiro de Catalysis in Campinas, Brazil; and at the Jornadas Argentinas de Catalysis in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Richard also presented at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Graduate student Mark McGann discusses his poster at the AIChE Meeting in Los Angeles.

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Graduate student Mark McGann discusses his poster at the AIChE Meeting in Los Angeles.

Angela Delcarpio (fifth from right) receives her AIChE Scholastic Scholarship Award.
Alumni Page Under Development!
The Department of Chemical Engineering’s WWW Home Page continues to expand, and now includes a page listing email addresses of alumni. Take a look at:

www.tulane.edu/~bmitche/index.html

If you would like your email address added to this list, simply send an email request, along with your year and degree to:

brian@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu

Faculty News - continued from page 2

Daniel J.I. Lacks participated in an NSF Workshop on Future Directions in Molecular Modeling and Simulation in November 1997. He is also a member of a multi-institutional group which received a $300,000 grant from NSF to develop molecular simulations for teaching chemical engineering phenomena.

Brian S. Mitchell received a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service to study at the Technical University of Freiberg, and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing in Berlin during the summer of 1998. He also received a second grant from Thermal Ceramics of Augusta, GA.

Peter N. Pintauro will chair two sessions at the AIChE Spring Meeting in New Orleans in March.

AlChE Student Chapter News

The new officers for the 1998-99 year are Kellé Hankton, President; Stacey Bennett, Executive Vice-President; Jovana Stepanovic, V.P. for Programming; Krista Brandt, Secretary; and Asher Chancey, Treasurer. Kaye Grant, Brian Smith, Van Tran, and Soraya Khalje were elected class representatives.

The student chapter has been very busy planning for the Southern Regional Conference to be held in Orlando, FL, April 2-4. They will be traveling by bus with students from the LSU chapter. Other recent events included a plant trip to Exxon in Baton Rouge, intramural football, a seminar on Investing and Finance, and a barbeque with the AIChE Local Section. For Engineering Week the student chapter will once again sponsor a scavenger hunt.

Upcoming Events

March 8-12, 1998
AIChE Spring Meeting- New Orleans, LA

March 16 - March 20
Engineering Week - Tulane Campus

March 29 - April 2, 1998
ACS 215th National Meeting - Dallas, TX

April 22
Senior Awards Banquet - Tulane Campus

May 17
Engineering Commencement - Tulane Campus

We would like to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to fill out the form below, cut along the dotted line and mail it to us. Your information will appear in the next issue of *ChEWave*.

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Tulane ChE degree(s) and years: _______________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________
News: _____________________________________________________________

Please return to the address on the reverse side.
Obituaries

Gerard Paul Caruso (BSE, ’39) of New Orleans passed away on October 19, 1996.

Neil H. McLaurin, Jr. (BENG, ’40) passed away. He was a retired Assistant Manager for Texaco, Inc.

ChEWave is published twice a year for the alumni and friends of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Tulane University. Address changes and correspondences should be sent to:

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