AIChe Foundation Changes Chairs, Reviews Recent Successes

Thomas F. Edgar, the George T. and Gladys H. Abell Chair in Chemical Engineering at the Univ. of Texas at Austin, has completed a six-year term as Chair of the AIChe Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Edgar’s tenure was marked by the debut of several successful new initiatives, including the rejuvenation of the Foundation itself.

Alfred E. Wechsler, an independent consultant with 40 years of experience at Arthur D. Little, Inc., succeeds Edgar as Chair of the Foundation Board.

The AIChe Foundation (www.aiche.org/foundation) raises funds for projects and activities that further the Institute’s mission. Through the generosity of AIChe members and industry partners, the AIChe Foundation supports projects that interest K–12 children in chemical engineering and increase public awareness of the contributions chemical engineers make to our quality of life. Ongoing programs administered by the AIChe Foundation include scholarships and support for students, young professionals, women and minority chemical engineers.

Highlights of AIChe Foundation progress include:

• In 2005, Edgar led AIChe’s Web Excellence Campaign, which raised $270,000 to support AIChe’s online initiatives.
• In 2006, the operational structure of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees was reorganized to better coordinate AIChe’s volunteer-driven fundraising activities.
• Edgar chaired the Large Campaign Committee, and in 2007 helped to create the corporate-sponsored student membership initiative “Scale-Up” — which has since increased student membership from 3,000 to more than 12,000.
• In 2007, the AIChe Foundation launched a planned giving program and the AIChe Legacy Society — honoring members who have included the Institute in their long-term plans through bequest provisions, life-income gifts, and other arrangements.

• In 2008, the Board of Trustees completed a successful AIChe Centennial Celebration Campaign, raising $150,000.

Edgar served as AIChe president in 1997, and is the recipient of AIChe’s Allan P Colburn Award (1980) and the Warren K. Lewis Award (2005). He is co-author of the textbooks “Coal Processing and Pollution Control Technology” (Gulf Publishing), “Optimization of Chemical Processes” (McGraw-Hill) and “Process Dynamics and Control” (Wiley). He is a Fellow of AIChe, and past president and current officer of the Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering Education (CACHE) Corp.

Wechsler, an AIChe Fellow, retired from Arthur D. Little, Inc., as Senior Vice President, International, in July 2000. He has served on AIChe’s Board of Directors and as a leader of many AIChe committees and divisions. Wechsler’s first campaign as AIChe Foundation Chair is “Supporting the Transition: Students to Professionals” — which focuses on tailoring services for and increasing retention of recent chemical engineering graduates.

For more information about the AIChe Foundation, contact giving@aiche.org or call 646-495-1340.

Auburn AIChe Student Chapter Wins Top Student Organization Award

The AIChe Student Chapter at Auburn Univ.’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has been recognized with the school’s 2008–2009 Student Organization of the Year Award. The honor was presented by Auburn’s Student Government Association at a Feb. 22 banquet.

“It is exciting for our organization to be recognized by our peers on campus,” said senior chemical engineering student and chapter president Kevin Cullinan. “We’ve been working to build the chapter for the future, as well as represent chemical engineering majors to Auburn’s campus and the professional engineering community.”

The 2008–2009 Auburn AIChe officers are Kevin Cullinan, president; Darryl Bowman, external vice president; Amar Tiwari, internal vice president; Jared Woytek, secretary; Nhu Huynh, treasurer; Kyle Taylor, fundraising chair; Davis Bradford, philanthropy chair; David Harris, social chair; Ashley Thompson, e-council representative; and Adam McKinnon, webmaster. The chapter has benefited from the guidance of faculty advisors Steve Duke, Bob Ashurst and Mark Byrne.

From left, AIChe Student Chapter president Kevin Cullinan with Dean of Students Johnny Green and the chapter’s external vice president Darryl Bowman.