

SPRING NATIONAL MEETING APRIL 10 - 14, 2005 HYATT REGENCY • ATLANTA GA

Sixteen Topical Conferences This Year

AICHe Topical Conferences focus on specific technical areas (e.g. process safety) or industries. All topical conferences are included in your registration.

Of particular note is the Global Congress on Process Safety. AICHe, through its Center for Chemical Process Safety, Safety and Health Division and the South Texas Section, is proud to present the first ever Global Congress on Process Safety during the Spring National Meeting in Atlanta.

The Congress will include the 20th Annual Meeting of the Center for Chemical Process Safety, the 39th Loss Prevention Symposium and the 2005 version of the Process Safety Symposium initiated by the South Texas Section in 1992. Together, these individual successful process safety conferences will include 26 plenary, keynote, panel and symposia sessions, as well as receptions and associated lunches and attendance at a comprehensive exhibit. If you are a process safety professional, be sure to plan to take in some, or all of these activities.

For the latest on the technical program for Atlanta, go to: <http://www.aiche.org/spring/topicals/05topicaldesc.htm>.

Also concurrently with the AICHe Meeting is the American Filtration Society (AFS) Annual Meeting, in Atlanta, April 11-14. To view the AFS program, go to their Web site at www.afsociety.org. For AICHe meeting registrants who wish to attend AFS sessions, the fee is \$50 for one day and \$100 for the entire meeting. To register, visit "Ticketed Events" on the AICHe Spring Meeting registration (available at www.aiche.org/spring/).

Valero Executive to be Keynote Speaker at 2005 Spring Meeting



The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division is sponsoring this address. Rich Marcogliese, Senior VP, Refining Valero Energy Corp., San Antonio, will be the keynote speaker at the Spring National Meeting in Atlanta. The Keynote Address by Mr. Marcogliese: "A New Leader for a New Era of Refining" will be given Monday, April 11th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency V and VI (room).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cincinnati Annual Meeting

October 30-November 4, 2005

Orlando Spring National Meeting

April 23-27, 2006
Walt Disney World

San Francisco Annual Meeting

November 12-17, 2006
San Francisco Hilton

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F&PD 2005 Distinguished Service Award to Stuart Shih

Stuart Shih, an AIChE Fellow, will be honored with the Division's Distinguished Service Award in a dinner at Ray's in the City, Atlanta, on the evening of April 11th. This award is sponsored by Tyco Thermal Controls.

A career researcher with Mobil R&D (later ExxonMobil), Shih first joined the Division in 1985. Over the past 20 years he has put together and chaired a large number of technical sessions and conferences. He was elected a member of the F&PD Board in 1991 and Programming Chair in 1993. As Programming Chair he proposed and saw the implementation of a number of new programming concepts and practices. Further, he has been a vigorous proponent of the "no-paper, no-podium" policy. He became F&PD Chair in 2002.

Besides his involvement with F&PD, Shih is very active in the chemical engineering community. He has made significant contributions to many conferences and seminars. Some of the key positions he has served are:

Programming Coordinator for the 5th World Congress of Chemical Engineering, San Diego, 1996;

Programming Committee member of the 2nd and 3rd USA/China Chemical Engineering Conference, Beijing, 1997 and 2000;

Invited Speaker to the Sino-American Technology and Engineering Conference (SATEC), Beijing, 1997 and 2001;

Chair of the 4th Chinese American Chemical and Technology Conference, New Jersey, 1997;

President of the Chinese American Chemical Society (CACS), 1998 - 2000;

Member of the Research Advisory Committee and Center for Waste Reduction Technology (CWRT) of AIChE;

Lecturer in AIChE Short Courses on Petroleum Refining Processes, 1990-1993.

Technically, Shih is a prolific researcher. His expertise is in the area of catalysis for petroleum refining from which have come 57 US patents and publication of more than 60 technical papers. His R&D efforts and contributions have resulted in the commercialization of many new processes for ExxonMobil and licensed third parties. Processes available for licensing on which Shih has contributed are:

SACANFining - widely used to produce low-sulfur gasoline;

OCTGAIN - novel process to produce low-sulfur gasoline without octane loss;

MaxSat - hydrogenation process to produce high quality lubricants;

MIDW - process to produce high quality jet and diesel fuels;

MMPHC - hydrocracking process to produce naphtha and diesel.

He received Mobil patent awards in 1992 and 1995. The Taipei Tech-University, Taiwan, honored him as Outstanding Alumnus in 1991. Recently, Shih received the 2004 Achievement Award from the Association of Chinese American Professionals.



Washington University's Dudukovic to Receive F&PD 2005 Award

Prof. Milorad P. Dudukovic, the Laura and William Jens Professor and Director of the Chemical Reaction Engineering Laboratory (CREL), in Washington University, St. Louis, will be honored with the 2005 F&PD Award in a dinner at Ray's in the City, Atlanta, on the evening of April 11th.

At Washington University, Dudukovic developed the Chemical Reaction Engineering Laboratory, a unique interface for transfer of academic reaction engineering to industrial practice. The focus of CREL activities have been: 1) development of improved, fundamentally based models for multiphase reaction systems with experimental verification, and 2) extension of reaction engineering methodology to new environmentally benign processes and production of new fuels and materials. This work has provided an excellent environment for graduate study and research and for the interaction of faculty and students with industry. In this effort, industrial sponsorships have grown from 3 companies in 1975 to 20 in 2000, and has remained steady since then.

For his research, Dudukovic was recognized by two NASA certificates of recognition in 1987, by the best student paper award by one of his students in 1986, and by the AIChE R.H. Wilhelm Award for Reaction Engineering in 1994. He was recognized with the Washington University Engineering Professor of the Year Award five times, by the Burlington Northern Foundation Award in 1986, and by the Chemical Manufacturers Association Catalyst Award in 1998. As a researcher and educator, he was recognized by the American Chemical Society St. Louis Man of the Year Award in 1995. In 1999 he won the Council for Chemical Research Malcolm E. Pruitt Award for outstanding contributions to the progress of chemistry and chemical engineering. He was elected to the Yugoslav Academy of Engineering in 1999. (He graduated from the University of Belgrade in Serbia (Yugoslavia) with a BS degree, and later was awarded the Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.)

In 2000, he was the recipient of the Illinois Institute of Technology Alumni Professional Achievement Award and in 2001 was elected Fellow of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences. In 2004, he received the Washington University Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award.

He has always been active in professional societies. He has written instruction materials for AIChE and has organized a large number of technical sessions for AIChE meetings. A program committee member of Area 1B, Catalysis and Reaction Engineering, he served as Director of the Reaction Engineering and Catalysis Division of AIChE from 1997-2000. For the American Chemical Society, he has organized a number of symposia for that organization and has been Associate Editor for Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research since 1991; further he was Chairman of the 2nd Engineering Foundation Conference for Reaction Engineering in 1987, and Co-Chairman for the 13th International Symposium on Chemical Reaction Engineering (ISCRE13) in 1994. Also, he has been a lecturer for a number of AIChE short courses and refresher courses in industry.

CHAIR'S CORNER

F&PD Strategic Planning Forum

In last Fall's issue of Flashpoint, I placed an article about the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division's Strategic Planning Forum. It took a little bit longer to get the Web site set up than I anticipated, but we are now in business. The objective of this forum is to find out what the dues paying members of the Division want from it and how to implement their ideas. Members of the Division who join the forum will be able to express their thoughts to other forum members concerning the long term plans of the Division. Members of the forum will receive and be able to send e-mail messages to the other forum participants that will be used to develop long term plans for the Division.

The F&PD Strategic Planning Forum will be a guided or facilitated discussion exploring various questions that the Division members may have about our future. Among the questions to be explored will be:

"What should the purpose of the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division be?"

"What new services should the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division provide to its members?"

"What new areas of technical programming should the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division address?"

The list will be hosted by Topica.com, a free service that AIChE also uses to host some of its member forums. The current plan is not to require approvals to join the list; however, if we get infiltrated by outsiders, then appropriate action will be taken including requiring approvals to join.

The forum will not be listed in the Topica directory, so the only way to join it and participate is by following these instructions. The easiest way to join the list and participate is to send an e-mail message to **FaPD-Strategic-Planning-subscribe@topica.com**. The Topica list server will then confirm your membership, and you will be able to participate. You may also join the list by going to <http://lists.topica.com/lists/FaPD-Strategic-Planning> where you can click on a link to subscribe. A link to this URL has been posted on the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division Web site at <http://www.fapd.aiche.org/>.

Once you have become a member, you will receive each new e-mail message from the forum. You will also be able to view the past messages without having to join or logon to Topica at <http://lists.topica.com/lists/FaPD-Strategic-Planning>. If you are a member of Topica or decide to join it, you can also access the forum's archives by logging on and going to the F&PD Planning link on your MY TOPICA page.

For now, the following rules are being applied for the forum. First, all e-mails to the list server at **FaPD-Strategic-Planning@topica.com** will be sent to all participants of the forum. No attachments will be allowed on messages sent to the forum; if you have an attachment that you think others should get, it will need to be posted on a Web site where it can be downloaded using a link in your message. The members list of the forum will not be accessible to the participants; this will discourage people from joining the list only to get the e-mail addresses of others.

Please join the Strategic Planning Forum, and let's make it a useful tool in providing new directions and ways for the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division to serve its members.

2005 AIChE Spring National Meeting

Once again, the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division is providing the lion's share of the technical programming for the AIChE's Spring National Meeting. The 2005 Spring National Meeting is being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, from Sunday, April 10 through Thursday, April 14. For registration and detailed information about the Spring National

Meeting, go to the AIChE's Web site at <http://www.sts-aiche.org/conferences/spring>.

The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division is sponsoring topical conferences including the perennial Ethylene Producers' Conference, the International Conference on Aromatics Processing, the International Conference on Refinery Processing, and Natural Gas Utilization.. Elsewhere in this issue of Flashpoint is information about many of these topical conferences.

F&PD Awards Dinner

At the annual Fuels and Petrochemicals Division Awards Dinner on Monday evening, April 11, we will recognize two outstanding members of our Division. Dr. Milord (Mike) Dudukovic, Professor of Chemical Engineering at Washington University, St. Louis, is receiving the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division Award for his contributions to our profession. After the dinner, he will deliver a presentation to the audience on "Reminiscences and a Look into the Future." For his never-ending dedication and selfless service to the Division over many years, Dr. Stuart Shih, ExxonMobil Corporation, is receiving the Tyco Thermal Controls Fuels and Petrochemicals Division Service Award.

The dinner is being held at Ray's in the City seafood restaurant, 240 Peachtree Street, which is just across the street from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The menu features salad, a choice of grilled New York sirloin strip steak, grilled mahi-mahi fish, or a vegetarian entree, vegetables, and raspberry chocolate mousse pie.

We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM for a cash bar and be seated for our dinner at 6:45 PM.

Thanks

I would like to thank the members of the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division's Technical Program Committee and Executive Committee for the hard work that they have done during my tenure as Chair of F&PD. I want to especially thank Simal Poddar, the outgoing Chair of the Technical Program Committee and Lori McDowell, the incoming Chair. I also want to recognize the other members of the Technical Program Committee including Chen-Hwa Chiu, Belma Demirel, Hossein Hariri, Richard Mallinson, Dennis O'Brien, Ralph Pike, Galen Suppes, Gavin Towler, Kirtan Trivedi, and Bipin Vora, all of whom are continuing to serve the Division.

I want also to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their support, especially Marty Poole, First Vice Chair and Harry West, Second Vice Chair, Jeffrey Yen, Past Chair, Richard Mallinson, Secretary, and Mike Oballa, Treasurer. I want to thank the three Division Directors who are leaving the Executive Committee for their long service to the Division, Colin Bowen, Godwin Igwe, and Lori McDowell. I also want to thank the six Directors remaining on the Executive Committee, Steve Coleman, Belma Demirel, Stephen McGovern, Ralph Pike, Lynn Rice, and Gavin Towler, who also serves as our CTOC Council Liaison. You should have noticed that many of these people serve on both the Technical Program Committee and the Executive Committee; they are to be doubly thanked.

Communications between the Division leadership and members is one of our most important and challenging duties. I want to thank our Webmaster, Galen Suppes, for his maintaining the Division's Web site. Finally, I would like to recognize and thank our new Flashpoint editor, Bob Dye, who has almost made a career out of serving the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division.

Dennis Griffith

Russia Approves Kyoto Protocol

On Oct. 22, members of Russia's lower house of Parliament - the Duma - voted 334 to 73 to ratify the Kyoto protocol on climate change. On Oct. 27, the Parliament's upper chamber - the Federation Council - approved the protocol with almost a unanimous vote, 139 to 1. The ratification papers go to Russian President Vladimir Putin for his signature. Ninety days after that the protocol will enter into force.

After the U.S. decided not to ratify the protocol, Russian approval remained the only stumbling block to its entry into force. The treaty requires ratification by nations responsible for 55% of industrialized countries' CO₂ emissions in 1990. To meet the threshold, Russia, with 17% of CO₂ emissions, had to ratify the treaty.

"Russia will benefit from a great wealth transfer as (European Union) funds flow into the country in exchange for rights to Russian CO₂ allowances," says William O'Keefe, president of the board of directors of the George Marshall Institute, a longtime critic of the treaty.

Because the U.S. President's rejection of the agreement (which would require the U.S.' reduction of CO₂ to 7% below the 1990 levels - causing much harm to the economy), U.S. business won't be at the table having input into the details of the emissions reduction system," says Phillip Clapp, President of the National Environmental Trust.

The treaty's entry into force will set the stage for new negotiations for a broader agreement on CO₂ reduction.

In December 1997, after round-the-clock negotiations in Kyoto, Japan, there was final agreement to limit emissions of heat-trapping gases referred to as greenhouse gases. Of 166 countries, 132 developing nations, e.g., China, India and Korea, are exempt of the treaty's mandated emissions reductions.

"The treaty would affect the steel, paper, chemical, petroleum, aluminum, utilities, oil and coal industries," reports a spokesman for the American Iron and Steel Institute. "When you factor in the 35% annual growth in industry this means a requirement of more than 40% reduction in emissions," the Institute spokesman added.

The protocol proposed the time frame set for achieving the emissions reductions the period 2008-2012.

Sources: C&E News, Nov. 1, 2004; Dec. 14, 1998.

"AICHE has already reduced staff size by one-third over the past 20 months. The Institute plans to cut further, from 79 to about 40 as it refocuses on its core values," says Scott Hamilton, AICHE director of planning, development, and corporate communications to an ACS reporter in June 2003.

"Competition today can't be defined as I've got it and you don't. Today, the new paradigm is, 'I've got it, you got it, but I got it first, and I got it cheaper.'"

Statement of Jeffrey Weedman, vice president, external business development and global licensing, Proctor and Gamble reported in C&E news, June 2003.

In the past 18 months, China has started more new coal-fired power plants than the U.S. has built in the past half century. Provinces suffering from blackouts and electric shortages due to the booming economy have embarked on construction of 100,000 MW of new coal-fired capacity at a cost of \$120 billion, according to an analysis from the McIlvane Company.

Source: Hydrocarbon Processing, Feb. 2005

Professor Prognosticates on Oil Prices

Market speculators have kept oil prices high, but energy analyst, Prof. Amy Jaffe, a researcher with Rice University, Houston, projects a "more bearish outlook" for 2005.

Speaking at a recent engineering and construction conference, Jaffe emphasized that psychological factors are likely to outweigh market fundamentals in determining the price of a barrel of oil. The speculative community, she says, appears to be looking at conditions in Saudi Arabia: its political stability and ability to control terrorism within its borders.

Demographics, for example, may affect product pricing in Saudi Arabia. Per capita income in that country has fallen since 1980 and is expected to continue. The Saudis will need increasing amounts of money to meet basic social services. Moreover, there are populist pressures for higher prices.

Issues such as these "will encourage Saudi Arabia to seek higher oil prices for domestic political reasons," Jaffe says.

In an answer to the question, "Will Saudi Arabia continue to play the marginal producer role?" She says, "This depends on whether the Saudi government continues to favor stable prices, maintains security at its facilities and bolsters its domestic oil monopoly with money, management, personnel and proper planning."

She noted that with new expansions taking place, they could be less than that what is needed to meet future demand.

Source: Hydrocarbon Processing, Jan. 2005.

Hey! Polymers Engineers, Listen Up!

Coming up on April 5 and 6 is the Annual Gulf Coast Solids Handling & Processing Show in the Pasadena, Texas (Houston Area) Convention Center. The show is sponsored by the Houston Materials Handling Society, a chapter of the South Texas Section of ASME.

There will be more than 125 exhibitors along with 12 industry experts conducting Seminars/Workshops on a dual-track format at 11:00 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm each day.

Admission to the Exhibition and Seminars will be free. Professional Development credit hours will be available for attendees.

Finally, everything is FREE, even a BBQ lunch each day.

Register on-line via www.gulfcoastsolids-show.com or via fax, (713) 681-0447 If the latter, be sure to give Name, Company, Address, City/State, Phone No., Fax No. and E-mail address. Walk-up registration is allowed.

Source: Success Marketing Associates/Houston, Jan. 2005.

Visit our Web Site

If you lose this Flashpoint, and need to find an important contact, never fear! This issue is posted on the F&PD web site!

The Fuels and Petrochemicals Division web site is located at <http://www.fapd.aiche.org>. Stop by the next time you are browsing the net. For questions or comments regarding the web site, contact the Webmaster,

Galen Suppes @ suppesg@missouri.edu.

Notes from the Editor

Greetings from your new Editor. "New" may not be the proper adjective. Perhaps "stand-in" or "replacement" fits better.

Nonetheless, here we are starting out on a venture hoping to please a rather sizeable readership. We shall do our best to get out Spring and Fall (Annual) Issues ahead of the respective meetings. Historically, Summer issues have been a problem. We shall strive to improve on this, even if only a 3 1/2 pager is the result.

This fellow joined F&PD in 1987 and has known past Editors, namely, Hays, Hauslein, Krupp, Turner and Paul on a personal level and have even turned in material which these have willingly published in the Flashpoint from time to time. This fellow persuaded Hauslein to come up with the name for the publication, which, heretofore was missing. He proposed the idea to the Board and as the result of a competition, Billy Rogers came up with Flashpoint.

R.F. (Bob) Dye

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Centrifugal Compressor Operations Course

The Turbomachinery Laboratory of Texas A&M is offering a five-day course: Centrifugal *Compressor Operations for 21st Century Users* April 25-29, 2005 in Houston, Texas.

For professional development like none other in all the world, this is the course taught by the best in the profession!

The course will be held at the Hobby Airport Marriott located at 9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas 77017. For particulars contact the Turbomachinery Laboratory, Texas A&M University System at phone: 979-845-7417 or fax: 979-845-1835. Internet access is also available at <http://turbolab.tamu.edu>. By mail use the following address: Turbomachinery Laboratory, Texas A&M University, 3254 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-3254.

Participants are encouraged to bring your unique problems to discuss with the instructors and obtain possible solutions.

The registration fee for the course is \$1995.00 which includes 1) comprehensive course materials and 2) refreshments.

Source: Mailout received week of March 7, 2005.

Editor's Note: Materials on this course state that the Turbomachinery Lab has negotiated a special room rate for attendees of this course for \$80.00 (USD) per night. Call 713-943-7979 to reserve a room. Please identify yourself as a participant in the Texas A&M Turbomachinery Laboratory course.

17th Ethylene Producers Conference

This year will mark the 17th consecutive Ethylene Producers Conference. The Ethylene Producers Conference is a premier forum for sharing non-confidential information related to ethylene production. The Ethylene Producers Conference will consist of presentations by major ethylene plant operators, ethylene plant engineering contractors and consultants. The Ethylene Producers Conference will cover topics on safety, environmental issues, plant operations, plant maintenance and fundamental chemistry involved in the

manufacture of ethylene. The Ethylene Producers Conference Keynote Speaker is Steve Hart, Vice-President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company. Mr. Hart will discuss "The Energy Outlook".

Information about the Ethylene Producers Conference can be found the AIChE web page: <http://www.aiche.org/spring/topicals/ethylene.htm>. Contact Richard Rodriguez at richard.rodriguez@shell.com for more information about the Ethylene Producers Committee and Conference.

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AIChE's Fuels & Petrochemicals Division

If you are not a member and reading this newsletter, or know an associate who is not a member, join us and you'll be working with topflight, dedicated people and have a rewarding opportunity to exchange ideas and information in one of the fastest growing fields of engineering. Help your fellow citizens and yourself. **Can you afford not to participate?** Fill out the form below and mail to:

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I wish to join the F&PD Division of AIChE. My \$10. is enclosed.

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Affiliation: National Member of AIChE? Yes No National Member No. _____

If I am not a National Member, I plan to apply within 1 year.

Titles of Atlanta Spring Meeting Topical Conferences

AICHE Topical Conferences focus on specific technical areas (e.g. process safety) or industries (e.g. refining or petroleum production). All topical conferences are included in your registration.

In addition, a topical conference typically has additional short courses, networking events, plenary speakers, and proceedings. There is often a fee for these additional components. Check each topic description for details.

There are 16 Topical Conferences in this year's event, as well as, the collocated American Filtration Society Annual Meeting:

- T1: Process Intensification and Clean Technology
- T3: Sustainability and Green Engineering: Coming of Age
- T4: DOE/ITP Funding of Novel Technologies
- T7: Pulp and Paper Agenda 2020
- T8: The Engineer in Transition to Management
- T9: Commercializing New Technologies
- TA: Ethylene Producers Conference
- TC: International Conference on Refinery Processing
- TD: Path Forward to a Hydrogen Economy
- TF: Topical Conference on Distillation
- TI: 5th Topical Conference on Natural Gas Utilization
- TJ: Energy Efficiency for a Sustainable Economy
- TK: IMRET 8 - 8th International Conference on Microreaction Technology

Global Congress on Process Safety

- TG: 39th Annual Loss Prevention Symposium
- TH: Process Plant Safety Symposium
- 20th Annual CCPS International Conference

EPA MERCURY AIR STANDARD HIT

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed mercury air standard on emission limits for power plants was set incorrectly and fails to comply with the Clean Air Act, so says the agency's Office of Inspector General (OIG). The OIG says top EPA managers selected a standard that would result in a cap of 34 tons of annual mercury emissions from all U.S. coal-fired power plants, then told EPA staff to develop regulations to support this figure.

But the Clean Air Act calls for EPA to base its emissions standard on the cleanest 12% of power plants.

Coal-fired plants annually emit about 50 tons of mercury. This is neurologically toxic.

The report says the 34-ton figure can be reached by utilities as a cobenefit when they install pollution controls to reduce nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emissions under a separate Administration proposal, the Clean Skies Initiative. The OIG report recommends that EPA reanalyze its power plant data before finalizing the mercury rule. EPA disagrees and intends to complete the regulation, it says.

Utilities and some members of Congress also criticize the report, saying OIG lacks the expertise and has become politicized. However, some state regulators and environmental groups agree that the EPA proposal is flawed and say reductions two times those selected by EPA are obtainable.

Source: C&E News, Feb. 14, 2005.

7TH WORLD CONGRESS OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Coming up in July, the 7th World Congress of Chemical Engineering in Glasgow, Scotland. If you are traveling to the UK this summer, you may want to look in on this International Meeting. For news and updates check the following website: www.chemengcongress2005.com.

Source: Handouts at recent AIChE National Meetings

“The Institute finished 2004 with revenues slightly exceeding expenses for the first time in seven years. Also, for the first time in many years, no withdrawals were required from our permanent fund.”

*Source: Jeff Sirola, AIChE President letter to Members
Jan. 14, 2005.*

The U.S. is the world's largest energy producer, consumer and net importer. It also ranks eleventh worldwide in reserves of oil, sixth in natural gas and first in coal. A new analysis from the Energy Information Agency (www.eia.doe.gov) forecasts that total U.S. petroleum demand in 2005 will grow 1.4%. This equates to an average consumption of 20.7 million barrels per day.

Source: Hydrocarbon Processing, Feb. 2005



DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY!

Table for One

By Lori McDowell

It's time for another Spring meeting, this year held in Atlanta, GA. I enjoy Atlanta, but haven't been there in a few years, so most of these recommendations are from the Internet.

First, some restaurants close to the Hyatt, the conference hotel. Jake's Ice Cream is a local chain, with a branch a few block's from the hotel. They have great homemade dessert and also serve light meals, like soups, salads, sandwiches and some great appetizers like hummus and spinach-artichoke dip. It's a great place for a quick lunch or dinner. Jake's is at 676 Highland Ave. Another place close to the hotel is Thai Palate, at 265 Ponce DeLeon. This restaurant rated a 9.5 out of a possible 10 in the City Streets review. There is also a nearby tapas restaurant, Pura Vida at 656 N. Highland. If you've never been to a tapas restaurant, tapas are small plates, usually priced around \$3-\$6/plate. It's a great place to eat alone, or in a large group, because you get to try many things.

Two related restaurants that are highly rated are Dailey's 17 Andrew Young International Blvd. and City Grill, at 50 Hurt Plaza. Both serve continental cuisine and are recommended for their fresh foods. They also have private rooms for large groups and nice bars if you want to eat at the bar.

Luxe is another good choice for a more upscale meal(89 Park Place). Luxe serves American food with a Continental flavor. Atkins Park Restaurant and Tavern at 794 N. Highland is a great neighborhood bar with award winning food. It's a great place to hang out and people watch while you get a bite to eat.

If you want steak, Atlanta has some good steak places. There's Bones, 3130 Piedmont Rd, and Chops, 70 West Paces Ferry, plus the always reliable chain's, Ruth Chris at 267 Market St, and Houston's at 2166 Peachtree Rd. I highly recommend Houston's for a solo dinner, you can eat at the bar and not feel at all out of place, and in addition to their steaks they have great salads and seafood,

And one Atlanta restaurant that has been around for a long time and shouldn't be missed is the Varsity, 61 North Ave., NW. The food at the Varsity predates fast-food. They have great burgers and dogs, and other casual fare. It's a neon-lit college town atmosphere that has carhop service. Even our editor, Bob Dye fondly remembers The Varsity from his college days.

That's it for this issue-enjoy Atlanta!