

News from CACHE

Thomas F. Edgar, Executive Officer

In this newsletter you will find many indications of CACHE activities, but the purpose of this particular column is to give the reader an overview of some of the projects CACHE trustees and task forces are carrying out. First, let me mention the Molecular Modeling Task Force, which involves several trustees [Peter Cummings (Tennessee), Phil Westmoreland (University of Massachusetts), and David Kofke (Buffalo)] plus a number of other researchers [for example, Jim Ely (Colorado School of Mines), Richard Rowley (Brigham Young), Daniel Lacks (Tulane), Edward Maginn (Notre Dame) and Randy Snurr (Northwestern)], who are working to develop various software tools for molecular simulation plus an electronic book on this subject. See <http://zeolites.cqe.nwu.edu/cache/> for more details on their progress, which has been funded by an NSF grant during the past three years.

Two new task forces which are in their initial stages of activity are in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and in biosystems. During the past two years, the CFD task force has been led by trustee Jennifer Sinclair (Purdue), who now will be joined by Rodney Fox (Iowa State) and Richard LaRoche (Fluent) to give it added “momentum”. Look for more details on their plans during 2002. A new task force in the planning phase is on computing and biosystems and is being organized by trustees Frank Doyle (Delaware, but is moving to UCSB) and Sangtae Kim (Lilly). We intend to involve a core group of researchers from CACHE member departments in this task force, which is driven by the addition of a large number of bioengineering faculty in chemical engineering departments and corresponding curriculum developments.

In the area of CACHE conferences, we have seen a temporary hiatus in holding conferences during 2002 but this will pick up in 2003 with two conferences (FOCAPO-2003 and FOMMS-2003) scheduled, with most of the main speakers selected. FOCAPO is chaired by Ignacio Grossmann (CMU) and Conor McDonald (Dupont), while FOMMS is chaired by Jim Ely (Colorado School of Mines) and George Jackson (Imperial

College). FOCAPD-2004 is in the planning stages, under the leadership of Chris Floudas (Princeton). Also I should mention the ASEE Summer School to be held in August, 2002, in Boulder, Colorado. This program is co-chaired by two CACHE Trustees, Scott Fogler (Michigan) and Mike Cutlip (Connecticut). Current information on all of these conferences can be found by going to www.cache.org and clicking on the “Conference Center” building icon.

After the Summer School, the CACHE Trustees plan to hold their summer meeting. One of the important topics of discussion and brainstorming will be “computing through the curriculum”, where we intend to look at how freshman and sophomore courses on computing are connected to upper division chemical engineering courses. In many universities the earlier courses are taught by other departments.

Finally one of the recent initiatives on www.cache.org was a new service that put faculty opening ads on-line at a fairly nominal cost. In its first year of operation, 17 ads were placed, and we hope that this number will grow during the next year. We also kept those ads on-line for over six months at the request of the departments planning the ads, which is two to three times longer than the time period for some of the other classified ad services such as CEP and C&E News.