Comments from the Editors

Peter Rony and Scott Fogler

This issue of CACHE News (No. 60 – Spring 2005) includes several manuscripts from the Sixth International Conference on Foundations of Computer-Aided Process Design (FOCAPD 2004).   To quote from the July 2004 issue of CACHE News:

"The major theme of FOCAPD 2004, Discovery through Product and Process Design, reflects the remarkable shift in the industrial sector. Princeton University Professor Christodoulos A. Floudas and Dr. Rakesh Agrawal of Air Products and Chemicals chaired this conference with a goal to create an academic and industrial dialogue, a critical assessment of existing enabling technologies, a discussion on research, education, and industrial needs, and a forum of new directions, challenges and opportunities in product and process design.

 "FOCAPD 2004 was held at the Friend Center at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, July 11-16, 2004. This international conference attracted world-renowned experts from academia and industry, researchers and practitioners from government laboratories, product and processing industries, technology and consulting companies, and graduate students."

Why publish such manuscripts in the online CACHE News? For several reasons: (1) The selected manuscripts for this issue of CACHE News focus on the teaching, and significance, of product design, a relatively new topic in undergraduate chemical engineering education; (2) The organization and sponsorship of conferences on computing in chemical engineering is one of the primary activities of the CACHE corporation; and (3) Most ChE faculty members in CACHE-supporting departments did not attend FOCAPD 2004; e.g., there were 155 attendees – mostly from industry -- at FOCAPD 2004.

Also included in this issue is another manuscript in Ed Rosen's series on the use of Femlab 3.1 in chemical engineering education.   Your CACHE News senior editor has carefully reviewed and tested this model prior to publication. Both of us thank Mia Johansson (**miaj@comsol.com**) and Comsol, Inc. (**http://www.comsol.com/**) for allowing us to use the Femlab 3.1 software for educational purposes.

Finally, there is a contribution from Ross Taylor and Harry Koojman, "ChemSep Case Book: Handling Missing Components.   ChemSep 5.0 and ChemSep-Lite are really interesting software.   I am retired now, but I would certainly enjoy using them in an undergraduate, separations class.