

## CACHE Trustees Cummings and Edgar win AIChE Awards

Peter T. Cummings, the John R. Hall Professor of Chemical Engineering at Vanderbilt University and a Past President of CACHE, received the 2010 Founders Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Chemical Engineering from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in a ceremony November 7<sup>th</sup> at the organization's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. Cummings was specifically cited "for outstanding contributions through research, service to the Institute, and national leadership on behalf of the profession." In 2009, Cummings was named a Fellow of the AIChE and in 2007 he received the Institute's Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum Award. Cummings also was one of nine faculty members featured in "Chemical Engineering in the Next 25 Years: Twenty-five of the profession's thought-leaders speculate about what the future holds," an article published in the November 2008 issue of Chemical Engineering Progress, the AIChE's monthly magazine, which was devoted to the Institute's Centennial. He is also a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As the principal scientist at the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Cummings leads planning of the research agenda for a team of 95 researchers and support staff. The center is a U.S. Department of Energy/Office of Science Nanoscale Science Research Center. In April 2009, the White House announced the establishment of a new multimillion-dollar Energy Frontier Research Center at Oak Ridge. The Fluid Interface Reactions, Structures and Transport (FIRST) Center is one of two planned for the facility. Cummings serves as a member of the FIRST leadership team and as a co-principal investigator. Cummings' research focuses on molecular modeling of fluids, computational nanoscience, molecular rheology of lubricants and mathematical modeling of cancer invasion.



Professor Tom Edgar, the CACHE Executive Director, accepted the F. J. and Dorothy Van Antwerpen Award for Service from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) this month at the association's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The award, sponsored by The Dow Chemical Co., recognizes Edgar's tremendous service and professional leadership contributions in chemical engineering, particularly for AIChE. "The world faces many challenges today, but chemical engineers, as demonstrated by award winners like Tom Edgar, have the innovative spirit and skills to solve them," said Henry T. "Hank" Kohlbrand, President of AIChE. Edgar has held influential positions for AIChE for nearly 40 years, including president in 1997. An initial AIChE Foundation Board of Trustees (BOT) member, he has served continuously on the board since 1990. He acted as vice-chair in 2000 before chairing the BOT from 2002-08. He initiated several successful AIChE Foundation fund raising campaigns, increased board membership by 60 percent by personally recruiting 24 new members and reorganized the BOT into a more effective committee. Edgar has also been president or chair for other professional groups affiliated with AIChE: The Council for Chemical Research (CCR), American Automatic Control Council (AACC) and Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering (CACHE). At The University of Texas at Austin he served as department chair, associate dean of engineering and associate vice president for computing between 1984 and 2001. As chair, he increased the graduate program from 80 to 160 students and tripled the number of Ph.D.'s in residence. He also served on eight advisory boards and co-authored three significant textbooks. His research work was recognized by AIChE in 1980 by the Allan P. Colburn Award and the CAST Division Award in 1995. Edgar's accomplishments as an educator were previously honored with the AIChE Warren K. Lewis Award in 2005. "We are pleased Tom received this distinguished award, his leadership in process control and service with AIChE truly warrants this recognition," said Chemical Engineering Department Chair Dr. Roger Bonnez. "Achievements like Tom's contribute to The University of Texas at Austin continually being acknowledged as one of the top five chemical engineering departments nationwide. Most importantly, Tom continues to be an excellent teacher and



adviser to hundreds of students." There were also two sessions at the AIChE annual meeting which honored Tom for his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, organized by Wayne Bequette and Dale Seborg. The papers presented are posted at [http://www.che.utexas.edu/edgar\\_group/birthday.html](http://www.che.utexas.edu/edgar_group/birthday.html).