

In Transition

In its thirty-seventh year, the *AICHE Journal* is about to experience only its fourth editorial change. On July 1, Prof. Matthew V. Tirrell, of the University of Minnesota, will become the fifth editor, as he succeeds Prof. Morton M. Denn who has served so ably for the past six years.

Six and one-half years ago, the *AICHE Journal* was still being published bimonthly. Due to a large backlog of papers, some of which were not published until two years after submission, the *Journal* was in danger of losing its stature as the premier archival journal in chemical engineering. This came at a time when chemical engineering researchers were increasingly presenting and publishing papers, and editing journals outside of AIChE in the areas of heat transfer, catalysis, materials, bioengineering, control, etc. Fortunately, the AIChE Council countered the threat by doubling the pages of the *AICHE Journal* in a monthly format.

Mort Denn assumed the role of editor amidst calls for a series of archival journals, similar to the ACS, the ASME, the IEEE Computer Society, the Pergamon Press, and many other publishers. Chemical engineering researchers had become more actively involved in the "fringe" areas and to some members it seemed desirable for AIChE to initiate new journals in more specialized areas, before other societies and publishers did so. In successfully resisting these calls, Mort acknowledged that "the many new areas of research represent an important part of the future of the profession, and effective communication is essential to enable the profession to stay abreast and to evolve with its needs." He concluded that "the best mechanism to ensure that this happens is the publication of research in the traditional, broadly-based journals." To avoid any tendency toward compartmentalization, Mort declined to enlist Associate Editors, with separate foci. He undertook to handle all of the approximately 500 papers annually submitted to the *AICHE Journal*, nearly half of which are eventually published. During this period, the backlog was eliminated and the journal

flourished, with the research community well aware of Mort's high editorial standards.

During 1990, a search committee of the Publication Committee, chaired by Prof. Ronald W. Rousseau, of the Georgia Institute of Technology, was challenged to find an individual with comparable capabilities and energy. Fortunately, Matt Tirrell, who had been serving as the North American Editor of *Chemical Engineering Science*, agreed to accept the editorship. Matt can be expected to serve with the similar high esteem of his colleagues and to broaden even further the scope of the journal, as chemical engineering research becomes yet more diversified.

In this interim period between editors, from January to June, Mort Denn has assumed a lesser role, with the active involvement of his Consulting Editors in coordinating the reviews of papers received by the Journal office. The Publication Committee very much appreciates their assistance as Mort prepares to assume his new duties as Department Chair at Berkeley and Matt relinquishes his responsibilities with *Chemical Engineering Science*.

Throughout this interim period especially, and for the past ten years, the Publication Committee wishes to acknowledge, with admiration and gratitude, the superb work of our Managing Editor, Ms. Haeja L. Han. The research community knows the precision and skill that Haeja brings to the production of each paper. She has made it possible for our editors to undertake such an arduous responsibility.



Warren D. Seider
Chair, Publications Committee