

# The Start of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year!

This issue of the *AIChE Journal* is the first of its 50<sup>th</sup> year, an event worthy of some special recognition. This will be done in a number of ways during the year. First, in this issue you will find a list of the 100 most cited articles in the history of the *Journal*. These articles have hundreds of citations—and three have more than a thousand—which is evidence of the quality of articles published in the *Journal* and their impact on chemical engineering. Second, most of the issues this year will contain 50-year reviews of areas within chemical engineering by acknowledged leaders in their fields. The first of these reviews “Mathematics in Chemical Engineering: A 50-Year Introspection” by Doraiswami Ramkrishna and Neal Amundson appears in this issue. This will be followed by reviews of transport phenomena by R. Byron Bird, of biomedical engineering by Robert Langer and Nicholas Peppas, of thermodynamics by John M. Prausnitz and others in the months ahead. Also, there will be two sessions celebrating the golden anniversary of the *Journal* at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Institute next November in Austin, TX.

There have been many changes in the *Journal* since its founding under the leadership of Harding Bliss, and changes in both content and process will continue as the profession evolves. During the past year, we introduced a Web-based submission and review process that has reduced the average time between when an author submits a manuscript and it appears in print by more than two months. Our goal in the immediate future is to reduce this time by another two months to an average of about nine months for the print version.

An important change with this issue is that John Wiley & Sons, Inc. has assumed post-editorial publishing responsibilities for the *AIChE Journal* (as well as two other AIChE publications, *Environmental Progress* and *Process Safety Progress*). This will have a number of advantages for authors and readers of the *Journal*, including the Wiley commitment to continued excellence of the *Journal*, the launching of online editions through *Wiley Interscience* with reference linking and improved searchability, the creation and distribution of a digital archive of all previous volumes of the *Journal*, and electronic publication of articles before their appearance in print. This and Wiley’s worldwide marketing and distribution network hold the promise of a more rapid dissemination of articles in the *AIChE Journal* to a larger readership.

While this editorial is not the place for a detailed history of the *Journal*, some retrospection is justified. When the *Journal* was introduced 1955, its foundation editor Harding Bliss wrote, “We plan to emphasize in the *Journal* those theoretical developments and research results which are immediately interesting to many and which it is hoped will be of great ultimate value for all.” That is still our goal. Evidence of the success of the *Journal* was apparent from its start as a quarterly publication, to a bimonthly in 1962 and then monthly issues in 1985. Enhancing the electronic delivery of articles has been ongoing in an effort to keep abreast

with evolving technologies. The PDF version has been reaching readers since 1998, and partnership with Wiley will make the HTML version available soon.

Of course, in the end, the success of the *AIChE Journal* is due to the creativity and hard work of our authors who submit high quality manuscripts, and the diligence of the reviewers in helping to insure that what is published is not only original and correct, but useful and interesting. I, and I am sure the preceding editors, thank them for making the *Journal* the premier publication of the profession and our Institute.

I would be remiss if I did not also express the appreciation and admiration that the authors, readers and editors have felt for the AIChE staff who have done so much to assure the accuracy and readability of our manuscripts. After 23 years, Haeja L. Han will be stepping down from her full-time staff role overseeing the publication of the *Journal*. She has been a great friend to the research community. I would also like to thank Arthur H. Baulch for his tireless efforts on our behalf, first on the AIChE staff and now with Wiley.

In a *Journal* editorial in 1962 Bliss wrote that “Any conscientious student of the current literature must view with increasing despair the staggering growth rate of technical publications.” This situation has only gotten worse (or better, depending on your perspective) since then. With a goal of publishing the best articles of interest to the general audience of chemical engineers, and highlighting the research accomplishments of the profession within the page budget available, we cannot publish all manuscripts submitted. In the end, it is the editor that makes the choice of which of the many fine manuscripts that are submitted appear in the *Journal*. I have discovered this is not a way to make new friends. My hope is that not too many mistakes are made in this process. Clearly, the place of high esteem of the *AIChE Journal* in our profession is due to the wise decisions made by previous editors. They were:

Harding Bliss: 1955–1970

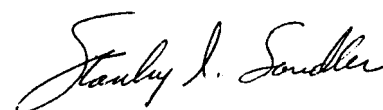
Robert C. Reid: 1971–1976

Robert Kadlec: 1976 –1985

Morton M. Denn: 1985–1991

Matthew V. Tirrell: 1991–2000

The present editor and associate editors are committed to maintaining the standard of quality of the *AIChE Journal* set by them, and look forward to working with John Wiley & Sons, Inc. to insure that this occurs.



**Stanley I. Sandler**  
Editor