



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

We, at the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center appreciate the support and assistance given to us by various organizations and individuals. This support comes in many forms, without which many of the activities of the Center would not be possible. A major part of the support for various programs and activities of the Center comes from annual membership dues. Organizations can become members of the Center at the Advisor, Partner, or Sponsor level. Small business and individual memberships are also available. Details about membership benefits, membership criteria, and annual dues are available on request.

The Center recently welcomed *Warren-Forthought, Inc.* as one of the supporting members.

Mr. Bruce Warren, Chairman and President of **Warren-Forthought, Inc.** presented Dr. Ray Anthony, Chemical Engineering Department Head and Dr. Sam Mannan, Director of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, with a check representing 1998 membership dues.

A lot of exciting things are happening at the Center. The interest and participation in our programs and activities continues to increase. The research programs are also beginning to take shape and substance. And, we have received many positive comments and suggestions after the publication of the *Research Agenda* which was painstakingly developed by taking into account the Executive Forum White Paper as well as the Symposium Punch List Items. The Technical Advisory Committee's deliberations in prioritizing the itemized list for the *Research Agenda* was very beneficial. As time goes on, we will develop and implement research plans for each item.

Representatives from the newly formed federal agency, the **Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board**, recently visited Texas A&M University and the Center to explore issues of mutual interest. During their visit, **Dr. Phyllis Thompson** and **Ms. Hilary Schultz** met various researchers at the Center representing such diverse backgrounds as chemical engineering, public policy, and computer science. The agency representatives were interested in learning more about the Center, especially the capabilities of the Center to develop and mine large databases and develop digital libraries which can be used to facilitate analysis and research of chemical process incidents.

The Center's website has also gone through significant amount of change and face-lifting. We have recently added several new features. These are EMPLOYMENT, LINKS, MAILING LIST, and MEMBERS AREA. The EMPLOYMENT feature provides information and links to potential job opportunities in process safety and related fields.

The LINKS feature, as the name implies, provides links to websites of an extensive list of organizations related to process safety. These organizations include governmental, academic, industry, as well as other non-affiliated organizations. The MAILING LIST is a feature which allows interested individuals to submit their contact information electronically and receive publications and information from the Center. The MEMBERS AREA is an important new feature which allows the Center to provide certain information for the benefit of the members only. More details about the EMPLOYMENT feature and the MEMBERS AREA feature are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

M. Sam Mannan

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