



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 Partner, Sponsor, or Advisor 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 OxyChem as one of the supporting members.

Armando Lara successfully defended his MS thesis on "Dense Gas Dispersion Modeling for Aqueous Releases" on March 25, 1999. Armando starts working in the Deer Park plant of Rohm and Haas in June. This has been an eventful semester for Armando. Earlier in January, Armando and his wife Nancy welcomed their first child, Regina. We wish Armando and his family the best in their professional and personal lives.

There are also two more students working on dispersion modeling projects and other students working on an assortment of projects. A PhD student is working on the reactive chemicals project. We have developed an informal collaboration with Shell Oil Company under which we will exchange reactive chemicals information regarding methodology, data, and results. We are also evaluating the need for becoming a part of round robin testing under the Design Institute for Emergency Relief Systems (DIERS) program. This is possible because of the recent addition of the Automatic Pressure Tracking Adiabatic Calorimeter (APTAC) to our Reactive Systems Laboratory. The APTAC and the Reactive Systems Screening Tool give us extended capability to not only participate in the

DIERS round robin testing, but also start major research initiatives in the reactive chemicals field. Organizations are welcome to contact the Center for details about testing.



The Continuing Education program has been revamped and revised, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. John Susil of Celanese, Chair of the Continuing Education Subcommittee. John did a tremendous job in helping us revise existing courses, select new courses, and rotate new instructors. However, we need everyone's help in getting the word out about our new program. Classes are held at the TEEX location near Pasadena, Texas. Please call the Center for details regarding the Continuing Education program and registration.

We continue to implement changes, additions, and improvements to our website. In fact, some information changes almost daily. We have also implemented a list server to send e-mail notices of information and events. If you would like to be included in the list server database, please contact the Center or register on the website.

The Center library has moved recently to new and spacious accommodations. This gives us the flexibility to acquire more literature, books, and reports relevant to process safety which students can use for education and research. Organizations or individuals who would like to find a home for their books and reports relevant to process safety, are encouraged to contact the Center.

M. Sam Mannan

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