



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. 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.



Dr. Ray Anthony, Mr. Steve Brouillard, and Dr. Sam Mannan

The Center recently welcomed Conoco, Inc. as one of the supporting members. Mr. Steve Brouillard 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 1999 membership dues.



Dr. Ray Anthony, Ms. Kari Barrett, and Dr. Sam Mannan

We also welcome the Chemical Manufacturers Association as a supporting member of the Center. Ms. Kari Barrett, CMA representative, presented a check to Dr. Anthony and Dr. Mannan.

Two chemical engineering senior students, Amy Miranda and Neysa Serra, from the University of Puerto Rico, are spending their summer conducting research at the Center. Under this program, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the

students work with a research group in a comprehensive research university. This experience not only provides them with novel exposure to research opportunities but also allows them to learn about emerging technologies. The NSF program requires them to develop a paper based on their research at the end of the summer. A summary of Amy and Neysa's research will be published in an upcoming newsletter. In other student activity, Irfan Shaikh successfully defended his MS thesis on "Role of Viscosity in the Accurate Prediction of Source-Terms for High Molecular Weight Substances". Irfan is going to work for Wilfred-Baker Engineering in San Antonio, Texas.

The Center recently started work on two significant projects. The "Chemical Safety Program Assessment" project involves the establishment of National Chemical Safety Goals, identification of activities necessary to accomplish the goals, and development of a measurement system to measure progress towards the goals. As part of the project, the Center hosted a two-day Roundtable meeting on June 2-3, 1999 at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center in College Station, Texas. A second session is being planned for the fall in conjunction with the Center's annual symposium. The "Chemical Safety Assessment Project" is jointly funded from internal funds from the Center, U.S. EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Huntsman Corporation, Conoco, Inc., the Process Safety Consortium, and the Chemical Manufacturers Association. The Center also initiated a project to conduct a study of "Y2K Readiness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) involved in chemical, petrochemical, refining, and offshore petroleum activities." The project is supported by a grant from the Nathan-Cummings Foundation. Both projects are discussed in detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next symposium, Beyond Regulatory Compliance, Making Safety Second Nature, will be held on October 26-27, 1999 at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center. Many experts in the process safety field will be presenting papers at the symposium. You can find the complete schedule of events and registration information on our website <http://process-safety.tamu.edu>.

M. Sam Mannan
Summer 1999