



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



As someone once said, “Rome was not built in a day.” That is what I keep thinking as we make progress in accomplishing the goals and mission of the Center. As you will read in detail in other parts of this newsletter, we have some exciting new accomplishments to report.

The Center achieved a significant milestone in the Fall 2007 semester as we have started offering the Process Safety Engineering course via distance learning. In addition to the 66 undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled for the on-campus course, 11 students enrolled through the distance learning option. A few of them are from the United States and the others are from places such as Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Singapore. Our next step in this distance learning venture is to start offering all the courses for Safety Engineering Certificate via distance learning. From there, we would like to move on to offering a Master of Science in Safety Engineering and a Master of Engineering in Process Safety Engineering, all via distance learning!

The Center continues to provide facilitation for stakeholder forums on different topics of interest. In this respect, the Center held a two-day workshop on LNG Pool Fire Modeling. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas and held in Washington, DC. Presently, Center personnel are busy preparing the White Paper based on the presentations and deliberations at the workshop. The Center is also holding a Roundtable

discussion on “Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance” systems. This latter roundtable is being sponsored by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and will be held in College Station, Texas on September 25-26, 2007. A diverse group of stakeholders will be gathering together to discuss the current state of hazardous substances emergency events, surveillance events and how plans can be developed and implemented for a national surveillance system.

Two more researchers completed their graduate degrees and have moved on to exciting new opportunities. Susan Mitchell completed her PhD by successfully defending her dissertation entitled, “Resilient Engineered Systems: The Development of an Inherent System Property.” Between finishing her PhD and starting her new job at ExxonMobil, Susan also found time to win quite a bit of money in the hit TV show, “Jeopardy.” Divya Narayanan completed her MS by successfully defending her thesis entitled, “Engineering for Sustainable Development for Bio-Diesel Production.” Divya has gone on to a career with Shell Exploration and Production.

During the last few months, a number of delegations have also visited the Center. The intent of these visits has been to gather information about the Center and its activities and to look for opportunities to develop collaborative relationships. Also, Center membership interest continues to grow from all stakeholder industry groups.

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