The Year in Review

In 2013, AIME continued down its path of more of a foundation model and virtual operation. Notably, operating expenses are now in line with income, allowing for 50% of surplus to be directed to its Member Societies to use as they see fit; this totaled $125,000 per Society in 2013. Of the remainder, 20% is for a matching grant fund to support collaborative efforts; the Board allocated the maximum allowed, $200,000 for use in 2013. The remainder is retained by AIME for reinvestment. For 2014, the Board approved $123,750 per Society for the former and $198,000 for collaborative grants. Of the latter, the Board has directed that half each year leading up to 2021 will be put into a new fund for a joint event to celebrate AIME’s 150th.

On April 15, 2013, the AIME Board approved $100,000 to support development of an inaugural diversity conference in summer 2014 proposed by TMS and supported by SME, honoring the first woman member (1879) of AIME, Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards. They also approved $34,000 to match a United Engineering Foundation 2013 grant given to AIST to support growth of the Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) soft skills annual conference and On Demand training through enhanced marketing to the engineering and scientific community.

AIME leadership represented the groups at Board meetings of the United Engineering Foundation (UEF) and American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES), fully engaging in the latter to help set new strategic direction and establish a new Lifelong Learning working group. This group is working with the Department of Labor to develop a competency framework for engineering as a whole. It also attended joint events in Washington, DC, including the National Academy of Engineering’s Convocation and Engineering Public Policy Symposium, as well as eWeek for the first time in over a decade. The latter spawned a new outreach program AIME is trialing in 2014 for the Member Societies at functions at which they are not currently represented, such as National Engineers Week Family Day and NSBE and SWE diversity conferences. Finally, the AIME family submitted more worthy candidates for joint engineering awards than we have in many years and garnered participation by Member Society representatives on key joint committees. Notably, AAES conferred TMS members, Julia Weertman and Don Sadoway with the Fritz medal and Norm Augustine Award, respectively, at their annual banquet April 29, 2014 in Washington, DC. Details can be found at http://www.aaes.org/awards/awards2014.cfm for details.
AIME now relies on its Member Societies (staff and members) to execute its former multi-disciplinary efforts. AIME still hosts discussions, facilitates work, and represents its Member Societies in the overarching areas of education, energy and the environment, diversity, sustainability, international growth, outreach, and recognition via pinnacle awards and scholarships. An example of the latter is AIME partnering with the other engineering Founder Societies and Society of Women Engineers to expand IEEE’s global engineering and technology history website to encompass information from all disciplines. AIME will upload archival photos and documents and solicit articles, oral histories, landmarks/milestones, and educational outreach material from AIST and its other Member Societies. We look forward to working with your staff and members on this important endeavor to promote AIME’s legacy. Regarding sustainability, AIME hosts quarterly Sustainability Steering Committee calls, led by AIME 2011 President from TMS, Brajendra Mishra, to share best practices and promote events. The group is also planning a sustainability symposium to be held at TMS’ 2015 annual meeting in Orlando March 18-19.

**Personal Note**

As a much younger man, I can remember being approached to join the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers (AIME). At the time I didn't know so much about the Society, but I was instantly impressed with the passion displayed by the membership for belonging to AIME (always pronounced Amy). My recruitment was well disguised as an invitation to write and present a paper regarding high natural gas injection on a blast furnace!

From this on-boarding experience, I rapidly found myself joining technical program committees, membership committees and the local chapter of ISS. This progression of responsibilities within ISS ultimately led to Chairmanship of the Cleveland Chapter of ISS. Following my transfer to Northwest Indiana, the Midwest Chapter sought me out to become a member of that Board and this led to my Chairmanship of the ISS Midwest Chapter. During this Chairmanship, ISS and the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE) culminated their courtship and the Association of Iron and Steel Technology (AIST) was formed.

My path to the President’s role with AIME really began with accepting a position on the ISS Board of Trustees for the ISS Foundation. This activity ultimately led to becoming the Chairman of the Foundation Board of Trustees for AIST. Following my tenure there as Past-President, AIST asked that I continue my involvement by serving as the AIST representative to AIME. Accepting this fate, thus began my involvement with this Board and each of you.

I am amazed that a year has passed so quickly as President of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers. The alacrity with which the past year has moved is in no small way related to holding the position.

The term of President approaches rapidly and the pace picks up from there. I must include a note of thanks to my predecessors for their role in preparing me to serve as President. I think a special note of thanks is due to George Luxbacher for the significant effort he put into researching the history of our group and his discovery regarding the wide and varied nature of the membership and work accomplished through the engineering disciplines. I’ve fallen back on his work on several occasions as I’ve traveled throughout the year.

I was blessed by ArcelorMittal management which allowed me to travel and participate at AIME events throughout the year. I was pleased to attend and represent AIME at IEEE, UEF, SPE, TMS, SME and AIST functions and annual conferences throughout the year. I was not at all certain when my term began that I would be afforded this opportunity, but I’m
glad that it did occur. It was my privilege to represent each of you and all of AIME in presenting awards at each of the member society award ceremonies. Sincerely, I was in awe of each of the award recipients as I read their individual credentials leading to their award and recognition. It is in this form that I think AIME best represents the legacy of the organization now approaching 150 years in duration.

AIME continues to support the four member societies in a significant fashion financially. Since the member societies incorporated separately in 1984, AIME distributions total a little less than $33 million. In the past year, distributions reached nearly $900,000 including Endowment Fund activity, Member Society Direct funds and Collaborative Grant funds. Our strategic initiative to streamline operations and resemble Foundation models along with favorable investment returns has resulted in income outpacing expenses by nearly $1/2 million in calendar year 2013.

Outreach activities also grew during the past year as our Executive Director, Michele Lawrie-Munro, extended the AIME name and face to DiscoverE Family Day, USA Science and Engineering Festival and NSBE (black) and SWE (women) annual conferences and additional engineering societies. We each owe her a debt of gratitude for tirelessly looking for the next best opportunity for AIME.

I’m pleased to continue our newest (re-established) tradition of touring a related business to the current AIME President. As such and in conjunction with our Board of Directors Meeting in August at Niagara-on-the-Lake, our Board will be touring the magnificent steel making facilities of ArcelorMittal Hamilton in Ontario, Canada.

Finally, planning and funding for the 150th year Celebration of the founding of AIME in New York City is well underway. Tentatively set at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, this promises to be a fitting celebration of an organization with direct ties to 150,000+ members of AIST, SME, SPE and TMS with (in a fashion similar to LinkedIn) additional connections to 1,000,000+ members around the globe.

I’m pleased to be turning the gavel over to Behrooz Fattahi of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He brings a tremendous level of passion and dedication to the Presidency of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers.