



AICISE MARCH 2007 NEWSLETTER

SOME NEW FACES AT AICISE:

Derek McBurney is the AICISE Web Master. He recently completed a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science while working full time at the University of Calgary as a middleware analyst for UCIT. He is also doing web work for the Institute of Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy, and had previously done work for the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Derek was born in Sarnia, Ontario, but has spent most of his life in Calgary. He has an unexplainable and irrational love for the Toronto Blue Jays. He hopes to continue doing web site development in Calgary and to buy a home somewhere within the city.



Redescal Gómez is a Research Associate on Dr. Pedro Pereira's Catalysis team. He holds a B.Sc in Mechanical Engineering from Central University of Venezuela. He has over sixteen years of experience working at PDVSA-Intevep, Venezuela (1986-2002) and 20 years in the formulation, execution and management of multi-disciplined projects, as well as in the execution of professional and consulting services for a variety of industries, including petroleum, automotive service, government agencies, manufacturing and transportation. He joined the University of Calgary in September 2006. His current work is in the operation and maintenance of a pilot plant for oil upgrading. He is also working on modifications to existing facilities, including the development and construction of an in-line Ultra Dispersed Catalyst preparation unit as part of a staged setup of a modular pilot plant unit capable of simulating the envisioned integrated catalytic upgrading process.



Dr. Azfar Hassan is a Post Doc who recently joined Dr. Pereira's group working on heavy oil upgrading and hydrogen production. He has a M.Sc. and an M.Phil in Chemistry from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry (1997) from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. His area of research was synthesis of heterocyclic organic molecules and use of variable temperature NMR spectroscopy to measure free energy for chemical bond rotation. He then joined the Research Institute at KFUPM, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia as a Research Scientist. He worked for four years on client funded projects



related to development of heterogeneous catalyst systems for olefin polymerization (SABIC, Saudi Arabia) and for hydrocracking reactions (JPEC, Japan). He then immigrated to Canada (2001) and worked for four years as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Catalysis Research and Innovation, University of Ottawa. He joined the Schulich School of Engineering in 2005 to work with Dr. Hill. He is presently developing methods to characterize heavy oil residues by thermo gravimetric methods. He has thirty publications in international journals and conferences.

RECOGNITION & CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Alejandro Vasquez for successfully defending his thesis on February 16. Way to go, Alejandro! Congratulations also go to Steve Larter, Jennifer Adams, Ian Gates, Haiping Huang and Barry Bennett for receiving the Roger Butler Award for the best presentation at CIPC 2006. It will be awarded to the team in October 2007. Also, Behdad Moini will be presenting his research at an upcoming SPE session in Mexico. Chris Leskiw and his wife are expecting their second child any second. Centre Manager, Dave Reynolds, will be presenting a paper on his Ph.D research in San Francisco in mid April.



READING WEEK SKI DAY



Some of the AICISE students and researchers took a break from research during Reading Week to enjoy a well-earned day off on the slopes of Sunshine Village. Clockwise from left is Ph.D student Herbert Loria from Mexico; Master students Alejandro Vasquez and Luis Patruyo and Research Associate Francisco Lopez, all from Venezuela. This was Francisco's first time on skis. He survived without breaking any bones.

SPECIAL EVENTS:



'Santa Larry' paid a visit to the AICISE/TAC Christmas luncheon at the University Club on December 15 handing out gifts to all the good students. About 70 students, staff, faculty and invited guests attended the luncheon. The guest speaker was Dr. Robert Mansell, Special Advisor to the President and Managing Director of ISEEE. Among the guests attending the luncheon were the TAC members, friends of

AICISE, Bob King and Pat McKone from Petro-Canada, and Lorraine Whale and Cor van Kruijsdijk from Shell Canada.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

The AICISE Technical Advisory Committee met on December 14 and 15, 2006 and found AICISE to be basically on target with its research goals. They found some areas where AICISE can improve, too. From left to right are: Ian Gates, Steve Larter, Patrick Corbett, Ron Spencer, Brij Maini, Frank McCaffery, Bob King, Gord Moore, Sanjay Srinivasan, Raj Mehta, Otto Strausz, Pedro Pereira, Cor van Kruijsdijk and Larry Lines.



WINTER TERM PERCOLATOR SESSIONS:

Tentative Percolator* sessions are scheduled for 3 p.m.:

- March 21 – Ian Gates: Simulation
- April 25 – Ron Spencer/Larry Lines: Res Characterization
- May 23 – Pedro Pereira Almao: Advanced Catalysis

* Sorry, but because of confidentiality and intellectual property issues Percolator sessions are open only to AICISE-related students, faculty and staff and members of the staff of our industry partners.

FUTURE JOINT AICISE, AICOSI AND AIF WORKSHOP:

AICISE, AICOSI and Alberta Ingenuity Fund are holding a special two-day workshop on the Variability of the Resource at the Chateau Lake Louise on May 2, 3 & 4, 2007. The workshop will bring together students, faculty and speakers to explore the current state of knowledge on the variability of the bitumen resource in Alberta. Several



AICISE students and faculty will be attending: some will present a poster during the two-day event. There is also an opportunity on the afternoon of May 3 to take in the natural sights and beauty of Lake Louise or to ski at Canada's largest ski hill. There is some room available for a few industry partners' staff to participate.

EXPANDING AICISE'S OUTREACH:

AICISE is working with Natalie St. Denis and Laureen Regan to develop two new AICISE marketing products for use as handouts at conferences, workshops and presentations. Ms St. Denis is preparing a 20-page booklet and Ms Regan is preparing a 5-minute video on AICISE. You may see cameras set up in classrooms and labs in the next few weeks. The video will be shown in April on ACCESS TV.

AICISE is also a sponsor and participant of the *Slugging it Out* conference on March 26 at the U of C's Red & White Club.

AICISE RESEARCHERS MAKE AN UNUSUAL DISCOVERY:

AICISE researchers found this strange looking creature



wandering around aimlessly on the slopes of Sunshine Village. At first it was thought to be an AICISE student, but then it was decided it might be a new species. If you think you recognize this particular creature (and can provide it with a good home), send Dave Reynolds an e-mail at dave.reynolds@ucalgary.ca providing the name it answers to. I will enter your name into a draw and one lucky 'wildlife' observer will win an Alberta Ingenuity shirt. Some conditions apply. The winner will be notified sometime after April 1,

2007.

Hint: It has an accent and it is not an abominable snow-man!

CONTACT INFO:

For further information about the AICISE Centre's mandate, role and research activities, please go to the web site (www.aicise.ca) or contact:

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