



Honoured Guests

The Alberta Ingenuity Centre for In Situ Energy (AICISE) has been honoured with a few distinguished guests within the recent weeks.

Honourable Greg Melchin, Alberta's Minister of Energy visited the Centre on November 4, 2005. After a brief meeting with the University of Calgary's



President, Dr. Harvey Weingarten, Dr. Robert Mansell, Managing Director of UofC's Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy (ISEEE), and Dr. Dennis Salahub, Vice-President, Research and International (UofC), Mr. Melchin toured a number of areas of the Centre. After greeting the two AICISE Co-Directors, **Dr. Steve Larter** and **Dr. Pedro Pereira-Almao**, Steve showcased part of the geoscience research being conducted in the Centre, as well as his extended research program housed within the Petroleum Reservoir Group (PRG). Centre Lead Investigator, **Dr. Don Lawton**, who holds a Chair in Exploration Geophysics invited the Minister to view the new seismic recording vehicle which will allow for dramatically better measurements. **Drs. Gordon Moore** and **Raj Mehta** then gave a brief tour of the Heavy Oil- Oil Sands In Situ combustion test lab facilities, finishing off in the Energy High Bay lab located in the Calgary Centre for Innovative Technologies (CCIT) building. Though not active at the time, the CO₂ capture tower was also



viewed. Mr. Phil Murray, Vice President Energy of the Alberta Research Council and Mr. Melchin's Special Advisor, Mr. Don Severs were also part of the delegation.

In June 2005, philanthropist Seymour Schulich donated \$25 million to the engineering program at the University of Calgary – which was matched by the provincial



government. Dr. Chan Wirasinghe, Dean of the renamed Schulich School of Engineering, was pleased to host Mr. Schulich for tours of various energy related laboratories on November 9, 2005. AICISE Co-Director **Dr. Pereira-Almao**, described his core research in advanced catalysis with a number of his lab personnel actively working on their experiments at the time of the tour. Mr. Schulich also toured the In Situ combustion laboratories as well, led by **Drs. Gordon Moore** and Raj Mehta.

New faces in the Centre:



Chris Leskiw, BSc Electrical Engineering, has come on board as a computer simulation research engineer to assist **Dr. Ian Gates**, in one of the Centre's most challenging and aggressive projects - that of developing a next-generation computer simulation model. Chris brings over 7 years of computer hardware design experience to the team.

Lante Carbognani, recently arrived from Venezuela and has joined the Centre. Lante, a structural chemist with over 25 years experience, specializes in structural modifications of bitumen macromolecules, predicting bitumen reactivity and fluid properties and assessing process reactivity. He will be a key player in Centre research themes focusing on advanced catalysis and integrated recovery and upgrading *in situ* conditions.



Other new faces include graduate students **Parnian Haghghat** and **Amir Zamani** in **Dr. Brij Maini's** lab and **Mohammad Islam** in **Dr. Jalel Azaiez's** lab.

Out & About:

A number of the investigators were out at the ITOHOS meeting. **Drs. Gordon Moore, Brij Maini** and **Ian Gates** all chaired various sessions, and **Dr. Apostolos Kantzas** with the help of a few of his graduates students presented a number of papers on his overall research activities. Several Centre personnel attended, including graduate students **Luis Patruyo, Clementina Sosa, Benelitz Sequera, Tamer Koksalan**, and others.

Dr. Pedro Pereira- Almao was an invited speaker at the StatOil Research Centre Days, in Trondheim, Norway, October 3 – 5, 2005. His presentation was entitled "Emerging Technologies for Heavy Oils Production and Upgrading".

Centre Manager, **Dr. Monica Varga**, participated in InnoWest 2005 held in Calgary November 16 & 17th. This event for innovation and technology transfer was attended by business, government, academia and the non-profit sector. It was a key event for extending awareness about AICISE beyond the technical and academic environment.

See you at the Celebrating Ingenuity events!

