



## Report of the 2004-2005 President

Robert C. Freas

In 2005 AIME continued to build on the successes and efficiencies of its new streamlined Board, staff, and operations. The Board operated effectively with 8 members (versus 13 formerly) two conference calls and one face-to-face meeting (versus two face-to-face meetings before) and only two ad-hoc committees beginning in 2004. Additionally, all AIME awards were handed out at individual Member Society Award Banquets by the AIME President and Executive Director.

Staff reengineered internal accounting procedures and systems, freeing up time to begin purging old files and archiving essential corporate documents. This allowed for office space to display information about AIME awards and scholarships and historical photos. The staff also began inventorying the AIME library in-house to determine whether the periodicals would be better suited at the Linda Hall Library of Engineering with other AIME archives or at the offices of one of the Member Societies so that it can be more easily referenced by members. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2005.

The AIME website took on a new look, enhanced content and improved navigability via the following:

- a private, integrated Trustees Only section for delivery of Board meeting documents and important corporate records
- improved awards and scholarships information to recognize recipients, encourage nominations, and ease award committee work
- meetings and events calendar process automation
- a charitable giving and industry links page.

Perhaps most significantly, though, AIME was successful in negotiating an increase in the proceeds from one of its endowment funds from a few thousand dollars a year to just over \$15,000 a year. The additional income has directly increased the amount available for the Eavenson award and scholarship administered by AIME Member Society, the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME).

Due to the continual improvement in operating efficiencies and a positive investment climate, AIME's funds have bounced back from a low of just below \$8,000,000 in recent years to just over \$10,000,000. In 2004, the AIME Board also approved a new submission process and allocation formula in preparation for distribution of future surpluses to Member Society-Direct projects.

The year also included a few firsts:

- On January 1, 2004, former AIME Member Society, the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) merged with the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE) to form AIME's newest member, the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST). This year AIST held their first expanded annual meeting in Charlotte, NC, and AIME was in attendance.
- Due to a new bequest from former AIME member and noted mining engineer, John S. Marshall, and his wife, Doris, AIME established the John S. Marshall Memorial Scholarship for

undergraduate mining engineering students. With the help of SME's existing Mining & Exploration Division Scholarship Committee, AIME selected its first recipients, Mason Dale Bishop of the University of Utah, and Thomas Allen Wagner of the Colorado School of Mines. Each student received a \$4,000 check along with their award at the beginning of spring semester in 2005. Going forward the timing of the award will coincide with AIME's other scholarship, the Henry DeWitt Smith Scholarship, for graduate students in mining, metallurgy, or petroleum. Both will be awarded prior to the fall semester.

- The AIME Board created the Honorary Member Emeriti status to allow each Member Society to have at least one vacancy for 2005 Honorary Member Award nominations.

#### **In Memoriam**

It is with a great sense of loss to AIME that I note the death of the oldest living AIME Past President (1962) and Honorary Member (1970), Mr. Lloyd F. Elkins in December 2004. Other AIME Honorary Members that were laid to rest include William E. Brigham (1994), Michael T. Halbouty (1973), and M. Scott Kraemer (1984 and AIME President 1980). Their personalities and contributions to the industries will be missed.

#### **Personal Notes**

It has been a very special privilege to serve as your AIME president, and to work with each of our outstanding trustees, staff, and associates that make AIME the unique professional institution that it is. It was a particular pleasure to work with the new AIST organization and to see the merged organization mature. It has also been an honor to represent AIME on the UEF Board and to participate in Founder Society sponsored events. As I look back on the year I especially appreciate the support of the AIME trustees, staff, and member society executive directors as we made adjustments to AIME policies and procedures to accommodate other potential future member society mergers. I am especially grateful to Past-President Rob Wagoner for his leadership as we worked through and completed the AIME transition, as well as implementing the changes made in AIME's representation on the UEF Board of Trustees. I also want to express my deep appreciation to Rick Rolator and Michele Gottwald for all of their help and support, but most of all for their friendship. As I pass the gavel to President Elect Dr. Alan Cramb, I wish him the very best for a most successful year, and pledge my support as he leads the Institute in 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert C. Innes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.