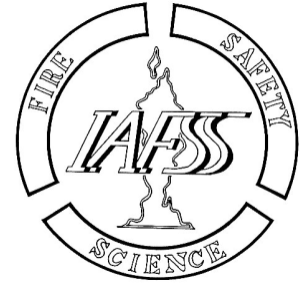


Newsletter



Newsletter No 24,
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- ASTM Symposium on Advances in the State of the Art of Fire Testing
- EUROFIRE Conference, Application of Fire Engineering

Chairman's Letter

This is the beginning of the frenzied period of preparation for the Karlsruhe symposium. The full papers are submitted and are in the review and selection process. Anthony Hamins, Matt Bundy, and the program committee are well organized and have the process well in hand. There are hundreds of reviewers, indispensable contributors to a successful symposium. The authors of papers, of course, are the core of the symposium. There is something special about working on a paper in the weeks before the deadline, knowing that hundreds of others in the fire science community are engaged in the same writing ritual.



Over the holidays my family was visiting my sister-in-law's family in Switzerland, so I had the opportunity to visit Mario Fontana in Zurich, our awards committee chair, and Dieter Brein in Karlsruhe. Dieter and Hermann showed me all the meeting venues and recommended some touring spots in Karlsruhe that made for a fun day for my family as well.

I was very impressed with the facilities they have arranged for the symposium and the associated social events. The main venue is the Audimax, a 600 seat auditorium with a large foyer that will serve well for the poster session and of



course for coffee breaks. The Audimax is easily divided into two 300 seat rooms and there is a third meeting room directly adjacent. Our lunches will be in a building almost next door. Hotels are also convenient to the university. I expect to walk from my hotel to the meetings in the morning and an excellent tram service is available at all hours. I could go on. Suffice it to say that this is a great venue and we will all enjoy the week immensely.

Early in January, Bjorn Karlsson and Kristjan Vilhelm Ruriksson traveled from Iceland to meet with Dan Gottuk, one of the volume editors for the last symposium, and me. Anthony Hamins and Matt Bundy were good enough to come over from NIST to spend part of the day with us. We also met with the printer we used for the last symposium to update procedures to work with them. It was a full day and as a result Bjorn is ready to go and a lot of coordination issues between the program committee work and the volume editor's work were sorted out.

We are planning to have all accepted papers published to the web before the symposium, with the bound volume shipping before Christmas.

Ron Alpert will be coordinating our new writing mentors program. In the review process, reviewers will identify good papers that would benefit from assistance from a writing mentor. After acceptances are announced in April, writing mentors will be made available to authors who would benefit from writing assistance during the revision cycle that ends in June. Each mentor will be asked to assist on a single paper. We need IAFSS members to volunteer as writing members. Contact Ron Alpert if you can help.

Over the coming months, you will see an evolution of the Karlsruhe Symposium page at the IAFSS website, with increasing focus on symposium attendees, rather than authors. The site will include information about Karlsruhe, about the technical program, as well as links to the symposium registration site and hotel reservation site. Of course, since the poster deadline is in May, poster submission will remain a focus. The author website will remain active throughout the publication process to provide guidance and information to authors of full papers and posters.

We are planning to make the poster session a real highlight of the symposium. Charley Fleischmann will post the call for posters later this month. We want to make the poster session a meaningful interactive session that will be of great value to those presenting ongoing research efforts and to the IAFSS attendees. The IAFSS Committee met in September 2007 in split session; London at Interflam, and in Hong Kong at AOFST. The committee approved IAFSS joining CrossRef so that we can assign DOI's to IAFSS symposium papers from past and future symposia. They also approved putting all IAFSS papers online for access by IAFSS members. The committee considered making the papers available publicly, but opted for member access to enhance the value of joining IAFSS. We will be monitoring if this member benefit increases membership.

DOI's are digital object identifiers, which provide the ability to directly access the paper online. You will see DOI's as part of the bibliographic information at the beginning of any journal article. CrossRef is the DOI system for scholarly resources which goes well beyond the simple DOI system. All paper entries into CrossRef have full bibliographic data indexed, including citations. This will support IAFSS and others tracking the citation of IAFSS papers. For further information, go to www.crossref.org. Terry Fay is planning to have DOI's assigned and registered this spring. The process of indexing all the citations in IAFSS papers is a huge undertaking that will take multiple years to complete. If you are aware of automation tools for this process, contact Terry.

Terry plans to have the IAFSS papers and the Fire Research Notes collections online fully by early summer with IAFSS member login to access the full papers electronically. When this is functional, you will receive an email giving you log in and access information.

If you go to the books page of the IAFSS website, you will see that symposium volumes can now be purchased online using a credit card or paypal account. Mike Hanauska and Carole Franks have been working on this capability, which we intend to expand to dues payment by next year. The new capabilities streamline book purchasing and will do the same for joining IAFSS and renewing memberships in the future.



I want to congratulate Vyto Babrauskas, this symposium's Emmons Lecturer. We look forward to his lecture at the symposium. Congratulations to each of the invited lecturers for the symposium. Titles of the talks are available on the symposium page of the IAFSS website. Special

congratulations are due to the three student award winners. It will be a treat to attend their papers at the symposium.

Hang on to your hats! This promises to be a busy and exciting year at IAFSS.

Craig Beyler

Update on the 9th IAFSS Symposium

As of January 14th, 202 Full Papers were submitted for inclusion in the 9th IAFSS Symposium, which will be held September 21-26, 2008 in Karlsruhe, Germany. There are also 6 invited papers that will be presented at the Symposium. Information on the Symposium and Karlsruhe can be found at: <http://www.iafss.org/html/karlsruhe/home.htm>.

Thanks to our German hosts, the Symposium venue is a lovely setting. The city of Karlsruhe has an attractive inner city and surroundings located in the Rhine river valley near the foothills of the Black Forest.

This Symposium has several new features and promises to be a dynamic forum for discussion and exchange of ideas in the field of fire safety science. On Sunday, September 21, Fred Mowrer has coordinated three Workshops that offer insight on key issues in fire science, including structural fire engineering (organized by Susan Lamont), fire

spread modeling (organized by Nick Dembsey and Simo Hostikka), and egress modeling (organized by Steve Gwynne)

- An active poster session is being planned by Charley Fleischmann with presentations of recent/on-going work and student posters encouraged. Multiple awards are being planned for best poster, best student poster, and best graphic image.
- The length of the papers has been substantially increased (~35 %).
- Copyright to all IAFSS proceeds now resides with IAFSS. The Editor of the proceedings, Björn Karlsson, has been working to assure timely publication in late 2008.

The 2008 **Howard W. Emmons Lecture** Invited Plenary Lectureship has been awarded by the Program Committee and goes to Dr. Vytenis Babrauskas (Fire Science and Technology Inc., Issaquah WA, USA). His lecture will be on
"Research on Electrical Fires: The State of the Art."

Keynote Plenary Speakers selected by the Program Committee were awarded to:

- Professor Andy Buchanan (University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, "The Challenges of Predicting Structural Performance in Fires")
- Professor Reinhard Grabski (Institute of Fire Department Saxony-Anhalt, Heyrothsberge, Germany, "Fire Safety Science in Germany - A Status Report about Research Activities and Technological Requirements")
- Dr. George Hadjisophocleous (Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada, "Development of Design Fires for Performance-Based Fire Safety Design")
- Dr. Haukur Ingason (SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, Borås, Sweden, "State of the Art of Tunnel Fire Research")
- Professor Takeyoshi Tanaka (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, "Risk-Based Selection of Design Fires to ensure an Acceptable Level of Evacuation Safety")

Topics that will be addressed during the Symposium include:

- Structural Fire Performance
- Compartment Fires
- Suppression

- Ignition
- Flame Spread
- Flames and Fire Dynamics
- Toxic Hazard
- Fire Chemistry
- Material Burning
- Measurement and Test Methods
- Detection
- Evacuation and Human Behavior Statistics
- Probability and Risk Analysis
- Smoke Control
- Special Applications (explosions, industrial fires, post-earthquake fires, standards, safety codes, fire safety management, fire investigation and reconstruction, fire service needs)

Papers will receive at least two independent anonymous peer reviews with the reviewers allocated by the Program Committee. Final acceptance or rejection of a manuscript will be made by the 9th Symposium Program Committee. For inclusion in the Proceedings, oral presentation by an author is required.

The Symposium schedule follows:

- January 14 Paper submission deadline
- January 28, 2008 Call for Posters issued
- March 1 Paper reviews due
- May 15 Poster Abstracts submission deadline
- April 15, 2008 Author notification
- June 1, 2008 Final papers due
- September 21-26 Symposium
- Late 2008 Proceedings available

Instructions for authors and a link to the paper submission site is available on the Author website: <http://www.haifire.com/iafss/>

Thanks to those who have made the important commitment to review papers for the Symposium. Your work will assure a high-quality Symposium. If you have not already volunteered, please consider helping as a peer reviewer for paper submissions by contacting the Program Committee by Email at: iafss@nist.gov .

Local Arrangements Committee

D Brein, Chair
H Bockhorn
R Grabski
R Görtz
D Hosser
M Schnell

Technical Program Committee

A Hamins, Chair, NIST, USA
M Bundy, Deputy Chair, NIST, USA
C Fleischmann, Poster Chair,
U Canterbury, New Zealand
KE Boyce, U Ulster, UK
WK Chow, HK Polytechnic U, China
NA Dembsey, WPI, USA
J-M Franssen, U Liege, Belgium
J Hietaniemi, VTT, Finland
TR Hull, U Central Lancs, UK
J Milke, U Maryland, USA
A Sekizawa, U Tokyo, Japan
M Simonson, SP, Sweden
JL Torero, U Edinburgh, UK
H-Z Yu, FM Global, USA
D Yung, Yung & Associates, Canada

New Format for the Poster Session at the 9th IAFSS Symposium

Poster Session

The program committee is actively working to expand the poster session at the 9th IAFSS Symposium to be held September 21-26, 2008 in Karlsruhe, Germany. Posters will be presented during a separate, less formal, session to allow authors to exhibit and discuss their work in progress or completed work. Students are especially encouraged to submit work in progress posters for presentation. This session is designed to foster a collegial environment where authors and attendees can discuss their research interests and make or renew relationships to help foster collaboration. The program committee is keen to increase participation in the poster session and drinks and nibbles will be provided. The call for posters and images is included on the symposium website available through the IAFSS homepage <http://www.iafss.org/>.

Awards

For the first time, there will be three awards given out for the posters presented at the symposium. Two new awards will be given for the Best Poster Award and Best Student Poster Award. Awards will be based on technical content, organization, and visual presentation. A special Audience Choice Award will be awarded based on popular vote of the attendees.

Fire Science Image Award

In addition to the posters we are also planning a Fire Science Image Competition. Images are to be non-commercial fire science related images and can be experimental, numerical visualization, or actual events. There will be designated display area for the images within the poster session. Images should be between A5 (148 mm x 210 mm) and A4 (210 mm x 297 mm) in size.

Images will be submitted through the IAFSS website between June 15 and September 15, 2008 for review and acceptance. Submissions should include a caption no longer than 100 words, describing the image. A special award for the best fire research image will be awarded based on originality, scientific significance, and artistic/aesthetic appeal. Selection will be made by the poster awards committee. Winning images may be posted on the IAFSS website. So either start working on your new images or dust off your old ones for this new initiative at the 9th Symposium. The call for posters and images is included on the symposium website available through the IAFSS homepage <http://www.iafss.org/>.

Sponsorship Opportunity

The program committee is keen to increase participation in the poster session and is looking for organizations that are interested in sponsoring either the food and drinks or one of the poster session awards. Anyone interested in sponsorship should contact Charley Fleischmann, (Poster Session Chair) charles.fleischmann@canterbury.ac.nz. Please respond with preliminary interest by April 1, 2008.

Pre-symposium Workshops

For the first time ever, three workshops will be held in conjunction with the 9th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 21-26 September, 2008. The workshops will be held concurrently from 1:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 21, 2008. The workshop topics and organizers include:

- Egress modeling, organized by Dr. Steve Gwynne;
- Flame spread modeling, organized by Prof. Nick Dembsey and Mr. Simo Hostikka;
- Structural fire engineering, organized by Dr. Susan Lamont.

The workshop organizers are selecting panel members to lead the discussions within each session. Further information on each workshop will be provided in advance of the symposium. Please check the IAFSS Symposium website (<http://www.iafss.org/html/karlsruhe/home.htm#>) for up-to-date information on the workshops.

The workshops will be held in meeting rooms within the conference hotel. Due to space constraints, attendance will be limited to the first 50 participants signing up for each workshop. A fee of 35 Euros will be charged to offset the cost of holding the workshops. Please make your plans now to participate in one of the workshops.

IAFSS Awards for Excellence in Research

IAFSS wishes to announce the three best research dissertations which have been successfully defended during the three year period from 1st August 2005 to 31st July 2007. One award is made for three IAFSS regions. The winners are:

- Asia / Oceania: Johannes A W Dimyadi, University of Canterbury, NZ. *Generating FDS Fire Simulation Input using IFC-based Building Information Model.*
- The Americas: Ali Rangwala, University of California, San Diego. *Flame Spread Analysis using a Variable B-Number.*
- Europe / Africa: Markus Knobloch, ETH Zurich. *On the load-carrying behavior of steel sections subjected to local buckling and fire.*

The three winners have been invited to present papers at the 9th IAFSS Symposium in Karlsruhe in September 2008.

Writing Mentor Volunteers Needed for 9th IAFSS Symposium

To assist 9th IAFSS symposium authors for whom English is a second language, IAFSS is instituting a Writing Mentors Program. The program is being coordinated by Ron Alpert, the editor of *J. of Fire Protection Engineering* and retired FM Global researcher. If you are willing to act as a writing mentor, please contact Ron at ralpert@verizon.net. Each writing mentor will be asked to assist with improving communication quality only for a single paper. As a part of the paper selection process, the program committee will identify successful paper authors who would benefit from the Writing Mentors Program. Ron Alpert will match these authors with writing mentors, based upon common research interests. The name of the appropriate writing mentor will be provided to the author in the acceptance letter to be sent before 15 April 2008. The author and writing mentor will communicate over the period 15 April until 1 June, when the final paper submission is required. Senior researchers are especially encouraged to volunteer as writing mentors. Thanks in advance for your contribution to the success of the symposium.

IAFSS Seeks Bids for the 11th International Symposium to be Held in Asia-Oceania in 2014

The IAFSS is seeking bids from the Asia-Oceania region for hosting the 11th IAFSS Symposium to be held in 2014. Selection of the site for the 2014 symposium will be made at the IAFSS Committee meeting to be held in Karlsruhe in September 2008, where bidders will make presentations to the committee.

Those interested in hosting the symposium should contact Dr. Beyler or the secretariat for instructions on the preparation of bids. Prior symposia in the Asia-Oceania region have been held in Tokyo (2nd), Melbourne (5th) and Beijing (8th). The 10th IAFSS Symposium will be held at the University of Maryland, USA.

The Awards Committee is Seeking Nominations for the Kawagoe Gold Medal

The Kawagoe Gold Medal is presented by the IAFSS at each triennial symposium in recognition of lifelong career achievement in and contributions to fire safety. It is named in honor of Professor Kawagoe, one of the founding fathers of fire safety science. Previous recipients of the medal were A. Robertson, P.H. Thomas, H.E. Nelson, D. Drysdale, and S. Yokoi. Nominations for the award should be forwarded to Prof. Fontana, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

7th Asia-Oceania Symposium on Fire Science and Technology

Collaboration among fire scientists and engineers of Asia-Oceania countries are very strong, and there are big construction projects requiring special fire safety design. The Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology (AOAFST) was established in 1995 to improve the level of basic fire science and technology in the Asia-Oceania region for satisfying the demand. Now, AOAFST is one of the most successful branch organizations of IAFSS.

The Asia-Oceania Symposium for Fire Science and Technology (AOFST) is one of the most important activities of the AOAFST. The 7th AOFST Symposium was held successfully from 20 to 22 September, 2007 at the Hongkong International Trade & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong.

The Symposium was organized by Professor W.K. Chow, Area of Strength: Fire Safety Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong; the Technical Committee chaired by Professor Y. Hasemi, Waseda University, Japan; and financially supported by Mr. J.C. Yang, China Public Security, official journal of the Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China. There are also local sponsorship from the Research Engineering Development Façade Consultants Limited and Asia Aluminum Holdings Limited.

The Opening Addresses were delivered by Mr. J.K. Kwok, JP, Director of Fire Services Department; and Honorary Address by Mr. H.W. Cheung, JP, Director of Buildings Department, government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology

As the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology (AOAFST) is under the International Association for Fire Safety Science (IAFSS), Dr. Craig Beyler, Chairman of IAFSS gave a warm welcome address.



Over two hundred delegates attended including experts from Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, India, Russia, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, France, Finland and the Netherlands. Ten invited lectures and seventy-three presentations were delivered. Awards were presented to Professor T. Hirano, Professor W.C. Fan and Professor Victor Bulgakov for founding and active promotion of AOAFST, and to Dr. Caird Ramsay for promotion of AOAFST.



An Alcoholic Reception where all experts brought their special wines from their countries was held in the Conference Banquet.

In the symposium, Professor W.K. Chow was elected as the President of AOAFST. A meeting discussing how to promote AOAFST was then held afterward on 21 September, 2007. There, an executive committee was set up with vice-presidents and committee members invited to be nominated.

The next AOFST Symposium is proposed to be held in Sydney, Australia

Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology (AOAFST)

Subsequent to the 7th Asia-Oceania Symposium for Fire Science and Technology (AOFST) mentioned above, three new Vice-Presidents of the AOAFST were selected:

- Professor Shinichi SUGAHARA, Tokyo University of Science, Japan.
- Professor Jinhua SUN, University of Science and Technology of China, China.
- Dr. Yaping HE, University of Western Sydney, Australia.

The announcement can be found at AOAFST website: <http://hk.geocities.com/aoafst/index.html>

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Prof Brady Williamson Has Passed Away

The international fire science community lost a most influential pioneer when Professor Brady Williamson passed away on August 1, 2007, just after the last edition of this Newsletter was published. During his very productive years at the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), Prof Williamson became well known for his research on fire resistance and on characterising the hazards of plastics, and as a pioneer in education in the fire sciences. He created a strong fire research community at UCB that was to become very influential in the field. Numerous well known scientists and engineers have been graduated from the educational and research environment created at UCB by Prof Williamson. He played a pivotal role in establishing fire safety engineering and science as true scientific disciplines. A very touching tribute to Prof Brady Williamson, written by two of his students, Dr Vyto Babrauskas and Dr Joe Zicherman, was published as an obituary in the journal *Fire and Materials*, Volume 31, Number 6, pages 355-357, October 2007.

Recent Appointments in Academia

During the last year, there have been quite a number of new faculty members in fire science or engineering in universities around the world and a number of other positions that have become open. In the July issue of the Newsletter, we reported that Richard Hull had been appointed Professor of Chemistry and Fire Science at the University of Central Lancashire, in Preston, UK and that Patrick Van Hees had become a Professor in Fire Safety Engineering at Lund University in Sweden. Subsequently we learned that Joe Urbas had joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina (Charlotte), Brian Meacham had joined the faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Brian Lattimer had joined the faculty of Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).

In this issue of the Newsletter we are running advertisements for faculty positions at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Carleton University, University of Ulster, University of Canterbury, and Oklahoma State University. Clearly the discipline is maturing!

New Coordinator for CIB W14 on Fire

The Programme Committee of the *International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction* (CIB) has appointed Prof. George Hadjisophocleous as the new Coordinator of CIB W014 on Fire. Prof. Hadjisophocleous is the holder of an Industrial Research Chair in Fire Safety Engineering at Carleton University in Canada. While CIB provides a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, CIB W14's overall objectives are to provide an ongoing focus for development of a sound technical basis for fire safety engineering methods as tools in performance-based design.

Sojin Award 2007

The International Forum of Fire Research Directors has selected Dr. Richard Gann of NIST to receive the Sjölin Award for 2007. The Sjölin Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the science or an advance in the state of the art in fire safety engineering practice of extraordinary significance. It is presented each year to the individual whose effort is primarily responsible for or traceable to the specific advance. The Forum recognized two outstanding contributions of extraordinary significance that Dr. Gann has made: (1) quantifying the propensity of cigarettes to ignite soft furnishings, and (2) providing the scientific foundation for selecting fire suppressants for aircraft applications. The significance of the first contribution has been firmly established, and has enabled ASTM to develop a standard for rating different cigarette designs that has been adopted in legislation by numerous states and Canada for all cigarettes sold in their respective jurisdictions. The second contribution has guided the selection of optimal candidates to substitute for halon 1301 in existing aircraft engine nacelles, and has produced the seminal report on the science of modern fire suppression technologies. The Award consists of a check for \$2000 and a plaque that will be handed out at the 2008 symposium of the International Association of Fire Safety Science. Congratulations on receiving the 2007 award, joining Geoff Cox, Dougal Drysdale, Vyto Babrauskas, Jim Quintiere, and Paula Beever who have been former recipients of the Sjölin Award.

New Research Facilities - University of Maryland

The Fire Protection Engineering Department has moved to its new venue in the penthouse of the JM Patterson building at the University of Maryland. All the departmental activities are consolidated in one integrated site. Here are few examples of the new facilities:

The new FM Global Welcome Center in the Department of Fire Protection Engineering is now fully operational. The Center provides a comfortable environment for prospective students, visitors and members of the Department. A flat screen display provides information concerning careers in fire protection engineering and research activities within the Department and at other major research facilities. Surrounding the screen are graphics that highlight the challenges, opportunities and rewards of the FPE profession, showcasing alumni of the Department. The Welcome Center is made possible through a generous gift from FM Global. The gift from FM Global is also used towards the construction and equipment of a new experimental Laboratory, called the FM Global Fire Phenomena Laboratory.

The Fire Phenomena Laboratory, under construction and scheduled to open during summer 2008, will provide state of the art facilities to support technical excellence in research and education. The 1000 ft² laboratory will offer a controlled environment for conducting sophisticated fire experiments. This laboratory will house a salt-water facility for exploring fire induced flows, a 6 ft × 12 ft vibration-isolated optical breadboard for studying detailed flame characteristics, and modular workspaces for a variety of bench-scale experiments. Advanced diagnostics including Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV), Planar Laser Induced Fluorescence (PLIF), and thin filament pyrometry will be available. By applying advanced diagnostics to canonical fire configurations, the FM Global Fire Phenomena Laboratory will provide new knowledge to improve the theoretical understanding of fire dynamics. In turn, this new knowledge will yield advances in the predictive capabilities of advanced fire modeling software, hence providing new tools to produce tangible improvements in fire hazard assessment and loss prevention.

On Monday, November 5, the Department of Fire Protection Engineering opened an upgraded Computer Laboratory, named the UL Fire Modeling Laboratory and sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. The UL Computer Laboratory is located in a spacious room near the FM Global Welcome Center.

It is equipped with 16 new workstations, a new printer, and new furniture. Extra tables provide space for teaching, team work, and additional users bringing their own Laptops and using the JMP building Wireless network.

Other significant contributors to the new Department facilities include BFPE, CCI, East Coast Fire Protection, EBL, Hughes Associates, Koffel Associates, RJA, Schirmer Engineering, and numerous individual alumni and friends.

Kingston University London - Linking Fire and Explosion Safety Research

This year is the 10th anniversary of fire research at Kingston University London (KU), UK. The Centre for Fire and Explosion Studies at KU started 10 years ago as a small group with one academic, two post-doctoral research fellows and two PhD students. There are now four full-time academics with expertise in fire and explosion modelling, radiation heat transfer, structure response and premixed combustion, four post-doctoral research fellows and 11 PhD students with further vacancies being advertised. The Centre is also supported by two visiting professors with expertise in explosion safety and experimental aspect of fire research. Almost immediately following the successful completion of the EU funded FIRENET (Under-ventilated compartment fires) project in which KU lead a consortium of 8 European partners and one sub-contractor, the Centre teamed up with energy giant BP and the Health and Safety Executive's Health and Safety Laboratory to train six Marie Curie Researchers for fire and explosion studies relating to the emerging hydrogen economy with the support of a 1M Euro grant from the European Commission. Through this project, the Centre has realised its ambition to link fire and explosion research, from fire propagation to flame acceleration, from backdraft to vapour cloud explosion and from explosion induced fires to follow on explosions which could be triggered by these fires. In the mean time, the Centre has maintained its activities in compartment fires, watermist for fire suppression and explosion control, radiation heat transfer, soot modelling, the analysis of glazing behaviour in fire environment and FRP Strengthening of Structural Elements at elevated temperature and fires. Looking ahead, the Centre will continue to combine fundamental research with applications. It also plans to initiate work on aircraft fires and fire and explosion investigations.

(Contact: Professor Jennifer X Wen, j.wen@kingston.ac.uk).

University of Canterbury

The University and BRANZ have been awarded funding by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST), Building Research and the Department of Building and Housing for the next five years to develop the BRANZFIRE zone model as part of a tool to support risk based fire engineering in New Zealand.

The tool will have a database of building contents and will account for item to item fire spread. The performance of active and passive fire safety systems will also be included. Probability distributions generated by the tool will be used as a way in which compliance can be shown through a probabilistic statement of performance. The funding will include support for at least one PhD scholarship and also one or two Masters scholarships each year.

The University is also pleased to have the support of Arup Fire Australia for a new post-doctoral position in fire engineering. Arup already helps Masters students through their annual scholarship and this new funding is a significant increase in their input into the programme. The post-doc will contribute to teaching and research activities as well as providing an opportunity for a new researcher to develop their career.

The University has created an online digital library of PhD and Masters theses that can be accessed from http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/databases/dig_lib_copyright.shtml. Selected research project reports are not required to be placed into the digital library so selected ones will be available at http://www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz/fire/fe_research_reps.shtml.

Similarly the University is creating repository of research outputs such as journal articles and conference papers which can be accessed by outside users. The repository can be found at <http://ir.canterbury.ac.nz/>.

University of Leeds - Short Courses

The University of Leeds will offer the following Continuing Professional Development (CPD) short courses in 2008:

- Flame Retardancy and Flammability of Polymers & Textiles (7 - 9 April 2008)
- Gas, vapour and dust Explosion Hazards, prediction, protection and mitigation (9 - 13 June 2008)
- Fire & Explosion Investigation (15 - 19 September 2008)
- Fire Dynamics & Modelling (22 - 26 September 2008)
- Fire Safety Design (10 - 14 November 2008)

More information can be found at www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/cpd

Use of Simulation for Fire Safety: Developments in the Netherlands

Since 2005, the Netherlands Institute for Safety NIFV has been working on a long-term research program on the use of simulation in the field of fire safety. The program is funded by the Ministry of the Interior. The goal of this program is to develop knowledge about the use and application of simulation in fire safety and to pass it on to local and regional authorities, including fire brigades.

The program started with a study of the state-of-the-art of simulations in the field of fire safety to get an overview of fire simulation models used by several consultants. Subsequently, a database was built containing documents used for licensing by authorities, and in the spring of 2008, competences and knowledge about the use and application of simulation will be measured at local and regional authorities.

Together with the University of Eindhoven and IBPSA-VNL, NIFV recently started a benchmark study of fire safety related simulation models. Fifteen consultants perform a simulation of fire and smoke movement and development with different models in three cases. This study will give insight into the background of similarities and differences of their results. With this information, it is aimed to write guidance for authorities to support them in their assessments of simulation of fire safety.

Columbia Southern University

Online degree programs are becoming increasingly popular with fire departments and organizations all over the United States. Columbia Southern University, a nationally accredited and completely online university, holds partnerships with more than 45 fire organizations. One of the nation's first completely online universities, Columbia Southern University was developed to meet the demand for alternatives to the traditional university experience. Degree programs were designed to fit around the work schedules of firefighters, police, and others with demanding and unpredictable occupations. Partner fire organizations receive a 10 percent tuition discount and an application fee waiver. Orange Beach Fire and Rescue, New York Fire Department, Iowa City Fire Department, and Tampa Fire and Rescue are just a few of the fire organizations on the list of Columbia Southern University partnerships. To learn more about Columbia Southern University partnerships, please visit

<http://www.columbiasouthern.edu/alliances/learningpartners.asp>.

Book on the Dalmarnock Fire Tests

On November 14, a symposium was held in Glasgow on the large-scale fire tests conducted in a high-rise building in Dalmarnock, Glasgow (UK). The experiments and modelling exercises are described in a 220-page book *The Dalmarnock Fire Tests: Experiments and Modelling*, G. Rein, C. Abecassis Empis & R. Carvel (Eds), which has been published by School of Engineering and Electronics, University of Edinburgh. Copies of the book can be ordered online at:

<http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/FIRESEAT/publications.html>.

The Fire Protection Research Foundation

The Foundation has recently issued five reports which reflect the completion of major research projects undertaken over the past year:

- Protection of Combustible Liquids Stored in Composite Intermediate Bulk Containers. Phase II.
- Public Perceptions of High-rise Building Safety and Emergency Evacuation Procedures.
- Development of a Technical Basis for Carbon Monoxide Detector Siting.
- Fire Safety in Consumer Fireworks Storage and Retail Facilities – Hazard Assessment Literature Review.
-

Visit www.nfpa.org/foundation for full copies of the reports.

JOBS

University of Canterbury (NZ) – Lecturer or Senior Lecturer

Applications are invited for a full-time continuing (tenured) academic position at the level of Lecturer or Senior Lecturer (equivalent to Assistant or Associate Professor, respectively, in the US system) in Fire and Structural Engineering. Applicants should hold a Ph.D. degree in an appropriate discipline. Tertiary teaching experience, expertise in both fire engineering and structural engineering (including the design of fire safety in buildings), and good contacts with the fire engineering profession, will be an advantage. The ability to teach other courses (e.g. mathematical modelling, risk management) will also be an advantage, as will research and teaching interests in one or more of the following: performance of active fire safety systems; human behaviour in fires, fire risk assessment; performance of concrete/steel/timber structures in fires.

The appointee will teach fire engineering and the design of buildings for fire safety, at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and will be expected to have a commitment to excellence in teaching at both levels. The appointee will be expected to establish a vigorous and high quality research programme, in collaboration with University colleagues and the structural fire engineering profession, and to supervise the research of B.E. (Hons), Masters and Ph.D. students in fire and/or structural engineering. The appointee will also be expected to promote fire safety in buildings among practising engineers and architects (via Continuing Professional Development courses and seminars), to liaise with the New Zealand Fire Service Commission (to identify research needs and opportunities), to participate in the activities of the Department's Advisory Committees (including the Fire Engineering Advisory Committee), and to contribute to other Departmental activities. Applicants should submit a Curriculum Vitae with the names and contact details of three referees, plus a 1-2 page application letter outlining their research interests and goals, their teaching philosophy, and how they would contribute to the teaching of fire engineering and fire safety in buildings. For further details see the UC Vacancies website at:

<http://vacancies.canterbury.ac.nz/positiondetail.asp?p=3882>.
Closing Date: 14 March 2008

University of Canterbury (NZ) – Postdoctoral Fellow / Research Associate

Applications are invited for a Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate in the field of fire research. This three year fixed term position is co-funded by Arup (<http://www.arup.com/>) and the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering (www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz). We are seeking an exceptional candidate who will complement the Department's current research activities. The appointee will take an active part in the Department's fire research programme within an international, cross-disciplinary team, supervise M.E. and Ph.D. students, and there will be opportunities to participate in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

The appointee will also be involved in collaborative activities with industry. The successful applicant will have completed a Ph.D. in fire science or engineering (or a closely related subject) for the postdoctoral position. Applicants nearing completion of their Ph.D. in fire science or engineering (or a closely related subject)

will also be considered in the capacity of Research Associate.

The appointee will have excellent communication skills and written English, and have a strong research background in any area of fire science or engineering.

For further details see the UC Vacancies website at:

<http://vacancies.canterbury.ac.nz/positiondetail.asp?p=3889>.

Informal enquiries about this position can be made to

Michael Spearpoint,

email: michael.spearpoint@canterbury.ac.nz

Closing Date: 20 March 2008 (late applications will be considered until the vacancy is filled)

University of Canterbury (NZ) - PhD position

Applications are being sought for a PhD scholarship to support research into developing a tool to support risk based fire engineering in New Zealand. Candidates must have an interest in risk-based fire engineering and having modelling and/or programming skills would be an advantage. The scholarship covers fees and living expenses for 3 years. The PhD student will be part of a new research programme which has been awarded to the University and BRANZ by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST), Building Research and the Department of Building and Housing. Applications must include a CV that details achievements, publications, background and two references. For further information please contact

michael.spearpoint@canterbury.ac.nz or see

http://www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz/fire/fe_scholarship.shtml

Deadline for applications is the end of March 2008. The fire engineering group at the University is one of the leading organisations carrying out research into fire engineering and science in Australasia. We have two fully equipped laboratories and access to specialised high performance computational facilities - for more information see <http://www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz/fire/firehome.shtml>. We also have close links with other research organisations, industry and the New Zealand Fire Service.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

The Department of Fire Protection Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute invites applications at all levels for a tenure-track faculty position beginning in the 2008-2009 academic year. Required qualifications include: an earned doctorate in Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering, or a closely related field; vision and passion for growing our Ph.D. program; a demonstrated record of scholarly research; a strong commitment to teaching; and excellent communication skills.

The position is in the general area of Fire Protection Engineering and the primary areas of specialty interest include computational modeling; detection; advanced suppression and modeling of suppression; fire investigation; forensic analysis; fire protection systems; structural design for fire; and combustion. Candidates in other areas will be considered.

The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching courses and advising M.S. thesis and Ph.D. dissertations in traditional areas of fire protection engineering. The candidate will be expected to develop and sustain externally funded research programs that are accompanied by scholarly activities. Applications from women and minority candidates are especially encouraged. For full consideration, applicants must send curriculum vitae, statement of teaching and research interests, and a list of five professional references by March 15th, 2008 to: Kathy A. Notarianni, Professor and Head, Department of Fire Protection Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609 (USA). The Position will remain open until filled.

Carleton University

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in Fire Safety Engineering at the Assistant Professor level. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree in civil engineering or a closely related discipline, with expertise and experience in Fire Safety. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and lead a strong independent research program, to teach undergraduate and graduate level courses, and to participate in the governance of the university. Candidates are expected to have a strong track record of teaching, research and collaboration with industry in the field of Fire Safety. The Department has an intensive research enterprise including an NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Fire Safety Engineering. Candidates will have access to the Department's world-class laboratories for conducting experimental research, including a structural laboratory with strong floor, a new \$10 million state-of-the-art fire-testing laboratory and a new high performance cluster computing facility. Further information on the Department is available from the web site <http://www.cee.carleton.ca>. Applications, with curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, should be sent via email to: Professor Abd El Halim, Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1S 5B6. Email: a_halim@carleton.ca Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

University of Ulster – HySAFER

The University of Ulster has just advertised two new positions in the Hydrogen Safety Engineering and Research (HySAFER) team:

1. Lecturer in Safety of Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies (permanent)
2. Hydrogen Safety Business Manager (3 years in the first instance).
- 3.

Application packs can be downloaded from <http://jobs.ulster.ac.uk/jobs.phtml>. The deadline for application is the 8th of February 2008.

University of Ulster - Fire Dynamics and Material Flammability

A position is open for a Lecturer in Fire Dynamics and Material Flammability with Fire SERT at the Jordanstown Campus. The Fire Safety Engineering Research and Technology Centre (FireSERT), which is part of the School of the Built Environment, is a multi-disciplinary team of scientists and engineers working on fire safety in a laboratory facility, which is unique on the island of Ireland. The post-holder will provide teaching, programme development and research consistent with the area of fire dynamics and material flammability, as they relate to fire safety design in the built environment. Applicants must have experience of analytical and numerical modelling of pyrolysis and gaseous combustion. The closing date for applications is February 8, 2008. Further information and application forms are available at http://jobs.ulster.ac.uk/display_job.phtml?id=2463#

Oklahoma State University

Applications are invited for a nine-month Tenure Track faculty position (open rank) in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater Campus. Primary responsibilities include teaching, recruiting, advising students, and conducting outreach activities. The successful candidate must be able to teach in at least one of the following areas: Fire Safety Engineering, Fire Dynamics, Fire Suppression and Detection Systems, Occupational Safety, Process Safety, and/or Industrial Hygiene. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in engineering, engineering technology, occupational safety and health/industrial hygiene, or a related discipline and 3 years of professional experience. Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated expertise in fire protection. An earned doctorate and designations such as the Professional Engineer, Certified Safety Professional and/or Certified Industrial Hygienist and teaching experience are desirable. Applications must include a letter of application with a statement of teaching philosophy, curriculum vita, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references.

Send applications to Dr. Michael Larrañaga, Head, School of Fire Protection and Safety, Oklahoma State University, 499 Cordell South, Stillwater, OK 74078. The preferred hire date is August 15, 2008, and formal review of Applications will begin April 1, 2008

National Institute of Standards and Technology – Research Positions

The Fire Research Division at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD (USA) is soliciting applications for openings that are anticipated in 2008 for U.S. citizens that are engineers, mathematicians, and scientists with BS, MS or PhD degrees with the following backgrounds: chemistry, physics, applied mathematics, polymer engineering, chemical engineering, fire protection engineering, mechanical engineering, and computer science. the full advertisement can be found at: http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/866/FireDiv/EmploymentOpportunities_2008.pdf.

DNV Software

DNV Software (Risk Products section) is looking to hire a Mathematical Modeller / Application Engineer. Risk Products is responsible for the development of a suite of software products which span hazard, risk and reliability engineering applications within the chemical, petrochemical, offshore and other allied industries. The main responsibility of the successful candidate would be to develop, support and maintain the mathematical models integrated into DNV's Safety software products. Previous experience in hazard assessment, consequence modelling and risk analysis is desirable – for more senior roles proven capabilities via acknowledged publications in journals and conferences is desired. A degree of flexibility is possible within the exact role definition so applications are invited from those with professional experience levels in the range 1-10 years. The successful candidate will have a good degree (2:1 or above) in a related subject area and/or a Ph.D. in mathematics, physics, numerical analysis or fluid dynamics. A strong scientific background would be ideal, linked with good programming skills. Please email CV or contact panos.topalis@dnv.com for more information.

CONFERENCE NOTICEBOARD

SUPDET 2008

The Fire Protection Research Foundation presents in 11th annual Detection and Suppression Research and Applications symposium, March 11-13, 2008 at the International Plaza Resort and Spa, Orlando Florida. This year's detection program features presentations on key fire alarm performance issues such as waking effectiveness, intelligibility and reliability, the latest research on detection capability, and a special session on the newest forms of detection technology ranging from video based systems to passive microwave detection. The suppression program features an update on new research on Class C fire extinguishment, damage reduction strategies, sprinkler and water mist suppression challenges, and commercial application halon replacement strategies. Partial registration options are available as are ample networking opportunities with leading colleagues in the fire protection field. Visit <http://nfpa.org/foundation> to view the full program and register.

3rd International Symposium on Tunnel Safety and Security

There continues to be global concern for improving tunnel safety and security. In response to this concern, the 3rd International Symposium on Tunnel Safety and Security will be held March 12-14, 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Symposium has been moved to Stockholm to coincide with other tunnel related meetings in Stockholm that week. The program for the Symposium and information concerning registration can be found at www.sp.se/fire/ISTSS2008.

Conference on Performance Based Codes & Fire Safety Design Methods

The 7th International Conference on Performance Based Codes & Fire Safety Design Methods will be convened April 16-18, 2008 in Auckland, New Zealand. This conference, which has been hosted by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers along with several partner organisations over the years, has earned a reputation among the fire protection engineering committee as the preeminent event for information on the leading-edge technology in the areas of performance-based codes and engineering design methods. More details on the conference can be found at www.sfpe.org.

Wood & Fire Safety

The 6th International Scientific Conference Wood & Fire Safety will be convened May 11-15 at the Patria Hotel, Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic.

The conference, which has been convened every four years since 1988 provides an ideal venue for scientific exchange among international experts in fire safety and wood-based products. The deadline for receipt of papers and posters is February 15, 2008. More information can be found at <http://www.wfs.tuzvo.sk>.

International Symposium on Fire Investigation Science and Technology (ISFI)

May 19-21, 2008, ISFI 2008 be held at the University of Cincinnati's Kingsgate Marriott Conference Center and Hotel. ISFI is the biennial professional symposium specializing in the application of modern fire science and technology to fire investigations and analyses. It is a truly international gathering of fire investigation and fire science experts from a worldwide spectrum of the professional community. Organized by the National Association of Fire Investigators, ISFI 2008 will bring together a internationally respected fire investigation professionals to present and discuss the cutting edge of the profession's knowledge base in fire investigation science, research, technology, and methodology. ISFI 2008 is accepting abstracts, not exceeding 750 words, for lecture presentations or posters. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is January 15, 2008. Information concerning the conference, the venue, hotel reservations, exhibits hall, etc. can be found on the conference website: isficonference.com.

7th International Symposium on Hazards, Prevention, and Mitigation of Industrial Explosions

A special session on Hydrogen Safety will be organized during the 7th International Symposium on Hazards, Prevention, and Mitigation of Industrial Explosions (ISHPMIE) to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, July 7-11, 2008. Please find more information about this international gathering at www.ishpmie2008.ru. This is a great opportunity to meet together, this time in a north capital of Russia, and disseminate new findings in area of hydrogen safety.

5th International Conference on Composites in Fire

The 5th International Conference on Composites in Fire will be held July 10-11, 2008 at the University of Newcastle (UK). The fire response of composites is a critical factor in virtually all engineering applications of these materials. The Composites In Fire (CIF) conferences exist to transfer understanding, technology and research results from major programmes in Europe, the USA and Australia. Since CIF-4, which was held in 2005, substantial progress

has taken place in testing and modelling the problem of fire resistance of composite structures. It is the purpose of CIF-5 to report this progress and transfer the technologies and techniques developed to industry. For more information on CIF-5, visit the website at CompositesInFire.com, or contact the CIF-5 organiser at enquiries@compositelink.com or at + 44 (0) 191 284 7590.

International Congress "Smoke Control in Buildings and Tunnels"

A Call for Papers for the International Congress on "Smoke Control in Buildings and Tunnels" has been issued. The congress will be hosted by **GIDAI** - University of Cantabria (Spain) on October 15-17, 2008. Abstracts of the paper must be submitted to the organisers by May 23, 2008. For information regarding the abstract guidelines please visit <http://grupos.unican.es/gidai>.

ASTM Symposium on Advances in the State of the Art of Fire Testing

ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards is sponsoring a symposium on the "Advances in the State of the Art of Fire Testing", Thursday December 11, 2008 in Miami, Florida, USA. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the December 7-10, 2008 standards development meetings of ASTM Committee E05. Advances in new technologies and materials, and how they will be incorporated into fire testing, are addressed in this symposium. Additional information on the symposium can be found at <http://www.astm.org> or by contacting the Symposium Chairman Arthur J. Parker at aparker@haifire.com or by telephone at +1 410 737 8677.

International Conference EUROFIRE, Application of Fire Engineering

EUROFIRE, Application of Fire Engineering will be hosted by the Czech Technical University in Prague on 19-20 February 2009. Today's European practice is more and more enjoying the advantages of fire design. The conference will be focused on the application of simple and advanced design of concrete, steel and timber structures. The experimental findings, its combination with calculations, and the FE simulations will be stressed. The conference will be focussed on fire modelling, simulation of the transfer of heat and its distribution into structure and modelling of structures at elevated temperature with the help computer programs or structural Eurocodes. Abstracts must be submitted by September 30, 2008; acceptance of abstracts will be announced by October 30, 2008; and full papers must be received by January 15, 2009. For more information please visit www.fsv.cvut.cz/eurofiredesign or forward an email message to katerina.mrazkova@fsv.cvut.cz

2008 Membership

Have you renewed your membership to the IAFSS for 2008? If not, please do so now!

Remember that membership of IAFSS entitles you to discount Symposium fees at the 9th international IAFSS symposium at Karlsruhe.

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