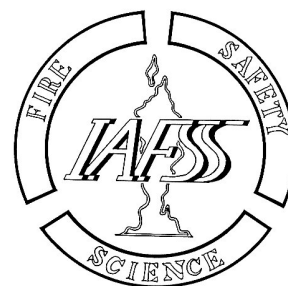


# Newsletter



Newsletter No 19,  
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Editor: James Mehaffey  
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How time flies! Less than three months remain until the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> IAFSS Symposium in Beijing. Much has been achieved during the past 12 months. There has been frantic activity on all fronts – by the China Fire Protection Association who are hosting the event, by all those preparing papers for presentation at the meeting, by Craig Beyler, Brian Lattimer and Dan Gottuk in choreographing the review process and by the many session chairs who had to select two or three referees for every paper and diplomatically extract the reviewers' comments within a very tight timeframe. The number of papers that will be presented exceeds the previous record (114) which was established at the First Fire Safety Science Symposium in Washington in 1985. The task that Dr Beyler and his colleagues have carried out – and are continuing to carry out – is described modestly in his report in this Newsletter. We are immensely grateful to them, to the session chairs and to the referees for all their hard work. Their efforts will ensure that this will be a landmark event, surpassing previous symposia in terms of sheer scientific content.

We have been working very closely with our colleagues at the CFPA in Beijing to ensure that all aspects of registration will progress smoothly. There has been a delay in providing the letters of invitation required for Visa applications, but these will be sent out early in July. There have been the inevitable early glitches regarding hotel reservations, and tours etc., but these have all been resolved. I look back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> IAFSS Symposium in Edinburgh and recall very similar problems that had to be sorted out “on the hoof”, so to speak. One problem that was not identified before the “Invitation to Register” was printed and circulated earlier this year is the fact that the prices for the post-conference tours do not include the cost of air travel. In retrospect, this should have been picked up as the costs printed in the programme – particularly for the reduced rates for parties of ten or more – were very low indeed. I hope that this error will not dissuade those who are visiting China for the first time from taking advantage of the opportunities of travel after the meeting. Please check the IAFSS website at <http://www.iafss.org> where we try to ensure any changes are listed as soon as we get notification of them from our Chinese colleagues.

The Awards Committee has met electronically over the past 12 months and chosen the recipients of the Emmons Lectureship (Dr Howard Baum), the Kawagoe Medal and the Thomas Silver Medal of Excellence (for the best paper presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium). The names of the recipients of the Kawagoe Medal and the Thomas Medal will be announced at the awards ceremony at the Banquet. With the help of three regional chairmen, Professor Mario Fontana's Thesis Awards Committee has identified three outstanding dissertations – one from each region – that were successfully defended during the three-year period which ended in September 2004. The outcome is reported by Professor Fontana in this Newsletter.

The next three months will be extremely busy for our colleagues in Beijing finalising all the logistics and for Carole Franks in London who is co-ordinating registrations. As I write, 40 delegates have registered through London. On its own – i.e. without including those who have registered directly through the CFPA – this is a very encouraging number and gives us reason to expect that this will be the largest and most successful symposium to date. I hope you will do your utmost to attend and encourage colleagues to participate too!

My colleagues and I on the committee look forward to seeing you in Beijing in September.

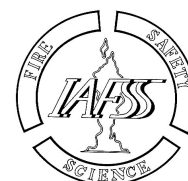
*Dougal Drysdale*

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## 8<sup>th</sup> IAFSS Symposium Program

The 8th IAFSS Symposium, 18-23 September 2005, in Beijing CHINA will include the Emmons Lecture by Dr. Howard Baum, seven plenary lectures, 120 paper presentations and a poster session including 80 posters from fire scientists around the world. Sessions will include the full range of fire science topic from human behaviour to fire dynamics, including both fundamental and applied fire science contributions.

Because of the record number of submissions, the number of papers accepted was increased by about 50% over the previous symposium. As a result it has been necessary to organize the papers in three parallel sessions. The program has been planned in an attempt to avoid conflicts of interest and delegates should be able to plan which session to join after each of the plenary lectures. Details are available at <http://www.iafss.org> and <http://2005.china-fire.com>. However, moving between sessions will be possible as the three lecture halls are close to each other in the same building

The paper and poster selection process was completed in early April and included 750 reviews of 300 submissions by over 300 reviewers. All this was completed in less than four months. Thanks are owed to all the reviewers. Without their timely contribution of time and effort, the symposium would not be possible.

Authors have already provided their final manuscripts, responding to reviewer comments and suggestions. By mid-July, authors will review the pdf page proofs. Thanks to the efforts of all the authors and the volume editors, Dr. Dan Gottuk and Dr. Brian Lattimer, a CD including all papers and posters will be available at the meeting and the hard copy volume (w/CD) will be printed and shipped to all symposium attendees in late December.

Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of individuals from around the world, an excellent technical program is in place. The symposium will be an exciting and fun week. I look forward to seeing all of you

*Craig Beyler, Program Committee*

## IAFSS Thesis Awards

A total of 17 dissertations were submitted for the Thesis Awards, 7 from Europe/Africa, and 5 each from the Americas and Asia/Oceania. The submissions were made by the respective research supervisors and over a period of about four months the independent regional committees selected the regional winners of the IAFSS Thesis Awards 2005. The decisions were not easy as the theses were of such high standard. It is unfortunate that only one award could be made in each region.

The following theses were selected after much discussion:

### Asia/Oceania:

**Dr. Wenguo Weng**, *Supervisor* Prof. Y Hasemi, Department of Architecture, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University Okubo 3-4-1, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-8555, JAPAN, "A Simulative Study on Backdraft Phenomenon in Compartment Fires"

(Selection Committee (5 Papers): Prof. Toshisuke Hirano (Chair), Dr Bogdan Dlugogorski, Prof. Fan Weicheng, Prof Yuji Hasemi, Dr Ai Sekiza wa)

### Americas:

**Dr. Amnon Avishai Bar-Ilan**, *Supervisor* Prof Carlos Fernandez-Pello, University of California, 6105A Etcheverry Hall, Berkeley, USA, "The Effects of Buoyancy on Smoldering Combustion and its Transition to Flame"

(Selection Committee (5 Papers): Prof. Patrick J. Pagni (Chair), Dr. Jose L. Torero, Dr John Woycheese, Dr. Cuzzillo)

### Europe/Africa:

**Dr. Susan Lamont**, Arup Fire, Ove Arup & Partners, 13 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 6BQ, UK, *Supervisor*: Dr A S Usmani, School of Engineering and Electronics, University of Edinburgh, King's Buildings, Edinburgh EH9 3JL, Scotland, UK, "The Behaviour of Multi-storey Composite Steel Framed Structures in Response to Compartment Fires"

(Selection Committee (7 Papers): Prof. Geoff Cox (Chair), Prof. Dougal Drysdale, Prof. Mario Fontana)

Each winner will present a paper based on his or her thesis during the 8<sup>th</sup> IAFSS Symposium. Their Symposium Registration fees are waived and each Award includes US \$1,500 to support expenses associated with travel and accommodation during the Beijing meeting.

*Prof. Mario Fontana, Chair,  
Thesis Awards Committee*

## Nominations to Management Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Prof J Quintiere of the University of Maryland, USA, has proposed 24 candidates to the Management Committee of the Association. The nominees are as follows:

- 1.\* Dr V Babrauskas (Fire Science and Technology, USA)
2. Dr C Beyler (Hughes & Associates, USA)
3. Dr R Bill (Factory Mutual, USA)
4. Mr D Brein (University of Karlsruhe, Germany)
- 5.\* Prof W Chow (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China)
6. Prof G Cox (Building Research Establishment, UK)
7. Prof B Dlugogorski (University of Newcastle, Australia)
8. Prof D Drysdale (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- 9.\* Dr D Evans (Society of Fire Protection Engineers, USA)
10. Prof W Fan (University of Science and Technology, China)
- 11.\* Dr C Fleischmann (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)
12. Prof M Fontana (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland)

- 13.\* Dr A Hamins (National Institute of Science and Technology, USA)
14. Prof Y Hasemi (Waseda University, Japan)
- 15.\*+ Dr Y He (University of Western Sydney, Australia)
16. Prof P Joulain (National Centre for Scientific Research, France)
17. Dr B Karlsson (Fire Authority, Iceland)
18. Dr S Kumar (Building Research Establishment, UK)
19. Dr J Mehaffey (Forintek, Canada)
20. Prof P Pagni (University of California at Berkeley, USA)
- 21.\* Dr G Proulx (National Research Council, Canada)
22. Dr A Sekizawa (National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster, Japan)
23. Dr O Sugawa (Science University of Tokyo, Japan)
- 24.\*+ Dr J Torero (University of Edinburgh, UK)

\* Denotes candidates nominated to the Committee for the first time. The remaining candidates are members of the present Committee and have been re-nominated by the Nominating Committee for the new term.

+ Denotes candidates who were co-opted to the Committee at the beginning of the present term as a consequence of the retirement of two members.

A member of the Association may also be nominated for election to the Management Committee by a petition signed by at least ten other members and submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary. The deadline for submission of petition nominees is **30 June 2005**, and the submissions should be forwarded to:

Ms Carole Franks  
IAFSS Secretariat Office  
Interscience Communications  
West Yard House  
Guildford Grove, Greenwich  
London SE10 8JT, UK

Or by fax to + 44 (0)208 692 5155

In the case of petition candidates being nominated, there will be an election by postal vote of the members in July 2005, to be conducted by the Honorary Secretary. The envelopes will be opened and vote counted by the Scrutineers, Prof Jonathan Barnett of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, and Prof Vladimir Molkov of the University of Ulster, UK. In the other instance, the nominees, as proposed by the Nominating Committee, will be deemed to be elected to the Management Committee without further action.

On behalf of the International Association for Fire Safety Science, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere words of thanks to the Committee members who wish to retire in September this year, Dr P Beever, Dr J Hall, Prof T Hirano, Prof J Quintiere, Prof R Williamson and Dr D Yung, for

their many outstanding contributions to our organisation over many years.

*Prof B Dlugogorski, Honorary Secretary,  
Nominating Committee*

## Efectis – CTICM, TNO and Sintef-NBL Combine Forces

The Europe Union is growing and has attained a market of 450 million people living in 25 different countries, which is even larger when considering the European countries belonging to the European Economical Space. Step by step, all buildings and structures will be ruled by new common standards applied throughout Europe.

As far as research institutes and fire laboratories are concerned, the market is no longer national but needs consideration across the whole European area and, even more, the international area. To be able to offer a full application range of services with respect to fire safety product manufacturers and building owners, as well as a comprehensive range of expertise in the fire safety field, 3 renowned and leading European fire safety institutes: TNO (The Netherlands), SINTEF-NBL (Norway) and CTICM (France) have combined their forces and have created a new group under the name "Efectis"

To offer better protection to people, environment and property, Efectis will be involved in the main fire safety areas such as:

- Fire Safety Engineering (*high performance numerical tools, fire risk analysis, and specific applications such as tunnel, warehouse, car parks, off-shore structures, ships...*)
- Resistance to fire (*with furnaces able to accommodate assemblies with a 9 m floor span or 5 m height, and the RWS curve ...*)
- Reaction of fire (*with all necessary testing facilities for classification and FSE purposes*)
- Smoke control
- Water mist and sprinklers systems
- Expert Judgements
- Certification (*CE marking*)

Further information can be obtained through [efectis@efectis.com](mailto:efectis@efectis.com) or tel : +33(0)1 30 85 20 61.

## Warringtonfiregent

Warringtonfire has reached an agreement with the University of Gent, Belgium, for the 'spin-off' of its fire safety testing laboratory into a new joint venture company with warringtonfire. The Belgium laboratory, headed by Professor Paul Vandeveld, is very well respected as an authoritative competent laboratory on fire safety matters within Europe. For many years the two organisations have enjoyed an informal working collaboration. This is now placed on a firm commercial business-footing by way of a shared ownership of the new company, to be titled warringtonfiregent. As the major shareholder, warringtonfire will bring its business and commercial acumen to the benefit of the Belgium laboratory, and business plans include the introduction of many of the UK services into Belgium.

Critical technical and professional staff will be transferred from the University into the new company and the best practices of the Warrington and Gent laboratories will be maximised to the benefit of the joint client base. warringtonfiregent has entered into an agreement with the University to support its academic and research requirements within fire safety science and engineering activities. Professor Vandeveld will remain responsible for the Gent laboratory as a director of warringtonfiregent.

## University of Maryland Receives Major Fire Research Grant

The United States Fire Administration has awarded a one year, 1.1 million dollar grant to the University of Maryland Center for Firefighters Safety Research and Development (CFSRD) to investigate the physiological state of firefighters during training. The goal of this study is to reduce injuries and fatalities in training. The CFSRD is also conducting research on firefighter location and novel communication strategies. The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute and the Fire Protection Engineering Department of the A. James Clark School of Engineering are jointly managing CFSRD in partnership with the Small Smart Systems Center, the Human Performance Laboratory and the MIND Lab.

## CONFERENCE NOTICE BOARD

### 4th International Seminar on Fire Protection Engineering (Chile)

The Fire Protection Engineering Area of DICTUC (Chile) is organizing the *4th International Seminar on Fire Protection Engineering*. This year the seminar will focus on the Behaviour of Wood Structures in Fire. The topics to be discussed are

- Wood Burning and Fire Growth.
- Behaviour of Heavy and Light Frame Wooden Structures.
- Fire Safety Regulations.
- The Modelling of Structures in Fire.
- Fire Tests of Wood Building Elements.

The speakers will be prestigious professionals and researchers from Chile, Canada (Forintek) and Scotland (University of Edinburgh). The seminar will be held in Santiago - Chile, from June 22 to June 24, 2005. More information can be found at <http://www.dictuc.cl/ipf/capingles.htm>

### Fire Safety in Terrestrial Passenger Transportation

The University of Cantabria (Spain) will host the International Technical Congress *Fire Safety in Terrestrial Passenger Transportation* on October 20, 2005. The Congress will address fire safety of passengers in highway and railway transportation systems with particular emphasis on vehicle and infrastructure design, material selection, active and passive systems, fire computer modelling, etc. For information regarding registration, accommodation and the preliminary programme please visit: <http://grupos.unican.es/gidai>.

### 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Structures in Fire (SiF'06)

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Structures in Fire (SiF'06) will be held May 11-12, 2006 at the University of Aveiro in Portugal. SiF Workshops provide an international forum where experts in fire resistance research can present their research activities and receive feedback from their colleagues. A summary (abstract) of at least one page must be sent to [jm.franssen@ulg.ac.be](mailto:jm.franssen@ulg.ac.be) before January 31, 2006. Notification of acceptance of papers will be made by February 15. Accepted papers must be submitted in word-file and pdf-file formats to [pvreal@civil.ua.pt](mailto:pvreal@civil.ua.pt) before March 31, 2006. More information can be found at <http://www.civil.ua.pt/sif06.htm>

### 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Performance-based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods

Abstracts are now being accepted for SFPE's 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Performance-based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods, which will be held June 14-16, 2006 in Tokyo. The conference will present the state-of-the-art in performance-based code approaches and engineering design methods. Papers will be presented on newly emerging technologies, as well as perspectives on approaches that have worked well, and approaches that have not worked as well as originally desired.

Over the last ten years, this conference has earned a reputation among the fire protection engineering community as the pre-eminent event for information on the leading-edge technology in the areas of performance-based codes and engineering design methods. Abstracts are invited on subjects relating to current developments and observations relating to the use or implementation of performance-based codes or fire safety design methods. A call for papers is now available with abstracts due on July 30, 2005 at

[http://www.sfpe.org/sfpe30/omnisam/event/eventreg\\_info.cfm?product\\_id=296](http://www.sfpe.org/sfpe30/omnisam/event/eventreg_info.cfm?product_id=296),