

Newsletter

Newsletter No 14,
October, 2002

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Letter from the New Chairman

A new Executive Committee was elected during the 7th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in June of this year. I was honoured to become Chairman, following Professor Hirano who led the Association with such distinction during the last six years. I am very conscious of the responsibility that this places on me and I am delighted that I shall be supported on the Executive Committee by an excellent team comprising Bodzio Dlugogorski (Secretary), Bob Bill (Treasurer), Craig Beyler, Paula Beever and Mario Fontana (Vice Chairs), Toshi Hirano (immediate past Chairman) and Geoff Cox and Fan Weicheng. The full committee is listed below. At my suggestion, Yaping He and Jose Torero have been co-opted to bring the number up to 24.

Thanks must go to the outgoing officers Ray Friedman (Secretary), Paula Beever (Treasurer), Pat Pagni and Yoshi Uehara (Vice-Chairs) for carrying out their duties so admirably. In fact, Paula Beever did such an excellent job as Treasurer that we have recycled her as one of the three regional Vice Chairs. Happily, Pat Pagni remains on the full committee. Our thanks are due to the retiring members, Takashi Kashiwagi, Matti Kokkala, Sven-Erik Magnusson and Caird Ramsey who have served on the full committee for many years and provided valuable guidance and advice.

My primary objective, as Chairman, is to encourage younger members of the Fire Safety Science community to become actively involved with the Association. It is now 17 years since the First Symposium at NIST. This was organised as a flagship event by a committee set up in response to the initiative launched by our "founding fathers", the leaders and creators of fire research, including Philip Thomas, Kunio Kawagoe, T Akita, Jim Quintiere and Ray Friedman. Their objective was to create an international organisation that would facilitate the development of Fire Safety Science by providing a formal structure for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of results through a series of triennial symposia. This has been very successful and the IAFSS is now well and truly established.

The future and development of the Association over the next few years is crucial. Several initiatives that benefit the members are outlined in this Newsletter including a more interactive web site, fire journals available at special rates for members, and a student award scheme which will be in place before the 8th Symposium in Beijing. The Association has to be more responsive to the changing needs of the fire science community. It has to increase its membership and make best use of modern electronic communications to ensure that we continue to operate as a true global scientific community, as set down in the original objectives.

Funding for fire research has regrettably been on the wane, for some years now. It is therefore more important than ever that we encourage young researchers to become involved in this exciting and challenging field. Membership of the IAFSS is one sure way forward. This will help invigorate Fire Safety Science and ensure that the research required to underpin the discipline of Fire Safety Engineering is carried out. Indeed, we have a duty to secure and maintain a strong research base to consolidate the performance-based approach to fire safety.

This first Newsletter has been edited by Jim Mehaffey, who has generously taken over this role from John Hall. John carried out this task effectively and efficiently for many years and the Association is greatly indebted to him for his efforts.

Dougal Drysdale

The Full Committee

Chair:
Professor Dougal Drysdale (UK)

Vice-Chairs:
Dr Craig L Beyler (USA)
Dr Paula Beever (New Zealand)
Professor Mario Fontana (Switzerland)

Treasurer:
Dr Bob Bill (USA)

Secretary:
Professor Bogdan Dlugogorski (Australia)

Immediate past Chair:
Professor Toshi Hirano (Japan)

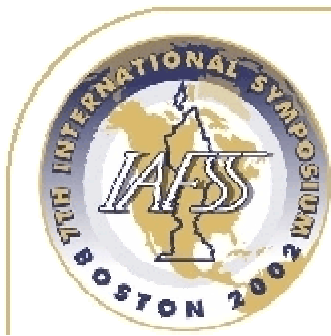
Executive members:
Professor Geoff Cox (UK)
Professor Fan Weicheng (China)

Dr Dieter Brein (Germany)
Dr John Hall (USA)
Professor Yuji Hasemi (Japan)
Dr Yaping He (Australia)
Professor Pierre Joulain (France)
Dr Bjorn Karlsson (Iceland)
Dr Suresh Kumar (UK)
Dr Jim Mehaffey (Canada)
Professor Pat Pagni (USA)
Professor Jim Quintiere (USA)
Dr Ai Sekizawa (Japan)
Dr Osami Sugawa (Japan)
Dr Jose Torero (UK)
Professor Brady Williamson (USA)
Dr David Yung (Canada)

Secretariat

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Report on the 7th Symposium

The Association held its 7th International Symposium on the campus of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, USA from 16-21 June. Some 260 delegates attended from 25 countries to hear 90 research papers and 8 invited lectures. Although registration and paper numbers were down from previous symposia, the poster sessions were particularly successful attracting a large number of very high quality submissions. Displayed in a circular arrangement these sessions proved to be very popular with delegates.

Research papers were presented in two parallel sessions with invited lectures being presented as Plenaries in the Odeum Room. The week started with the Howard Emmons Lecture, presented by Professor Pat Pagni of the University of California, Berkeley on "Thermal Glass Breakage". This was followed by the very topical Invited Lecture "Initial Model for Fires in the World Trade Centre Towers" given by Dr Ron Rehm of NIST. The other invited lecturers were Dr Ron Alpert (FMGlobal), Dr Mike Delichatsios (University of Ulster), Professor Bob Zalosh (WPI) and Dr David Purser (Building Research Establishment).

The sessions reflected the extremely broad range of topics embraced by fire safety science: flame spread, fire detection; fire physics; risk and decision analysis; compartment fires; automatic sprinklers suppression; materials fire behaviour; smoke control; performance-based design; test methods and modelling human behaviour; flame behaviour; statistics and probability; structures and building components; and special applications.

A special panel session was held on new fire research facilities. Delegates heard of the new fire laboratories in the UK (University of Ulster), in the USA (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and FMGlobal), in Canada (University of Waterloo) and in Chile (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile).

The full business meeting of the IAFSS was held on 20th June where the new committee listed elsewhere in this newsletter was elected and from which the new Chairman

and Officers were agreed. Professor Hirano was warmly applauded in thanks for his period of service as Chair of the Association. Professor Fan Weicheng of the State Key Laboratory for Fire Science in Hefei (PRC) gave a presentation to introduce the venue for the 8th Symposium to be held at Tsinghua University, Beijing in September 2005. It was also announced that the 9th meeting would be held in Karlsruhe, Germany in 2008.

The serious hard work was broken only by the formal social functions and, for some, time in front of a TV screen where the late-to-bedders and the early-risers could follow their favourite team in the soccer world cup which was being held jointly by Japan and Korea.

The evening cruise on Boston Harbour on the Tuesday was particularly appreciated by delegates and their partners. The beautiful JFK Library, overlooking Boston Harbour, was the venue for Thursday's banquet. This provided the setting for the various awards that the IAFSS makes at each Symposium. They went to:

Howard Emmons Lectureship:

Professor Pat Pagni.

Kawagoe Medal:

Professor Dougal Drysdale.

Philip Thomas Medal of Excellence:

P-J Garo, P Gillard, J P Vantelon and A C Fernandez-Pello

Awarded for the best paper at the 6th Symposium entitled:
"On the thin layer boiler"

In addition to the IAFSS awards, the FORUM wards for contributions to Fire Safety Science and Engineering were presented by its Chairman, Dr Paul Croce to: Dr Vyto Babrauskas, Dr Paula Beever, and Professor Jim Quintiere.

Although numbers were down from previous meetings, the Symposium was very successful. Dr John Hall and the Arrangements Committee are to be congratulated for all their efforts which ensured that the entire meeting was not only enjoyable but also ran like clockwork. The IAFSS was particularly fortunate that WPI were able to host the meeting so well, freely providing invaluable support, particularly student assistance with all manner of tasks. The commitment of the staff and students of WPI was especially appreciated.

The IAFSS are also particularly grateful to FMGlobal, NFPA, NIST and UL for donations which helped ensure a successful conference.

Geoff Cox

The World of Fire Safety Science

Plans for the 8th International Symposium

The 8th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science which will be held **September 18-23, 2005** in Beijing, China at Tsinghua University. Please mark this date in your calendar.

The IAFSS Web Page

The IAFSS web page (www.iafss.org) is being reconstructed and maintained by Interscience Communications. Please send your comments on the web page and any material you would like to post to Dr. Jose Torero at J.Torero@ed.ac.uk.

Student Awards

Watch for future announcements concerning student awards to be made at future symposia

Proceedings of the 7th Symposium

Publication of the Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science is expected by March 2003. The publisher will mail the Proceedings directly to Symposium attendees. Non attendees can order copies

of the Proceedings by contacting Interscience Communications at intercomm@dial.pipex.com

New Secretariat

The IAFSS Committee is pleased to announce that Interscience Communications has agreed to provide secretariat service for the association. The benefits of the arrangement are already evident to Committee members

Plea for More Members

We ask members to encourage colleagues and students to join IAFSS. Any new members joining after October 1st will have their membership extended through to December 2003. Details can be obtained from Carole Franks at intercomm@dial.pipex.com.

Professor Ove Pettersson Has Passed Away

We are saddened to have to report that Prof Ove Pettersson passed away unexpectedly on 27th July. A full obituary will appear in the Proceedings to the 7th Symposium and in Fire Safety Journal.

NOTICE BOARD

Thank You to 7th Symposium Attendees

July 26th 2002

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

One day recently Joanna and I were going away for a day or two when I found a card from the postman (mailman) saying I should collect something too large to deliver.

"We'll collect it on the way", we said. We did, and had to return home with it. With two relatives in the back of the car there was no way we could take a package c. 1m. x 0.8m. in area with us!

On returning from our trip we opened the parcel. Lo and behold, there were your photographs and greetings and flattering messages, and a rearrangement of my study walls had to be considered!!

I have learnt from Geoff Cox and Dougal Drysdale a lot about the successful Worcester meeting and the plans for the meeting in China. There are a few fire meetings before then and now that two of my medical alarms have quietened down I may be able to put my better foot forward and get to see you.

Many thanks and best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Philip Thomas.

University Vacancies

Faculty Position Available In Fire Protection Engineering

Applications are invited for a tenure track position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level at the University of Maryland. The applicant should have a doctorate in a relevant discipline, and a proven record in teaching and research. The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply for this position.

Applicants should send a full curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, a representative article, and the names and addresses of three references to:

Professor James G. Quintiere (jimq@eng.umd.edu)

For further details: <http://www.enfp.umd.edu>

Applications Deadline December 31, 2002. The position is sought for the Fall 2003 semester.

The University of Waterloo is completing construction of a new \$5.6M Fire Research Complex designed to accommodate fire modelling and experimental research into fire dynamics and fire behaviour at all scales. It consists of a large burn room complete with wind generation capability, an ISO room fire/large calorimeter test area and several smaller-scale fire test systems. **Exciting opportunities** exist for dynamic fire researchers to join The Fire Research Group in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of Waterloo. For more information contact: eweckman@sunwise.uwaterloo.ca or visit <http://www.me.uwaterloo.ca/dept/jobs-thermal-fluid%20mechanics.htm>.