

FROM THE PUBLISHER

STANLEY M. WOLFSON

Wow, What a Year!

As *Plumbing Systems & Design* closes its fourth full year of publication, I can't help but look back and marvel at how far we've come. We've made many changes and improvements this past year, while continuing our tradition of providing the industry's best technical content for plumbing engineers and designers. As proof of our editorial strength, this year *PS&D* won an APEX Award for Publication Excellence, as well as an APEX for feature writing for Steven Nudelman's series on avoiding liability. *PS&D* has won an APEX Award in every full year of its publication, quite an achievement for a young magazine. This year we also won a Tabby Award, given by Trade, Association, and Business Publications International, for feature article writing for Winston Huff's article on the International Space Station. We are very proud of our accomplishments and thank our authors for continually providing informative, technical content.

EDITORIAL ENHANCEMENTS

To better align our publication with today's increasingly Internet-driven world, this past year we began offering exclusive content on our Web site, www.psdmagazine.org. These online-only articles expand on topics covered in the print version of the magazine and are available to all readers, not just ASPE members. Just visit www.psdmagazine.org and click on Exclusive Online Articles at the top of the home page.

We also started publishing online the technical chapter necessary to complete *PS&D*'s Continuing Education exam. Doing so allows readers to view the chapter online in PDF format, as well as print the chapter and the accompanying exam to take with them when they are on the go. Continuing Education chapters and exams for the past year are now available online. Next year we hope to offer the ability to complete and submit the exam online as well.

Big thanks to ASPE's IT guru Rich Albrecht for implementing these features and for maintaining our Web site.

DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

As you may have noticed with the January/February 2006 issue, we also modified the look of *PS&D* this year to keep it fresh and interesting. Fonts, colors, and graphics have been updated to help readers navigate through the magazine. More figures, charts, tables, sidebars, and callouts highlight certain aspects of articles and help readers find exactly what they are looking for. Thanks to *PS&D* graphic designer Dave Ropinski for his artistic expertise and for working with the magazine's staff to develop our new look.

THE BEST ASPE CONVENTION EVER?

You bet it was! ASPE's 2006 Convention and Engineered Plumbing Exposition in Tampa, Fla., was our best event of all time. The exhibits, networking opportunities, technical sessions, and parties were second to none. Did I mention the prizes? Almost every attendee won a prize, and numerous lucky folks walked away with laptops, big-screen televisions, and other electronics. Grand-prize winner John Bertrand actually drove his prize away: a 2007 Pontiac Solstice sports car.

Thanks to all who attended and exhibited for making this Convention so special. If you weren't able to get to Tampa, make plans now to be in Long Beach, Calif., in October 2008. Check ASPE's Web site—www.aspe.org—for more information about the 2008 Convention as well as the Technical Symposium in Atlanta next November. I can guarantee these events will be everything you expect—and more!

Also, I can't express enough appreciation for the ASPE staff—especially Managing Director Jill Dirksen, Membership Director Stacey Kidd, and Membership Manager Maria Barriga—and Convention Co-chairs Pete Johnson and Frank Heine for their tireless efforts in making the Convention a reality. They deserve your kudos and applause.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Unfortunately, our accomplishments and achievements cannot overcome the great sadness that's touched our staff. Please join me in a moment of silence to remember Sheryl Govedarica, beloved wife of *PS&D* Executive Publisher Tom Govedarica and mother of Julie Govedarica. Tom and Julie will continually be in our thoughts and prayers as we enter this season of hope.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next year we plan to continue exceeding our goal to provide the best technical information in the plumbing engineering industry to our readers. We are always interested in your help and guidance. Have an article idea or want to join our team of technical editors? Contact Managing Editor Gretchen Pienta at gpienta@aspe.org. Want to advertise in the magazine or on our Web site? Call Executive Publisher Tom Govedarica at 773-693-2773. And you can always contact me at aspeexdir@aspe.org.

Thanks for helping us make this year our best ever. We look forward to another year of being the plumbing engineering industry's best-read magazine. **PSD**