

## WHAT IS CACHE?

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### WHAT LIES IN THE FUTURE?

**I**N THE FACE OF RAPIDLY changing technology, CACHE continually seeks to improve its on-going activities and undertake new initiatives.

**Setting up a Network.** CACHE is attempting to arrange a network to serve as a reservoir for programs and data bases of benefit to educators. The network will provide billing facilities, instructions and services for programs, and local connections to gain entrance to the network.

**Computer Aided Instruction.** The computer-based PLATO educational system which provides interactive, self-paced instruction to large numbers of students has been widely used in physics, chemistry, and a variety of other fields with success. Professor Eckert and other faculty have been developing PLATO lessons for approximately two years starting with a series of lessons for use in the first chemical engineering course. CACHE hopes to assist in the preparation and dissemination of material of this type.

**Personal Computing.** The proliferation of programmable hand-held calculators and personal mini-computers is creating an environment for widespread collaboration in the preparation of programs and associated lessons. Already under way, under CACHE auspices, is a project to develop programs to allow chemical engineering students to carry out calculations for unit operations and the design of equipment.

**Data Base Management Systems.** The role and scope of integrated data base systems for plant design, construction and operation is being studied.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**F**INANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CACHE activities comes from donations by over 80 departments of chemical engineering in the U.S. and Canada, overhead from grants and contracts from governmental agencies such as the National Science Foundation, and industrial grants. The Monsanto Company has provided direct grants to CACHE to cover expenses in making FLOWTRAN available to educators, and has budgeted considerable internal personnel time to cover the cost of installing and maintaining FLOWTRAN. The Exxon

and Shell Foundations have also provided financial support to CACHE.

### SUMMARY

CACHE has succeeded in (1) stimulating interest in developing new computer based materials to be used in chemical engineering education, (2) avoiding the duplication of effort via cooperative projects and the sharing of resources, and (3) promoting new methods of distributing educational materials. It also has served as a model for similar organizations in other professions. We have found by experience that volunteer participants must be active in their own schools in developing and using computer based tools, not just sympathetic to the cause. We also have learned that projects of merit take a long time to evolve and must be vigilantly pursued if they are to reach fruition.

CACHE would be glad to hear from any faculty member who would like to participate in existing CACHE activities or initiate a new activity. Write to CACHE, Room 66-309, M.I.T., 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. □

## ChE news

### CACHE AWARDS GIVEN

Two persons from Monsanto Company have been honored by CACHE for their contributions to chemical engineering education. CACHE president David Himmelblau awarded plaques to F. E. Reese, Senior V. Pres., Facilities and Materiel, and Dr. James R. Fair, director, engineering technology. CACHE cited the two men for their efforts in making the company's FLOWTRAN system available to the organization.

### BERG RUNS ON . . . AND ON

A recent newspaper release states that although Lloyd Berg has retired from his record-breaking 33 years as chairman at Montana State, he has not retired from jogging. Both he and his wife continue their "running ways" and train for and enter marathons at the drop of a jogging shoe, often setting records in the process. Berg also stays active in the ChE arena through teaching a full load and through his research projects in solvent-refined coal.