AIChExtra

2007 AIChE Elections

Statements from Director Candidates

2007 Election: Directors

Hamid Arastoopour

Hamid Arastoopour is presently the Max McGraw Professor of Energy, Environment and Economics, and Dean of Armour College of Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. Since 1985, he has been a member of the chemical engineering faculty at IIT, where he served as chairman of the department from 1989 to 2003. From 1978 to 1985, he conducted coal gasification research at the Institute of Gas Technology. His research expertise is in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) of multiphase flow and particle technology — an area motivated by energy and environmentally related applications, and is documented in more than 100 publications and 12 U.S. patents. Since 2002, he has served as chair, vice chair and member of the AIChE Societal Impact Operating Council (SIOC), and chair and vice chair of Area 3b (Fluid/Particle Systems) from 1995 to 1997. He has received several AIChE awards including the Donald Q. Kern Award in Heat Transfer and Energy Conversion, the Lectureship in Fluidization and Fluid/Particle Systems, and the Fluidization Process Recognition Award. He is also a Fellow of AIChE.

In the next few years, AIChE must assume a leadership role in critical areas of national interest (namely, energy and sustainability, and biological engineering) and promote programs to introduce high school students with diverse backgrounds to fulfilling and exciting opportunities in the chemical engineering profession. If elected as a director, I would focus on and steer the Institute toward addressing the following key objectives:

- Assume a leadership role, as the voice of chemical engineers, in shaping national energy and environmental policy and needed research and development.
- Continue to enhance AIChE activities and programs in biological engineering.
- Retain and attract new members by continuing to offer valuable membership services.
- Continue to attract the brightest high school students with diverse backgrounds to the engineering profession by launching comprehensive national initiatives with other engineering and science professional organizations.
- Promote collaboration in areas of mutual interest between AIChE and other engineering societies, the American Chemical Society, The Council for Chemical Research, and professional organizations outside the United States.
- Explore mechanisms to enhance the continued relevance of the Institute to the needs of the global chemical engineering community.

Kelly D. Bryant

Kelly D. Bryant received her BS in chemical engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1994. She completed her MS in Environmental Management in 2003 at Webster University in Little Rock, AR. Bryant joined International Paper in December 2004 and is currently the environmental group leader at the Pine Bluff (Arkansas) Mill where she is primarily responsible for the ISO 14001 environmental management system and air and solid waste compliance. Prior to joining International Paper, Kelly worked for a chemical manufacturing company in Hot Springs, AR. During her ten years there, she worked as a process/environmental engineer, laboratory manager, and later as environmental manager.

I first became acquainted with AIChE while I was a student at University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 1994, I joined the Central Arkansas AIChE local section and served as section chair. During a Leadership Development Conference, I was approached about becoming active on the National level and as a result I have served as member, vice-chair, and chair of the Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC). I am currently the past chair of the CEOC, member of the Centennial Celebration Committee, and member of the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC). I have also been a past secretary of MAC, member of the Diversity Task Force, and participant in the Board of Directors Strategy Sessions.

Although AIChE has faced some challenges over the last few years, I believe that AIChE can be the premiere organization for chemical engineers. AIChE has provided me with opportunities to enhance my leadership skills, conduct effective meetings, and to meet members from a variety of backgrounds. AIChE must appeal to its diverse members and promote itself as adding value to all career levels, which will help retain members. I believe that the following issues are of greatest concern for the Institute:

- Institute activities, sessions, and programming should be developed that have greater relevance to industry and recent college graduates. Course offerings and sessions should be developed that offer more practical knowledge that can be used in day-to-day activities.
- Promoting interactions between student members, recent college graduates, and industry to provide a sense of belonging.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I hope to bring a fresh perspective to issues that face the Institute and utilize my past leadership activities to help make AIChE the premiere organization for chemical engineers.

In addition to being active in AIChE, Bryant is also a Diamond Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, member and officer of the National Society of Black Engineers-Arkansas Alumni Extension Chapter, and 2006 President of the Arkansas Environmental Federation Board of Directors.

Liese Dallbauman

As AIChE continues to rebound from its recent fiscal difficulties, it can — and must — turn its attention back to its members. The challenge of providing value to current and potential members is familiar to anyone in division, local section, or other leadership roles; the fact that this topic arises on a regular basis indicates that we're not meeting the challenge to the extent that we should be.

As their careers progress, many chemical engineers find themselves playing new roles in unfamiliar industries; this situation provides a unique opportunity for AIChE. By collecting and disseminating information about technologies, business practices, and industry economics, the Institute can become a "one-stop" knowledge source. By using webinars, virtual meetings, and in-person regional or local meetings to share this information, AIChE will serve the large number of members who are unable to attend the Annual and Spring National meetings.

Beyond attracting and retaining today's engineers, the Institute needs to ensure its longer-term health by investing in engineers-to-be. Too many

students of all ages find science boring and "too hard"; too many adults are nearly scientifically illiterate. AIChE has an opportunity, and perhaps even a responsibility, to promote interest in and appreciation of science and engineering. By developing hands-on demonstrations and interactive presentations for elementary and secondary schools and by building a network of members to interact with local schools and community groups, the Institute can put a public face on chemical engineering and attract additional interest in the field.

I view service on the AIChE board as an opportunity to help strengthen the Institute for today and tomorrow. If elected, I will work to develop AIChE's role as an information source for members and as an education resource for students and the public.

As a principal engineer for resource conservation with PepsiCo's QTG division, I am currently a member of an interdisciplinary team focusing on reducing energy and water used and wastewater generated in manufacture of food and beverage products. I have also worked in development and analysis of environmental separations processes for NASA, Honeywell, and the Gas Technology Institute. My education includes a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Colorado, and master's and doctoral degrees, also in chemical engineering, from Notre Dame. Within AIChE, I have served as director and chair in the Separations Division, am completing a term on the Chemical Technology Operating Council (CTOC), and am a member of the Executive Board of the National Program Committee (EBPC).

Ignacio E. Grossmann

I am currently the Rudolph R. and Florence Dean University Professor of Chemical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. I obtained my B.S. degree at the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, and M.S. and Ph.D. at Imperial College in London. After working as an R&D engineer at the Mexican Petroleum Institute, I joined Carnegie Mellon in 1979, and served as Department Head from 1994 to 2002. I am currently director of the Center for Advanced Process Decision-making (CAPD), which comprises a total of 21 chemical, petroleum and software companies. My research interests lie in the areas of optimization, process synthesis, planning and scheduling, and enterprise-wide optimization, having published more than 300 papers and supervised over 40 graduate students.

My involvement with AIChE has been as a regular contributor to the technical program, and through the CAST Division (Chair in 1992), Awards Committee (1999–2002), and AIChE Journal, where I have been Associate Editor of Process Systems Engineering for the last five years.

Given the challenges that the chemical engineering profession is facing, I believe that some of the major issues that AIChE should address are the following:

- Position chemical engineering as a strong profession for the future. A major goal should be to promote our discipline as the one that will lead in making major contributions in areas such as energy, sustainability, biotechnology, nanomaterials and advanced computation.
- Increase membership and involvement of industry in AIChE by offering programs that are current and relevant to industrial practice. The long-term survival of the profession requires more than ever stronger links of AIChE with industry, as well as promoting closer relationships between industry and academia.
- Increase membership in AIChE, particularly of recent graduates. This should be accomplished by ensuring that AIChE offers value through networking and career services, and working closely with local sections.
- Promote chemical engineering as a career choice for high school students. Given the importance of maintaining a strong pipeline of students into chemical engineering, AIChE should develop programs that advertise and promote the profession to attract the best young minds.
- Promote international collaboration of AIChE with sister organizations in other countries. Given the challenges posed by globalization, there is a need for promoting joint meetings and programs, particularly with organizations in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

If elected as Director, I will work on the above issues and help make AIChE a vibrant and dynamic organization.

Bob Hoch

I have been active in AIChE, attending all Spring National and Annual Meetings, organizing sessions and sitting on and chairing committees, since the early 1980's. It is remarkable that the Institute, during that time, has been unable to "officially" determine why the majority of us belong. (The vast majority of members don't respond to surveys.)

When I reflect on what has kept me paying dues for over 40 years, I believe we simply want to be identified as chemical engineers and want chemical engineering to be a recognized, independent and respected profession. Had I been writing a statement two years ago, my whole position would have been, "No ACS merger." If you agree with me, I'd like your vote.

If we focus on maintaining and advancing chemical engineering, it will keep us out of the dubious adventures and initiatives that brought AIChE perilously close to dissolution — and you can't have a credible profession without a professional society. Although the recent Draconian (but probably unavoidable), fiscal measures seem to have averted any immediate financial threat, we are still a profession in jeopardy.

The Institute's Project Genesis correctly identified biological engineering, sustainable engineering and what the rest of the world calls nanotechnology as the current trifecta of emerging technologies. AIChE has taken steps — some quite good — to establish a presence in these areas. We need to do more of this, and do it better and smarter, but we must not fall into the trap of believing that any one of these emerging areas is so powerful that we need to reinvent ourselves as, for example, biochemical, green chemical or nano-chemical engineers. These will not be the last new technologies to come along. And the core technologies of chemical production and petroleum refining will not be going away, nor will unit operations or engineering sciences.

Retaining our identity as chemical engineers, in all these multi-disciplinary fields should be nothing new to us — we have co-existed with chemistry for 100 years — but balancing the interests of members in both these new and traditional fields will be the near-term political challenge for the Institute. There are, of course, many other problems facing chemical engineering and AIChE, but all of these are subsidiary to preservation of the profession.

Subhas K. Sikdar

I am Acting Associate Director for Health at the National Risk Management Research Laboratory of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I started my research career at Occidental Research Corp., and spent the last 25 years in managing technology research at General Electric, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the EPA. After completing baccalaureate degrees both in chemistry and chemical technologies, I earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Arizona, Tucson. My professional experience is broad, comprising process development in inorganic and organic technologies in industry, and engineering metrology at NIST. At EPA, I have championed the promise of cleaner technologies, pollution prevention and sustainability. Because of this interest I founded AIChE's Sustainable Engineering Forum. I have also participated in the Research

and New Technology Committee (RANTC) and since last year in the SIOC. I founded a NATO Pilot Project, Clean Products and Processes, in 1998 and remain its Director. To promote cleaner technologies, I edit an international journal, *Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy*, published by Springer-Verlag. I served as a Board member of the Council for Chemical Research and the Green Chemistry Institute. I continue to serve on advisory councils of a number of U.S. and foreign universities. I am a Fellow of AAAS and AIChE.

As a Board member, I would add my voice to the belief that the core of chemical engineering is truly enabling to many of the technology trends that offer enormous opportunity for more efficient use of material, energy and other resources. In particular I would focus on

- Selling a compelling value proposition to graduates who work in non-traditional areas and prefer not to remain members.
- Emphasizing cleaner products, processes, and sustainability.
- Providing a strong leadership in energy technologies, including technologies that are neutral to climate change.
- Providing a home for those who work in biotech and microelectronics industries
- Striving to establish leadership in nanotechnologies and their environmental implications.
- Working harder to expand leadership in the international arena.
- Providing programming opportunities to government laboratories.

Globalization presents newer challenges and opportunities for chemical engineering, and as the custodian of the profession, AIChE should show the way for solving many of the design and manufacturing problems that confront us in the U.S. and abroad.

Cheryl I. Teich

I am a late bloomer in actively participating in the AIChE. I have been a member since graduating MIT, but always managed to stay on the sidelines. In the parlance of communities of practice, I was a "lurker," taking from the network but not contributing. That changed at the 1998 Annual Meeting, when my Rohm and Haas colleague and mentor, Al Leviton, invited me to a meeting of the (then) Process Development Group (12). The meeting was attended by people from a wide range of industries and academia who believed that Process Development deserved an AIChE platform and were dedicated to achieving that goal. The Process Development Group, (which achieved Division status in 2000) became my home within the AIChE.

With the encouragement of my new-found network, I grew from co-chairing sessions to chairing a National Meeting (Spring 2005 Meeting Program Chair). I am currently 2nd Vice Chair of the Executive Board of the Programming Committee (EBPC), tracking to EBPC Chair in 2008. I maintain a leadership connection within Process Development by serving as Awards Chair. I am greatly honored by the nomination to run for the AIChE Board of Directors.

My experience in the Process Development Division has taught me how much volunteers can accomplish if they have a goal and an exciting project, and believe they can make a difference. I believe the AIChE's future depends on how well we can design our programs and projects to meet this test.

Process Development Practitioners are "expert generalists" or "general experts" who apply their chemical engineering expertise to deliver products. We start with agreeing on goals and then move to possible solutions. The approach can be applied generally to problem solving, be it developing new energy sources, delivering new products, or growing membership, and even selecting the project portfolio. As a senior engineer in Rohm and Haas' Engineering Technical Center, I use these tools every day in delivering technology solutions to our varied business units.

Chemical engineers' common background and language gives us the ability to focus on key issues and provide feasible solutions. My goal is to use my profession's discipline to identify the programs that will expand chemical engineers' influence and demonstrate to our members and to non-affiliated chemical engineers that the AIChE is a place where they can belong, contribute and make a difference.

Wendy Young

I began my AIChE journey by holding several different officer positions within my Texas A&M University student chapter. My experience includes chemical manufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and technical sales. I am presently an Account Manager for Baker Petrolite in Houston.

Being an active member of my professional society has always seemed like the right thing to do. It is this sentiment that needs to become more common among our fellow chemical engineers to help reverse the annual decline in AIChE membership. To accomplish this, I believe AIChE needs to reach out to chemical engineers at all stages: young children considering their future careers; current college students; and those advancing in their careers.

Recent statistics show that the U.S. graduates significantly fewer numbers of engineers than many countries with which we compete. AIChE must respond to this trend. I am on the K-12 Outreach planning committee recently organized by the South Texas Section. Many sections have active K-12 outreach programs, but this effort could gain more momentum by organization on a national level to promote sharing of ideas.

AIChE has energized student chapters! So, why is it that according to recent membership statistics, members under 30 are the most difficult age group to retain? My efforts with AIChE's Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB), of which I was the Chair from June 2003 until July 2005, are addressing this very issue. To educate students about what AIChE can offer them after graduation, YPAB representatives are taking prominent roles in the national and regional student conferences. For connecting with recent graduates, the YPAB is encouraging and guiding local sections to form Young Professionals Groups that plan social and technical events specific to what young engineers are looking for. I started the Young Professionals Group for the South Texas Section in 2002 and continue as its Chair.

Chemical engineers' needs will change as their careers advance. One way to support their continued AIChE participation is to have buy-in from their management. Companies are willing to pay dues, send employees to conferences, and encourage volunteering for AIChE if the company feels like they are getting something in return. AIChE needs to enhance relationships with upper management of chemical engineering employers by reviving and empowering an Industry Advisory Council.

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work on these and other initiatives as one of your Directors. Together we can strengthen and grow our professional society.

To enable members to make informed selections for the upcoming AIChE election, the candidates have provided overviews of their experience, as well as their plans for future programs and directions for the Institute. These messages are in each candidate's own words. Director candidate statements will appear in the July issue of *AIChExtra*. Following publication in *AIChExtra*, statements will be posted at http://www.aiche.org/candidates.

Voting dates and deadlines: Ballots will be mailed on *August 28*. Electronic proxy will also be available on this date. Directions on electronic proxy will be included with the ballot and emailed to members with email addresses on file. All ballots must be received by *October 2*. The Teller's Committee will meet to verify the results of the election on *October 9*. Election results will be announced in November at AIChE's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, and in the December issue of *AIChExtra*.

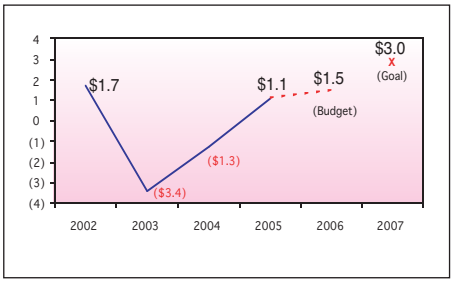
AIChE Gets Back on the Right Financial Track

After implementing an aggressive plan to turnaround its finances, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) now has $1 million in net assets and can boast that it has become an even stronger organization.

The organization tackled the challenge of redirecting its financial performance by adopting techniques often considered standard for corporations, but not associations. The result: AIChE is meeting financial goals ahead of projections, boosting attendance at its meetings, publishing more information more quickly, and has even been able to add news services for members.

Nearly three years ago, in a sluggish economy, AIChE was on a troubled financial course after several years of operating deficits. The leaders of the Institute, the respected professional association for more than 40,000 chemical engineers around the world, responded with a restructuring plan that allowed the organization to make steady, yearly progress while continuing to serve members.

By 2004, the deficit had turned into a budget surplus. Last year, the association met another financial goal by seeing positive net assets. In fact, AIChE has made substantial progress toward its goal of accumulating $3 million in net assets by the end of 2007.



"We are not only in a position to celebrate financial successes, but we are improving the services we provide to our members, particularly in the online arena," said John Sofranko, AIChE executive director. "We're expanding web-based access to technical information and opportunities for chemical engineers to collaborate. There's a renewed strength and purpose that everyone involved with AIChE seems to share," he added.

For example, Sofranko pointed out that, in the last few years, AIChE has launched a redesigned website with a host of resources for members. It has also greatly increased activities dealing with significant technical and societal issues, such as chemical plant safety, biological engineering, energy supply, and sustainability.

Sofranko said much of the success can be attributed to dedicated volunteers and staff and their enterprising ideas for reducing expenditures. These included leasing out three-fourths of its office space, reorganizing staff, reducing pension liabilities, and taking a hard look at other organizational costs and the ways in which programs traditionally ran. For example, subletting its New York City office space, is allowing the organization to save $1.4 million a year.

So far in 2006, membership has been stronger than anticipated and a national spring meeting last month in Florida — highlighting a major issue, the world's energy needs — drew a record number of attendees.

AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and to register visit www.aiche.org/Conferences/Calendar/index.aspx or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-212-591-8100 (outside the U.S.)

SBE's 2nd International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (ICBN)
September 5–7, 2006 • University of California in Santa Barbara • Santa Barbara, CA

Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium
September 10–14, 2006 • Hyatt Regency • Vancouver, Canada

The 38th Annual ECC Conference
September 13–16, 2006 • Hyatt Hill Country Resort • San Antonio, TX

2006 Annual Meeting
November 12–17, 2006 • San Francisco Hilton • San Francisco, CA

2007 Spring National Meeting
April 22–26, 2007 • Houston Hilton & George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, TX

2007 Annual Meeting
November 4–9, 2007 • Salt Lake City, UT

AIChExtra Correction

On p. 60 of the June 2006 issue, Michael Poirier was accidentally misidentified as Paul Fanning in Photo #6. Our apologies for the error and any inconvenience this may have caused.

OBITUARIES

Stanley B. Adler*, 89, Olympia, WA

Robert M. Brown, 85, Montclair, NJ

Robert M. Brown, 88, Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Charles H. Cuthbert, 89, Petersburg, VA

Muhammad E. Fayed*, 63, Toronto, Canada

Allan V. Forbes, 89, Pompano Beach, FL

Sidney Gale, 65, Colleyville, TX

Robert H. Giffen, 84, Bethel Park, PA

Rolland E. Johnson, 89, Tulsa, OK

Alfred Kobs, 87, Houston, TX

James D. Knox, 87, Ballwin, MO

S. J. Marwil, 85, San Antonio, TX

Lloyd R Michels, 90, San Jose, CA

Harold T. Mills, 55, Medford, MA

John D. Sherman, 70, Belmont, MA

* AIChE Fellow