

## AIChE 2008 Election: Making an Informed Decision

AIChE's Nominating Committee has announced the officers and directors slate for 2008. In the coming months, *CEP* will publish profiles of all the candidates that describe the candidates' qualifications and platforms. Profiles of president-elect and treasurer candidates will appear in the June issue, and candidates for director will be published in July.

The president-elect will be elected to a three-year term, serving one year as president-elect, president, and past-president, respectively. The Treasurer and Directors are elected for a three-year term. Voting by paper and electronic proxy ballot will begin August 20, and end September 24. To keep up to date on this year's election, visit: [www.aiche.org/election](http://www.aiche.org/election).

### President-Elect

*H. Scott Fogler*, Univ. of Michigan

*Rex Reklaitis*, Purdue University

### Treasurer

*Andre R. Da Costa*, Chevron

*Frederick J. Krambeck*, ReacTech

### Director

*James T. Cobb, Jr.*, Univ. of Pittsburgh

*L. Antonio Estevez*, Univ. of Puerto Rico

*Robert E. Hoch*, Hyperion Catalysis International, Inc.

*Robert C. Reintjes*, New England Equity Group

*Jennifer Sinclair Curtis*, Univ. of Florida

*John C. Tao*, Air Products

*Gavin P. Towler*, UOP

*Phillip R. Westmoreland*, NSF and Univ. of Massachusetts

### AIChE Board of Directors Election Guidelines

In order to keep campaigning on a high professional level and to maintain fairness to all candidates, the Institute will rely on the integrity of the candidates. The following are the election guidelines:

(1) Campaigns shall be reasonable in manner, inexpensive, personally oriented and financed by the candidates themselves (that is, not financed by any organization, company, university, or local section of AIChE).

(2) Campaign advertising will be limited to the candidate's personal statement presenting his/her qualifications and views as published in *CEP*, the standard campaign ad in *CEP*, and prescribed content on the AIChE web page. The web page or ad can provide an e-mail address of the candidate for more details on his/her positions, in order to foster a dialog between the candidate and the voting membership.

(3) Campaign committees of friends of the candidates may be formed, but all mailing costs are to be borne by individuals. Only limited paid clerical support is permitted for such contacts. E-mail contacts are permitted, but no address lists are to be provided by AIChE headquarters, local sections, or divisions.

(4) No local section, division, or committee shall be allowed to send out any candidate's campaign material in their official mailing, nor should they be allowed to support or oppose any candidates.

(5) Electioneering at AIChE meetings shall be prohibited. This includes distribution and posting of campaign materials.

The Board recognizes that it is not practical to develop a complete set of electioneering rules to develop and to police each candidate's professional vitality and integrity. The Board is convinced, however, that it can depend on the membership to enforce these regulations by voting only for candidates who observe them.

### Are You Interested in Running?

Members interested in running for the AIChE Board election or nominating a fellow member can sign up as a petition candidate.

Any Fellow, senior member, or 4-year member who is interested in running for president-elect, treasurer or director can file as a petition candidate with the Office of the Secretary by May 14, 2007. Nominees for president-elect and treasurer must have previously served as an AIChE officer or director.

Petition candidates must submit the support, in writing, of 100 or more Fellows, senior members, or members. This can be done by signing a petition or by e-mail. For more information on filing as a petition candidate, please contact [election@aiche.org](mailto:election@aiche.org).

### AIChE 2008 Election Timeline

**May 14, 2007**, Petition Candidate Cut-Off Date

**August 20, 2007**, Election Ballot Mailed

**September 24, 2007**, Ballot Receipt Deadline

**September 28, 2007**, Tellers Meeting

**November 5, 2007**, Election Results Announced at AIChE Annual Business Meeting to be held in Salt Lake City, UT

# Sharing Career Forum Know-How

Last September, the Coastal Bend local section and the Texas A&M-Kingsville student chapter held a successful career forum that helped to educate future chemical engineers about the wide range of possibilities that await them. "The career forum format worked very well in engaging the students and would be a great meeting for other local sections to try with students or young professionals," said Colleen Johnson, chair of the Coastal Bend section.

The forum started off with an informal networking dinner followed by "an overview and live demonstration of the capabilities of [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org) for career development and planning. Then each panelist spoke for several minutes and answered questions," said Johnson.



Coastal Bend Chapter and Texas A&M Kingsville Student Chapter Career Forum. From left to right: TAMUK student chapter officer Dylan Jay Toyip; TAMUK department chair Dr. Ali Pilehvari; panelists Mike Lyons and Juan Hernandez from Celanese; TAMUK's Dr. Horacio Duarte; student Paul James; chapter chair and forum moderator Colleen Johnson of Elementis Chromium; panelist Dr. Patrick Mills from TAMUK; panelist Dr. Steven Emerson from Emerson Technical Analysis; and panelist Adrian Davidson from CITGO.

To help students appreciate the full breadth of opportunities available to chemical engineers, the panelists shared their extensive range of experiences. The panelists (photo) included: a Kingsville graduate who practiced process engineering and now performs reliability work; an entrepreneur who raised the capital needed for building an entire chemical plant; an engineer who works in strategic planning, and who has worked in various areas of a refinery; another engineer who has made a career in the various aspects of a chemical plant; and one with experience in research and development, who is now a full-time professor. The forum was funded by the John J. McKetta ProjectConnect Grant. To apply for a grant, visit [www.aiche.org/LocalSections/Resources/PCGrant.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/LocalSections/Resources/PCGrant.aspx).

## Centennial Corner

### Beyond Textbooks

as told by Tom Fahidy

Shortly after graduation in the late 1950s, I began my summer job with a major chemical company. I had the rather pleasant assignment of revising design calculation protocols in their engineering standards, in view of the then new heat-transfer literature. The calculation of temperature profiles in certain condensers was particularly challenging, due to an involved iterative procedure, which, in the slide-rule age, required a lot of patience and tenacity.

I found, much to my distress, that even after thorough checking of numbers, the effective areas of these condensers were at least five times as large as predicted theoretically. Having been completely baffled by the consistency of this large discrepancy for several days, I finally asked my supervisor, an engineer with tremendous practical experience, if he could help me. Declining to see my calculations, he

smiled and said: "Tom, what is the pressure level in the condensers?" I was lucky to remember that it was quite near vacuum conditions. "Now you see," he continued, "you want to keep the pressure drop as small as possible, so you put in a lot of tubes. Who cares if the transfer area is very large? The condensate gets sub-cooled, of course, but so what? It would cool down on its own anyway." My face must have been at least pink, if not red, as I was slinking humbly back to my desk. It took me a few minutes to find numerically that he was, of course, absolutely right.

I am still fond of this memory, because it was my first lesson about the limitations of textbook-based knowledge and the value of practical experience and sound engineering thinking, which looks well beyond formulae and design algorithms. I think this message is valid, even in today's computer age.

## New Member Benefits

### Group 20-Year Level Term Life Insurance

Underwritten by the New York Life Insurance Co., here's term life insurance that you can depend on for a full 20 years with premiums that will not go up and benefits that will not go down. As with all AICHe Group Level Term Insurance products, there are no exclusions to coverage. For more details, visit <http://www.personal-plans.com/aiche/life/benefits/plan.do?planID=4073>

### LifeLock Identity Protection Program

Protect yourself, your spouse and your children with the LifeLock identity-theft prevention system. Backed by a \$1 million guarantee, LifeLock blocks the avenues thieves typically use to steal personal identities. Members pay only \$9/mo — 10% off the regular subscription price. For more information, go to <http://www.aiche.org/MemberCenter/protect/overview.aspx>

## 2nd SBE Student Conference

# Learning Valuable Lessons



### Special thanks to SBE Student Conference Sponsors

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### Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

SBE and UCLA professor James Liao obtained funding for the event, while UCLA chapter president, John Labick, pulled out all stops for this successful event, starting last spring when he contacted over 100 universities about the conference. He also filed petitions to book the unique-to-L.A., Gothic venue of Kerckhoff Hall, coordinated the hotel accommodations, arranged for career tables and an interview room for corporate sponsors, acted as host in UCLA's Westwood area and made all the catering arrangements.



1. Over 50 students attend the 2nd SBE Student Conference held at the Univ. of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).
- 2 & 3. Jeremy Guo, a student from UCLA, and Tove Rune, a student from the Technical Univ. of Denmark (DTU), share their thoughts with their fellow students.
4. Tove Delhi (left) and Rune Nordvang (right), students from DTU, travel abroad to attend the conference.
5. Chris Tostado, founder of the MIT student chapter, discusses his experiences in starting up a chapter.

Since its inception in late 2005, there are now several hundred student members actively participating in the nine student chapters of the Society for Biological Engineering (SBE). Anticipating further growth, SBE held its 2<sup>nd</sup> SBE Student Conference on Jan. 20 on the campus of the Univ. of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Organized by UCLA's student chapter, the conference attracted students from around the world to discuss issues of importance to them — how to start a chapter, academic career paths, and job opportunities in biotechnology. Represented schools included Tec de Monterrey of Mexico, Technical Univ. of Denmark, Illinois Univ., Oregon State Univ., Ohio State Univ., Johns Hopkins Univ., Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Univ. of California at Davis, Univ. of California at Riverside, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Princeton Univ. and Stanford Univ.

After introductions among the attendees, Chris Tostado, founder of the MIT student chapter, discussed the hurdles he overcame to start up a chapter. In particular, he faced an uphill battle in getting his school to initially recognize the SBE chapter. Tostado advised students “to be patient when obstacles arise and to work with their professors to gain financial support.”

Regarding SBE events, Tostado suggested differentiating the SBE chapter from other engineering chapters, such as AIChE, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists

(AAPS) or Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). Felicia Guglielmi, AIChE's director of volunteer activities, explained that the relationship with AIChE chapters can be as close or as distant as students want. “There is no exact recipe. The relationship between the chapters needs to fit the school,” added Jean-Francois Hamel, SBE's director of student affairs.

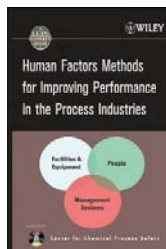
Moving onto the subject of academic career paths, Baley Fong, founder of the SBE student chapter at UCLA, discussed her recent experience in Princeton Univ.'s master's degree program. She described the importance of picking an advisor. From the faculty advisors' point of view, Tatiana Segura of UCLA, Wilfred Chen of UC Riverside and Karen McDonald of UC Davis detailed the opportunities at their schools for further study.

Wrapping up the conference, representatives from Amgen and Genentech talked about the many opportunities for biological and chemical engineers at their companies. They explained the jobs available and the corporate culture, including the many perks of working for such profitable, growing companies. June Wispelwey, SBE's executive director, exclaimed, “This conference was a wonderful follow up to our first conference at MIT, as it built upon the tremendous base of existing student chapters.” For more information, visit <http://www.aiche.org/SBE/Students/index.aspx>.



## New CCPS Safety Books

### Human Factors Methods for Improving Performance in the Process Industries



Contained within this book are the information and tools you need to design and implement a human factors program that protects workers and maximizes the performance and productivity of your operations. Moreover, the book explains how to optimize existing human factors programs, rather than start from scratch. You get specific strategies and tactics to comply with the OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) requirements for conducting human factors reviews in process hazard analyses (PHAs). This book is rich with examples, anecdotes, visual aids, and references that enable you set your plans into action. A CD-ROM with a color version of the book is included. ISBN 0-470-11754-0 • 20% discounted AIChE member and CCPS sponsor price \$79.76 (use promotion code AIChE).

### Guidelines for Pre-Start-Up Safety Review



Pre-startup safety review (PSSR) is the methodical analysis of a facility or operating unit to ensure no hazardous situations occur before operating a facility or plant. This book guides readers through the integration of the PSSR throughout the project or turnaround phases of plant operations, with a verification check at the traditional PSSR step. A CD containing a customizable checklist and useful PSSR forms is provided with the book to help readers implement the pre-startup safety review process. This book is expected to be available at the AIChE Spring National Meeting in Houston, TX (Apr. 22–25).

## New Faces of Engineering

Each year, the National Engineers Week Foundation asks its members to nominate colleagues 30 years old and younger for the annual New Faces of Engineering. The nominees are those who have truly changed the world for the better in remarkable ways. From those nominated, the Foundation announces the 15 men and women selected to be the New Faces of Engineering during Engineers Week (Feb. 18–24).



This year, AIChE's nominee for the New Face of Engineering is Dr. Sarah Arsenault, a senior research engineer at the United Technologies Research Center in East Hartford, CT. In this capacity, she has taken on task leadership roles for fuel cells and hydrogen storage technologies.

Working on the solid-oxide fuel cell (SOFC) team, Arsenault was recognized in 2005 for innovative development of SOFC stack technology for power generation of the future, culminating in successful design and demonstration of a 1-kW cell stack. Safe, effective storage of hydrogen is a critical objective for the development of automotive fuel cells. Arsenault was responsible for driving the design and development of a subscale hydrogen-storage prototype system for fuel cell vehicles.

When not developing next generation environmentally-friendly products, you might find Arsenault active in the local chapter of AIChE or out on the slopes. She hopes to get back to racing slalom with the Connecticut Industrial Ski Council once she completes her MBA from Carnegie Mellon Univ. in 2008.

To find out more about AIChE-related E-week activities visit <http://www.aiche.org/eweek.aspx>. For more information about E-week, go to <http://www.eweek.org/>.

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William G. Siedenburt, 88, New York, NY

\* Fellow member