

AICHe Boston Local Section — Career Development Workshop Series Sharpening Softer Skills

Tackling technical challenges may be no problem for many engineers, but when it comes to soft skills, such as the art of negotiation or creative thinking, that's another story. To better serve its members, the Boston local section recently launched a career development program that specifically addresses these soft skills.

"The Boston section has held professional development workshops before, such as the informative pumping and mixing seminars run by Dave Eckhart, but this year is the first time we've focused on the 'people skills' needed for career advancement," explains Rob Reintjes, past section chair and current board of directors candidate. "In addition to expanding our services to members, a number of people who had not previously attended monthly meetings became active members," he continues. One attendee raved, "The Career Search workshop was definitely worth coming to, even from Providence, RI, a one-hour drive. I especially enjoyed the exercises, as I need to practice the probing/networking related conversation skills...I'm interested in knowing more about the [local section] monthly meetings you [Rob] mentioned."

The series of 10 workshops (Box) were coordinated by Marian Mailloux, president of Connected Visions, in conjunction with the Career and Professional Services (CAPS) committee run by Kannan Vembu, section vice chair. CAPS was founded last year by James Cross, current section chair. Cross stated that "the CAPS committee objectives are to facilitate matching employers with job-seekers for mutual benefit, and to emphasize the importance of continual professional development. This series was the first step toward realizing those goals."

"We were interested in providing workshops that addressed a wide range



(Left) Larry Evans, AICHe President, receives a "prize" [bottle of non-alcoholic champagne] from Marian Mailloux, the workshop series coordinator. (Above) Pick a card, any card... Rob Reintjes shows a special deck of "Ichthyologist" playing cards created to teach selling to job seekers.

The Lineup

- The first four sessions were based on a leadership program taught by presenter Partha Ghosh at the MIT Sloane School of Business (www.parthaghosh.com).
- Robin Charbit presented three sessions on how to increase individual capacity for creative thought and problem-solving (www.insightmanagement-partners.com).
- Janet Britcher offered workshops on neurolinguistic programming and delegation skills. (www.transformationmanagement.com).
- Carlton Soo Hoo (www.panospin.com) and Rob Reintjes (www.newenglandequity.com) presented a Career Search workshop.

of relevant topics", says Mailloux. "It is important to assist the students, who are getting ready to enter the job market, as well as professionals looking to sharpen skills to keep current in a highly competitive environment."

Andy Irwin, section past chair and president of Irwin Engineers felt his company benefited from the workshops. "As an employer, I found great value for my employees and for myself in attending the career workshops together and then applying the learning in our daily operations. Mailloux has brought an added dimension to the local section with those 'soft' aspects that are the hardest to master, such as delegation, communication and working together more effectively."

Reintjes adds: "Thanks to Carlton, Partha and Robin, who provided their programs at no cost to the section, and Cabot Corp., TIAX and the Tufts University Chemical Engineering Dept., which provided free meeting space, we were able to generate \$1,800 in profits. These revenues were used to help cover the costs of the AICHe New England Student Regional Conference this year."

Find out more

If you are interested in setting up a similar workshop series for your section, or have an interest in the field of sustainability and green engineering, feel free to contact Marian Mailloux at marian@connectedvisions.com.

George Liebermann Honored with Engineering Excellence Award

George Liebermann, senior engineering fellow at Xerox Research Centre of Canada, is the recipient of the prestigious 2007 Ontario Society of Professional Engineers' (OSPE) Engineering Excellence Medal in the Engineering Excellence Category. This award recognizes Liebermann's overall excellence in the practice of engineering and service to the profession, society and the community.



2004 chair of the Executive Board of Programming Committee (EBPC). He will be the 2008 chair of the Chemical Engineering Technology Operating Council (CTOC).

Liebermann will receive the Award at a special dinner and ceremony organized by Professional Engineers

A Fellow of AIChE, Liebermann was the founding chair of the Process Development Group (Division) and the

Ontario (PEO) and OSPE on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at The Carlu in Toronto, Ontario. For more information, visit www.ospe.on.ca/opeawards_2007_recipients.html.

AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and registration details, visit www.aiche.org/conferences or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-203-702-7660 (outside the U.S.)

2007 Ammonia Conference

September 16–20 • Loews Lake Las Vegas • Henderson, NV

2007 AIChE Annual Meeting

November 4–9 • Salt Palace Convention Center • Salt Lake City, UT

2008 SBE's International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering

January 20–23, 2008 • Coronado Island Marriott Resort • Coronado, CA

2008 Spring National Meeting

April 6–10, 2008 • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, LA

2008 Ammonia Conference

September 7–11, 2008 • Hyatt Regency • San Antonio, TX

2008 AIChE Annual Meeting

November 16–21, 2008 • Philadelphia Marriott & Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, PA

OBITUARIES

George W. Bernard, 74, Phoenix, AZ

Susan D. Brandes, 53, South Windsor, CT

Lee E. Brecher, 66, Laramie, WY

Harold E. Ferrin, 90, Mill Valley, CA

Patrick G. Grimes, 78, Scotch Plains, NJ

Harrison L. Kalbach, 89, Bryn Mawr, PA

F. Owen Kubias*, 80, Rocky River, OH

Jean P. Leinroth, 87, Wilton, CT

Henry Noritake, 86, Oak Ridge, TN

Robert L. Porter*, 90, Anaheim, CA

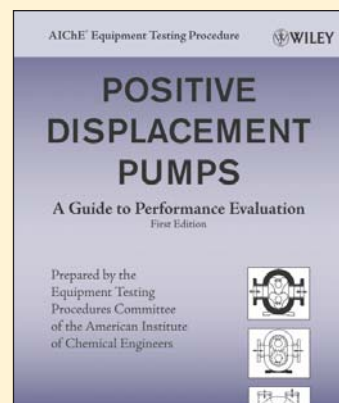
C. W. Roos, 80, Auburn, AL

Barney Vallino, 79, Naperville, IL

Roy F. Weston, 96, Newton Square, PA

Daniel M. Whitley, 84, Fullerton, CA

* Fellow



AIChE/WILEY PRESS RELEASES BOOK ON POSITIVE DISPLACEMENT PUMPS

The first edition of "Positive Displacement Pumps: A Guide to Performance Evaluation" (ISBN 978-0-470-18097-6; list price, \$39.95; *member price, \$32.00*), which was prepared by AIChE's Equipment Testing Procedures Committee (ETPC), is now available.

This latest manual in the ETPC series provides pump users with concise, easy-to-follow procedures for testing various types of pumps. It covers both traditional and state-of-the-art testing methods by taking into account the "imperfect" realities of actual plant conditions. As a mentoring guide for practicing chemical engineers, it serves as a bridge between textbook and manufacturer's literature. User-friendly and complete with numerous helpful illustrations and tables, it offers standardized methods of performing acceptance tests on new equipment, calculating its optimum use, and collecting accurate data for maintenance and troubleshooting.

The book can be purchased from Wiley's Customer Care Center (Phone: 877-762-2974; Fax: 800-597-3299; Web: <http://support.wiley.com>).