

## AIChE 2009 Election: Exercise Your Right to Vote

AIChE's Nominating Committee has announced the slate of candidates for the officer and director positions for 2009. In the coming months, *CEP* will publish profiles of all the candidates that describe their qualifications and platforms. Profiles of president-elect 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. The directors are elected for a three-year term. Voting by paper and electronic proxy ballot will begin September 2, and end October 7. To keep up-to-date on this year's election, visit: [www.aiche.org/election](http://www.aiche.org/election).

### President-Elect

*Henry T. (Hank) Kohlbrand*, Dow Chemical Co.

*Otis A. Shelton*, Praxair, Inc.

### Director

*Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.*, DuPont Co.

*Brian S. Daly*, CDTech

*E. Dennis Griffith*, Kellogg Brown & Root

*George Liebermann*, Xerox Research Centre of Canada

*Joann S. Lighty*, Univ. of Utah

*Michael F. Malone*, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst

*Christine B. Seymour*, Pfizer

*Neil Yeoman*, Koch-Glitsch, Inc. (retired)

### 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 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 another member can sign up as a petition candidate.

Any Fellow, senior member, or 4-year member who is interested in running for president-elect or director can file as a petition candidate with the Office of the Secretary by May 27, 2008. Nominees for president-elect 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 written petition or by e-mail. For more information on filing as a petition candidate, please contact [election@aiiche.org](mailto:election@aiiche.org).

### AIChE 2009 Election Timeline

**May 27, 2008:** Petition Candidate Cut-Off Date

**September 2, 2008:** Election Ballot Mailed

**October 7, 2008:** Ballot Receipt Deadline

**October 14, 2008:** Tellers Meeting

**November 17, 2008:** Election Results Announced at AIChE Annual Business Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

## Society for Biological Engineering Provides a Home for Both New and Established Members

**A**IChE's Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) — a technical community devoted to advancing the integration of biology and engineering — recently conducted the First International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering, another in a series of successful SBE conferences and project launches. The January 2008 conference exceeded attendees' expectations, adding to the momentum and accomplishments of this rapidly expanding sector of the AIChE universe.

Since its creation in 2004, the SBE ([www.aiche.org/SBE/](http://www.aiche.org/SBE/)) has brought a sense of community to biotechnology and bioengineering professionals internationally, and across industry and academia.

The quality, variety and frequency of the Society's programs has generated enthusiasm and strong participation. In 2007, membership in the SBE rose by a third, to nearly 1,900. New conferences like the First International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering and the First International Conference on Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Development proved popular for their renowned speakers and opportunities for networking. The number of SBE volunteers — needed to sustain and build on past successes, like the International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology — is growing.

In addition to building productive connections between chemical engineers and bio scientists, the SBE has created a new locus of membership activity — for both established AIChE members, and for new SBE members who have not yet joined AIChE. One of the more popular social events at the AIChE Annual Meeting has become SBE's hospitality suite. Many members and non-members regularly visit the SBE's electronic job postings to discover new career opportunities.

George Belfort, a professor of chemical and biological engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and an SBE Managing Board member, says that the SBE offers a "home" in AIChE to a growing segment of the chemical engineering community.

"The SBE is one of the things that has rejuvenated and modernized AIChE," says Belfort. "Many chemical engineers were drifting away from AIChE to ACS or to specialty societies, which were offering a stronger mix of the latest ideas in bio — such as high-throughput methods, new genomics approaches, and systems analysis for biological reactions. With the founding of SBE, this situation has changed radically. We are now running some of the most successful workshops and meetings on biotechnology subjects, such as biomolecular engineering, recovery advances, stem cell technology and nanobiotechnology."

The SBE is also helping to build future leaders. "Univ-

ersities have established graduate and undergraduate SBE chapters, including a new one at RPI. The future looks very bright," says Belfort.

Skip Rochefort, a professor at Oregon State Univ. (OSU) and a leader of AIChE's Student Chapters Committee, helped to establish the first undergraduate student chapter of the SBE.

"The SBE has provided a very welcome professional affiliation for our undergraduate bioengineering students," says Rochefort. "Over the last five years, the OSU Chemical Engineering Department has 'morphed' into the School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering. Merging the 'cultures' of these three similar but distinct undergraduate engineering programs has, at times, been a challenge."

Rochefort says that the SBE has helped his department and students negotiate this shift in program emphasis, which is evident at many chemical engineering schools. Within his department, "chemical and environmental engineering students participate in AIChE, while bioengineering students now have an SBE affiliation. This has proved to be an excellent tool for uniting the student groups, while providing an individual identity for each of the majors. This has really increased our student participation on the local level," he says.

Bio professionals like Robin Ng of Plantation, FL, attest to the benefits of active involvement, for himself and his colleagues. "Most of the SBE's events are for educational purposes, but the networks and the opportunity to know people in the industry are the most rewarding thing of all — both personally and professionally," says Ng.

SBE groups on the local and national level have a full slate of programs in development, designed to connect people, cultivate knowledge, and catalyze the future. Among the many projects for 2008, the Society is making final arrangements for the Fourth International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology ([www.aiche.org/ICBN](http://www.aiche.org/ICBN)), July 22–24, in Dublin, Ireland. This conference marks the first overseas conference for AIChE in many years.

Sang Yup Lee, a professor at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, feels that the SBE is an important international platform for advancing biotechnology and bioengineering. "SBE conferences and workshops have been impressively successful. I believe that SBE will be playing an increasingly important role in connecting academia and industry to achieve the new bio-based economy throughout the world."

Visit the SBE website for complete information on upcoming and past programs — [www.aiche.org/SBE](http://www.aiche.org/SBE). To volunteer, share ideas, and show your support, e-mail [bio@aiche.org](mailto:bio@aiche.org).

## Koros Awarded Innovation in Membrane Science and Technology Prize

A IChE Member William J. Koros, a professor and chair of the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, recently received the 2008 Alan S. Michaels Award for Innovation in Membrane Science and Technology. The Michaels Award, sponsored by the North American Membrane Society (NAMS), recognizes outstanding innovations and exceptional lifetime contributions to membrane science and technology. The award is given once every three years and is named after Dr. Alan Michaels, whose contributions were instrumental in making membrane processes a broadly applicable and practical technology platform.

Koros was honored for his seminal research in polymer materials for

advanced, membrane-based separations. His work has had a deep impact on both fundamental and applied concepts related to polymer-membrane-based gas separation for energy-efficient air separation, hydrogen purification, and natural gas separation. He helped develop the theoretical framework forming the basis of the modern understanding of small-molecule transport in polymers. His contributions to materials science design concepts are widely used in industry for making gas separation membranes. He has also conducted pioneering studies of hybrid organic/inorganic materials (mixed matrix membranes) for gas-separation applications.

The Michaels Award also recognized Koros for his contributions to

education. He has mentored more than 100 PhD, MS and postdoctoral students, many of whom have also made

important contributions to the field of membrane science and technology.

A Fellow of AIChE, Koros has served on AIChE's Chemical Engineering Technology Operating Council (CTOC), as chair of the Separations Division and as chair of the Publications Committee. He is a recipient of the Separations Division's Clarence Gerhold Award, and the Institute's Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology.



## SACHE Opens Certificate Program to Undergraduates

Safety and Chemical Engineering Education (SACHE; <http://sache.org>) — a collaboration between AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and engineering schools — has launched a certification program for undergraduate student members of AIChE who demonstrate proficiency in SACHE process safety training modules.

The SACHE Student Safety Certificate Program is supported by ScaleUp ([www.aiche.org/scaleup/](http://www.aiche.org/scaleup/)), AIChE's corporate-funded student member initiative that provides complimentary AIChE membership to undergraduates.

Since the early 1990s, SACHE has made its process safety modules available to universities and the process safety community. Schools that join SACHE receive access to the modules, which are designed primarily for use by professors. The modules introduce concepts of process safety into the classroom, and give chemical engineering students a basic foundation in process safety literacy that they will be required to apply in their future engineering work. The safety modules also find application outside the classroom, in seminars and tutorials for engineering professionals.

Through AIChE's ScaleUp program, the SACHE safety modules are now available to all schools with an AIChE student

chapter. The certificate option allows student AIChE members to access the modules from their home computers and study them at their convenience. An online quiz will help to verify the lessons learned. Upon successful completion of the module, students will be awarded a certificate of achievement. This accomplishment will be shared with students' schools, as well as with companies sponsoring the AIChE ScaleUp program.

Professors will still be encouraged to use the safety modules in class, and may direct students to take the quizzes afterwards.

The first module in the safety certificate program, "Safety in Chemical Process Industries," was created by Dan Crowl, a SACHE member and a professor at Michigan Tech Univ. The video and study guide present an overview of chemical process safety technology in an actual chemical facility. Topics include laboratory safety inspections, personal protective equipment, process area safety features and procedures, methods for characterizing runaway reactions, equipment and methods to characterize flammable dusts and vapors, and informal and formal safety reviews.

SACHE and ScaleUp plan to add more modules to the Student Safety Certificate Program. For details, visit <http://sache.org>, or contact Lowell Apelbaum at [lowea@aiiche.org](mailto:lowea@aiiche.org).

## Chen to Receive Award for Excellence in Catalysis



**J**inguang G. Chen, an AIChE Member and director of the Univ. of Delaware's Center for Catalytic Science and Technology, has won the 2008 Award for Excellence in

Catalysis, presented by the Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York.

He is being recognized for his work in understanding the physical and chemical properties of bimetallic and metal carbide surfaces, which has inspired new applications of fundamental studies to catalytic and fuel cell processes.

Chen is the cofounder and principal investigator of the Synchrotron Catalysis Consortium at the National Synchrotron Light Source, Brookhaven National Laboratory. He is a member of the board of directors of the North American Catalysis Society and also serves as the catalysis secretary-general of the American Chemical Society.

Chen will present an Excellence in Catalysis Award lecture at a May 21 ceremony to be sponsored by the Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York. For more details, visit [www.nycsweb.org](http://www.nycsweb.org)

## Murphy to Receive Safety and Health Division's Walton/Miller Award

**J**ohn F. Murphy, a process safety consultant based in Punta Gorda, FL, is the recipient of the AIChE Safety and Health Division's 2008 Norton H. Walton/Russell L. Miller Award. The Award recognizes outstanding chemical engineering contributions and achievements in the areas of loss prevention, safety and health.

A chemical engineering alumnus of Tufts Univ. with an MBA from Central Michigan Univ., Murphy spent nearly 30 years working for the Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport, TX, retiring in 1996 as senior process safety associate. After Dow, he held positions at RMT, Inc., and Wilfred Baker Engineering, Inc., specializing in process safety and risk assessment. From 2000 to 2005, he was an investigator for the U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). He now consults independently.

Murphy's service to the safety community and the Institute is extensive. He is a staff consultant to the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS),

where he has been involved in several subcommittees. He is on the editorial board of *Process Safety Progress* and a leader of the Safety and Health Div., which he chaired in 2000. He remains active in AIChE's Area 11A Loss Prevention Symposium programming; he was Symposium Chair in 2003, and has presented papers at numerous sessions.

Murphy is affiliated with the National Fire Protection Association's Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code Committee and is a member of the Reactivity Management Roundtable.



### Are you in the news?

Tell *CEP* about your recent award or latest research. Or share information on innovative new programs you think members would like to hear about. E-mail us at [cepedit@aiiche.org](mailto:cepedit@aiiche.org).

## Cobb Appointed Acting Director of Energy Institute

**J**ames T. Cobb, Jr., an associate professor emeritus at the Univ. of Pittsburgh, has been appointed acting director of the Univ. of Pittsburgh at Bradford's new Energy Institute. Cobb will develop the Institute, which is being set up to foster the study of both traditional fossil-fuel applications and renewable energy sources for the benefit of student learning, commercial projects and the regional economy. Possible future projects for the Energy Institute include creating biodiesel fuel or lubricants from plant oils, gasification technology, experimental wind turbines, and converting municipal solid waste into energy.

Cobb has been a faculty member in the Univ. of Pittsburgh's Dept. of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering since 1970. His current research involves the development,

evaluation, demonstration and commercialization of wood- and grass-energy projects. He also consults on projects related to biomass energy and has published numerous articles on turning biomass into gas.

Cobb is a Fellow of AIChE, with a long history of Institute service. He is past chair of the Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC), past chair of the Professional Development Committee, a member of the Institute for Sustainability, and has been active in the Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Div., the Environmental Div., the Fuels and Petrochemicals Div., and the Safety and Health Div.



## Smolke is Sloan Research Fellow

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has named Christina D. Smolke, an AIChE Member and assistant professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, a Sloan Research Fellow. Smolke is among 118 faculty members from 64 colleges and universities in North America who were honored for conducting research at the frontiers of physics, chemistry, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, and neuroscience.



Smolke's work involves understanding how cells respond to their environment and tapping into that knowledge to make them change their function. Her laboratory at Caltech uses interdisciplinary approaches to build cells to reprogram the immune system to recognize and target specific cancer cells, and to construct molecules that can attack only diseased cells.

First awarded in 1955, the Sloan Research Fellowships support the work of exceptional young researchers early in their academic careers, and often at pivotal stages in their work. Thirty-five Sloan Research Fellows have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in their fields.

For a complete list of Fellowship winners, visit [www.sloan.org](http://www.sloan.org).

## Ernest F. Johnson — 1918–2008

Ernest F. Johnson, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Princeton Univ., died Feb. 2 at age 89.



Johnson was an admired and respected teacher, researcher and friend to the Princeton community for 60 years. An expert in process control, nuclear fusion power and hazardous-waste management, Johnson earned his bachelor's degree from Lehigh Univ. in 1940, and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Pennsylvania in 1949. He joined the Princeton faculty in 1948, and over the decades held a variety of leadership positions at the department and university level — including a period as acting department chair. From 1955 until his retirement in 1986, he was closely affiliated with Princeton's Plasma Physics Laboratory.

The Lehigh Univ. Alumni Association honored him in 2000 with its Alumni Award, the organization's highest honor. During National Engineers Week in 1993, Johnson was named New Jersey Engineer of the Year, and in 1994 he received a lifetime achievement award for engineering education.

His legacy at Princeton includes the Ernest Johnson Award, established in 1985 by AIChE's Central Jersey Local Section and presented annually to a graduating senior deemed to have displayed exemplary character, service, spirit and leadership.

Memorial gifts may be made in Johnson's name to Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08542, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

## AIChE Conference Calendar

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

**2008 AIChE & ACS Spring National Meetings and Exhibitions**  
April 6–10, 2008 • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, LA

**CCPS 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Process Safety Conference & Expo**  
May 27–29, 2008 • Sheraton Hotel & Convention Center • Buenos Aires, Argentina  
• [www.ccps2008.com.ar/](http://www.ccps2008.com.ar/)

**2008 Process Development Symposium:  
Chemical Product Engineering — The Third Paradigm**  
June 22–25, 2008 • Jiminy Peak Resort • The Berkshires, Hancock, MA

**SBE's 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Bioengineering and Nanotechnology**  
July 22–24, 2008 • University College, Dublin & Stillorgan Park Hotel • Dublin, Ireland

**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

**2009 Spring National Meeting**  
April 26–30, 2009 • Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL

## OBITUARIES

Satya R. Chatterjee, 68, Houston, TX

Jack H. Haight, 61, Tulsa, OK

Ernest F. Johnson\*, 89, Princeton, NJ

Charles W. Sandy, 65, Edinboro, PA

Chester J. Walsh, 79, El Dorado Hills, CA

\*Fellow