



Women's Initiatives Committee Newsletter

Message From the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored and privileged to assume the role of the chair of the Women's Initiatives Committee for the year 2014. I am extremely grateful to my predecessor, Defne Kayrak Talay, for her leadership and outstanding contributions to WIC and the members of the Executive Committee. The growth of WIC has been propelled collectively by the individuals and all the past chairs and past members of the WIC Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing this important work towards fulfilling the mission of WIC.

During this and the following years, WIC will continue to promote entry, development, and

full participation of women in the Institute and the profession. We will continue to offer workshops targeted at undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and assistant professors and organize the networking luncheon. WIC is also planning new activities which will focus on freshman and sophomore students and is working on establishing joint programming with other AIChE Committees.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors for contributing to WIC and making our events possible.

Yours sincerely,
Selma Mededovic Thagard
Assistant Professor, Clarkson University

2014 AIChE Spring Meeting Announcement New Orleans, LA March 30—April 3

Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) Luncheon

Monday, March 31, 2014, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

"Finding Your Grail, the Beyoncé Turn, and Career Satisfaction"

Presented by **Cheryl Teich**, Reaction Engineering Expertise Leader at The Dow Chemical Company



Our luncheon will feature keynote speaker Cheryl Teich. Cheryl Teich is the Reaction Engineering Expertise Leader in Dow Chemical's Engineering Solutions Technology Center. Cheryl served on AIChE's Board of Directors; she is a found-

ing member of the Process Development Division, an AIChE Fellow and a Trustee of the AIChE Foundation. Recently, Cheryl has been named 2014 AIChE president-elect. Cheryl will be talking about her career path, obstacles she had to overcome and also share advice for

achieving a successful career.

This luncheon is priced at \$20 and advanced registration is required. If you haven't yet registered for the meeting, you can add this ticketed event when you register. If you have already registered for the meeting, please call Customer Service at 800-242-4363 or 203-702-7660 (outside of US) to add this event referencing item #102.

Please join us for a great opportunity to meet our luncheon speaker and network with colleagues.

Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) Industrial Panel

Monday, March 31, 2014, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Join us for an interactive panel to discuss issues such as work-life balance and career advancement.

Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2014, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Join us if you are interested in volunteering for WIC or want input into our activities.

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Please join our social media groups. Search for the group name "AIChE Women's Initiatives Committee" on both Facebook and LinkedIn.

facebook
LinkedIn

Here, we are hoping to create networks between women undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, industry professionals, and academics. Please feel free to start discussions and post relevant articles.

Workshops

Women Undergraduates in Chemical Engineering: Graduate School Panel and Industrial Career Opportunities

- Graduate School Panel. Current female graduate students shared their experiences and perspectives on graduate school. This interactive panel allowed undergraduate students to network and ask questions about what graduate school is really like. We would like to thank **Serra Elliott, Danni Gao, Kaja Kaastrup, and Maria Tafur** for their participation on the panel.
- What You Need Beyond Your Degree to be Successful in Industry. See below for a description of this session.
- Panel: Academic vs. Industrial Careers. See below for a description of this session.

“I enjoyed the Women Undergraduate Workshop very much. You made the graduate school application process a little less scary, so thank you.” --**Yunying (Yani) Zhang, Undergraduate Student, Columbia University**



“I attended the Coach seminar sponsored by WIC as part of the graduate student workshop at the 2013 annual AIChE meeting. The seminar was the perfect mix between the introduction of new ideas and time to experiment with practical applications and implementations of those ideas. I learned techniques to increase the confidence I have and project during meetings - skills I was able to implement throughout the remainder of the conference!”
--**Sara Koynov, Graduate Student, Rutgers University**

Women Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows in Chemical Engineering: Developing Your Career

Our featured speaker Dennis H. Guthrie from The Dow Chemical Company presented the following two topics:

- Secrets from the Other Side...What Recruiters Know that You Don't. This workshop provided insight into on-campus and on-site interviews and specifically for the Ph.D. emphasized the importance of the Ph.D. seminar during the on-site visit.
- What You Need Beyond Your Degree to be Successful in Industry. This workshop focused on strategies for enabling a successful transition into your career through development of critical skills that go beyond your technical proficiency.

Other programming included:

- Panel: Academic vs. Industrial Careers. This discussion featured women with careers in academic, industrial, and governmental fields. We would like to thank the following panelists for their participation: **Caryn Heldt (Michigan Technological University), Laura Dietsche (The Dow Chemical Company), and Maggie Linak (APS/AAAS Congressional Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Washington, D.C.)**.
- COACh: Strong Women/Strategic Performance. This workshop focused on how to be more effective in meetings and negotiations, how to be strategic rather than reactive, how to negotiate with multiple tactics and connect positively with your meeting or negotiation partners.

Women Assistant Professors in Chemical Engineering: Developing Your Career

- COACh: Strong Women/Strategic Performance. See above for description of this session.
- Round Table Discussion. This interactive discussion focused on managing research groups, obtaining funding, preparing for tenure, etc. We would like to thank the following panelists for their participation: **Roya Maboudian (Professor, UC Berkley), Kristala L. Jones Prather (Associate Professor, MIT), and Michelle O'Malley (Assistant Professor, UC Santa Barbara)**.



“I attended a WIC workshop on interviewing skills on Sunday before a conference. One key learning I walked away with was to have your presentation known so well that you could present without any visual aid. The next morning, when I was about to give my presentation, the projector failed and I had to give half of the presentation from memory. I had already put this advice into practice so my presentation went smoothly, regardless. I was very grateful for the advice from the WIC workshop - and it came just in the nick of time!”
--**Kellie Anderson, Postdoc, Rutgers University**



Last year, the WIC Executive Committee decided to form new sub committees to better serve our mission and goals:

Fall Meeting

Mission: Develop networking and career development opportunities for women undergraduates, graduates, assistant professors and all the women in the profession.

Spring Meeting

Mission: Develop networking and career development opportunities for women chemical engineers working in industry.

Finance

Mission: Find new funding opportunities and optimize budget allocation to increase WIC's impact and visibility.

Communications

Mission: Increase WIC's visibility and impact, promote the activities by internal and external communications.

Grad Students/ Postdocs

Mission: Extend WIC's impact on graduate students and postdocs career development.

If the mission of any of these committees interests you, we encourage you to email us at wic.aiche1@gmail.com to become more involved!

Luncheon

Keynote speaker: Dr. Maria Burka
"Careers in Chemical Engineering - Just go with the Flow, i.e., A Funny Thing Happened on My Way to the National Science Foundation"
 Hotel Nikko, Golden Gate Room (25th floor)



At our annual networking luncheon, Dr. Maria Burka spoke about her pathway to success in her career and life.

Dr. Maria Burka is a program director of the Process and Reaction Engineering Program in the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems of the National Science Foundation. She has been a senior scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

a faculty member of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Maryland, and a process design engineer with Scientific Design Company. Maria is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, the Society of Women Engineers, and the American Association of University Women. She served as the 2011 President of AIChE.



Travel Award Winners

**Katharine Rogers
 Aiman Nazki
 Laura Hirshfield
 Maria Tafur
 Serra Elliott
 Janie Brennan
 Holly Jensen
 Kaja Kaastrup
 Ji Sun Choi
 Markita Landry
 Danni Gao**

Mentorship Excellence Award Winner

Dr. Anne Skaja Robinson is Professor and Chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University. Prior to joining Tulane in 2012, she was a Professor and Associate Chair at the University of Delaware. Anne is an exceptional mentor of women who has mentored numerous junior faculty, PhD, MS, undergraduate, and high school students. She was one of the first pioneers in cellular engineering, and her research successes earned her a prestigious PECASE award, a DuPont Young Professorship, and election into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). Anne is a wonderful role model to us all.

2014 WIC Executive Committee

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Donating to WIC is critical to having continuing programming. You can donate online now at <http://www.aiiche.org/community/giving/programs-initiatives/womens-initiatives>.

Also, look for a donation box for WIC when renewing your AIChE membership.

WIC Mission

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) will lead in promoting the entry, development, and full participation of women in the Institute and the profession through the following strategies:

- Develop and/or distribute resources on subjects pertaining to women in the profession.
- Mobilize AIChE to meet the needs of existing and potential female members of AIChE and the profession.
- Provide networking means for women in AIChE to use each other as resources.
- Increase the visibility of women within AIChE and the profession.

We would like to acknowledge the sponsors of our 2013 Annual Meeting Workshops:



The Dow Chemical
Company



Assisting in the success and impact of women
scientists and engineers

COACH for Scientists