

Building a Pipeline: AIChE Invests in Young Professionals

In chemical engineering, a healthy pipeline is critical to success. Similarly, young members are key to the vitality and future of the Institute.

Launched at the 2002 AIChE Leadership Development Conference, the Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB) is dedicated to gaining and maintaining the participation of young professional members. YPAB will foster relationships with young members, employers, and local sections to promote increased participation. They will also advise AIChE on how to reach this target group and offer products and services that meet their needs.

Fostering Institute Growth

"YPAB is critical to the future of the Institute, said Bette Lawler, director of Operations. "Young chemical engineers need a professional home. Our Institute, while doing a good job at bringing new young professionals on board, is challenged to keep this constituency involved."

According to recent membership statistics, members under 30 are the most difficult age group to retain. Fifty three percent of individuals who dropped their membership last year were under 29. Of these, nearly half were under 25. YPAB is key to retaining more of these members.

"The role of YPAB is to help define what young professionals need from an organization like ours and make sure that such services and networking opportunities are available to them," said Lawler. "This group will also help us communicate in a way that speaks to young professionals."

YPAB will work to improve communications with young members through a Web site, list serve, and printed materials devoted exclusively to the needs of young professionals and available directly from AIChE and through employers of young engineers. These vehicles will connect young engineers and communicate the benefits of AIChE membership.

Building Networks

Through the years, AIChE membership has helped young professionals to build professional and social networks. YPAB is helping promote these networks by working

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with local sections to develop programming for young members. YPAB will plan social events at the Annual and Spring meetings for this group. They are also working with employers of young engineers to encourage corporate support of AIChE membership on the managerial and corporate level.

"I joined AIChE because I wanted to get a better understanding of chemical engineering professions," said Justin E. May, associate engineer at Hershey Foods. May graduated in 2003 from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in agricultural and biological engineering. "I soon became involved with YPAB because the group was seeking to help young professionals like myself find the reasons why they should make AIChE a part of their life."

Reaching Student Members

YPAB will also play an important role in linking recent graduates and student members with professional engineers. They presented at the 2003 Annual Student Conference, which attracts over 1,000 undergraduate students each year, and will help the Student Chapters Committee (SCC) with programming at the 2004 Annual Student Conference.

"I think one of the most important goals

is reaching students when they're still in school," said YPAB Chair Wendy Young. "I had friends who were very active in their student chapters as officers, but are not even members today. I look forward to working directly with students at the Annual Student Conference and in other ways to help close this gap."

"I believe that you get more out of AIChE membership the more you participate," continued Young. "I joined AIChE when I was a college freshman for the professional network, more than anything. I've been ac-

tive nationally and in my local section, and I've gained leadership opportunities that directly transfer to what I do."

Young, who is a process engineer at Solutia in Houston and graduated from Texas A&M University in December 1997 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, is also chair of the Young Members Group for the South Texas Section.

Local Section Involvement

The South Texas Young Members Group was formed in 2002 to recruit and retain members with 10 years experience or less, and has grown to over 60 members since its inception.

The South Texas Section sponsors frequent social events for young members like professional sporting events, fishing trips, billiards, and arcade nights. In addition, the section plans regional technical programs. Members keep up with each other by email list, and meet regularly after the monthly section dinner meetings.

Other local sections like Baton Rouge and Delaware Valley have developed young member groups, recognizing that young members are great contributors who have unique needs.

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2004 Spring Meeting Focuses on Advances and Applications

This spring, join AIChE and over 1500 professionals at the one chemical engineering conference focused on technological advancements and their practical applications across the full spectrum of chemical engineering disciplines. The 2004 AIChE Spring National meeting, April 25-29, in New Orleans features over 150 sessions and ten topical conferences, as well as networking and special events for every engineer.

Practical Information

"Spring meeting attendees will come away with the latest information they can put to use immediately," said Joe Cramer, director of programming. "Our audience is looking for answers to real-world problems. They come to Spring to listen and learn from their peers and as well as from recognized leaders in each technical discipline."

Program Highlights

The Spring program will feature ten topical conferences, which are session tracks focused on a technology practice area or industry. Admission to these topical session tracks is included in the registration fee. There are also related short courses, networking events, and proceedings that are available on a ticketed basis that will allow the attendee to further immerse themselves in an area of interest.

The topical conference, "Information Technology Applications in the Chemical Process Industries," will explore new developments in Information Technology and specific impacts on the chemical and related process industries. Attendees will learn how IT is transforming chemical engineering plants, education, customer relationships and work processes. This conference will feature a roundtable discussion sharing lessons learned regarding IT impact on manufacturing and business processes.

The "Transport Processes in Emerging Energy Systems" topical conference, cosponsored by ASME, will go in-depth on heat and energy topics and feature nine targeted tutorial sessions of 90 minutes each. Led by a single authority, each of these special sessions will focus on a topic fundamental to this field of engineering practice.

Sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, the sensors mini topical conference will focus on homeland security-related applications like sensors for detecting explosives or biological agents.

Examining the transformation of the chemical engineering profession, "The Profession in Transition" will include an



afternoon session, "Recognizing Opportunity," sponsored by the Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC). This session will feature three tutorials focusing on the emerging role of women in technical professions and the means for keeping them in technical practice.

In addition, the 2004 keynote address, "From Smokestacks to Emerald Cities," will be given by Jim Gallogly, president and CEO of Chevron-Phillips Chemical Company.

Networking Events

Beyond technical content, the Spring Meeting offers networking and special events perfect for both connecting with old colleagues and developing new contacts. The program includes a welcome reception, numerous division and forum dinners, and plant tours.

New Orleans: Let the Good Times Roll

New Orleans is a great location for learning—and for fun. In 2004, all sessions will be conveniently located in the Hyatt Regency hotel, walking distance from New Orleans' French Quarter. A superb backdrop for AIChE's Spring Meeting, New Orleans offers something for everyone, whether it's cuisine, music, history, or culture.

Registration

Make sure to mark your calendar and join AIChE and the profession's leaders in New Orleans, April 25-29 for the 2004 AIChE Spring National Meeting. For more information and to register, visit www.aiche.org/spring or call 1-800-242-4363 (212-591-8100 for international callers).

AIChE 2004 Conference Calendar

For information on AIChE conferences, including program and registration details, visit: www.aiche.org/conferences/.

- **2004 Spring National Meeting**
April 25 - 29, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA
- **Offshore Technology Conference**
May 3 - 6, Houston, TX
- **Process Development Symposium: Working Right on the Right Thing**
June 20 - 23, Oak Brook Hills Resort, Oakbrook, IL
- **19th Annual CCPS International Conference: Emergency Planning, Preparedness, Prevention, and Response**
June 29 - July 1, Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL
- **Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium**
September 20 - 23, Hyatt Regency Denver, Denver, CO
- **2004 Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC)**
October 7 - 8, The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO
- **2004 Annual Meeting**
November 7 - 12, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

New Department Unites Volunteer Groups

Over the last year, AIChE has refocused on the services and benefits members have found. Its leaders are essential to their careers and to the profession. The Board and Operating Council members, with input from AIChE staff, have examined the Institute's business structure and operations in order to better serve these core areas.

All volunteer groups have been centralized into one department, Volunteer and Membership Activities. These groups include Local Sections, Committees, Divisions/Forums, Student Chapters, Young Professionals Advisory Board, Awards, ABET, and Operating Councils.

"Volunteer leaders are the strength of the organization," John Sofranko, AIChE executive director told *AICHE*. "They know what is needed on the local level, which resources and benefits are crucial, and which topics are important to professional development. The active participation and guidance of members will pave the way for an essential AIChE."

AIChE's network of volunteer groups provides a means for members to connect with engineers in their communities or around a shared discipline or interest.

They also provide key programming and coordination of AIChE activities, which serve to support AIChE and the chemical engineering profession.

The new Volunteer and Membership Activities department will centralize support for these groups, streamline administrative tasks, as well as encourage new synergies among groups.

"Working together, member groups can have an even greater impact on membership and programs," said Felicia Guglielmi, director of Volunteer and Membership Activities. "We are currently working with the Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB) and Local Sections

Committee and Student Chapters Committee to recruit and retain young members. This is just one example of a shared objective that we can now help

Volunteer and Membership Activities

Felicia Guglielmi: director, felig@aiche.org: Operating Councils, committees, ABET, YPAB

Gordon Ellis, gorde@aiche.org: student chapters, awards

Anette Ngijol, anets@aiche.org: local sections, divisions/forums

support and encourage."

Guglielmi and her team will work to make volunteer leader tasks easier to navigate and less time consuming. In 2004, AIChE will develop online resources for volunteer leaders. This will include online access to award order forms, meeting room requests, and FAQ's.

To learn more about AIChE's network of volunteer and membership activities groups, visit www.aiche.org/mag.

OPERATOR NEWSLETTER SHEDS LIGHT ON PROCESS SAFETY

Covering a breadth of process safety issues, CCPS's *Process Safety Beacon* newsletter delivers important process safety lessons to operators and other manufacturing personnel each month. Each free issue focuses on a single process safety incident and describes lessons learned and practical solutions to prevent such an incident.



how and why things can go wrong, and enhance the recognition of potentially catastrophic hazards," said Berger. "*The Beacon* is successful because it is written in clear, concise language targeted directly to the operator audience. Its electronic form is easy to share with colleagues, or print and post on bulletin boards.

In order to promote process safety awareness across industries, CCPS has decided to

continue free distribution of *The Beacon* in 2004. *The Beacon* can be ordered at www.aiche.org/ccps/safetybeacon.htm.

The newsletter is delivered by email in the language(s) you select.

Companies and individuals that support process safety awareness through *The Beacon* and other CCPS initiatives are invited to sponsor an upcoming issue. CCPS is also seeking volunteers fluent in other languages to help make *The Beacon* available to an even wider audience.

If you are interested in sponsoring future issues of *The Beacon* or interested in being a translator, please contact: Adrian L. Sepeda at ccps_beacon@aiche.org.

The Beacon is read each month by over half a million process safety and plant personnel in chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, consulting, insurance companies, government agencies, and other organizations worldwide. It is delivered by email and is available in English, Spanish, German, and French.

"We created *The Beacon* because we believed that there was a need for a communication vehicle that speaks directly to the people on the front lines of process safety—plant operators and plant operating staff," said Scott Berger, CCPS director.

"Our goal is to improve knowledge of

REGIONAL CONFERENCES OFFER REWARDS FOR STUDENTS AND CHEMES

Each spring, AIChE student chapters host neighboring chemical engineering students for a weekend of fun, work-

shops, lab tours, and competitions—including the regional heats in



the popular Chem-E-Car Competition.

Student regional conferences are a great way for companies and individual engineers to interact with engineering students. Student host chapters need the support of professionals in the region—for financial assistance, competition judging and career discussions. Regional conferences are an energizing experience for members and students alike. To find out how you can participate, contact the conference host in your region at <http://students.aiche.org/events/regionalconferences.asp>. Regional conferences begin in March.

National Engineers Week Takes On The World

National Engineers Week 2004, February 22-28, will celebrate the increasing global perspective of the international engineering community with key programs and awards.

Established in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Engineers Week is dedicated to increasing public understanding of the engineering profession. Hands-on activities in local communities, public relations efforts, and awards programs will raise the visibility of engineers, as well as encourage younger students to consider engineering careers, and recognize young and established professional engineers.

Many AIChE local sections will sponsor EWeek activities. To participate, members should contact their local section (visit <http://www.aiche.org/mag/sections/> to find a section near you). The following are a few of the exciting programs planned for EWeek:

■ **New Faces of Engineering** will showcase rising young engineering stars from around the world. The Top 16 New Faces will be featured in *USA Today* during National Engineers Week, with all nominees included on the EWeek website at www.eweek.org.

■ **Connecting the World to Engineering** is an online discussion forum that explores engineering disciplines, industries, and business opportunities around the world. During EWeek, prominent corporate leaders will host teleconference discussions on the latest issues and developments, with the intent of uniting students, young professionals and business leaders in a global dialogue.

■ **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day** will be held

February 26. An estimated one million girls have experienced engineering first-hand through this popular program, which includes activities like job-shadowing, assembly programs, school visits, and hands-on activities with museums and science centers. To learn more, visit: <http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/girlsdays.html>.

■ **National Engineers Week Future City Competition** invites students, working under the guidance of teachers and volunteer engineers, to build computer and three-dimensional scale models of cities of the future. Students defend their designs before a panel of engineer judges and write an essay—this year's topic is improving the lives of senior citizens through the use of plastic products or services. For more information, visit www.futurecity.org.

EWeek is also an occasion to celebrate engineering achievements by its best and brightest. The National Academy of Engineering will present the annual \$500,000 **Charles Stark Draper Prize**, the profession's highest honor for engineering achievement and innovation, and the biennial **Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education**, also valued at \$500,000, at a black-tie dinner on February 24. For more information, visit www.nae.edu/awards.



National Engineers
Week 2004
February 22-28

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A Strong Start

YPAB is just starting its work, but its positive impact on AIChE membership is evident. "I'm excited that YPAB is starting to have tangible products and results," said Felicia Guglielmi, director of Volunteer and Membership Activities. "They truly are the bridge between students and members over 30. They also work in a myriad of fields and roles that mirrors the changing profession of chemical engineering. Personally, working with these new young members is exciting. Their enthusiasm is contagious."

Currently, the YPAB is gathering information from volunteer leaders and members on how it can be most effective in serving young members. There are a number of ways members of all ages can get involved:

► Web site and List serve

YPAB Web page contains information and contacts, visit: www.aiche.org/ypab. Members under 30 who would like to join the YPAB Topica discussion list should email Wendy Young, YPAB chair, at wcyoun@solutia.com.

► Young Professionals Advisory Board

Young members under 30 who would like to take a leadership role are encouraged to join the board in planning programs and communications. Contact Wendy Young at wcyoun@solutia.com.

► Local Sections

Local Sections benefit from increased participation by young members, and play a key role in connecting young engineers with members in their communities. Contact Anette Ngijol, volunteer and membership activities professional at anets@aiche.org.

► Employer Support

Share information on AIChE membership with young engineers and help support their professional development. Contact Wendy Young at wcyoun@solutia.com.

Engineering Sites and Resources

The **Sightseers Guide to Engineering** (www.engineeringsights.org), celebrates engineering marvels from subtle to spectacular in all 50 states. Visitors can submit their own favorites.

discoverengineering.org uses such wonders of engineering as roller coasters and CD players to pique the interest of middle school student in engineering. The site includes hundreds of links to related educational, professional, and corporate sites.

DiscoverE provides engineers with quality educational materials and step-by-step guidelines to help reach over five million students and teachers every year with classroom visits and extracurricular programs. To learn more, visit <http://www.eweek.org/site/DiscoverE/>.

The third annual **Asian American Engineer of the Year Award**, given by the Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA will recognize outstanding Asian American professionals in academe, public service and corporations (www.cie-usa.org).

To learn more about National Engineer's Week programs and events, visit: www.eweek.org.

OBITUARIES

David M. Benforado, 78, Woodbury, MN
George V. Beutel, 62, Cincinnati, OH
Clarke L. Coldren, 77, Dallas, TX
Stanley Duda, 85, La Canada, CA