Election News

2009 Election: President-Elect

Henry T. (Hank) Kohlbrand
Hank Kohlbrand is the Global R&D Director for Engineering & Process Sciences at The Dow Chemical Co. During the past 34 years, he has worked in a variety of research and manufacturing roles at Dow, focusing on process development, new technology implementation, and new business growth. An AIChE Fellow, Kohlbrand has served on the Board of Directors and on the Chemical Engineering Technology Operating Council (CTOC), as well as serving as director of the Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE.

He was a member of the International Activities Committee, and served on the managing board of the Institute for Sustainability (IfS). Kohlbrand has also served as a chair of Group 12b (Pilot Plants), which eventually grew to become the Process Development Division. He has worked with the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) to produce guidelines and chair meetings on Preventing Major Accidents and Runaway Reactions.

Statement

AIChE is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year and has recovered from recent financial and membership challenges. During the next 100 years, chemical engineering will continue to grow into diverse fields and we will see additional challenges from globalization. AIChE needs to be positioned to serve members in different ways and to accommodate an ever-broadening definition of our discipline. Our divisions and forums, technical societies and sponsored research organizations are a great foundation on which to build.

As President I will work to:

■ Increase membership by making AIChE more attractive to all chemical engineers.
■ Assure that we are providing relevant programs to all members, including those not able to attend our national meetings.
■ Continue the focus on students and their transition to long-term membership.
■ Increase member opportunities to network and learn by establishing virtual/social networking opportunities and virtual meetings.
■ Strengthen local sections by providing resources to make them more effective.
■ Form creative linkages with other professional groups so that chemical engineers can have all of their professional needs met while belonging to AIChE.
■ Focus on emerging technologies that will provide focus for AIChE in future years.

Together, we have the opportunity to define our future and make AIChE the professional destination for all chemical engineers. Defining the next 100 years is the next step along that path.

Kohlbrand received his BS in chemical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1973. He is happy to discuss with anyone the future of AIChE. Feel free to email him at hank4836@yahoo.com.

Otis Shelton
Otis Shelton is the Associate Director of Praxair’s S&SES Assessment Program, a global program that verifies effectiveness of safety, health and environmental and operational programs in its facilities in North and South America, Asia, and Europe. Prior to this, he worked for 25 years for Union Carbide Corp. in a variety of manufacturing assignments in Texas, as well as business analysis and financial management in New York.

During the past 25 years, he has demonstrated his passion for AIChE through his involvement as chair of the Fairfield County Section; member and chair of the Admissions Committee; co-chair of the BOD Fellows Task Force; National Director (2000–2002); Chair of the BOD Local Sections Task Force; Institute Secretary (2004–2006); member of the AIChE Strategic Planning Committee; and AIChE Fellow. He is currently vice-chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

From 1985–2005, Otis served as a member and two terms as Chair of the National Advisory Board of the National Society of Black Engineers, an organization committed to achieving its mission of increasing retention and successful graduation of black engineers.

Statement

Someone once stated that the only constant is change. Similar to the change we face in industry, our Institute is also challenged by change. How we respond to these challenges will define our future path. If elected as President, I promise to work closely with members, the local sections, operating councils, BOD, Executive Director and staff to:

■ Improve the financial vitality of the Institute.
■ Implement the updated AIChE Strategic Plan to ensure services provided by the Institute are more relevant to the needs of chemical engineers.
■ Strengthen local sections.
■ Review impacts on U.S.-based engineers of increasing exports of chemical manufacturing plants, and identify opportunities for support.
■ Support the BOD’s review and recommendation on professional certification for chemical engineers. Our profession is increasingly a global profession, with the expectation of increased movement of chemical engineers to perform work around the globe.
■ Support CCPS initiative to be a presence in regions where chemical industry growth is high. It is important that AIChE maintain its involvement in the development and evolution of safety and operational technology.
■ Support the Government Affairs Committee initiatives to heighten awareness of energy independence and legislation which impacts our industry. We need to provide tools to enhance the understanding of key energy issues by the public and our political leaders.
■ Expand the use of database and Internet to improve connectivity to members and local sections.

Otis received his BS and MS degrees in chemical engineering from the Univ. of Houston. He is happy to discuss with anyone the future of AIChE. Feel free to contact him at otis_shelton@praxair.com.
Institute News

Arnold Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Frances H. Arnold, a professor of chemical engineering and biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. The Academy recognized Arnold for integrating molecular biology, genetics, and bioengineering into industry, including research in protein design and new biocatalysts.

Arnold is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine, making her one of only eight living individuals — and the only woman — to have been elected to all three National Academies.

Two other living chemical engineers have also been elected to the Science, Engineering and Medicine academies: Albert L. Babb of the Univ. of Washington, and Robert S. Langer of MIT.

Arnold is a pioneer in the use of “directed evolution” to improve proteins and other biological molecules for commercial applications. Directed evolution applies the principles of breeding to molecules rather than animals or plants. Using these methods, Arnold has been able to generate proteins with a variety of useful features, such as improved stability and the ability to function in non-natural environments.

The practical applications of this research include the ability to make enzymes that can effectively breakdown plant cell walls, which would allow the efficient production of cellulosic biofuels.

Arnold earned a BS in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton Univ., and in 1985 received a PhD in chemical engineering at Univ. of California, Berkeley. She performed postdoctoral work in chemistry at Berkeley and Caltech. Among her many honors, Arnold is the recipient of AIChE’s Food, Pharmaceutical and Bioengineering Division Award, and the Institute’s Professional Progress Award for Outstanding Progress in Chemical Engineering.

Topsøe Awarded Winthrop-Sears Medal by The Chemists’ Club of New York

Haldor Topsøe, founder of the company that bears his name, has received The Chemists’ Club of New York’s Winthrop-Sears Medal for 2008. The medal was presented at a May 15 ceremony at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF; www.chemheritage.org) in Philadelphia, PA, during the CHF’s seventh annual Heritage Day celebration.

First presented in 1970, The Winthrop-Sears Medal recognizes individuals who, by their entrepreneurial action, have contributed to the vitality of the chemical industry and the betterment of society. The award is named in honor of two early chemical entrepreneurs — John Winthrop, Jr., and John Sears.

In 1940, Topsøe, a chemical engineering alumnus of the Technical Univ. of Copenhagen, established the Haldor Topsøe Co., which is devoted to the development of catalysts and their use in commercial processes. Topsøe and his company have applied knowledge of catalysis, fertilizers, and energy to issues related to overpopulation, scarcity of resources, and environmental protection. The company has collaborated with leaders from around the world to address these problems, and has established technology transfer projects in Turkey, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and China, as well as countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe.

Topsøe helped establish the Danish Nuclear Research Station after World War II, and also participated in the first International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva. He helped create Denmark’s Board for Technical Scientific Research, and remains an active member of the Danish Engineering Society, the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, the Swedish Academy for Technical Sciences, and AIChE.

Established in 1898, The Chemists’ Club of New York (www.thechemistsclub.com) provides a community and forum for people with interests in the chemical, paper, pharmaceuticals, metals, biotech, and science-related industries.

The Chemical Heritage Foundation maintains a collection of materials that document the history and heritage of the chemical and molecular sciences, and is devoted to advancing an understanding of the role of science, technology and industry in shaping society.
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and independent policy research centers, has announced its class of new members for 2008. Among the 212 new Fellows and Foreign Honorary Members are a Nobel laureate, a Pulitzer Prize winner, Academy Award and Grammy Award winners, a Supreme Court Justice, and three members of AIChE.

Pablo G. Debenedetti is the Class of 1950 Professor of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton Univ. His research program addresses a range of topics related to the theory of condensed matter, including glass transition, water and aqueous solutions, nucleation, metastability, and protein thermodynamics. Debenedetti earned his BS at the Univ. of Buenos Aires, and an MS and PhD at MIT, all in chemical engineering. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a past recipient of AIChE’s Professional Progress Award.

Klavs F. Jensen is Department Head and the Warren K. Lewis Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT, where his research focuses on the interaction of transport and reaction processes in micro- and nano-structured materials and devices for chemical, optical, and electronic applications. He earned his MSc at the Technical Univ. of Denmark, and a PhD at the Univ. of Wisconsin, both in chemical engineering. Past AIChE honors include the Allan P. Colburn and R. H. Wilhelm Awards, and the Materials Engineering and Sciences Division’s C. M. A. Stine Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Rakesh K. Jain is Professor of Tumor Biology at the Harvard Medical School’s Dept. of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Edwin L. Steel Laboratory at the Massachusetts General Hospital’s Dept. of Radiation Oncology. He also serves on the Harvard–MIT Health Sciences and Technology faculty. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Jain earned a BTech degree at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, and MS and PD degrees in chemical engineering at Univ. of Delaware. He is the 2006 recipient of AIChE’s Alpha Chi Sigma Award.

The new class of Fellows will be inducted at a ceremony on October 11, at the Academy’s headquarters in Cambridge, MA. Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. The Academy’s elected members are leaders in the academic disciplines, the arts, business, and public affairs. To review the complete 2008 Class of Fellows, visit www.amacad.org.

The Fellowship Board of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, has selected 35 engineering students for graduate fellowships in 2008–09. Among the honorees are four AIChE student members.

Boris D. Chemomordik, a chemical engineering student at the Univ. of Louisville, has been awarded Tau Beta Pi’s 23rd Centennial Fellowship, which honors the Society’s most outstanding Fellow. Also receiving fellowships are Arjun S. Adhikari of Polytechnic Univ., Travis W. Walker of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and Andrew P. Wilson of Howard Univ.

Tau Beta Pi Fellowships are awarded for high scholarship, campus leadership and service, and the promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. All fellows are members of Tau Beta Pi, and may do their graduate work at the institution of their choice. Twenty-five of this year’s winners will receive cash stipends of $10,000 for their advanced study. Since the program was inaugurated in 1929, 1,328 fellowships have been granted.

Tau Beta Pi has also selected 145 Tau Beta Pi Scholars for undergraduate study in 2008–09. Among the recipients are 15 chemical engineering students, including eight AIChE members: Sandra L. Hobson (Nagel Scholarship) of Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Kelly M. Johansen (Campbell Scholarship) of Florida Institute of Technology; Sharon M. Vuong (Scribner Scholarship) of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Wai Kit Ong (Winkler Scholarship) of Illinois Institute of Technology; Heather L. Jacobsen of Univ. of North Dakota; David A. Wong of Univ. of California, San Diego; and Benjamin L. Bangasser and Kajda R. Stevens of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Each will receive a cash award of $2,000 for his or her senior year of engineering study.

Tau Beta Pi was founded at Lehigh Univ. in 1885. It is the world’s largest engineering society, with collegiate chapters at 234 engineering schools across North America. It has initiated more than 500,000 members in its 123-year history.

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AIChE Elects New Fellows

At the Spring National Meeting in New Orleans, AIChE's Board of Directors conferred the title of Fellow on eight Institute members. These members join a roster of respected chemical engineers who have left their mark on the profession and the Institute.

The grade of Fellow identifies tenured AIChE members who have made significant contributions to the chemical engineering profession. Candidates for Fellow must have been a chemical engineer for at least 25 years and a Member of AIChE for at least 10 years, with at least three years in the Senior Member grade.

Fellow candidates are nominated by their peers in AIChE membership, and reviewed by the national Admissions Committee.

The following AIChE members were elected to Fellow on April 4, 2008:

- B. Wayne Bequette, Troy, NY
- Heriberto Cabezas, Cincinnati, OH
- Gary L. Foutch, Stillwater, OK
- Michael I. Hill, Mahwah, NJ
- Annette A. Johnston, Highland Park, IL
- John Peragine, Hawthorn, NJ
- James B. Porter, Chadds Ford, NJ
- Sankaran Sundaresan, Princeton, NJ

On January 18, 2008, AIChE elected the following members to Fellow:

- Jeffrey H. Harwell, Norman, OK
- Gerald D. Holder, Pittsburgh, PA
- Martin Okos, West Lafayette, IN
- Bob G. Perry, Ridgefield, CT
- Doraiswami Ramkrishna, West Lafayette, IN

The following AIChE members became Fellows during 2006 and 2007.

For more information about AIChE Fellows, visit www.aiche.org/About/OurMembers/fellow.aspx.

**OBITUARIES**

Hugh W. Bellas, 95, Raymore, MO
Gilbert W. Denison, 78, Norman, OK
Sherwood A. Fox, 81, Grand Junction, CO
John A. Henriksen, 80, Wilmington, NC
Steven D. Hoop, 37, Morris, IL
Miles G. Morris, 82, Evans City, PA
Jerry D. Ogan, 70, Newman, GA

**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.)

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

- **SBE's 4th 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

- **SBE's 2nd International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering**
  January 18–21, 2009 ● Fess Parker Doubletree ● Santa Barbara, CA

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