

Jamesia S. Hobbs: AIChE's "New Face of Engineering" for 2009 Three young AIChE members honored during National Engineers Week

Jamesia Hobbs has always seized opportunities for leadership. During National Engineers Week, the mantle of leadership seized Hobbs, when the 25-yr-old process engineer was selected as one of the "New Faces of Engineering" for 2009.



Jamesia Hobbs is AIChE's winner in the National Engineers Week Foundation's 2009 New Faces of Engineering program.

An annual recognition program tied to National Engineers Week (Feb. 15–21, 2009), "New Faces" promotes the accomplishments of some of the brightest young stars in the engineering constellation, showcasing their engineering contributions as well as the impacts they are having on society.

As the name suggests, the campaign puts a public face on what is often called the "stealth profession" — inspiring students to pursue careers in engineering, and enhancing the public's appreciation of the profession and the people in it.

Engineering societies like AIChE identify the candidates, who receive national recognition during Engineers Week, including photos in *USA Today*.

Hobbs was brought to AIChE's attention by her employers at CH2M HILL (Atlanta, GA) — where she finds many creative and productive outlets.

"I became an engineer because I wanted to do something that touched people's lives, whether they realized it or not," says Hobbs. "I am most satisfied with any job done right."

Even before graduating *summa cum laude* from North Carolina A&T State Univ., in Greensboro, NC, Hobbs found opportunities to lead by example, serving terms as local chapter president of the Omega Chi Epsilon National Chemical Engineering Honor Society and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

At her job in CH2M HILL's Energy and Chemicals Group, Hobbs applies her engineering skills to several industries, including pulp and paper, chemicals, polymers, and nuclear energy. She has also had opportunities to coordinate design projects, manage people, and lead a water treatment process team.

Outside of engineering, Hobbs keeps busy with community outreach, including volunteer projects with Hands On Atlanta, the United Way, and mentoring and educational development for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

She credits her family with setting standards and provid-

ing perspective that guide her approach to life and work. "My family taught me to be thankful for what I have, and that there is always someone who is not as fortunate as you. That idea has stayed with me," says Hobbs. Her volunteer work with young people — seeing them overcome the difficulties of growing up and finding a path — is its own reward, she says.

As a New Face of Engineering, Hobbs sets an impressive standard of her own, but remains grounded. "I want to make good professional and personal decisions that result in sound work and lasting impressions," she says.

Hobbs was not the only chemical engineer to be selected for "New Faces" honors. Two more young AIChE members — nominated by other organizations — share this year's spotlight.



Rolana Harris, who, like Hobbs, is a process engineer at CH2M HILL in Atlanta, is a graduate of the Univ. of Pittsburgh. At work, she evaluates, selects, and applies standard engineering techniques and procedures to design inherently safe equipment for chemical manufacturing plants. Harris's community activities include participation in three Habitat for Humanity house builds, assistance to Hurricane Katrina evacuees, and work with elementary students through Junior Achievement and other education outreach programs.



Robert Castor is a chemical engineering graduate of the Univ. of Texas at Austin. In his job at Freescale Semiconductor (Austin, TX), Castor gets to combine his passion for environmental protection and sustainability with his engineering background. He is responsible for maintaining compliance with federal and state regulations regarding air emissions, wastewater, and stormwater at one of Freescale Semiconductor's 200-mm factories. His leadership has already produced significant improvements — both fiscal and environmental — at various Freescale facilities, including chemical recycling, industrial wastewater reclamation, and cleanroom airborne molecular contamination. Castor is also involved in a global campaign aimed at driving awareness and involving employees in energy conservation and recycling.

To see more AIChE "New Faces" nominees, visit www.aiche.org.

Information about all of the New Faces of Engineering honorees can be found at www.eweek.org.

AIChE Members Elected to the National Academy of Engineering



Election to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) is among the highest professional distinctions accorded an engineer. This year, the NAE has elected 65 new members and nine foreign associates. This brings the total U.S. membership to 2,246 and the number of foreign associates to 197. Newly elected AIChE members include:

Kristi S. Anseth — Distinguished Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder. For pioneering the rational design of biomaterials for tissue engineering, drug delivery, and biosensing applications.

Amos A. Avidan — Senior Vice President, Bechtel Corp., Houston, TX. For contributions to the understanding, scaleup, and commercialization of fluid-bed reactors, liquefied natural gas facilities, and gasification plants.

Chaitan Khosla — Chair and Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA. For engineering

molecular assembly lines, developing metabolic engineering technologies, and advancing biopharmaceutical discovery.

Charles Noelke — DuPont Fellow, DuPont, Fayetteville, NC. For development and commercialization of green chemistry and processes, especially for CFC alternatives and fluoropolymers.

Doraiswami Ramkrishna — Harry Creighton Pepper Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN. For creation of new model concepts and solutions that improved the engineering of biological and particulate processes.

Mark W. Verbrugge — Director, Materials and Processes Laboratory, General Motors R&D and Strategic Planning, Warren, MI. For the development and application of electroanalytical methods for advanced batteries, supercapacitors, and fuel cells for hybrid and electric vehicles.

Regional Student Conferences Seek Experienced ChEs

AIChE's spring regional student conferences are among the liveliest events in AIChE's annual calendar. The regionals — hosted by nine different student chapters each year — provide chemical engineering students with networking and career development opportunities, competitions, and fun. The conferences also help students to appreciate the benefits of active AIChE participation. At least 1,500 undergraduates from 100 schools are expected to attend the 2009 regionals.

Regional conferences began in late February, with events in the North Central, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Northwest regions. They will continue through April (see the schedule at right).

Students at the host schools rely on the support of member professionals and AIChE local sections in each region; there is almost always room for additional career panel participants, sponsor company representatives, and competition judges. Among the events in need of judges are the regional student paper competitions (which culminate in a final competition at the November Annual

Meeting and National Student Conference), as well as the regional heats of the Chem-E-Car Competition, now in its eleventh year.

Car Competitions present a worthwhile volunteer opportunity for chemical engineering professionals. AIChE requires that all car competition participants adhere to strict safety protocol. Eligibility to compete is, in part, determined by the participants' passing an onsite vehicle safety inspection, as well as the filing of job safety analysis (JSA) forms and other safe practices documents with a regional safety review committee.

The safety measures are coordinated by AIChE member volunteers. AIChE relies on qualified engineers to come forward when the call for volunteers goes out.

Volunteer JSA reviewers and regional safety team members are still being recruited for most regional conference sites. Safety professionals and chemical engineers who are interested in joining a safety inspection team can receive more information at chem-e-car@aiche.org.

2009 Regional Student Conference Schedule

Support AIChE's youngest members by volunteering at a regional conference. Visit www.aiche.org/students/ and follow the "conferences" link for information.

NORTH CENTRAL: Feb. 27–Mar. 1, Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, IL)
PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Feb. 27–Mar. 1, Univ. of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
ROCKY MOUNTAIN: Feb. 27–28, Colorado State Univ. (Fort Collins, CO)
NORTHEAST: Mar. 27–28, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst
SOUTHWEST: Mar. 27–29, Univ. of Texas at Austin
MID-AMERICA: Apr. 3–4, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia
WESTERN: Apr. 3–4, Univ. of California, Davis
SOUTHERN: Apr. 3–5, Univ. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
MID-ATLANTIC: Apr. 17–19, Hampton Univ. (Hampton, VA)

Walton Receives Presidential Early Career Award

Krista Walton, assistant professor of chemical engineering at Kansas State Univ., is the recipient of a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the U.S.'s highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent scientific research careers. Walton and 14 other scholars were recognized in a White House ceremony on Dec. 19, 2008, receiving their awards from former President George W. Bush. The recipients will each receive a research grant of \$200,000/yr for five years.

Recognized in part for her contributions to adsorption science and technology, Walton worked as an American Chemical Society postdoctoral research fellow at Northwestern Univ., as well as a graduate research assistant and IBM fellow at Vanderbilt Univ. As part of her NASA-sponsored graduate research, she designed a novel adsorption separation system for producing oxygen in the Mars *in situ* resource utilization project.

Walton earned a BS in chemical and materials engineering from the Univ. of Alabama, Huntsville, in 2000, and a

PhD in chemical engineering in 2005 from Vanderbilt Univ. She joined the faculty at Kansas State in 2006.

In the past four years, Walton's research has appeared in 14 journals, and she has nearly 30 presentations to her credit, one-third of which were presented to international audiences.

In AIChE, Walton serves in the programming group Area 2e — Adsorption and Ion Exchange. She is also a member of the International Adsorption Society and the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society.

Established in 1996 by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers honors the most promising researchers in the U.S. within their fields. Nine federal departments and agencies nominate scientists and engineers whose work shows exceptional promise for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge.



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visit www.aiche.org/ldc

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IEEE Commemorates 125 Years

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

(IEEE; www.ieee.org) wraps up its 125th Anniversary celebration this spring with a variety of activities surrounding the theme

“Celebrating 125 Years of Engineering the Future.” Events include: the first IEEE Presidents’ “Change the World Competition” for college and university students; a global media roundtable and webcast addressing emerging technologies; and a series of activities in major cities around the world. The celebration culminates with IEEE “Engineering the Future Day,” to be held on May 13 — the date of IEEE’s founding.

On March 10, IEEE will conduct a media roundtable in New York, NY. Researchers in human-technology interactions will discuss how emerging technologies in biomedical engineering, biometrics, computing, robotics, telecommunications, wireless power, and others have world-changing implications. Information on the roundtable and other activities can be found at IEEE’s website: www.ieee125.org.

Headquartered in Piscataway, NJ, IEEE traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers by industry pioneers such as Thomas Alva Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. Along with AIChE, ASME, ASCE, and AIME, IEEE is one of the engineering organizations that founded the United Engineering Society (now United Engineering Foundation), established in 1904.



Celebrating 125 Years
of Engineering the Future

AIChE’s ChemE on Demand Goes Online May 1

The fact that you read Chemical Engineering Progress tells us that you value insightful technical information — and the role it plays in your success. AIChE is now gearing up to give members and customers access to more chemical engineering content than ever — plus inexpensive training — through AIChE’s ChemE on Demand.

Starting on May 1, ChemE on Demand — AIChE’s latest online initiative — will provide a multimedia library of web-based training (webinars), meeting content, and more. The new service will enhance the resources currently available on the AIChE Web — including content from conferences, publications, archived webinars, and member forums.

Members will be able to access at least four ChemE on Demand webinars — both live and archived — annually at no charge. After that, the member-only price per webinar will be \$129. Nonmembers of AIChE will pay \$259 for each webinar. Undergraduates will enjoy free webinar access at all times.

As ChemE on Demand rolls out, watch for content from: leading experts, authors and lecturers; AIChE groups (technical divisions and forums, local sections, and committees); and AIChE members.

To take advantage of ChemE on Demand, visit www.aiche.org.

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.)

SBE’s 2nd International Conference on Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Development

March 9–12, 2009 • Marriott Coronado • Coronado Island, CA

2009 Spring National Meeting

April 26–30, 2009 • Tampa Convention Center • Tampa, FL

2009 Offshore Technology Conference

May 4–7, 2009 • Reliant Park • Houston, TX

2009 Leadership Development Conference

June 12–14, 2009 • Marriott Augusta Hotel • Augusta, GA

Eighth World Congress of Chemical Engineering

August 23–27, 2009 • Palais des Congrès • Montréal, QC, Canada

2009 Ammonia Conference

September 13–19, 2009 • Hyatt Regency Calgary • Calgary, AB, Canada

2009 Annual Meeting

November 8–13, 2009 • Gaylord Opryland Hotel • Nashville, TN

OBITUARIES

John S. Baker, 82, Centennial, CO

Mark D. Biesemeyer, 52, Broken Arrow, CO

James Chrones, 83, Willowdale, Ontario

Paul Conrad, 97, Newton, MA

Peter T. Iotti, 85, Somerville, NJ

Harold S. Kemp, 91, Lakewood, CO*

Donald J. Nicklin, 74, Samford, Australia

Richard B. Stalzer, 50, Cleveland, OH

*Fellow