



President's Corner

Making Progress Toward Our Goals

Earlier this year, I set three goals for my tenure as President: make AIChE a more international organization, increase our public profile, and get more involved in process safety education. We have, in fact, made strides in all three areas, and I want to update you on our progress. These efforts are all raising the profession's profile and the public's awareness of chemical engineers' contributions to solving technical and societal problems.

In June 2010, we formed a Blue Ribbon Committee on Government Relations (BRGR) with Phil Westmoreland as chair. The committee worked hard all year and prepared an excellent report. The Board of Directors is now looking at ways to implement the committee's recommendations, within budget limitations, of course. The BRGR suggested we expand our activities in this area to better serve our members. We hope to have some sort of presence in Washington, DC, part-time for now, to provide a consistent flow of information to and from federal government representatives. Continued involvement in state licensing issues, developing internship programs in public policy, and working more cohesively with our sister organizations were also among the recommendations. Many engineering societies have expanded their government and public outreach, and we feel that AIChE should also look at a broader view of how we "... serve society, particularly where chemical engineering can contribute to the public interest ...," as our Constitution states. Our present Government Relations Committee, which has served AIChE with great distinction, will be evolving into a broader Public Affairs or Public Interest committee, pursuing more varied activities on the profession's behalf than in the past. We're commit-

ted to conveying more information to the government and the public about what we do and how we contribute to solving societal and technical problems — and how we help U.S. and global economies.

Our International Committee has been reaching out to colleagues all over the world. The 2010 Spring Meeting included a special session on the work of chemical engineers in Spain. The session was followed by a reception, where we discussed how to foster future collaborations. Similarly, the 2010 Annual Meeting featured a session on academic Chinese chemical engineering programs, followed by a reception and interesting discussions of a more cooperative future. At this year's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, we're planning another session, this time with our Indian colleagues. We've also been regularly spotlighting the chemical industries of different countries in *CEP*. And, we continue to establish local sections and student chapters abroad. The student chapters are typically paired with sister chapters at American universities. Anyone who attended the 2010 Chem-E-Car Competition in Salt Lake City could not have missed the enthusiasm of the student chapter from Monterrey, Mexico.

A lot has been happening in process safety education, as well. For starters, process safety education is now an ABET requirement. Through AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), we continue to develop books and offer process safety training. These programs serve not only undergraduates in the U.S., but students and professionals around the world as well. To better share our process safety knowledge, we've formed a partnership with a Finnish professional education foundation and have just completed our third Latin American CCPS conference

and seventh China CCPS workshop.

Safety education is one part of a larger, more-comprehensive AIChE portfolio of education services. The education landscape is changing due to the emerging influence of advanced cyberinfrastructure. It is important that AIChE reexamine all its education activities and better integrate the recently launched eLearning program with live, online courses, self-study, webinars, etc., that are available for you whenever and wherever you need them. The Blue Ribbon Committee on Education Services was recently formed to assess all aspects of this activity and to develop a long-term perspective, including a cost benefit analysis of how we deliver education materials to our members. Under the leadership of Scott Fogler, John Chen, and Jeff Siirola, the committee is taking stock and developing further recommendations on better tailoring our offerings to the technical information needs and delivery preferences of our members.

I've mentioned but a few of the myriad activities of this vibrant, changing organization. We are very fortunate that, even through the recent period of economic turmoil, we've been consistently achieving improved budget performance. Consequently, we are well positioned to continue addressing the many opportunities ahead of us in public information, in global growth, and in education services.

I want to thank everyone, volunteers and staff, for their continuing efforts to provide improved services to our members. I hope you will consider getting more actively involved and taking more advantage of all that AIChE has to offer. I welcome your feedback at president@aiche.org.

— Maria K. Burka, AIChE President

2011 Board of Directors' and Institute Awards To be Presented at the Minneapolis Annual Meeting's Honors Ceremony

On Sunday evening, Oct. 16, at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, some of chemical engineering's most accomplished people will be recognized with the presentation of the 2011 Institute and Board of Directors' Awards. The awards will be given at the annual Honors Ceremony, which is open to all meeting attendees.

AIChE members in all areas of practice and academics are encouraged to nominate qualified candidates for future awards. The Awards Committee is especially interested in receiving more nominations from, and on behalf of, members engaged in the industrial practice of chemical engineering. Visit the AIChE website for more information about the Institute and Board awards: www.aiche.org/Awards. The deadline for 2012 nominations is Feb. 15, 2012.



Founders Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Chemical Engineering

Dr. Rakesh Agrawal, Purdue Univ.
"For novel and fundamental insights into cryogenic, separation and energy technologies with their application in numerous industrial plants and for outstanding service to the profession."



F. J. and Dorothy Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute

(Sponsored by The Dow Chemical Co.)

Dr. Warren D. Seider, Univ. of Pennsylvania
"For extraordinary dedication and service to AIChE in numerous capacities, including education, accreditation, Institute publications and conference programming, and division- and Institute-wide leadership."



William H. Walker Award for Contributions to Chemical Engineering Literature

(Sponsored by John Wiley and Sons)

Dr. Klavs F. Jensen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
"For pioneering contributions to a body of literature which virtually defines the role and utility of microreactors in the context of chemical and biological transformations."



Professional Progress Award for Outstanding Progress in Chemical Engineering

(Sponsored by Air Products)

Dr. Christopher N. Bowman, Univ. of Colorado
"For seminal contributions to polymer network fundamentals and pioneering the development of covalently adaptable networks, photochemical click reactions, and polymerization amplified biosensing mechanisms."



Allan P. Colburn Award for Excellence in Publications by a Young Member of the Institute

(Sponsored by E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.)

Dr. Celeste M. Nelson, Princeton Univ.
"For developing pioneering lithographic tissue engineering and computational methods to elucidate the biomechanical and biochemical mechanisms underlying the spatial and temporal evolution of functional organs."



R. H. Wilhelm Award in Chemical Reaction Engineering

(Sponsored by ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Co.)

Dr. Dionisios G. Vlachos, Univ. of Delaware
"For pioneering work on multiscale modeling and application to development, design, and elucidation of catalytic reaction mechanisms, computational materials design, and renewable energy."



Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Chemical Engineering Research

(Sponsored by the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation)

Dr. Enrique Iglesia, Univ. of California, Berkeley
"For his outstanding contributions to the science and development of catalysts and for his leadership in the field of catalysis."



Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology

(Sponsored by Praxair, Inc.)

Dr. Randall Q. Snurr, Northwestern Univ.
"For advancing the application of nanoporous metal-organic frameworks in gas separations and storage and showing the power of molecular simulation to design new adsorbents."



Lawrence B. Evans Award for Chemical Engineering Practice

(Sponsored by CACHE Corp.)

Dr. Paul F. McKenzie, Johnson & Johnson
"For introducing chemical engineering principles and practices in pharmaceutical process development to achieve improved quality, time to production, flexibility, robust control, and regulatory compliance."



Warren K. Lewis Award for Chemical Engineering Education

(Sponsored by ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Co.)

Dr. David T. Allen, Univ. of Texas at Austin
"For pioneering contributions in environmental sustainability and green engineering, authorship of leading textbooks, and outstanding leadership in university administration and professional organizations."



Industry Leadership Award

Dr. Ganesh Kailasam, Dow Chemical Co.
"For outstanding individual and team leadership contributions to innovative process solutions for high-performance plastics and performance materials."



Award for Service to Society

(Sponsored by Fluor Corp.)

Dr. Peter B. Lederman, Consultant (retired)
"For setting an example of the tireless and extensive service that chemical engineers can provide to the benefit of society."

Industrial Research and Development Award

Eastman Chemical Company, Dr. Chris Killian, Dr. Emmett Crawford, Dr. David Porter, Dr. Tony Messina, Dr. Ted Germroth, Dr. Dante Rutstrom, Dr. Lucian Boldea, Burt Capel, Dr. Greg Nelson, Mark Costa — *"For the development and commercialization of the Eastman Tritan copolyester."*

EASTMAN

Max Peters, Former AIChE President and Univ. of Colorado Dean

Max S. Peters, a past president of AIChE and former University Professor and dean at the Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, died on June 20, 2011, at the age of 90.

Born in Delaware, OH, Peters received a BS in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State Univ. before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served as a ski trooper in the infantry's 10th Mountain Div. and earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. Following WWII, he returned to Penn State to earn his chemical engineering MS (1947) and PhD (1952).

After teaching at the Univ. of Illinois, he moved to the Univ. of Colorado in 1962, where he held the position of dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science until 1978. He also served a term as chair of the chemical engineering department before retiring from teaching in 1987.

As dean, Peters was instrumental in the creation of the university's Engineering Center. He taught courses ranging from the freshman introductory course to senior design, and conducted research focused on air pollution, especially controlling oxides in the atmosphere. He wrote (with Klaus Timmerhaus) the widely used textbook *Plant Design and Economics for Chemical Engineers*, the fifth edition of

which was published by McGraw-Hill in 2002.

Throughout his life, Peters was committed to athletics — including skiing, running, and figure skating — and from his twenties through his sixties competed in regional and national competitions. He competed in the 1987 National Senior Olympics in ice dancing, and was one of the top five race walkers in the U.S. in the 65–69 age group. Peters shared his competitive nature with his students; as dean, he challenged them to an annual foot race, creating unusual rules to outwit the students.

Peters served as AIChE president in 1968, and received the Institute's Founders Award (1974) for contributions to chemical engineering, and the Warren K. Lewis Award (1979) for his teaching. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, among many honors and affiliations.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lurnell, and two children and their families.



Midwest Regional Conference Returns to Chicago, Nov. 10–11

Adopting Einstein's premise that everything is made of energy, "Energy is Everything" has been selected as the theme of AIChE's 2011 Midwest Regional Conference, to be held Nov. 10–11 at the Univ. of Illinois, Chicago.

Hosted annually by AIChE's Chicago Section, the Midwest Regional provides technical programs and networking opportunities for chemical engineers and scientists in the central U.S. This year's conference focuses on energy-based technologies and energy success stories in refining, natural gas, food, water, safety, and biotechnology. Other sessions will explore energy process-related research at area universities, and back-to-basics tutorials will cover plant operations, unit operations, process standards, energy integration and utilities, and process control. Up to 14 PDH credits will be available to participants.

Conference keynote speakers include Nick Spencer of British Petroleum Refining and Narasimha Rao of Nalco. A special program track for young professionals will include workshops on interview skills, resumé, finances, technical writing, and mathematical modeling.

A returning highlight is the region's Engineering Career Outreach Program, through which area high school students are introduced to the engineering profession, and attend a luncheon with engineers and college students. The keynote speaker is Dr. Al Sacco, former NASA Space Shuttle astronaut and current Dean of Engineering at Texas Tech Univ.

Companies interested in sponsoring the conference should contact Azita Ahmadzadeh at azita.ad@gmail.com. Registration information and the full schedule of events are available at <http://midwestregional.aiche.org>.

In Memoriam

James W. Althouse, 65, Macedonia, OH
 John C. Clements, 66, Corpus Christi, TX
 James W. Conrad, 86, Stone Harbor, NJ
 John F. Heiss, 91, Saint Clair, MI
 William J. Search, 60, Miamisburg, OH
 David G. Short, 71, Landenberg, PA
 Ted Szabo, 83, Norwalk, CT
 John A. Turner, 85, Phoenix, MD

AIChE Calendar

Conferences



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.)

OCTOBER
6–7, 2011

Regional Process Technology Conference
 Moody Gardens Hotel • Galveston, TX

OCTOBER
16–21, 2011

2011 AIChE Annual Meeting
 Minneapolis Convention Center • Minneapolis, MN

OCTOBER
23–26, 2011

1st Middle East Process Engineering Conference and Exposition (MEPEC)
 Gulf International Convention Centre and Gulf Hotel • Bahrain

NOVEMBER
1–3, 2011

Northeast Regional Conference at the Chem Show
 Jacob Javits Convention Center • New York, NY

NOVEMBER
6–9, 2011

Society for Biological Engineering Conference on Electrofuels Research
 Providence Biltmore • Providence, RI

NOVEMBER
9, 2011

AIChE/Institute for Sustainability Waste-to-Energy Exchange
 New York Institute of Technology • New York, NY

NOVEMBER
10–11, 2011

AIChE Midwest Regional Conference
 Univ. of Illinois • Chicago, IL

APRIL
1–5, 2012

2012 AIChE Spring Meeting & 8th Global Congress on Process Safety
 George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, TX



Scheduled Webinars

Register and view live and archived webinars at <http://www.aiche.org/webinars/>

OCT. 5, 2011
2:00–3:00 PM ET

Job Search Strategies
 Presented by Dr. Ranil Wickramasinghe

OCT. 5, 2011
2:00–3:00 PM ET

Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) Webinar: Biomass to Biofuels: Breaking the Cellulose Barrier
 Presented by Dr. Douglas Clark *Free for SBE Members*

OCT. 12, 2011
2:00–3:00 PM ET

Pay Attention to Mixing for Successful Process Development and Scale-up
 Presented by Dr. Victor Atiemo-Obeng

OCT. 26, 2011
2:00–3:00 PM ET

Molecular Gastronomy: The Science of Flavor
 Presented by Dr. Peter Barham

NOV. 2, 2011
4:00–5:00 PM ET

Maintenance and Reliability for Chemical Engineers Part Two — Asset Care Principles
 Presented by David Rosenthal, P.E.