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*Editors: Dr. Nga Lee Ng, Georgia Institute of Technology; Dr. Kerry Kelly, University of Utah; Dr. Marwa-El Sayed, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

### Current Leadership of the Division

- Chair: Dr. Kristina Wagstrom
- 1st Vice Chair: Dr. Alexander Orlov
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Dr. Kerry Kelly
- Past Chair (2020): Dr. Nga Lee Ng
- Treasurer: Dr. Larry Erickson
- Secretary: Dr. Robert Peters
- Director (2018-2021): Dr. Fengqi You
- Director (2019-2021): Dr. Matthew Alexander, PE
- Directors (2020-2022): Dr. William Patrick Linak & Dr. Kirti Yenkie
- Directors (2021-2023): Dr. Marwa El-Sayed & Dr. Yinlin Huang
- Technical Programming Chair: Dr. Gerardo J Ruiz-Mercado

### Message from the Chair



Dear Members of the AIChE Environmental Division,

Thank you to all who participated in the virtual spring meeting! I look forward to the opportunity to see many of you in-person at the hybrid 2021 Annual Meeting. The programming chair and co-chairs are working hard with the session chairs to develop a strong program for both the in-person and virtual meetings. Please watch for upcoming announcements once the program is finalized.

In addition to the programming for the upcoming annual meeting, the Environmental Division is launching a new webinar series starting in late May 2021 covering a variety of topics on Air Quality and Climate. The webinar committee has recruited a wonderful group of speakers to cover these topics. These webinars are free

and open to all Environmental Division members. We are also always looking for feedback or suggestions on future webinars and technical content that would benefit our division membership.

Another exciting new development is that we have created a student membership category in the division. Environmental Division student membership is free for AIChE student members. If you know students who are interested in the topic, please let them know that they can add the Environmental Division when they renew their membership for the next academic year.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions for how the Environmental Division can continue to help you build your career.

All the best,  
Kristina Wagstrom  
AIChE Environmental Division Chair (2021)

## Webinars

### Environmental Division Webinars: Climate Change and Air Quality

This year's ENV Webinar program centers around the theme of Climate Change and Air Quality. The first few webinars in May, June and July will specifically focus on climate change and air quality topics relevant to COVID-19; the last few webinars this year will be regular presentations related to air quality and climate changes.

Below is a list of confirmed speakers and the link to the webinar registration pages:

- Prof. Herb Cabezas (University of Miskolc) on [June 28, 2021](#)
- Prof. Jesse Kroll (MIT) on [July 26, 2021](#)
- Prof. Lea Hildebrandt Ruiz (UT-Austin) on [August 23, 2021](#)
- Prof. Ted Russell (GaTech) on [September 30, 2021](#)
- Prof. Drew Gentner (Yale) on [October 28, 2021](#)
- Prof. Nestor Y. Rojas (National Univ of Colombia) on [November 29, 2021](#)

## Community Counts Program

### Environmental Division Flyers (Community Counts Program)



Two new collateral pieces about ENV have been created as part of the AIChE Community Counts Program. Please share widely and download the materials below.

[ENV Brochure](#)

[About us flyer](#)

## 2020 Award Announcement

### Congratulations to Our Winners!



#### Lawrence K. Cecil Award

[Dr. Phillip E. Savage](#), Walter L. Robb Family Endowed Chair, Department of Chemical Engineering, Penn State University



#### Early Career Award

[Dr. Lea Hildebrandt Ruiz](#), Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin

#### Dr. Peter. B. Lederman Environmental Division Service Award



Larry Erickson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemical Engineering, Kansas State University



Mary Ellen Ternes, Partner, Earth & Water Law, LLC

#### Graduate Student Paper Award



**First place** - Aditya Prajapati, a Ph.D. candidate in Materials and Systems Engineering Lab at UIC, advisor Dr. Meenesh Singh. Aditya completed his MS in Chemical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Currently, he is working on developing artificial leaves by studying electrochemical routes for upgrading carbon-based greenhouse gases.



**Second Place** - Yiling Xu, a Ph.D. candidate of Chemical Engineering at Lamar University. Yiling received a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering at Beijing University of Chemical Technology. His research works include process simulation and optimization, process control, process development, and neural network application. His experience include simulating olefin, CO<sub>2</sub> capture, LNG, and acetic acid processes.



**Third place** - Dr Calvin Tsay, now an EPSRC Research Fellow and an Imperial College Research Fellow in the Department of Computing at Imperial College London. Calvin received a BS in chemical and biomolecular engineering and a BA in managerial studies from Rice University, and a PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on the computational methods for modeling, simulation, and optimization of intensified process systems.

## Member Spotlight

### Dr. Jeffrey Seay



**Dr. Jeffrey Seay**  
PJC Board of Trustees Engineering Professor  
Professor of Chemical Engineering  
University of Kentucky, Paducah Campus

President / Founder  
Engineers for Sustainable Energy Solutions

**1) How did you get involved in the environmental aspects of chemical engineering?**

I've been active in environmental issues for as long as I can remember. I was a member of the student environmental club as an undergraduate and volunteered during the summer for a local environmental non-profit. In my undergraduate program in chemical engineering, I chose

the environmental emphasis, which allowed me to take environmental focused electives as part of my Bachelor's Degree.

**2) Which people or programs in our field have been the most influential to you and your path?**

As an undergraduate, Prof. Mahmoud El-Halwagi, who was then at Auburn University, was a tremendous influence. He changed the way I thought about chemical engineering. I learned to treat chemical processes as systems, and to optimize them and to minimize environmental impacts. As I began my academic career, Prof. Yinlun Huang was a tremendous influence. He got me involved in the Environmental and Sustainability programs at AIChE.

[For the full spotlight interview, please click here.](#)

## Student Feature

### Dr. Sandra Cutts



**Dr. Sandra Cutts**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

**1) Tell us about yourself.**

I have always been an advocate of environmental and social justice and my research included: phytoremediation, environmental stressors, nuclear energy, sustainable development, policy effectiveness, citizens' participation, and hazardous waste. My research contributed to the growing need to investigate and justify emerging technologies and alternative, clean, and efficient energy sources. As a 2019-2020 National Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, I worked on environmental policy issues in the U.S. Senate and currently, I am assisting AIChE's Environmental Division section leader - Dr. Peters with research activities for the Environmental Division Programming Section on Legislation and Regulations. As an awarded 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar, I will continue environmental research at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in Greece. I am a 2020 PhD Environmental (Civil) Engineering graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (dissertation entitled: Brownfield Redevelopments in Birmingham, Alabama: An Evaluation Of The Role Of Citizen Participation Utilizing The Framework Of Arnstein's Ladder), have an MBA from the University of Chicago and both an M.S. in Environmental Planning/Urban & Regional Studies and a B.S. in Mathematics from Alabama A&M University.

**2) How did you first become interested in the environmental field of chemical engineering?**

As an undergraduate at Alabama A&M University, I was involved with research activities related to DDT contamination of a river located in a marginalized community in Triana, Alabama. This work exposed me to the impact of anthropogenic activities in the degradation of the environment, become an active researcher to be part of the solution.

[For the full feature, please click here.](#)

## Other News & Events

- Dr. Robert Peter's nomination as a Professor Emeritus at UAB has been approved by the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees. This is made in recognition of his outstanding service and years of dedication to the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. Congratulations Bob!
- A Student Career Panel Webinar was organized on May 11, 2021. [Webinar content can be found here](#) and a [follow-up Q&A can be downloaded here](#).
- Dr. Tapas Das will instruct a workshop on Sunday Nov 7, 2021 in Boston during the AIChE Annual Meeting.

**Workshop: Industrial Environmental Management**

Sunday, November 7, 2021, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Boston

Instructor: Dr. Tapas K. Das, PE, DEE

## CONTACT US

Have a question about your AIChE or ENV Division membership, upcoming events or awards? Contact us at [membership@aiiche.org](mailto:membership@aiiche.org)

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