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This month's webinar: Thursday, November 15, 2018
9 pm ET / 6 pm PT / 1 am GMT

MODULAR CHEMICAL PROCESS INTENSIFICATION: RAPID and Our Mission to Transform the Process Industries

By Dr. Jim Bielenberg, Chief Technology Officer
AIChE's RAPID Manufacturing Institute

For several decades, the ideas of process intensification and modular chemical processes have offered the promise of fundamentally changing the way the process industries operate – from the types of equipment employed to the business models of industry participants. In this talk, we will look at recent developments that suggest that the time may have come for the promise of these concepts to finally be fully realized. We will touch briefly on market, economic, and regulatory forces and technology trends that are creating a pull for modular and intensified process and will finish with a discussion of the formation of RAPID, a Manufacturing USA institute that is focused on creating a public-private partnership to catalyze research and development in the space of modular processing and process intensification.

Jim Bielenberg, PhD, is the chief technology officer of the Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment (RAPID) Manufacturing Institute. He has spent the last 15 years working in various areas of new technology development, including 12 years working at ExxonMobil. He is a co-inventor on over 15 patents across a broad set of technologies in the chemical and refining space, coal gasification, and biofuels processing. He received his BS from the Univ. of Nebraska and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), both in chemical engineering.

When it is time for the meeting to start, [click here](#) and use meeting number (access code): 797 901 865 to log in.

To use telephone audio:

1-866-469-3239 Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada) or

+1-650-429-3300 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

[Click here for global call-in numbers](#)

AIChE's Virtual Local Section Webinars are free of charge. These webinars are open to AIChE Virtual Local Section Members, other AIChE members, and other interested persons.

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Congratulations to the Newly Elected Members of the 2019 VLS Executive Committee

Please extend a warm welcome to the officers and directors chosen in this year's Virtual Local Section elections.

2019 Chair: Kirsten Rosselot
Senior Vice Chair: Walter Goldstein
Vice Chair: Aslam Khan
Treasurer: Jennifer Brand
Director 3: Mario Arredondo
Director 4: Richard Evans

They begin serving in these roles in January of 2019.

Upcoming VLS Webinar Topics

No webinar in December

January 2019: TBD

February 2019: Municipal Sludge and Wastewater Recycling

March 2019: Engineering Ethics

Raj Bhuvra Wins Fourth Annual Student Competition

by Noah Meeks

Student Competition Coordinator

Raj Bhuvra, a Chemical Engineering student at University of Pennsylvania, won the Virtual Local Section's recent Student Co-op and Internship Presentation Competition with his talk "Reducing the cycle time of a Fluidized Bed Dryer (FBD) used in the drying process of Brufen." Bhuvra interned with Abbott India Ltd,

during which time he optimized the drying process by modifying the inlet air parameters (temperature, RH, and flowrate). He was awarded \$500 by the VLS.

Other top finishers were also awarded prizes and include:

- Morgan Bergstrom, Colorado School of Mines; intern at Assured Flow Solutions
- Wade Curlee, University of South Carolina; intern at Savannah River National Lab
- Samantha Bonilla, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; intern at Cornerstone Chemical Company

VLS hosts the Student Co-op and Internship Presentation Competition to recognize the outstanding contributions of chemical engineering undergraduates to industry and fill a need in giving these students presentation experience to talk about their industrial chemical engineering accomplishments. The presentations are always high-quality and reflect great work of the students during their co-op or internship experience. The competition was hosted at the VLS regular meeting in September, after a call for abstracts was published in the summer. VLS leadership selected finalists from among the received abstracts, and each finalist presented their work for 5-10 minutes. Several VLS leaders acted as judges and awards were presented at the program conclusion.

The benefits of the program were summarized by Morgan Bergstrom (pictured), who said "I appreciated the chance to reflect on my internship experience, as well as compare my projects with the other students. The competitors worked in diverse industries over the summer and it opened my eyes to all sorts of chemical engineering jobs! I also appreciated the chance to practice my presentation skills. I know how to talk about my summer experience now, which has already helped me with interviews!"



VLS on the Web and in Social Media

by Paul Adamson, Director, AICHE VLS

The [AICHE VLS Website](#) is a great resource to help you keep up to date on VLS activities, view past webinars, and engage with fellow chemical engineers via social media. Let's briefly walk through the three areas of the VLS webpage highlighted in the screen shot below: Navigate, Share, and Follow.



Navigate. Here you'll find links to pages containing [current and past newsletters](#), information about [upcoming and past events](#), and links to [past webinars](#) published to [AICHE's Academy Platform](#). You can also learn about your [VLS Leadership](#), and the "Discussion Group" link will take you to [VLS Central on AICHE Engage](#). Note that you must login to access past webinars and the Engage Platform.

Share. The AICHE website makes it easy for you to help us promote VLS activities. If you click through to any of the events posted on the site, you'll see links for sharing information on all popular social media platforms as well as email.

Follow. If you are on social media, be sure to follow AICHE VLS on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). This will help you to easily stay up to date on VLS activities, and it will help us spread the word about all of the great programming we are bringing to chemical engineers around the world.

To follow the Virtual Local Section on Twitter: Log in to your Twitter account. Search for "AICHE Virtual Local Section." Hover over the header that says "AICHE Virtual Local Section." A popup will appear. Click on the "follow" button in the popup.

To like the Virtual Local Section on Facebook: Log in to your Facebook account. Search for "AICHE VLS." Click on AICHE VLS when the search results appear. Click the "like" button.

To join the Virtual Local Section on LinkedIn: Log in to your LinkedIn account. Search for "AICHE Virtual Section." As you are typing in the search box a drop down list will appear. Click on AICHE - Virtual Section Group. Click on the "request to join" button.

Engineers Will Imagine Amazement in 2019

by Laura J. Gimpelson, P.E., Secretary, VLS

Each year more than 70 United States engineering, education, and cultural societies and more than 50 corporations and government agencies celebrate being an engineer during the week of George Washington's birthday. In 2019, the week of February 17 – 23 has been declared "National Engineers Week" in the United States and will feature the ways engineers "Imagine Amazement." Joining the United States in honoring engineers in 2019 are the countries of Ireland, Canada, India, and Australia. Many other nations are planning [events](#) on the Global Day of the Engineer, April 3, 2019.

Listed below are some of the events planned in 2019 to honor engineers, their achievements and encourage children to enter the field of engineering.

Depending on your location, events range from hosting competitions such Mathcounts, Future City, Robotics, and Science and Engineering Fairs to honoring the top engineers, agencies and employers at banquets and dinners. Many local engineers take time to visit local primary and secondary schools.

For information on the events in your location, check some of the websites listed below or contact your local engineering societies, school districts and private schools and governmental agencies for more information:

- www.aiche-metrony.org/Engineers/Week.html
- www.facebook.com/EngineersWeek
- www.engineeringfamilyday.org
- www.facebook.com/EngineersAustralia

February 14 & 15	Capital District Celebration of National Engineers Week (E-Week)
February 17 - 23	Engineers Week in the United States
February 19	Future City Competition
February 21	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
March	Engineers Month , Canada
March 2 – 19	Engineers Week , Ireland
April 3	Global Day of the Engineer
September 15	Engineers Day , India
November 20-23	World Engineer Convention, Melbourne Australia

National News

The AIChE hosts technical conferences around the world. Check www.aiche.org/conferences for registration and presentation information for this year's events.

Dates	Event
Dec 2 – 4	Food Innovation and Engineering (FOODIE) Conference, Napa California
Dec 5 – 7	6 th International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering, San Francisco California
Dec 10 – 11	2 nd International Conference on CRISPR Technologies, San Diego California
Feb 17 – 19	Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Development, Carlsbad California
Mar 31 – Apr 4	2019 Spring National Meeting & CCPS Global Congress on Process Safety, New Orleans Louisiana

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

If anyone is interested in soliciting content or helping with layout, contact [Kirsten Rosselot](#). We'd love to have you on board and it's a great way to get to know people!

Did You Know?

You can visit [the VLS website](#) for more information on the Virtual Local Section's mission, activities and membership, and to watch previous webinars.

Continuing Education Credits

Send your name, the certificate number on your professional engineer's license, and the state in which you are licensed to our Secretary, [Laura Gimpelson](#), to receive one hour of continuing education credit for attending our monthly webinar.

Many thanks to Elizabeth J. H. Guenther who created the original VLS logo and recently updated it!

The Virtual Local Section's Executive Committee

Officers

Chair: [Sabine Brueske](#)

Senior Vice Chair:
Unfilled

Vice Chair Pro Tem:
[Kirsten Rosselot](#)

Secretary: [Laura Gimpelson, P.E.](#)

Treasurer: [Neil Yeoman](#)

Immediate Past Chair:
[Experience Nduagu](#)

Directors

Director 1: [Louis Mielke](#)

Director 2: [Paul Shuey](#)

Director 3: Open (Expires 12/31/2018)

Director 4: [Walter Goldstein](#)

Director 5: [Dan Miller](#)

Director 6: [Paul Adamson](#)

Subscription Information

Current members of the Virtual Local Section receive this newsletter. If you wish to update your email address, contact the AIChE's New York Office for Permanent Address Corrections at xpress@aiche.org or 1-800-242-4363.



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