



# Women's *i*nitiatives *C*ommittee

## Newsletter

# NEWSLETTER

*Issue 6 – April, 2018*

***Welcome to 2018's Spring e-newsletter of the Women's Initiatives Committee. We have exciting events coming up at the 2018 AICHe Spring Meeting. You will also find information about our past events held at the 2017 AICHe Annual Meeting. Enjoy!***

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# Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

In 2018, as the Women's Initiative Committee embarks into its 20<sup>th</sup> year of actuality, we will continue pursuing WIC's mission in promoting the entry, development, and full participation of women in the institute and the profession. WIC is led by a group of talented and passionate volunteers who are engaged in putting together programs and events that will benefit the AIChE community. I want to take this opportunity to thank the steering team for their dedication, time and efforts.

The annual meeting was held in Minneapolis in October. Workshops catering towards the needs of undergraduate, graduate students, postdoc, assistant professors and young scientist in industries were put together by the team lead by Heather Emady and Julianne Holloway. The luncheon speaker Prof. Rachael Segalman engaged her audience through her learning path involving, "Planning, Serendipity and Optimism". Prof. Segalman addressed over 40 attendees with her strategy and insight into achieving balance within one's life and successfully achieving realistic goals. During the luncheon, 9 students and post docs were recognized with the "Graduate Student Travel awards" and Elizabeth Wach was recognized with the "W2R2 Travel award" to support women's reentry in the work Force. The recipient of the 2017 Mentorship Excellence award was Professor Lola Eniola-Adefeso for the development of the next generation of chemical engineers through mentoring. Details can be found in this newsletter.

I'm really excited about the engaging events this team is working on putting together for the spring meeting in Orlando. WIC is collaborating with MAC to put together workshops to help build awareness about unconscious bias in the workplace. As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, WIC will be co-hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> GCPS Tuesday luncheon. The luncheon will feature Delia Contreras (Global Vice President of Engineering & Sustainability – Global Supply Chain at Nalco Champion, an Ecolab Company) as keynote speaker.

As we look forward to Spring 2018 meeting, we will continue our collaboration with YPC and MAC in organizing panel discussions and workshops relevant to development of skillsets to succeed in the chemical industry. If you have any suggestions or wish to join us, please contact me at [bkrishnan3@dow.com](mailto:bkrishnan3@dow.com).

Best regards,  
Bindu Krishnan  
Senior Scientist  
The Dow Chemical Company

## Join WIC's Email List and Social Media

Please join our email list and social media groups. Here, we are hoping to create networks between women undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, industry professionals, and academics. Please feel free to start discussions and post relevant articles.

Email:  
<http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/committees/womens-initiatives/forms/keep-posted-on-wic-activities>

LinkedIn:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/AIChE-Womens-Initiatives-Committee-4823836>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aichewic/>

Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/aichewic>

# 2018 AIChE Spring Meeting Orlando, FL, April 22-26 Announcements



## **Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) Snack & Chat**

Orlando World Center, Room: San Antonio, April 23, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

This event is a very good opportunity to meet with the WIC committee. Come join us to learn how to get more involved with WIC!

## **Workshops**

Orlando World Center Marriott, Room: Miami, April 24

WIC will offer several workshops at the Spring Meeting that helps build awareness about unconscious bias in the workplace. Tickets must be purchased for these events, either online (recommended) or, if tickets still available, onsite at the registration desk. The Unconscious Bias featured sessions are a part of the Development Topical Conference. Unconscious bias (or implicit bias) refers to unconscious beliefs or stereotypes that influence our actions and decisions when interacting with other people. Learn about identifying and addressing unconscious bias in these featured sessions. These sessions will be chaired by Sindia Rivera-Jimenez from University of Florida and Bindu Krishnan from The Dow Chemical Company.

- [Understanding Unconscious Bias in the Workplace](#) (8:00am – 9:30am)  
The participants of this active-learning workshop will learn the concept of unconscious bias, examine resources on how to identify their own biases, raise awareness of how unconscious biases work, and how they can influence interactions in the workplace.
- [Real Stories of Unconscious Bias in the Workplace](#) (10:15am – 11:45pm)  
Professionals across the discipline will share their perspectives on this important topic.

## **Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) Luncheon as an AIChE Luncheon**

Orlando World Center, Room: Cypress Ballroom 3, April 24, 11:45am – 1:30pm

You are invited to join us for the 2018 AIChE Spring Meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> GCPS Tuesday luncheon. This luncheon is also a part of the celebration of Women's Initiatives Committee's 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. The luncheon will feature keynote speaker Delia Contreras, Global Vice President of Engineering & Sustainability – Global Supply Chain at Nalco Champion, an Ecolab Company.

\*This is a ticketed event.

❖ Please note that The Orlando World Center Marriott has a **day care service (Kid's World)** that will be available (for a fee) to attendees who may have young children with them.

Kid's World Schedule: Full day \$110: 10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Half Day \$60: 10 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. OR 1:30 – 5 P.M. (Lunch available for purchase)

For more information call ext. 88980 or to make reservations call ext. 85152. Based on availability, limited capacity available.

# 2017 AIChE Annual Meeting Recap

## Minneapolis, MN, October 29-November 3



### Workshops

The AIChE Women's Initiatives Committee was very active at the Annual Meeting with several workshops in addition to the luncheon! We held workshops and panels for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, assistant professors and young scientists..

In these events, fellow chemical engineers and recruiters shared their experiences and answered questions from students and young professionals. Specific panels were held for graduate school, for leadership and team management and for career choices in academia, industry and national labs, in addition to seminars from COACH.



### Luncheon

At our Annual Meeting Networking Luncheon, Rachel Segalman (Edward Noble Kramer Professor and Department Chair at University of California, Santa Barbara) delivered a keynote presentation entitled "Work Life Balance: A Two Variable Equation with Many Solutions." Rachel addressed 150 attendees with her strategy and insight into achieving balance within one's life and successfully achieving realistic goals. If you missed Rachel Segalman's keynote presentation, you can watch the interview our program chair, Julianne Holloway, did with her by clicking [here](#).

### Mentorship Excellence Award Winner

Omolola Eniola-Adefeso, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at University of Michigan, received the Mentorship Excellence Award for her profound impact on chemical engineering undergraduate and graduate students, as well as K-12 students and the faculty at the University of Michigan.

### 2017 Travel Award Winners

Manizheh Ansari, Elizabeth Cummings Bende, Fatima Enam, Paulami Majumdar, Hanieh Niroomand, Kayla Pate, Ashley Pennington, Arushi Prakash and Kelsey Stoerzinger received WIC's Travel Award to attend the AIChE 2017 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis

### 2017 Women Workplace Retention & Reentry (W2R2) Travel Grant Winner

Elizabeth Wachs received WIC's W2R2 Travel Grant, which supports professional women navigating work/life integrations and professional development to attend the AIChE Annual Meeting.

## Spotlight: 2017 W2R2 Award Winner Elizabeth Wachs (by Irem Sen)



Elizabeth Wachs was awarded the WIC Women Workplace Retention and Reentry travel grant award in 2017. She is a Ph.D. student at Purdue University working on industrial ecology. We interviewed her about her research and her experiences as a graduate student with three young children.

**Elizabeth, AIChE Women's Initiatives Committee has awarded you the W2R2 (Women's Workplace Retention and Reentry) award for the 2017 AIChE meeting. Congratulations!! Can you please tell us about your story? What was it like as a Ph.D. student with a child?**

Thank you Irem! I was honored to receive the award. I am also happy that AIChE WIC would create such an award, which I hope will help other women persist in reaching their goals after motherhood. I was accepted to my PhD program right after I realized I was expecting my third child. I was thrilled, but also scared. I realized I would give birth in the middle of the first semester. While Purdue offers maternity leave to graduate students, it is only available after one year in the program. I did have some accrued sick and vacation time, but it was not a long leave. While I had only been taking two courses, it was still very stressful to make up coursework while recovering from a difficult birth and caring for a baby. I also had to hire full time help until there was a spot for my son in daycare. This was a hard time.

Afterwards I had good luck. My son's daycare teacher was wonderful, which made it easier to drop him off when he was so young. At work, they had just converted a space in my building to a lactation room, which facilitated things. Gradually I was able to focus more on my coursework and research. This year a graduate student mother in the Vet School started a graduate parent support network, so it has been nice to meet other parents who are trying to make things work. We are trying to help make this a normal thing at Purdue, so that women are not deterred from following their dreams.

I feel very lucky to be a PhD student. In some ways it is easier as a parent. I am very disciplined in my use of time because I have to be. When I am working, I am working. I have a balanced life, since I have time with my family after the work day is over. This helps me stay grounded, so a bad result or rejection does not devastate me. On the other hand, sometimes I am in the middle of writing, things are flowing, I'm finally getting it and stop—time to go. It is also difficult to be involved in student (or any!) activities since my schedule is so constrained. So, it is a double-edged sword.

**Was that your first AIChE meeting? What was your impressions about the meeting?**

This was my first AIChE meeting, and only my second conference. It was big! It was interesting to see the breadth of research in the field. I enjoyed seeing research at the conference that is related to mine, but which I would not have happened upon because of different keywords and journals.

**Did you attend any of the AIChE WIC workshops or social events? What did you get most out of attending these events?**

The only WIC event I attended this time was the luncheon. If I get to attend again I would go to more events with WIC. It was a nice opportunity to get to speak with people in a more intimate setting at such a large conference. I also really enjoyed the talk by the awardee, Rachel Segalman. She had a fascinating story and perspective. It is inspiring to me to see women who combine motherhood with professional success.

**Finally, Liz can you tell us about your background and your research a little bit?**

My research is in an interdisciplinary field called Industrial Ecology. Research questions in Industrial Ecology focus on understanding how industries together represent ecosystems, how they interact with the natural world, and how those connections and interactions can be improved. Chemical engineers have played a major role in the development of Industrial Ecology. *Cont'd on the next page*

In my PhD work, I am building a network of process models in Aspen Plus representing the corn supply chain in the Midwest, so that I can track flows of synthetic nitrogen through industry. We have developed a methodology to place the results into a framework from economics called input-output, a widely used tool for decision making. For the AIChE Annual Meeting I adapted the models to a different time period and region, to test the modularity of our approach and its usefulness as a modeling tool for the food-energy-water nexus. I have a secondary project forecasting energy demand in cities. I presented a model at the AIChE Annual Meeting that finds optimal power supply generation mixtures based on the projected demand.

## WIC Mission

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) will lead in promoting the entry, development, and full participation of women in the Institute and the profession through the following strategies:

- Develop / distribute resources on subjects pertaining to women in the profession.
- Mobilize AIChE to meet the needs of existing and potential female members of AIChE and the profession.
- Provide networking means for women in AIChE to use each other as resources.
- Increase the visibility of women within AIChE and the profession.

## 2018 WIC Executive Committee

### Chair

Bindu Krishnan, [BKrishnan3@dow.com](mailto:BKrishnan3@dow.com)  
Research Scientist, The Dow Chemical Company

### Past Chair

Heather Emady, [Heather.Emady@asu.edu](mailto:Heather.Emady@asu.edu)  
Assistant Professor, Arizona State University

### Secretary

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Assistant Professor, University of Florida

### Program Chair – 2018 Annual Meeting

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Postdoctoral Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University

### Fundraising Chair

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### Fellow Nominations Chair

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### Communications Committee

Beyza Bulutoglu (Newsletter Editor), Chrisy Duo, Aida Amini Rankouhi, Angela Brown, Humeyra Ulusoy-Erol

Donating to WIC is critical to having continuing programming.

You can donate online now at <http://www.aiche.org/community/giving/donate>. Scroll to “Women’s Initiatives” at the bottom of the page. Also, look for a donation box for WIC when renewing your AIChE membership.

### Vice Chair

Julie Renner, [jxr484@case.edu](mailto:jxr484@case.edu)  
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University

### Treasurer

Lalitha Ganapatibhotla, [LVGanapatibhotla@dow.com](mailto:LVGanapatibhotla@dow.com)  
Sr. Engineer, The Dow Chemical Company

### Program Chair – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

Julianne Holloway, [Julianne.Holloway@asu.edu](mailto:Julianne.Holloway@asu.edu)  
Assistant Professor, Arizona State University

### Program Chair – 2018 Spring Meeting

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### Awards Chair

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