



# WIC

WOMEN IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
An AIChE Community

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8  
SPRING 2019



Welcome to 2019's Spring e-newsletter of the Women In Chemical Engineering (WIC), an AIChE® community. We have exciting events coming up at the 2019 AIChE Spring Meeting. You will also find information about our past events held at the 2018 AIChE Annual Meeting. Enjoy!



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**Read about upcoming WIC  
events in Spring Meeting  
Announcements.  
*You are invited!***

# Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Our organization finds itself in a very exciting and dynamic time as it begins another year of promoting the entry, development, and full participation of women in the institute and the profession. Many of our members were inspired and encouraged throughout 2018 as we celebrated WIC's 20th anniversary with events and sessions that recognized women's technical achievements and provided professional growth opportunities. Highlighted events include the 2018 WIC 20th Anniversary Symposium at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, featuring 20 invited speakers from diverse research backgrounds and affiliations; the Rising Stars Leadership Workshop attended by more than fifty women from companies around the world; and AIChE's 2018 Gala Inspiring and Empowering Women Engineers which raised \$570,000 to support efforts that expand women's leadership programs, strengthen pre-college STEM education for girls, and improve the retention of women engineers at all stages in their careers.

Our aim in 2019 is to keep the momentum from those events going. In this spirit, we have some exciting news to share. To more accurately reflect WIC's contributions and leadership role in AIChE and the chemical engineering profession at large, we have developed a new logo and messaging for our community moving forward. We are launching a new name: Women In Chemical Engineering (WIC), an AIChE Community. I believe these changes reflect the aim of our organization to continuously provide fresh and timely support and programming for the women of AIChE, but also reflect the hardworking, dedicated, creative and talented team of volunteers that is behind the events that we put on. We are delighted to announce WIC's new look and vision at the upcoming 2019 AIChE Spring Meeting in New Orleans. I invite you all to check out our new video for WIC here: <https://youtu.be/M9wPMQcw1x4> I would also like to highlight some of the events at the spring meeting which feature women leaders in their technical fields. We will be hosting a sessions entitled, "Women in Fuels and Petrochemicals," and "Women in Process Safety," which will have women in different stages of their career sharing their experiences. Please join us for these first-of-a-kind events, and the other events described in this newsletter.

Finally, thank you to all of the volunteers and supporters of WIC. If you want to be more involved please contact me ([julie.renner@case.edu](mailto:julie.renner@case.edu)). I look forward to our continued work together as a community, and wish you well this 2019.

Sincerely,  
Julie Renner



Connect  
with us!

Please join our email list and social media groups. 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.



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



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



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



<https://twitter.com/aichewic>

# 2019 AIChE Spring Meeting

## New Orleans, LA

### March 31 - April 4

### Announcements



WOMEN IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
An AIChE Community

# You are invited!

**Monday, April 1, 2019**

### Fostering Inclusive Communities in Engineering

1:30pm-3:00pm / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Parish

### Women in Fuels and Petrochemicals

3:30pm-5:00pm / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Parish

### WIC Connect: Snacks and Networking

5:30pm-6:30pm / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Durham

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

### WIC Breakfast Keynote (Ticketed Event)

8:00am-9:30am / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Churchill C1

### It Takes a Village

10:15am-11:45am / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Commerce

### Women in Process Safety

1:30pm-3:00pm / Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Camp

## Fostering Inclusive Communities in Engineering

**April 1, 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Parish**

This presentation will have a subject matter expert discuss the latest research and methods for supporting collaborative, inclusive workplaces. Following the presentation, a panel of industry and academia will share thought leadership and best practices for fostering inclusion.

## WIC Connect

### Snacks and Networking

**April 1, 5:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Durham**

Coming to the 2019 Spring Meeting?  
Connect with colleagues and learn more about the Women In Chemical Engineering, an AIChE community!  
Light refreshments will be available.



# 2019 AIChE Spring Meeting

## New Orleans, LA

### March 31 - April 4

### Announcements



## Workshops

### Women in Fuels and Petrochemicals

**April 1, 3:30pm - 5:00pm**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Parish**

This session will feature a panel discussion by women in different stages of their career, where they will share their experiences and how they progressed.

Panelists:

Sharon Beshouri, President, VP, Chief Engineer, Shell

Meagan Lewis, Senior Business Leader, UOP

Meredith Lansdown, Technical Services Engineer, Chevron



### It Takes a Village

**April 2, 10:15am - 11:45am**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Commerce**

This session will feature a discussion on how to develop your workforce and to tackle the differences in mentoring and coaching.

### Women in Process Safety

**April 2, 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Parish**

This session will feature a discussion by women in process safety about challenges in their careers.



## WIC Breakfast

### WIC Breakfast Keynote

**April 2, 10:15am - 11:45am**

**Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Commerce**

Join us for the WIC breakfast with a keynote from Cari Parker, Vice President of Manufacturing - Eastman.

This is a ticketed event. To register, please contact [customerservice@aiche.org](mailto:customerservice@aiche.org) and mention event # 209.





# 2018 AIChE Annual Meeting Recap



## WIC 20th Anniversary



We have celebrated our 20th anniversary with all the amazing chemical engineers in Pittsburgh! We celebrated this milestone at the Annual Meeting with special workshops, traditional WIC luncheon and a full day symposium to highlight the significant contributions of women to chemical engineering.

Our semi-annual luncheon offers a great opportunity to connect with chemical engineers from academia and industry. We also honor and recognize exemplary students, mentors and professionals. This year Joan Brennecke, Julie Liu, and Caryn Heldt shared their stories with us.



**Women's Initiatives Committee**

**WIC 20th Anniversary Symposium: Celebrating Women in Chemical Engineering**

All Day Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – DLL Conv. Center Spirit of Pittsburgh A



**Celebratory Reception**  
following at 7:30-9:30 pm in  
DLL Conv. Center Spirit of  
Pittsburgh A with champagne  
toast at 8 pm! All genders  
welcome.  
More info: <https://bit.ly/2MjhBzi>

Questions: Contact Symposium Chair, Julianne Holloway ([julianne.holloway@asu.edu](mailto:julianne.holloway@asu.edu))

Our day long symposium included invited talks by 22 amazing women in chemical engineering. We were proud to have a chance to highlight the achievements of women in chemical engineering from all career stages and fields. Inspiring, powerful stories and impressive, pioneering accomplishments shared by these women inspired many chemical engineers. One of our participants shared her experience as "The advice, networking, and mentorship was paralleled with fantastic science".

## Award Winners

As part of the WIC Travel Award Program, we would like congratulate following students and postdocs for receiving the WIC Travel Award:

Hannah Zierden, Kazi Tasneem, Gozde Demirer, Izabela Samek, Juliana Carneiro and Elizabeth Phillips.  
Congratulations everyone!



# #WomenInChE In the Spotlight

by Irem Sen

**Juliana Carneiro was awarded the WIC travel grant award in 2018. She is a Ph.D. student at Wayne State University working on catalysis. We interviewed her about her research and her experiences as a graduate student.**

**Juliana, can you tell us about your background and your research a little bit? Were you always interested in chemical engineering?**

I actually received my undergraduate degree in environmental engineering, from Brazil. I liked the field a lot, but I quickly learned that the way I wanted to contribute to it was by designing new and environmentally friendly technologies/processes. Given my reality at the time, chemical engineering seemed a more suitable path for me. I thought that pairing the knowledge from both fields would allow me to impact on a deeper level. Currently, in my Ph.D., I work with electrocatalysis, which is in the heart of a number of energy conversion and storage technologies - such as water electrolysis, metal-air batteries and fuel cells. I am interested in developing fundamental knowledge at the molecular level required to guide the design of efficient electrocatalysis for these technologies.

**AIChE WIC has awarded you the travel award for the 2018 AIChE meeting. Congratulations!! Was that your first AIChE meeting? What was your impressions about the meeting?**

Thank you Irem! I am very grateful for this award, along with the fact that it facilitated my attendance to the 2018 AIChE meeting. I have been attending the AIChE meetings since 2014, but my work and myself have been evolving along of these years and each annual meeting is definitely different and enriches me in a new way. It is always a privilege to be able to access this community, network and learn from them. Also, I was thrilled by the opportunity to expose the work that I have been developing at the Nikolla Research Group and hear feedback from the top scientist in the field.

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

I become aware of AIChE WIC last year through two important female figures in my scientific life, my advisor (Eranda Nikolla) and our department chair (Guangzhao Mao). So, I just had the chance to attend the luncheon, which I found very inspiring and gave me a strong sense of community. That was my first experience sitting among other women engineers and having discussions about relevant topics, such as work-life balance. Furthermore, as I want to follow the academic path, it gave me access to others inspiring women to look out for (i.e., Julie Liu).

**How do you see the presence of women in your field of research (catalysis)? What has your experience been like working as a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field?**

I agree with you, Irem. Catalysis is definitely a male-dominated field, but it took me some time to notice that. I think this reflects the laboratory where I come from, which is led by a woman and most of the members are female students. With that, my understanding of the dynamic in this field came as I started getting exposed to conferences. My very first natural feeling was of not belonging. Not only for been a woman, but my entire background as an afro-latina woman seemed a little bit different within the rooms I walked in. At that point was where I started the active work of looking out for women impacting in the field, appreciating them even more. Representation is relieving. And when you are relieved you are free to do your work better. WIC is certainly a great align on this search.

**Do you have any advice to give young women who wants to pursue Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering?**

I guess I would like to remind you that there were, and there are, a lot of women out there working very hard to pursue their passion and occupy their own spaces in this field. As consequence, they make sure you can occupy yours. So, don't shy away, honor your talent and their work. What you have to bring to this table is very much needed. Do not waste it.



## Our Mission

Women In Chemical Engineering (WIC), an AIChE community 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.

## 2019 WIC Executive Committee

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Julie Renner, jxr484@case.edu  
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University

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