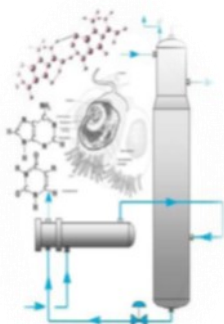


AICHE Chicago Section

May 2024 Newsletter



Inside this issue:

May Meeting Info	1, 3
Chair's Corner	2
Thiele Award Winner	4
McCormack Award Winners	5
Poster Competition Winners	9
Scholarship Winners	10
April Meeting Photos	11
May Highlights	12
AICHE Chicago Centennial Countdown	14
2024-2025 Elected Officers	15
2024-2025 Proposed Officers	17
Upcoming Events	19
AICHE Chicago Address Change	20
Local Section Membership Fee and Financial Status	20



AICHE Chicago May Meeting

What Thermodynamics Teaches Us About Life



Sohail Murad

Professor and Chair

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Illinois Institute of Technology

Date: **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

Location: **caffè DeLuca**

Address: **7427 Madison St, Forest Park, IL 60130**

<https://caffedeluca.com/>

Cost: **\$40** **AICHE Global and Chicago Section Member**
 \$50 **Non-Member**
 \$15 **Unemployed/Retired**
 \$10 **Student**

Registration and Information: **<https://cvent.me/x13erX>**



Agenda:

5:00-6:00 PM: Registration and Networking

6:00-7:00 PM: Dinner

7:00-7:15 PM: Section Announcements

(AIChE Chicago Scholarships and Thiele Award)

7:15-8:30 PM: Technical presentation, Q&A

Chair's Corner

Dear AIChE Chicago Section Members,

It's hard to believe it's already May and we're in the home stretch of our programming year. At the end of the programming year I'm feeling incredibly grateful for the rest of the leadership team. I don't think I could overstate how much all of our officers, directors, and volunteers contribute to the section. They organize our monthly meetings, write our newsletters, find outreach opportunities in the community, and more. If there is one thing I've learned from my time chairing the section this year, it's that I should have been better at communicating with them and asking for their help. We really are fortunate to have such a good group of engineers who are willing to volunteer their time to make a local Chicago section a reality.



April's meeting was a great success. Jarad's insightful perspective provided us with a greater appreciation for the balance between energy needs and environmental stewardship and the impacts, both intended and unintended, of regulation and legislation on that balance. It was a discourse that perfectly echoed our mission of advancing chemical engineering practices in sustainable ways.

For this month, I'm excited to announce that our meeting will feature this year's Thiele Award winner, Dr. Sohail Murad. As the Professor and Chair of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Dr. Murad has been shaping the minds and future of our field through both his teaching and pioneering research for decades. With over 150 research publications, he has a reputation as an authority in multiple domains including alternative energy, computational molecular modeling, and nanosystems.

Dr. Murad's presentation will explore thermodynamics through the lens of life and everyday occurrences in order to try to remove some of the abstraction of what's typically seen as a really challenging topic for students (and let's be honest, professionals!) to wrap their heads around. By drawing parallels between scientific principles and human interactions, he will demystify thermodynamics. I personally love the idea of finding deep, structural similarities between seemingly dissimilar topics, so I'm very excited for this presentation.

In addition to Dr. Murad's presentation, we will also use the May meeting as an opportunity to elect the officers who will lead the Chicago Section next year. In that way, the May meeting is not just a conclusion but a beginning to next year. We've included biographies for several individuals who have proposed as next year's officer slate, and we believe they will be committed and effective leaders. That said, we are still looking to fill a few slots and would ask anyone who is willing to please reach out and join the team that is moving the section forward.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your engagement throughout this year. I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve in this role and am looking forward to additional opportunities in the future.

Warm Regards,

McKay Rytting

AIChE Chicago Section Chair

Cont. from Page 1

May Meeting information

Biography:

Dr. Sohail Murad is Professor and Department Chair of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Prior to this he was Head of Chemical Engineering at University of Illinois at Chicago, where he joined the faculty in 1979 after receiving a PhD from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. He spent 1981-82 at Exxon Research and Engineering Company at Florham Park, New Jersey, while on a leave of absence from the university. He was an ARO Research Fellow at the Ballistics Research Laboratory in 1985. He is the author of over 150 archival research publications and book chapters. He is/has been a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Computer Applications in Engineering Education, Scientific Journals International and Research Letters in Chemical Engineering. His research is focused on alternate energy and its efficient utilization, computational molecular modeling of fluids on membrane surfaces and pores and on heat and mass flows in nanosystems. It has been funded by the US National Science Foundation, US Department of Energy, US Army Research Office, American Chemical Society, IBM, Dow Chemical Company, Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, and other private and public funding agencies. He is an elected fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and member of several other professional societies. He holds honorary faculty positions at Nanjing University (China), Petra University (Jordan), and University of Karachi (Pakistan). He has given many keynote talks at national and international symposia, and has served on panels of the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.



Contact Information:

Sohail Murad

Professor and Chair, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL 60616

Email: murad@iit.edu

Abstract:

Most students find thermodynamics to be an abstract and boring subject. However if we can show them that thermodynamics is all around us, often they find it more palatable. In this talk I will discuss how for example the ideal gas law and ideal mixture assumptions can be interpreted if they were applied to human interactions. Other examples would include how thermodynamic principles also govern our relationships, including our feelings of being attracted or of indifference. Also the advice sometimes given, “things will work themselves out in the end”, is not only incorrect but defies the principles of thermodynamics too!

The goal will be to show that if presented appropriately, thermodynamics is not really that abstract a subject. Many of its principles are clearly associated with both life and everyday occurrences.

Registration: <https://cvent.me/g2Oy8o>

Ernest W. Thiele Award Recipients

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT</u>
2023	Sohail Murad	IIT	For his contributions to original research in Computational Molecular Modeling, excellence in teaching, academic leadership, and his service to the profession.
2022	Fouad Teymour	IIT	For his leadership in polymer reaction engineering, nonlinear dynamics, and mathematical modeling.
2021	Edward Maginn	University of Notre Dame	For his leadership in computational molecular modeling and its application toward new technologies involving charged fluids, as well as for creation of the open-source Monte Carlo package Casandra.
2020	Dennis O'Brien	UOP / Jacobs (retired)	For his ability to innovate and conduct original research notably in the area of detergent alkylation, and for contributing to the chemical engineering profession at both the local and national levels.
2019	Linda Broadbelt	Northwestern University	For distinguished contributions to the field of complex kinetic modeling, particularly for the development of automated mechanism generation and mechanistic models applied to diverse chemistries.
2018	Donald Chmielewski	IIT	For advances to the theory of control system design and service to our profession through mentorship, education and leadership.
2017	Doug Nafis	UOP	For innovation and development in refining and petrochemical process research and promotion of STEM with students through the "You Be the Chemist" program.
2016	Satish Parulekar	IIT	For research in biotechnology, teaching and service to AIChE.
2015	Randy Snurr	Northwestern University	For his leadership and creativity in advancing the application of nanoporous metal-organic frameworks in gas separations, gas storage, and showing the power of molecular simulation to design new absorbents.
2014	Alan Zagoria	UOP, A Honeywell Co.	For his leadership and creativity in hydrogen technology in refining and other areas.
2012	Richard Hoehn	UOP, A Honeywell Co.	For his leadership and creativity in hydroprocessing technology.
2011	Urmila Diwekar	Vishwamitra Research Institute	For leading the development of uncertainty analysis in processes
2010	J. Peter Clark	Consultant	For leading the development of numerous food products and new food preparation processes, and as a mentor and teacher.
2009	Harold H. Kung	Northwestern University	Seminal contributions to the fundamental understanding of catalytic phenomena, innovative design of novel catalytic structures, and leadership in the teaching of sustainability.
2008	Robert Lyczkowski	Argonne	Innovative application of multiphase theory and computational fluid dynamics in the areas of nuclear, fossil and biochemical engineering.
2007	Lynn H. Rice	UOP	For his fundamental contributions to the petroleum refining isomerization process.
2005	Dimitri Gidaspow	IIT	For his fundamental contributions to computational fluid dynamics, multi-phase flow and fluidized bed systems and as an educator.
2004	Ted M. Knowlton	PSRI	For his contributions to fundamental and applied research, and his leadership in the fields of fluidization and particulate solids.
2003	Ali Cinar	IIT	Contributions in process modeling, monitoring and control. As an educator championing computers and statistics.
2002	Julio Ottino	Northwestern University	Research in Chaos Theory and mixing of solids and liquids
2001	Paul Sechrist	UOP	Contributions to computational fluid Mechanics, CCR, and FCC refining processes
2000	Henry Linden	IGT (retired)	Leadership of the Institute Of Gas Tech.
1999	S. George Bankoff	Northwestern University	Heat transfer advances in chemical and nuclear engineering
1998	Arvind Varma	University of Notre Dame	Fundamental advances in synthesis of materials, catalysis and reactor stability
1997	Hamid Arastoopour	IIT	Academic leadership and environmental engineering

Ernest W. Thiele Award Recipients

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT</u>
1996	Rathin Datta	Argonne	Original research in metabolic engineering and membranes
1995	Norman Li	UOP	Pioneering research in membranes and separations
1994	J.W. Westwater	University of Illinois	Research in Heat transfer and contributions in teaching
1993	R.J. Bertolacini	Amoco	Catalysis research innovations and leadership
1992	J.J. Carberry	University of Notre Dame	Chemical Reaction Engineering research, innovation, and education
1990	R.S. Mah	Northwestern University	Chemical Process System Analysis
1989	D.T. Wasan	IIT	Research and Progress on Separation Processes
1988	L.O. Stine	UOP	Petroleum/Petrochemical Processes
1987	G. Thodos	Northwestern University	Physical Property Advances
1986	T.J. Hanratty	University of Illinois	Advances in Fluid Mechanics
1985	D.B. Broughton	UOP	Aromatics Separation Processes, adsorptive separation
1983	E.W. Thiele	Standard Oil (Indiana)	Catalysis, Distillation fundamental advances

Dr. Sohail Murad Ernest W. Thiele Award Recipient

Congratulations to Dr. Sohail Murad, Professor at Illinois Tech, for being awarded this year's Ernest W. Thiele award!

Prof. Murad is awarded the Ernest W. Thiele Award for his contributions to original research in Computational Molecular Modeling, excellence in teaching, academic leadership, and his service to the profession.

The Ernest W. Thiele award is presented annually to a Midwest region member of AIChE who has made outstanding contributions to advance the practice of Chemical Engineering. The award is sponsored by bp, and consists of a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium.

Please join us in congratulating Prof. Sohail Murad on his achievement. This prestigious award will be presented at the May meeting.

Congratulations to McCormack Award Winners

Each year, the McCormack award is given to one chemical engineering undergraduate student at Illinois Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, and University of Illinois at Chicago based on a combination of excellence in study, research, and extra-curricular activities. The award is presented in honor of Harry McCormack, a founding member of the AIChE Chicago section as well as long-term department chair at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Congratulations to this year's winners, who were recognized at the April meeting!

2024 McCormack Award Recipient

Alejandro Torres

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

Bio:

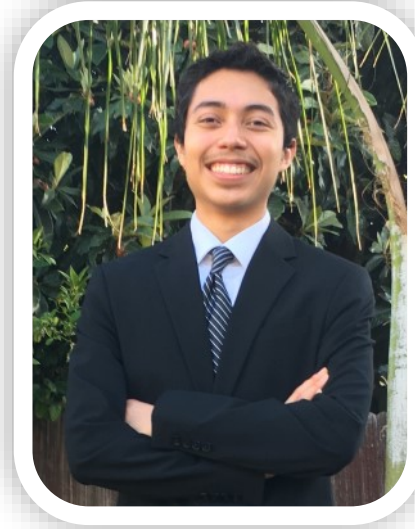
I grew up in Los Angeles, California, and took a fascination for STEM topics at an early age, with an unyielding thirst for knowledge I could never fully quench. This motivated me to study chemical engineering, a field that combines my favorite disciplines: chemistry, math, physics, and engineering. In my future career, I seek to apply the knowledge and skills I've learned in the classroom to benefit society. I believe scientists and engineers have the obligation to use our gifts for the good of mankind, which gets me excited to wake up every morning for new opportunities that await.

When I began my college career, I leapt at every opportunity, especially student organizations and leadership positions. I was also very excited for my classes, the new people, and collegiate sports. In the years to follow, I maintained a GPA between 3.85-3.95, became a leader in multiple organizations, improved my times in track and field, and had lots of fun along the way!

Some of my favorite experiences were taking classes with professors that rekindled the fire in me to continue down the engineering path, opening my eyes to a world full of more possibilities than I can dream of. Some of the most impactful professors I've had were Dr. Javad Abbasian, Hemanshu Kaul, Kiah Ong, and Jeffrey Zalc. I also loved participating in programs from my fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, where I made lifelong friends and travelled to outstanding places such as San Antonio TX, Richmond VA, and Greece!

My overarching goals in life are to get a PhD in Chemical Engineering, do ground-breaking research in pharmaceuticals or another one of my favorite fields, and qualifying to the 2028 and 2032 US Olympic Trials in the marathon, which requires a time of 2:18:00. These are very audacious goals and I fully acknowledge that I may never achieve some of them, but I won't be satisfied until I've done everything I can to get as close to them as possible.

I've had my struggles, of course: from sleep-deprived weeks to injuries that interfered with training. I've also been seen as "different" and "weird" by many people throughout my life, especially in high school. My attention to detail, eating habits, and other idiosyncrasies were easy things to make fun of for many. Despite my doubts and fears, I held true to my beliefs and continued down the path I knew was right for me, trusting the process at every stage. I'm very thankful to the family, friends, and mentors I've had along the way and am confident in my ability to achieve my lofty goals, because it is only through these people that my dreams are possible.



2024 McCormack Award Recipient

Regina Fernandez Ganem **Northwestern University (NU)**

Regina was nominated by the Northwestern Chemical Engineering faculty because she has been an exceptional student and leader in her cohort. Faculty often remark on her positive contributions to class discussions, strong work ethic, research and study skills, and how she is a positive role model and her authentic self with other undergraduate students.

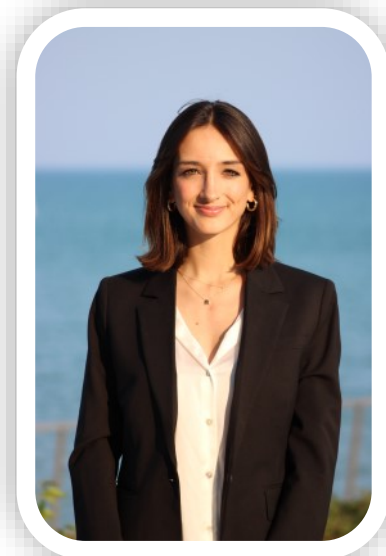
Bio:

My experience at Northwestern University has offered me abundant opportunities to pursue my interests, evolve professionally as an engineer, and identify the career trajectory that best suits me. At the end of my sophomore year, I joined Professor Michael Jewett's lab where I had the opportunity to work on two different projects. For my first project, I worked on improving production of glycoconjugate vaccines in cell-free expression systems through enzyme engineering and strain optimization. For my second project, I worked on glycosylation of proteins with human-like glycans in cell-free systems for protein therapeutic applications.

Additionally, I spent a summer at Rhaeos as an R&D Engineer intern where I developed a programmable syringe pump to improve testing of Rhaeos's medical device. I also helped write MATLAB scripts to analyze the testing data gathered. These experiences helped me discover my passion for research, which I now plan to pursue as a career.

During my time at Northwestern, I have had the pleasure of taking on two leadership positions: VP of Membership of Kappa Alpha Theta and Programming Chair of AIChE. These experiences taught me the significance of teamwork and helped me grow as a leader. I'm grateful for the opportunities to make an impact in two different communities here at Northwestern.

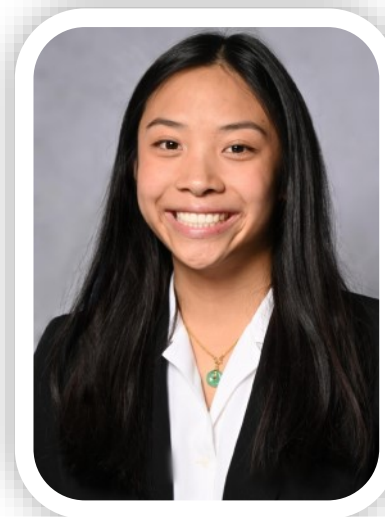
After graduation, I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London, where I plan to continue my research in cell-free expression of glycoproteins for therapeutic and food manufacturing.



2024 McCormack Award Recipient

Emily Seriruk

University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)



Bio:

The Department of Chemical Engineering at UIC proudly announces Emily Seriruk as our selection for the AIChE Chicago Section Harry McCormack Outstanding Senior Award. Emily will be graduating this May with an overall GPA of 4.00.

She worked two part-time jobs throughout college, one of which was in Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) where she prioritized safety while handling chemicals from countless research labs. Throughout her time at UIC, Emily was greatly involved with the chemical engineering community. She assisted Dr. Betul Bilgin with her NSF-funded engineering education research to bridge the gap between industry needs and the chemical engineering undergraduate program. Emily was also on the CHE Departmental Action Team that aimed to improve undergraduate student success through enhancing inclusivity and sense of belonging in the chemical engineering community at UIC. She also served as the president of the UIC AIChE student chapter and enjoyed the opportunity to connect with students and bring students together while also helping them develop professionally.

Emily spent time working at Mars Wrigley within R&D and discovered her passion for the food industry. After graduation, Emily will be joining Kraft Heinz in a leadership development rotational program to further explore the intersection of engineering and consumer products, applying her passion for innovation and problem-solving to improve food products for consumers around the globe.



2024 Poster Competition Winners

Graduate Posters

1st place:

“Upcycling Virgin and Waste Polyethylene to Reprocessable Covalent Adaptable Networks (CANs) via Free-Radical Grafting of Dialkylamino Disulfide Bonds”

Logan Fenimore

Northwestern University



Undergraduate Posters

1st place:

“Leftovers to Lift-Off: Wood Waste to Jet Fuel”

Maxum Caesar and Danny Angulo

UIC



2nd place:

“Tires to Fuel and Flavors”

Shayma Abdallah, Jessica Fajardo, Rebecca Listiawan and Emily Seriruk

UIC



3rd place:

“PrintRX Solutions: The Future of Medicine”

Ranim Baje, Astrid Vargas, Andrew Murillo and Emina Abdic

UIC



2024 AIChE Chicago Scholarship Winners

The AIChE Chicago section is proud to announce the award of two student scholarships this year. Congratulations to Victoria Gonzalez and Varun Maheshwari!

Thank you as well to the members whose generous donations throughout the year help make this funding possible.

My name is Victoria Gonzalez and I will be graduating from Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox. I am a violinist and member of my school's string orchestra and symphony orchestra. I will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study chemical and biomolecular engineering. I intend to use what I learn to work on technologies that will reverse the impacts of global warming. I am honored and very grateful to be the recipient of a 2024 AIChE Chicago Section Scholarship and look forward to becoming involved in AIChE in the near future.



Victoria Gonzalez

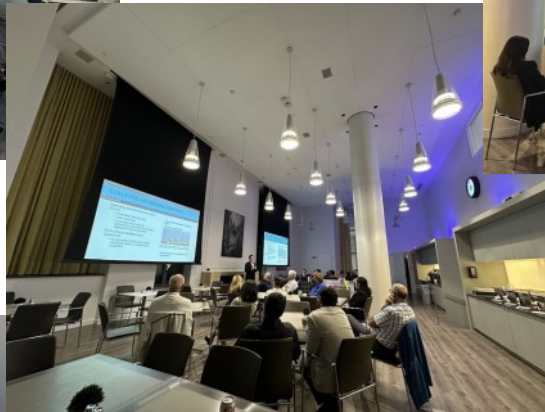
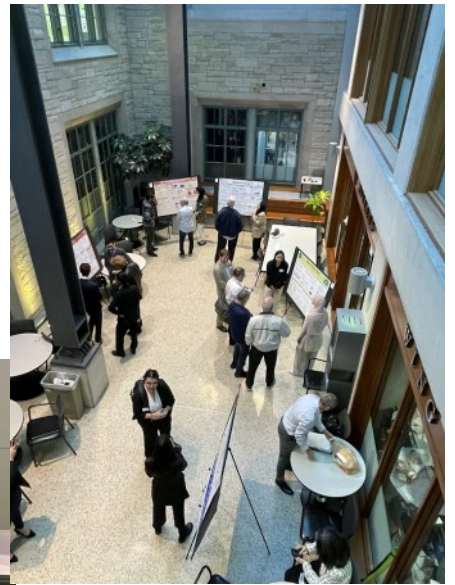


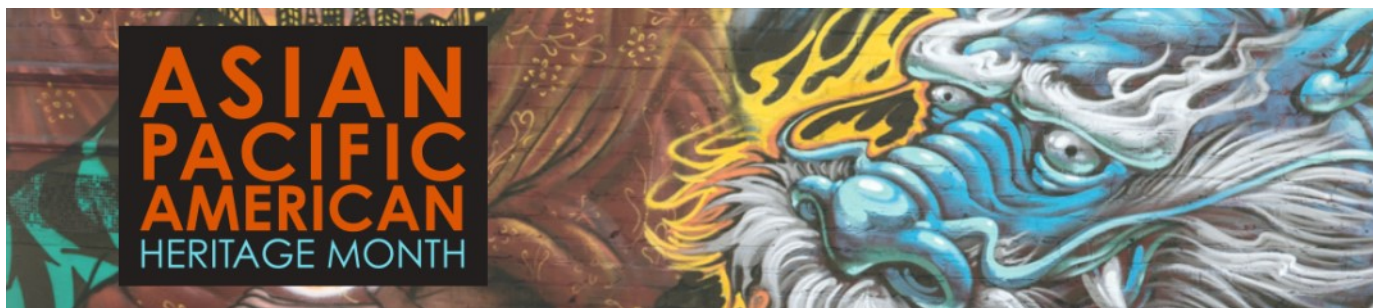
Varun Maheshwari

Hello, I am a junior majoring in Chemical Engineering at the University of Illinois Chicago. I am driven by curiosity and a passion for learning. This scholarship will be vital in boosting my future aspirations. This will be my first time attending the Chicago Section Conference. I am eager to expand my knowledge and connect with professionals in the field. I am thankful to everyone for giving me this opportunity.

April Meeting Photos

Remember to check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos and news!





May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success.

[Read More »](#)

[NAE Celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has compiled a list recognizing the first 20 Asian American men and women (10 in each category) elected to the organization.

Notable honorees with chemical engineering backgrounds include:



Morgan Chuan-Yuan Sze (1916-2015)

NAE election: 1976; citation: "Contributions to the technology of petroleum refining and petrochemical process design and manufacture."



Rong-Yu Wan (1932–2009)

NAE election: 2000; citation: "For accomplishments in metallurgical research and industrial practice, and for teaching, supervising, and inspiring students, researchers, and industrial colleagues."



Ann L. Lee (1961-)

NAE election: 2007; citation: "For innovation and development of large-scale, cost-effective production of vaccines that have saved lives worldwide."

[Read Complete Article on NAE Website »](#)

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month



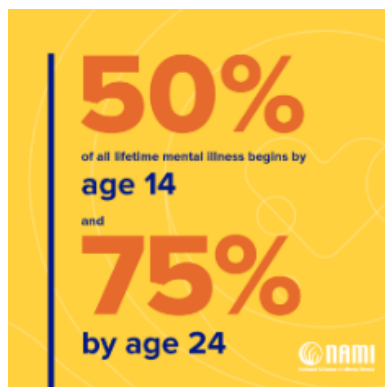
May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. Throughout the month, NAMI actively participates in this national movement, dedicated to eradicating stigma, extending support, fostering public education and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

This year, NAMI is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month with the Take the Moment campaign.

We encourage you to join us in fostering open dialogues, cultivating empathy and understanding. We also urge you to share our resources to support individuals and families on their journey towards mental wellness. Through "Take the Moment," we shine a spotlight on NAMI's array of signature programs including: NAMI Basics, NAMI Family-to-Family, NAMI Family & Friends, NAMI Homefront, NAMI In Our Own Voice, NAMI Peer-to-Peer, NAMI Support Groups and our invaluable NAMI HelpLine, which is a free, nationwide peer-support service providing information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition, their family members and caregivers, mental health providers and the public.

This campaign also champions the importance of destigmatizing mental health by normalizing the practice of taking moments to prioritize mental health care without guilt or shame.

[Please visit the NAMI website \(https://www.nami.org/Home\) to continue reading and learn how you can get involved »](https://www.nami.org/Home)



Countdown to the AIChE Chicago Centennial

The Chicago Section was the first section in AIChE, and the upcoming 2024-2025 programming year will mark its 100-year anniversary! Please view [our website](#) to read more about our past.

Various historical files from our archives will be highlighted as part of the countdown to this celebrated milestone.

The below scan features somber news about the passing of Harry McCormack on June 8, 1953, whose legacy is honored in the annual award bearing his name given to distinguished students from the Chicago area universities, as highlighted earlier in this newsletter.

Putman Publishing Company
111 East Delaware Place
Chicago 11, Illinois
(WHitehall 4-6141)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASSING OF HARRY McCORMACK ENDS NOTABLE CAREER

CHICAGO, June 11, 1953---Professor Harry McCormack, 76, died June 8. Until his sudden illness a few days ago, he had been active as Technical Editorial Director of FOOD PROCESSING and CHEMICAL PROCESSING magazines.

He was nationally known to Food Technologists and Chemical Engineers, and for 38 years served as Director of the Chemical Engineering Department of Illinois Institute of Technology and its predecessor, Armour Institute of Technology.

Professor McCormack held degrees from Drake University and Illinois Institute of Technology. He was an active member of several food and chemical technical societies. Among these were the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Institute of Food Technologists. This March, The American Chemical Society honored him for his fifty years of membership.

Among his many accomplishments over the past fifty years, Professor McCormack was instrumental in setting up the milling and baking standards for flour, which are still used today. As a leader in the concept of a unified science of chemical engineering, he had co-authored the book, "Applications of Chemical Engineer."

At the turn of the century, he was editor of "The Chemical Engineer" for a number of years. Soon afterwards, he became Chairman of the new department of Chemical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and later fostered a separate department of Food Engineering at this school.

In October, 1951, The Putman Publishing Company established an annual food processing fellowship in his honor. Its purpose is to encourage young college graduates to engage in advanced study and research in the science of food processing.

As Technical Editorial Director for the Putman Publishing Company, Professor McCormack was responsible for investigating and directing preparation of technical information for the food and chemical fields.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and three sons: Ralph, Robert and John.

2024-2025 AIChE Chicago Elected Officers

Chair: Matt Walters



Matt Walters is an Environmental Engineer at the U.S. EPA Region 5 Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. Prior to joining EPA in 2023, Matt worked as an engineering consultant at Exponent, providing incident investigation and process safety consulting services. Matt holds B.S. degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering from Purdue University, as well as M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois. Matt is an active member of AIChE, including presenting conference papers,

chairing technical sessions at the Global Congress on Process Safety, and serving on a book development committee for the Center for Chemical Process Safety. Locally, he was the Co-Chair of the 2021 Midwest Regional Conference (MRC) and Chair of the 2022 MRC.

Past Chair: McKay Rytting

McKay Rytting is a consultant at EY-Parthenon working in their corporate strategy practice in chemicals and oil/gas. His typical projects include due diligence assessments for acquisitions, operating model transformations, and innovation and sustainability strategy. He is currently focused on building a chemicals-specific practice within EY-Parthenon (currently chemicals specialists sit within Advanced Manufacturing and Mobility) and developing a team focused on facilitating the energy transition through mergers and acquisitions. Previously he spent four years at Honeywell UOP in process modeling, design, and development roles in a variety of technologies including FCC, membrane gas separations, heavy oil processing, and petrochemicals. He joined Honeywell after a PhD in chemical engineering at University of Notre Dame where he studied separations and intermolecular interactions of petroporphyrins and asphaltenes found in heavy crude oil. McKay served as the AIChE Chicago Section treasurer for three years before spending the last year as chair.



2024-2025 AIChE Chicago Elected Officers

Director at Large: Janet Werner (continuing)



Janet Werner is in the Process Design Development group at Honeywell UOP where she supports the development of new technologies. She earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Illinois. Janet has served the AIChE Chicago Section in the past as Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. Janet has also been involved in the Midwest Regional Conference Committee on the Sponsorship Sub-Committee and the Hospitality Sub-Committee. Janet has also volunteered in the AIChE Chicago Young Professionals Committee on the Programming Committee, Membership Committee, and Webmaster. She received an AIChE Shining Star award in 2015 for her contributions to the Chicago Local Section.

Director at Large: Reza Mostofi (continuing)

After earning his BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Tehran Polytechnic in 1989, Reza had worked in different industries for several years including consulting firms, construction, sales and marketing.

He then moved to Chicago to pursue his PhD degree attending IIT where he showed interest in computational physics and mathematical modeling. Reza has been working at Honeywell/UOP since 2003 where he is responsible for CFD modeling and analysis of different refinery units with emphasis on multiphase flows. He has won the 2019 UOP technical leadership award. Reza has also taught transport phenomena as an adjunct professor at UIC in Chicago as well as general chemistry at Chicago city college.



During his years at IIT till now, Reza has presented his work at AIChE meetings and chemical engineering journals and has also reviewed papers for different journals and meetings. He has co-authored and presented more than 30 papers and in co-inventor of more than 30 US and non-US patents.

He is also a fellow of AIChE and active member of particle technology forum and Chicago local section. On the local level, Reza has served as the Chicago section chair and hold many other positions and has been involved in planning and executing the section's Midwest regional conference for many years. Reza has served as the PTF vice chair for 2012-2014 and chair for 2015-2016 term. He was also a member of CEOC & SIOC and served as SIOC chair in 2016 and CTOC chair in 2022. He also has won the AIChE shining star award in 2019.

Proposed Slate for 2024-2025

Chair-Elect: Lance Baird



Lance Baird is the owner of Lance Baird, LLC specializing in Renewable Energy and is a co-founder of RenewAgility, LLC. Lance retired from Honeywell UOP after 37 years of service, including 15 years on worldwide technical service assignments and 22 years in various roles in technology development. He holds 21 patents with 16 applications pending and is a 6-sigma black belt. Lance graduated from Washington State University with a BS in Chemical Engineering. He is currently serving AIChE Chicago as the House Committee Chair.

Director at Large: Ha Dinh

Ha Dinh is currently an Offering Manager for Naphtha business in Honeywell UOP Lifecycle Solutions and Technologies, where she is the product owner for Isomerization catalysts and refining adsorbent and collaborates with R&D in new product development and commercialization. Ha joined UOP in 2015 as a Research and Development Scientist, focusing on kinetic modeling and optimization for commercialization of new technologies. Her subsequent roles include Technical Sales Engineer in Integrated Project Solution group working on technical proposals and customer specific studies, and Project Development Manager for Naphtha new capital and equipment projects. Prior to that, Ha obtained a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington at Seattle in 2008 and her PhD in Chemical Engineering from Lamar University, a member of Texas State University in 2015. She is a Senior member of AIChE and part of AIChE Process Development Division leadership. She also served as Vice- Chair Programming and Section Chair in the Chicago Section. Ha also leads and supports multiple education outreach programs at UOP outside of work .



Proposed Slate for 2024-2025

Vice Chair of Programming: Aida Amini Rankouhi



Aida Amini-Rankouhi is currently Lead Technical Sales Engineer in the Hydroprocessing and Renewables team at Honeywell UOP, where she develops and provides technical support for Honeywell UOP's Hydrocracking catalyst offerings. Aida started her career with Honeywell about 5.5 years ago working in the Process Modeling team as R&D Scientist developing kinetic-based process models and Software tools for refinery process units yield estimation. She holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from University of Tehran and PhD in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University. Aida is a senior member of AIChE and has been involved in the AIChE Sustainable Engineering Forum where she was awarded AIChE SEF Student Best Paper Award in 2018 and has been co-chairing sessions within the forum in the past few years.

Treasurer: Adam Kanyuh

Adam Kanyuh is a Fellow in UOP's Engineering Department. With over 29 years experience in process design, Adam has been involved the design of Oleflex Process Units as well as other light olefin technologies since 2005 and is the holder of 10 patents. Adam has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago, is a fellow member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is married with two teenage boys.



Secretary: OPEN POSITION

2024 AIChE Chicago Meeting Schedule and Speakers

Month	Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
May	14th	Sohail Murad	IIT	What Thermodynamics Teaches Us About Life

Monthly meetings will resume in September

Upcoming AIChE Conferences, Meetings and Webinars

AIChE Conferences

May 14-15, 2024	RAPID Roadmap Workshop: Technology Valuation , National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, CO, USA
May 21-22, 2024	PD2M Conference on Modeling and Simulation Applications in Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing , Cambridge, MA, USA
May 21-23, 2024	2024 Center for Hydrogen Safety Americas Conference , Hampton Inn Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV, USA
May 21-24, 2024	World Digital Conference of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering (virtual)
June 3-5, 2024	International Congress on Sustainability Science & Engineering (ICOSSE '24) and RAPID Roadmapping Workshop , University of Houston, Houston, TX, USA
June 4-6, 2024	2024 Process Development Symposium , Sheraton Suites Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL, USA

AIChE Webinars

May 9, 2024	Statistical Modeling of Multivariate Process Parameters
May 15, 2024	The Future of AI

Chicago ACS News and Upcoming Meeting

The Chicago sections of ACS and AIChE traditionally hold a joint meeting in January, but that does not mean the collaboration has to stop there! Please check out the latest Chicago ACS news and consider attending their next general meeting.

Chicago ACS bulletin:
<https://chicagoacs.org/news.php>

Next Chicago ACS general meeting:

[May 17 with Professor Eric Jacobsen, Harvard University](#)



AIChE Chicago Address Change

Some of you may have noticed that the mailing address on our newsletter this past year has changed from the Homer Glen address we have used for more than 15 years. The business in Homer Glen that forwarded our mail has recently closed, and we have since found a new address in Springfield to receive our mail.

Why Springfield when we are the Chicago Section? As a registered non-profit in the state of Illinois, we are required to have a physical mailing address that is not a P.O. Box. While we could use our work or home addresses for this, this is not ideal because officer turnover from year to year may require us to re-file our address regularly. We have instead decided to pay for a new registered agent (a company that receives our mail and forwards it). A company in Springfield was selected based on the cost and digitization services available. If you need to send us physical mail that requires immediate attention (such as a check), please contact one of the officers, and we can provide an address to you.

Note on Local Section Membership Fee and Financial Status

As one of the most active local sections, with monthly meetings every month and a 2 day conference (AIChE Midwest Regional Conference), the AIChE Chicago section has some significant financial challenges. Despite that, the board has unanimously approved to keep the membership rate \$20 in line with many previous years.

The monthly meetings and the AIChE Midwest Regional Conference are both the main benefits that are offered to members. Attendance at monthly meetings has been on a downward trend for a number of years, and attendance at the AIChE Midwest Regional Conference, although good, is still slightly lower than pre-pandemic numbers. Lower attendance combined with inflation in recent years results in the section spending more than it brings in every year. We want to maintain these services going forward, but without more attendance we may be forced to reformat to keep costs down in the future.

[Connect with members & participate in discussions on Engage!](#)

Check out AIChE's member benefit, AIChE Engage. Use the robust directory search to find and connect with members. Participate in technical, career, and academic discussions about chemical engineering.

Thread Subject	Replies	Last Post
Improving Soft Skills Through Mentorship article- AICHE/CEP December 2020 CEP	0	9 hours ago by Chaitanya
PhD Thesis		
Pressure setting for manway cover for tank emergency v...		Original post by Rohit Korde
Digitalization in the process industry		yesterday by John Braccili Original post by Rohit Korde
Slow Progress of New-Age Tools in Chemical Engineering	6	3 days ago by Jacob Albrecht Original post by Kushal Sinha



Volunteers Needed for Chicago Local Section

How many opportunities can you find to learn project management, delegation and leadership skills for free? Volunteering with the Chicago Section of AIChE is such an opportunity. While you're learning new skills, your professional network grows. Just about all of us are either undergoing a career change, contemplating a career change, or are wondering if our career will be changed for us. Volunteering with AIChE is a way to add skills and accomplishments to your resume.

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Programming – arrange speakers for monthly meetings, and arrange catering and venues
- Logistics – arrange catering and venues
- Newsletter Editor – prepare and publish ten monthly newsletters
- Newsletter Contributions – write meeting summaries, contribute photos, and more
- Engineering Outreach – coordinate three annual K-12 outreach events with high schools and colleges
- Professional Development and Sponsorship – arrange companies to sponsor pre-meeting talks to help fund student dinners
- Awards and Scholarship Committees – Review applications for local Section award and scholarships
- Midwest Regional Conference – many opportunities including programming, logistics, website, advertising, sponsorship, high school outreach, poster session and more!
- Young Professionals – plan socials and programming for young professionals (under 35)



If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact us aichechicago@gmail.com.

Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Chicago Section

AIChE's Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Chicago Section was created to start and maintain young professionals' involvement in AIChE after graduation and to ensure that students retain their membership through their transition into the work force.

We enthusiastically welcome all people with a degree in Chemical Engineering, including those currently working in industry and academia, recent graduates, and those pursuing other paths. We also welcome current students – both undergraduate and graduate – to our events.

The Chicago YPC exists as a subset of the AIChE Chicago section.

Our goal is to provide technical, career, and networking opportunities to young Chemical Engineering professional in the Chicagoland area. To accomplish this, we seek to provide a variety of technical and social activities, provide outreach and volunteering opportunities, and to create programming that will appeal to ChemE's under the age of 35.

Website: <https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/young-professionals>

Email us: yp.aichechicago@gmail.com

Connect with us: We have a facebook group under YPC Chicago!

Join our mailing list: We have google group under ypcchicago!

Why Renew Your AIChE Membership?

Renew your membership now to keep learning and growing.

Renew Membership



Stay Connected to 40,000+ international members who take advantage of:

- Subscription to AIChE's flagship publication: CEP*
- Education—Access to e-learning courses and instructor-led training, offering Continuing Educations Units and PDHs
- Access to CareerEngineer—a comprehensive job site tailored to chemical engineers
- Access to the AIChE eLibrary—a wealth of information from Knovel Life Sciences and the McGraw-Hill AccessEngineering Library collections

[View COMPLETE benefits](#)

AIChE Volunteer and Meeting Attendee Conduct Guidelines

AIChE's volunteers are the core of the Institute and make all of its programs, conferences and educational efforts possible. These offerings provide excellent opportunities for AIChE members and meeting attendees to gain greater technical expertise, grow their networks, and enhance their careers. AIChE events provide engineers, scientists, and students a platform to present, discuss, publish and exhibit their discoveries and technical advances.

At all times, volunteers and meeting attendees should act in accordance with AIChE's Code of Ethics, upholding and advancing the integrity, honor and dignity of the chemical engineering profession. AIChE's Board of Directors has developed these guidelines to foster a positive environment of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior. These guidelines apply to meetings, conferences, workshops, courses and other events organized by AIChE or any of its entities and also to volunteers who conduct other business and affairs on behalf of AIChE.

Specifically

1. Volunteers and meeting attendees should understand and support AIChE's Code of Ethics.
2. Volunteers and meeting attendees should contribute to a collegial, inclusive, positive and respectful environment for fellow volunteers and attendees, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff.

3. Volunteers and meeting attendees should avoid making inappropriate statements or taking inappropriate action based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, presence of disabilities, or educational background. We should show consistent respect for colleagues, regardless of discipline, employment status, and organizations for which they work, whether industry, academia, or government.
4. Disruptive, harassing or other inappropriate statements or behavior toward other volunteers, members, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff, is unacceptable.
5. Volunteers and meeting attendees should obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant governmental authorities while volunteering or attending meetings. Volunteers and meeting attendees taking part in any AIChE event, including the ChemECar Competition™, should also comply with all applicable safety guidelines.

Violations of this conduct policy should be reported promptly to the AIChE President or Executive Director.

[Read AIChE's Code of Ethics](#)

AICHE CHICAGO SECTION

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Springfield, IL 62704
aichechicago@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/AICHeChicagoSection>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4538581>

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago>

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Officers and Committee Members

Chair	<i>McKay Rytting</i>
Chair Elect	<i>Matt Walters</i>
Past-Chair	<i>Sarika Goel</i>
Programming	<i>Aida Amini Rankouhi</i>
	<i>Yechan Won</i>
Treasurer	<i>Adam Kanyuh</i>
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Young Professionals Committee	<i>Allison Nordvall</i>
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	<i>Alfred Sunaryo</i>
	<i>Robert Tsai</i>
	<i>Yechan Won</i>

We want you for AICHe-Chicago!

AICHe is committed to promoting a fair, just, and equitable profession and society. AICHe believes that all who wish to be a part of the chemical engineering community should have equal opportunity to pursue and achieve success. We work toward a better future for all — through our technical expertise; through how we inspire, engage, retain, and advance future talent; and through how we treat each other within and beyond the profession.

[AICHe Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement | AICHe](#)

We need your help!

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aichechicago@gmail.com

<http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/announcements/volunteerism>



Submitting Articles to AICHe Columns

We welcome email submissions for our monthly newsletter. Commercial announcements are subject to the fee schedule below. News stories, editorials, technical or career related non-commercial contributions are always welcome with no charge. We consider job postings, announcements of for-fee training courses, expositions, conferences as commercial.

Categorization of announcements is at the sole discretion of the Chicago AICHe Board of Directors. Chicago AICHe may publicize activities of interest to our members by cooperating professional societies and other non-profits without charge.

Please submit your material to aichechicago@gmail.com with "newsletter article" as a subject line.

