

AIChE Chicago

September 2025 Newsletter

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AIChE Chicago September Meeting

My Journey – Reflections on what brought me here



Dr. Javad Abbasian

Professor of Chemical Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology

Date: September 18th, 2025

Tour Location: Perlstein Hall at IIT (Tour at 5:30 PM)

10 W 33rd St, Chicago, IL 60616

Meeting Location: Pritzker Club at McCormick Tribune Campus Center (MTCC) at IIT

3201 S State St, Chicago, IL 60616

Cost: \$55 Non-Member

\$45 Member* / Retired*

\$30 Unemployed*

\$10 Student

***Must be AIChE Global and Chicago Section Member to be eligible for rate**

Registration and Information: <https://cvent.me/MRM5Vb>

Please note the registration deadline is September 16.

Chair's Corner

I'm excited to begin another year with the Chicago Chapter of the AIChE and I hope you are, too! We are coming back from a very successful year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Chicago Section – thank you to Azita, Janet, Aida, and Elizabeth for organizing so many popular events and to the rest of our leadership team and volunteers for their support throughout the year.

If you missed any (or all) of the events, I encourage you to visit our section's area in the Communities portion of AIChE.org and read the newsletters from last year – especially the section history articles written by Janet based on the nuggets she mined from our archives.



We are working hard to program another year of interesting speakers and tours of local chemical and research facilities. I hope to see and meet many (if not all!) of you at our meetings during the coming months. This month, I am looking forward to hearing Professor Abbasian from IIT speak to our section during the meeting on the IIT campus. Dr. Abbasian has won the BP-sponsored, Ernest W. Thiele award, which is given each year to a distinguished chemical engineer from the Midwest region to recognize their outstanding contributions to our profession.

While you are at the September meeting, feel free to approach me if you are interested in volunteering with the Chicago Section. Volunteering has helped me develop planning and leadership skills, introduced me to interesting people, made me more aware of the many career opportunities in Chicagoland and enabled me to share my experience with younger engineers to help them with their careers. I'm sure you will find it equally rewarding! If you are interested, please let any of the leadership team know and we will help you find the role that interests you, that fits your talents, and that fits within the time you have available to volunteer.

Lance Baird

AIChE Chicago Section Chair

September Meeting Information

Biography:

Professor Abbasian's research interests are in the areas of high-temperature gas cleaning, pollution control and solid waste management, gas separation and purification, and process design and development.

Abstract:

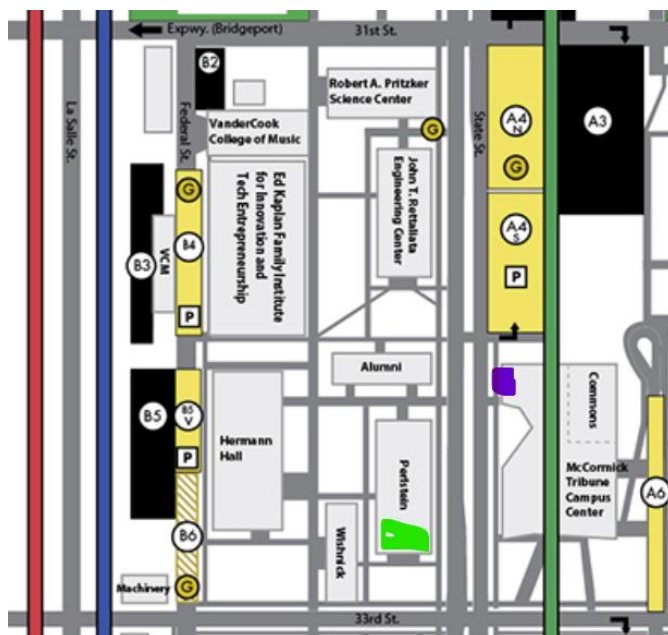
In this talk, I will reflect on my journey from childhood to the present, highlighting the educational and professional experiences that have shaped me. I will share the motivations that drove me to excel academically, the challenges I overcame, and even my love and hate relationship with thermodynamics. Along the way, I will acknowledge the mentors, family, friends, and colleagues who influenced my path, and I will discuss my transition into academia.



Directions:

The department welcome and starting point for the lab tours will be at the south end of Perlstein Hall (10 West 33rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616); that space is marked by the green blob. The Pritzker Club is in the MTCC (student center); the purple mark indicates the best entrance to use for the Pritzker Club, which is immediately to the left inside.

Link to parking map: [Directions | Illinois Institute of Technology](#)



Tour and Meeting Agenda:

5:00 – 5:30 PM: Check in at Perlstein Hall

5:30 – 6:00 PM: Welcome address by IIT ChE dept chair and tour of Asadi and Aderangi labs

6:00 – 6:20 PM: Check in and networking at Pritzker Club in MTCC

6:20 – 7:15 PM: Dinner

7:15 – 7:40 PM: Section announcements and presentation of Thiele Award

7:40 – 8:50 PM: Speaker & discussion

Registration: <https://cvent.me/MRM5Vb>

Dr. Javad Abbasian

Ernest W. Thiele Award Recipient

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

Prof. Abbasian is awarded the Ernest W. Thiele Award for his contributions to original research in Environmental Reaction Engineering and process design, outstanding 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. Javad Abbasian on his achievement. This prestigious award will be presented at the September meeting.

Nominations Requested for the Ernest W. Thiele Award

The Ernest W. Thiele award is sponsored by bp and recognizes the outstanding contributions to our profession by a Midwest region chemical engineer. This award was established by the AIChE Chicago Section and is presented annually to a Midwest region AIChE member. This internationally recognized award consists of an engraved plaque and \$1,000 honorarium presented at a monthly section meeting.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from the Thiele Committee Chair. Completed nominations for the current year are due to the committee chair no later than **April 01, 2026**.

One of the highest honors a distinguished chemical engineer can receive is our AIChE Chicago Section Thiele award. Please consider nominating a deserving engineer for this prestigious award.

To nominate, please contact: **Jeffrey Zalc – bp Solutions, P&O**

Phone: 630.881.5478 Email: jeffrey.zalc@bp.com

More information about this award and the past winners:

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/chicago-local-section/ernest-w-thiele-award>

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/chicago/thiele-award-past-winners>

Ernest W. Thiele Award Recipients

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT</u>
2024	Javad Abbasian	IIT	For his contributions in Environmental Reaction Engineering and process design as well as to education.
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 Cassandra.
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
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

2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Officers

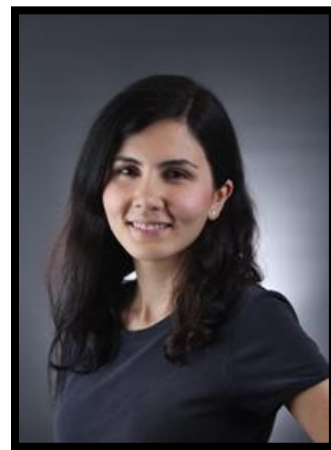
Chair: Lance Baird



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 Section as the Chair and previously served as House Committee Chair.

Chair-Elect: Aida Amini Rankouhi

Aida Amini-Rankouhi is currently a Lead Technical Sales Engineer in Hydroprocessing at Honeywell UOP, where she develops and provides technical support for Honeywell UOP's hydrocracking catalyst offerings. Aida began her career with Honeywell in 2018, working in the Process Modeling team as an R&D Scientist, where she developed kinetic-based process models and software tools for yield estimation in refinery process units. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tehran and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University. Aida is a Senior Member of AIChE and has been actively involved in the AIChE Sustainable Engineering Forum. She was awarded the AIChE SEF Student Best Paper Award in 2018 and has co-chaired multiple sessions within the forum in recent years.



Past 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.

2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Officers

Director at Large: Reza Mostofi

Reza Mostofi is a principal engineer at UOP's Process Equipment Skill Center, situated in Rosemont, IL. With a tenure at UOP dating back to 2003, Reza has been a member of the Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modeling team, delving into various UOP technologies to enhance performance, troubleshoot issues, and study revamps. His expertise lies in multiphase flows and heat transfer, with a focus on optimizing different facets of the Fluid Catalytic Cracking (FCC) process. He earned his Ph.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. Throughout his career, Reza has made many contributions to the field, holding over 30 US and international patents and sharing his research at numerous conferences and in technical journals. 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 is 2022. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Reza was honored with the AIChE Shining Star Award in 2019.



Director at Large: Ha Dinh



Ha Dinh is currently a Sr Offering Manager for Technical Service business in Honeywell UOP Lifecycle Solutions and Technologies, where she drives new offering development and deployment, collaborates with cross-functional teams and stakeholders, oversees market analysis and builds future technical and commercial pipeline. 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 Project Consultant in Integrated Project Solution group working on technical proposals and customer specific studies, Project Development Manager for Naphtha new capital and equipment projects and Offering Manager for Naphtha business managing multiple catalyst and adsorbent product lines.

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.

2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Officers

Director at Large: Jeffrey Zalc

Jeff earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Rutgers University and completed a two-year postdoctoral research position at the University of California at Berkeley. Since 2005, he has worked in BP's central refining technology group and is currently a Principal Engineer in the Process Modeling & Simulation group. His work involves the development and implementation detailed, equipment-based models of various petroleum refining process (mostly catalytic reforming and hydroprocessing); the tools are used for unit health monitoring, catalyst forecasting, troubleshooting, optimization, crude and feedstock selection, and capital investment decisions. Since 2015, Jeff has also taught at Illinois Tech as an adjunct professor, offering upper-level courses on Chemical Process Design, Chemical Process Simulation, and E3 (Energy, Environment, and Economics). He received the chemical engineering department's Hamid Arastoopour Excellence in Teaching Award in 2022 and 2025. Jeff is also a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois. He lives in Aurora with his wife and two daughters.



Vice Chair of Programming: Jacob Saldinger

Jacob received his bachelor's in chemical engineering from Rice University after which he worked for 3 years in Houston in natural gas process equipment design. While in Houston, he was active in the South Texas AIChE chapter on the Young Professionals leadership team. He then pursued a PhD in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan researching novel strategies to model combustion chemistry. After graduating, he joined bp's Advanced Fuels team and currently works in hydroprocessing at bp's Whiting refinery. Jacob is the author of 13 engineering publications and is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Treasurer: Adam Kanyuh



Adam Kanyuh is a Fellow in Honeywell UOP's Engineering Department. With over 30+ years' experience in process design, Adam has been involved in the design of Propane Dehydration 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 boys.

2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Officers

Secretary: Kashif Uddin

Kashif Uddin received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology. He has been working as a Process Engineer for over 8 years now in various industries ranging from estomeric materials manufacturing, biopharma, agrochem and EPC. He's held various positions ranging from Process/Project Engineer to R&D Process Engineer. He currently is a Sr. Process Engineer for CB&I in Plainfield.



2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Committee Members

Logistics Committee: Elizabeth Ibarra



Bertha Elizabeth Ibarra Lopez received her BS in Chemical Engineering from Universidad Central del Ecuador, Ecuador and a MS in Chemical Process Engineer from University of New South Wales, Australia. She has been a member of the AIChE since 2016. Elizabeth currently works at Becton Dickinson and Company as a Lab Technician and has collaborated in the Pharmaceutical Industry, academia and government positions. Since 2023 she has been involved in the MRC and now, she is serving on the Logistics Committee.

Publicity Committee: Sanaz Taghvaii Arabi

Sanaz Taghvaii is currently working as Technical Service Specialist in Aromatics Technologies at Honeywell UOP where she supports customers in troubleshooting, data review and unit monitoring. She earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Massachusetts Amherst. She served as AIChE Education Chair UMass Chapter during her undergraduate. After graduation she continued volunteering with AIChE Houston Chapter in social media and with AIChE Chicago Section since 2019.



Awards Committee: Azita Ahmadzadeh



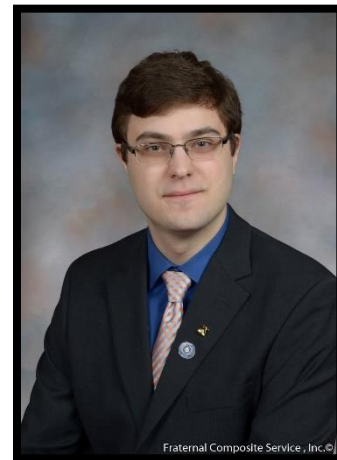
Azita Ahmadzadeh received her PhD in Chemical Engineering from IIT in Chicago and is working as a CFD modeling specialist at UOP, Honeywell Company. Prior to joining UOP, Honeywell Company, Azita worked at Simutech Group for 5 years. She is involved in AIChE national as session chair/co-chair at annual and spring meetings. She was a member of AIChE Executive Board of Programming Committee, (EBPC) and currently serving on AIChE Continuing Education Operating Council (CEOC) and liaison to AIChE Local Sections Community. She was the Program Chair of 2013 PDS (Process Development Symposium) and the session chair of 2018 and 2024 PDS. Azita was the chair of AIChE Chicago section (2014-2015) and has been Chicago local section newsletter editor from 2008 -

2020. She initiated the Chicago Section's Scholarship and is the committee chair from 2014. Azita is fundraising committee chair for the Midwest Regional Conferences since 2007 and was the chair of 2015 Midwest Regional Conference. She is the 2010 recipient of the AIChE Shining Star Award for outstanding volunteer-ism. Azita was AIChE F&PD newsletter editor in 2019, communication director in 2020 and currently serve as the F&PD director. Azita is the AIChE Fellow.

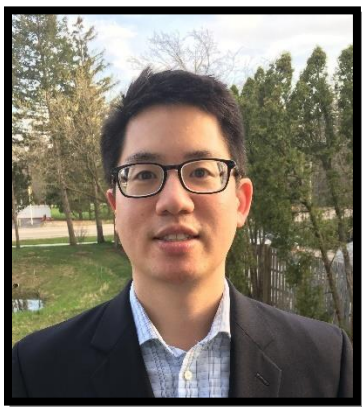
2025-2026 AIChE Chicago Committee Members

Newsletter Editor: Ethan Caesar

Ethan Caesar is currently a process engineer at Phibro Animal Health Corporation where he is involved with the fermentation and manufacturing of several medicated products. Prior to working for Phibro, he worked as a plant engineer for POET in Shell Rock, Iowa. He earned his Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering from Trine University in 2021 and was part of the university's Chem-E-Car team and joined the Delta Chi fraternity. Ethan is also a member of the Science Advisory Board of ChiTownBio, Chicago's only community biolab.



Newsletter Editor: Robert Tsai



Bob Tsai is a Principal Technology Manager at Honeywell UOP and is responsible for leading and improving internal execution of customer proposals in the gas processing and carbon capture areas. He has been with Honeywell UOP for 15 years and within the company has worked in consultancy (Integrated Project Solutions) and innovation (Engineering Innovation Group) areas as well as Process Design and Modeling roles in R&D. He has been granted 14 patents during his career. Bob holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Within AIChE Chicago, he was Co-Chair of Programming from 2016-2018, Chair and Past Chair from 2018-2020, Director from 2020-2023, served as Chair of the 2021 AIChE Midwest Regional Conference, and has been Newsletter Editor since 2021.

Celebrating 100 Years of AIChE's Chicago Local Section

AIChE Chicago was recently featured on the AIChE ChEnected blog! Azita Ahmadzadeh and Janet Werner provided comments on behalf of the section, highlighting the recent centennial celebration as well as sharing perspective on its overall history and future.

Check out the article [here](#).



Note on Local Section Membership Fee and Financial Status

AIChE national memberships run on a calendar year basis. If you haven't already paid your national membership dues, please help support us by including Chicago Local Section dues in that national membership payment.

AIChE Chicago has celebrated our Centennial Year in 2025. To help us continue to serve our members and the chemical engineering community with quality programming, the AIChE Chicago Board of Directors has decided to increase our local section membership dues from \$20 to \$25. This will be effective in 2026, so you should see this update in your dues renewal from national AIChE. This is our first membership dues increase since 2007 – this means that we have kept our local section dues steady for 19 years! We have done our best to maintain low membership dues, but unfortunately, we need to keep up with inflation. Our membership dues go to supporting our monthly meetings, Midwest Regional Conference, and encouraging students both at the university and K-12 level. Membership dues even help us send out this newsletter to our mailing list! We hope that you can continue to support our local section by paying or renewing your membership dues -- we are not able to serve our chemical engineering community without you! Thank you!

Pay Local Section Dues by following the links on our website: [Join the Chicago Local Section](#) | [AIChE](#)

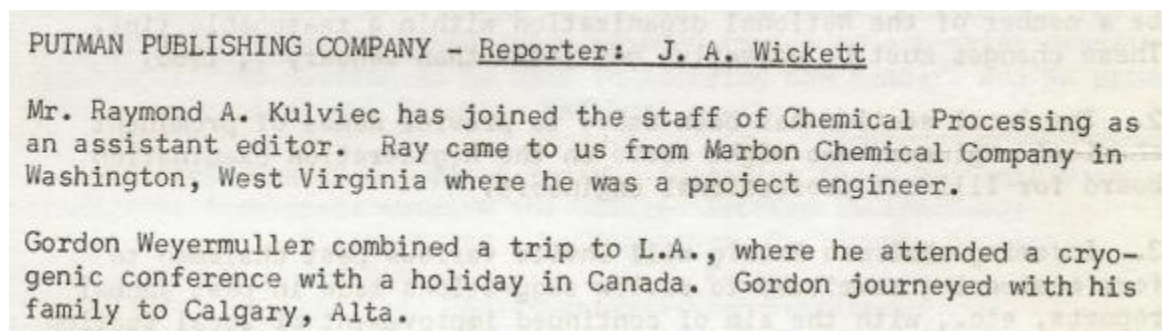
AIChE Chicago History – Personal News in the Newsletter

By: Janet Werner

It's hard to think of a day going by without a Facebook notification, a new LinkedIn post, or other social media notifications popping up. But before smart phones and social media, updates about your friends and colleagues wouldn't necessarily be a daily occurrence. One way people got updates about friends and colleagues was through a "Personal News" section in the AIChE Chicago Section newsletters.

The newsletter committee had volunteer "reporters" from multiple companies across the Chicagoland area who would submit news from employees in their company. Personal news could range from announcements of business trips, conference attendance, promotions, transfers, marriages, or births.

Example of Personal News from Oct 1962 newsletter:



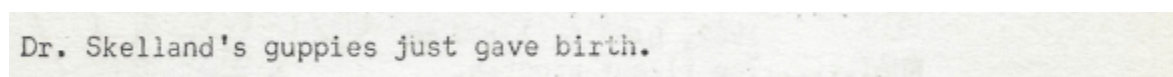
PUTMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY - Reporter: J. A. Wickett

Mr. Raymond A. Kulviec has joined the staff of Chemical Processing as an assistant editor. Ray came to us from Marbon Chemical Company in Washington, West Virginia where he was a project engineer.

Gordon Weyermuller combined a trip to L.A., where he attended a cryogenic conference with a holiday in Canada. Gordon journeyed with his family to Calgary, Alta.

Some of the personal news even veered into what appeared to be inside jokes for those who knew those individuals.

From Feb 1962 newsletter:



Dr. Skelland's guppies just gave birth.

This level of familiarity, although perhaps not fitting of a newsletter for a professional organization, is a nice window into the lives of members of that time. The same can be said of one of the responses to that type of personal news, seen here in an editorial submitted to the newsletter:

From March 1962 newsletter:

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD
Chicago Section A.I.Ch.E. Newsletter

Gentlemen:

I enjoyed the article on Japan by Bob Opila in the recent News-letter because it told me things that I didn't know about conditions in another country. Notices of A.I.Ch.E. events and other engineering affairs in this region are also very much in place in The News-letter.

However it is my opinion that the section called "Personal News" should be drastically changed or eliminated. Giving recognition to engineers who present papers is fine but the publication of trivia is unnecessary. I do not believe that these items develop any "togetherness" as perhaps they are intended to do. Who cares if the temperature in Finland was forty below? Or that someone's guppies had more guppies? Or that Joe gets another \$600 deduction on his income taxes? Or that someone went on vacation. These things are not of interest to people external to a given company group.

I favor a professional newsletter without items that look like a gossip column.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours truly,

Norman R. Wallner

The personal news section of the newsletter also captured some interesting historical highlights from a few well recognized chemical engineering names.

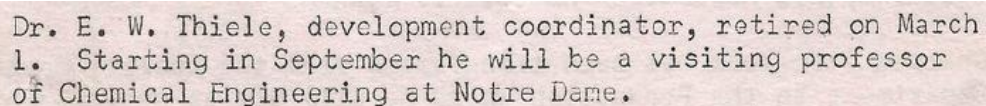
From Dec 1962 newsletter:

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY:

Dr. O. Levenspiel of the Illinois Institute of Technology has

recently had a book published by John Wiley - "Chemical Reaction Engineering" 1962. This is the first text book on CRE and has been received very enthusiastically.

From April 1960 newsletter:



Dr. E. W. Thiele, development coordinator, retired on March 1. Starting in September he will be a visiting professor of Chemical Engineering at Notre Dame.

The Personal News was eliminated from the newsletter in fall 1965 to reduce costs. Printing and mailing the newsletter was generally one of the largest expenses of the section's annual budget for the entire time a newsletter was professionally printed and mailed to members (from 1955 to 2005). Removing a few pages of the newsletter for personal news resulted in a few thousand of dollars (inflation adjusted to 2025 dollars) of savings in the budget for one year.

How would you prefer to receive news about your colleagues and friends? Submitted through a snail mail newsletter or through a social media notification? Let us know in your next social media post on Facebook or LinkedIn!

Why renew your AIChE Membership?

Renew your membership now to keep learning and growing.

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 which can offer Continuing Education 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 more benefits here!](#)

Early Career Community (ECC) / Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Chicago Section

AIChE's Early Career Community (ECC) / 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 students 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 professionals 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 35.

General ECC Website: <https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/committees/early-career>

ECC/YPC Chicago Website:

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

Email us at yp.aichechicago@gmail.com

Connect with us on Facebook! Search for 'YPC Chicago'

Join our mailing list! Find our Google group under 'ypcchicago'

Join Our GroupMe and become a part of the Chicago Chemical Engineering Young Professional Community:

https://groupme.com/join_group/99685952/GrFycymv

Connect with members and 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.





September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic 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 Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. [Read More »](#).

Hispanic and Latino chemists you should know about

originally published on C&EN website (9/16/21)

<https://cen.acs.org/people/profiles/Hispanic-Latino-chemists-should-know/99/web/2021/09>



Credit: Antoninho Perri (Alves); Wikimedia Commons (Burrell Ruiz, del Río, Letici, Miramontes, Molina, Stewart); University of Rochester / River Campus Libraries (Gerschman); Corbin D'Grady Studio / Science Source (Milstein); Associated Press (Villagas)



Oswaldo Luiz Alves

Brazilian chemist and one of the first Brazilian scientists to develop, research, and teach nanotechnology.



César Milstein

Argentine Nobel laureate who studied enzymology and immunology and is best remembered for his research in antibody production.



Sarah Stewart

Mexican microbiologist and two-time Nobel Prize nominee, who researched viral oncology and was among the first to demonstrate a link between viruses and cancer.



Engineering Tomorrow: Process Simulation That Leads the Way

In the fast-evolving world of chemical engineering, innovation begins with simulation, and simulation starts with CHEMCAD.

Developed by Datacor, CHEMCAD is more than just chemical process simulation software; it's a powerful platform designed to help students, educators, and professionals visualize, optimize, and shape the future of process design.

Built for Innovation—From the Classroom to the Plant

CHEMCAD delivers cutting-edge simulation and optimization tools that support engineers across many industries, including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, equipment manufacturing, and petrochemicals. With a highly intuitive interface and a robust library of thermodynamic models, CHEMCAD simplifies complex calculations while offering efficient modeling power.

For academic institutions, CHEMCAD is a launchpad for future engineers. It enables students and researchers to simulate real-world processes like distillation, absorption, and chemical reactions, providing hands-on experience with the same tools used by industry leaders.

Its approachable interface eases the learning curve, while its technical depth supports rigorous academic research. Students gain practical insight into complex systems, preparing them to enter the workforce with confidence and technical fluency.

Why CHEMCAD?

- Real-World Process Simulation that mirrors the complexity of modern operations
- Student-Friendly Interface with industrial-grade power
- Flexible Modeling for conventional and custom processes
- Reliable Support from experienced chemical engineers
- Straightforward Licensing with everything included

CHEMCAD isn't just software; it's a bridge between academic potential and industrial innovation. For students, it's a tool for learning, exploration, and growth. For professionals, it's a trusted partner in performance and productivity.

Discover how CHEMCAD can help you design what's next.

Meet AIChE's 2025 Election Candidates

AIChE's Nominating Committee has announced the slate of candidates for president-elect, and four director positions for the 2026 AIChE Board.

The president-elect will be elected to a three-year term, serving one year each as president-elect, president, and past president. The directors are elected for three-year terms.

Voting by electronic proxy ballot will begin on Sept. 3 and end on Oct. 8. Starting in 2025, AIChE will no longer mail paper ballots for the Board of Directors election. All voting will be conducted electronically.

The election results will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Boston, MA.

[Link to website](#)



2025 Election Timeline

May 12: Petition candidate cut-off date

Sept. 3: Election commences

Oct. 8: Election ballot receipt deadline

Nov. 3: Election results announced at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Boston, MA

2025 AIChE Chicago Meeting Schedule and Speakers

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Topic
September 18 th	Prof. Javad Abbasian	Illinois Institute of Technology	My Journey – Reflections on what brought me here

Upcoming AIChE Conferences, Meetings, and Webinars

AIChE Conferences	
September 7-11, 2025	<u>69th Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium</u> Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA USA
September 23-25, 2025	<u>International Congress on Particle Technology</u> Nürnberg Convention Center, Nuremberg, Germany
September 24-25, 2025	<u>7th Battery and Energy Storage Conference</u> Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, IL, USA
November 2-6, 2025	<u>AIChE Annual Meeting</u> – John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center – Boston, MA

Chicago ACS Meetings	
September 17, 2025	<u>Education Night – Prof. Charles Abrams</u>

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 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/venues.
- Logistics – arrange catering and venues
- Newsletter Editor – prepare and publish ten monthly newsletters
- Newsletter Contributors – 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 awards and scholarships
- Midwest Regional Conference – various roles with programming, logistics, website work, advertising, sponsorships, 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 at aichechicago@gmail.com

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.

AIChE Chicago Section

AIChE Chicago Section
2501 Chatham Rd Ste N
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>

Chair	Lance Baird
Chair Elect	Aida Amini Rankouhi
Past Chair	Matt Walters
Programming	Jacob Saldinger
Treasurer	Adam Kanyuh
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Directors at Large	Reza Mostofi
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Early Career/ Young Professionals Committee	Allison Nordvall
Awards Committee	Azita Ahmadzadeh
Membership Committee	Dennis Ducote
Newsletter Editors	Ethan Caesar
	Robert Tsai

Submitting Articles to AIChE Columns

We welcome email submissions for our monthly newsletter. Commercial announcements are subject to a fee. News stories, editorials, technical, or career related non-commercial contributions are always welcome for no charge. We consider job postings, announcements of for-free training courses, expositions, and conferences as commercial. Categorization of announcements is at the sole discretion of the Chicago AIChE Board of Directors. The AIChE Chicago Section 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.



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](#)