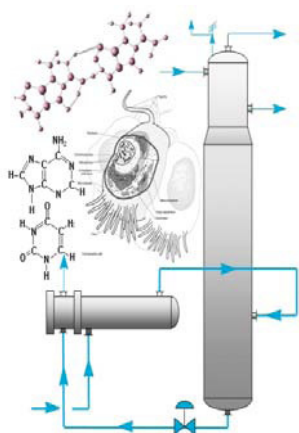


December Newsletter

Chicago Section

www.aiche-chicago.org

December 2010



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Help us spread the word by **printing** this page of the newsletter and **post** it on your institution bulletin **board**.

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
&
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

**Best wishes for the holiday season and a
Happy New Year**

**Thank you for helping us to improve the Chicago
Section monthly meetings**

Chair's Corner

This is the time of year when many of us reflect on the year that passed. We reflect on what we have accomplished and what we would like to accomplish in the future. Many of these accomplishments are personal in nature relating to friends and family. Still others are related to professional aspects of our lives. In either event we want to improve our lives.

One of the ways to improve your professional life is to come to a local section meeting. These meetings are held each month from September through May with the exception of December. They are held at various venues throughout the Chicagoland area, generally on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Frequently these meetings are held jointly with another professional society such as the ACS or the ISA. We encourage student participation by discounting the meeting to a nominal fee and also unem-

ployed members can participate for about half price.

At a local section meeting you will have an opportunity to meet other practitioners of our chosen profession and expand your network while you are enjoying your favorite beverage. After a catered dinner there will be a presentation on a topic that is current and of interest given by an expert in the field. At the end of the meeting you can optionally receive PDH credit towards the PE licensing requirements.

I urge you all to come to a local section meeting in 2011 and take advantage of all that they have to offer. Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season.

Steve



Congratulation to Chicago section Shining Star

The Board of Directors of the Chicago Section of AIChE have awarded **Ellen Kloppenborg** of UOP its Shining Star Award. This award is provided for exceptional service to the Section above and beyond the call of duty. It has only been given out about five times in the 100 year history of the Section. Last year, Ellen took over and expanded AIChE's student outreach efforts. She managed all the requests for chemical engineers and found volunteers to fill them. She participated in many of them herself. Ellen broadly publicized these activities in the AIChE newsletter and within UOP to build enthusiasm for the program. She also revamped the Student Outreach webpage to provide current information for volunteers and students looking for resource materials. Congratulations and thanks to Ellen. She is leaving town on long term assignment and we will miss her.



What AIChE means to me? Urmila Diwekar

Why I became chemical engineer is because I am originally from India. In India, if you are good in academics means you have to become an engineer or a doctor, there is no choice. I liked mathematics throughout my career and wanted to become mathematician. My parents were okay with this decision. However, my teachers were adamant about my career and to oppose was not a choice. In India, many people have strong opinions about your career (or life) whether they are knowledgeable about it or not. Somebody expressed an opinion telling me amongst all engineering education chemical engineering involves most mathematics (Remember, this person was not an engineer or known anything about engineering). Therefore, I went to chemical engineering. It is now true that I work mostly on mathematical chemical engineering. As my husband puts it, I am a theoretical engineer who sees mathematical equations everywhere. Since I was one of the toppers in the university, going for masters was the natural step. I topped the IIT entrance examination nationwide and went to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay in 1982 where I first got introduced to computers. The computer which IIT Bombay had was an old Russian main-frame computer which used to be down most of the time. India did not have any PCs or American computers that time. I had selected my research related to computer aided design and had to travel to Tata Institute which is at the other end of Bombay to use an hour of computer time. Despite the struggle I decided to continue my Ph.D. in India in computer aided design. My father was insisting that my future is in US but I did not want to listen. We were not in a financial condition to pay the admission fee for even a single American university. Also, I was not very unhappy that every-

body who goes to US does not come back. Little I knew that I will also be doing the same after few years. However, I was presented with a unique opportunity. United nation decided to open four computer aided design centers in India to inculcate computer education in Indian industries and IIT Bombay was selected as the center for chemical and metallurgical engineering. I was to be the first employee of this CAD Center. In the light of my earlier computer problems, I decided to take up this job so that I will get opportunity to do part time Ph.D. on the side. I was selected as a united nation scientist to visit two universities at the starting of my Ph.D. I visited University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Washington University, St. Louis. With the facilities in these universities, I could do major chunk of my thesis work in this visit. I realized that US is indeed the country with opportunities. I completed my Ph.D. and came to Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) as a Post Doctoral Fellow. At that time, Simulation Sciences expressed interest in commercialization of my Ph.D. work on batch distillation. I joined them briefly. However, they messed up my visa process and CMU offered me faculty position so I came back to CMU. Although, I received early promotions to associate and full professor level in CMU, I also faced discrimination and harassment as a woman faculty member in engineering. In 2002, I moved to University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). In 2003, CMU settled my law suit and I got academic restraining orders against some people who could have possibly harmed my future career. However, at UIC the head of



the department who hired me left the department immediately after I joined and I started facing problems in UIC. My husband suggested starting a research institute. That is how Vishwamitra Research Institute (VRI), a non-profit research organization is started in 2004-2005. Vishwamitra was a sage in Indian mythology that created alternate universe. This was an alternate universe for me. I also kept my affiliation to UIC from where I take Ph.D. students. VRI has been operating successfully for 5 years now.

My first introduction to AIChE was in 1990 in Chicago where I presented a poster. I was also introduced to Dr. Jeff Perl that time who stopped at my poster. This started my regular yearly (some time more than 2 in a year) visits to AIChE. I regularly contributed initially to separations and CAST division and later to environmental division. I was introduced to distillation community as Miss Batch Distillation by Dr. Henry Kister. While the CAST community knew me through my work on stochastic modeling, optimization, process synthesis, and optimal control.

Uncertainties are inherent in real world processes. Recognizing this fact, I started working in 1991 on stochastic modeling, efficient methods for uncertainty analysis, and optimization under uncertainty. These led her to productive contributions in fields as diverse as advanced power systems, sustainability, environmental management, nuclear waste disposal, molecular modeling, pollution prevention, and financial option theory. The interdisciplinary nature of the field developed into several research collaborations and in 1999 I founded the Center for Uncertain Systems: Tools for Optimization and Uncertainty (CUSTOM) to foster interactions between various industries, national laboratories and various academic disciplines. These collaborations resulted in regular contributions in areas related to AIChE's CAST divi-

sion, separations division, environmental division, and sustainable engineering forum. My graduate students received best papers awards from various divisions. In 1997 I was elected as a director of CAST division. Subsequently I was elected as Area10a Programming chair for CAST division, director environmental division, programming chair environmental division, and very recently programming chair of the newly developed sustainability engineering forum. In 2009, I was elected to fellow of American Institute of Chemical Engineers and also to fellow of American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. AIChE helped me to network not only nationally but internationally also. This helped me in getting the early promotions to associate professorship and full professorship in CMU. The letters of recommendation from experts from all over the world was one of the reasons the promotion committees recommended me for these promotions.

In 1999, I was invited as a guest speaker in the distillation workshop conducted by the Chicago section of AIChE. That was my first introduction to Chicago section. I found the section to be very active as compared to other local sections I had seen. I started participating in the section when I moved to Chicago in 2002.

Over the years, through AIChE I came to know a large number of people and vice versa. The feeling I have when I go to AIChE is like the theme song of CHEERS, Sometimes you want to go Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.

Urmila Diwekar, M.Tech. Ph.D.
Fellow AIChE, Fellow AIMBE

Save the Date

Wednesday January 19th, 2011

Joint meeting with ACS Chicago Section & ChemPharma
European Crystal Banquet Center



Speaker: Arup K. SenGupta
**“Sustainable Mitigation of Global Arsenic Crisis:
Challenges and Progress”**

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 \$1000 honorarium presented at our sectional meeting.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from the Thiele Committee Chair. Completed nominations are due to the committee chair no later than March 1, 2011.

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

Jim Simnick

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Upcoming Meetings

International Conference on Biomolecular Engineering

Grand Hyatt San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

January 16-19, 2011

Chicago Section Monthly meeting, joint meeting with ACs & ChemPharma

European Crystal Banquet Center

January 19th, 2011

Spring Meeting

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Chicago, IL

March 13-17, 2011

Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2011

Reliant Park

Houston, TX

May 2-5, 2011

AIChE-DECHEMA Global Conference on Energy Sustainability in the Process Industries (ESPI)

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

Hong Kong SAR, China

June 5-8, 2011

56th Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium

Sheraton Montreal Hotel

Montreal, QC

September 11-15, 2011

Annual Meeting

Minneapolis Convention Center

Minneapolis, MN

October 16-21, 2011

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We want you for AIChE-Chicago!

We need your help!

How many opportunities can you find to learn project management, delegation and leadership skills for free? Becoming an officer in the Chicago Section of AIChE is such an opportunity. While you're learning new skills, your local 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.

aichechicago@gmail.com

http://www.aiche-chicago.org/Section_Info/Volunteer.html

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.

AICHE Publicity Committee Fees	Academic (non-AICHE)		Company		Recruiters	
	Per Month	Per Year	Per Month	Per Year	Per Month	Per Year
Advertisements (3X3)	100	450	150	675	N/A	N/A
Half-Page (~7"x 4.5")	280	1260	420	1890	N/A	N/A
Job Posting (Size?)	50	225	100	450	250	N/A
Special Sizing	Contact Publicity Committee aichechicago@gmail.com					

For the purchase of a year ad, customers have the option of changing ads/jobs month to month.

Student and AIChE Member Related Postings are Free.

