

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

To say that this was a challenging year would be a gross understatement. Just as our 2020 programming year was getting off the ground, the Covid-19 pandemic hit, affecting all of us in some way. In-person meetings and other events would be no longer possible for some indeterminant length of time. The North Jersey Section was faced with the task of continuing to provide our members with the events, services and activities that they have come to expect, and remain an active and relevant professional organization for chemical engineers. We were also challenged by the (non-Covid related) loss of three long-time members of the Executive Committee, all three of whom had a significant impact on the continuity and vitality of the Section. (See *"In Memoriam"* section below.)

Fortunately, being engineers, we were able to adapt and successfully address and resolve these challenges, remaining active through the year. We went virtual, conducting both Executive Committee meetings and monthly dinner meetings on-line, via ZOOM, and awarding a **total of 6 hours of continuing education credits** to our licensed members. We were able to continue supporting the student chapters at NJIT and Steven's Institute of Technology. We surveyed our membership to assist us in planning our activities in this new environment. We successfully supported two of our Executive Committee members, (**Dr. Thelma Manning, P.E.**, and **Robert Rossi**), helping them achieve the status of **Fellow of AIChE**. And finally, we held a successful election for the 2021 Executive Committee members so we would not lose continuity moving into 2021. All of this is summarized in this newsletter, which has been issued to let you all know that we are still here, and we are still active!

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the **Executive Committee of the North Jersey Section**, all of whom were re-elected to their respective offices on the 2021 Executive Committee, (see *"Did You Know?"*, below.) I would like to thank all of them for adapting to the (hopefully temporary) "new normal", and for

helping the Section to continue providing the services our membership has come to expect from it.

And finally, I would just like to say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Seasons Greetings, and Happy New Year to all of our members and their families! Stay healthy and stay safe!

Peter Sibilski, FAICChE, P.E.

2020 Chair, North Jersey Section AICChE

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, the North Jersey Section conducted its annual election for the **2021 Executive Committee** electronically, via Survey Monkey. Member participation exceeded expectations. The results of this election are presented below. Congratulations to the **2021 Executive Committee!**

OFFICERS:

Chair: Peter Sibilski, FAICChE, P.E., CEM

Chair Elect: *(open)*

Treasurer: Larry Rotter, FAICChE, P.E.

Chair: Bob Rossi, FAICChE

DIRECTORS:

Gary Prager, FAICChE

Thelma Manning, FAICChE, PhD, P.E.

Ara Barsamian

Viral Panchal

We have current openings for Chair-elect, and one more Director. If you are interested in being part of the Executive Committee, please contact Peter Sibilski at psibilski@alzousa.com for more information.

MEMBER FEEDBACK SURVEY:

Due to the global pandemic, the North Jersey Section has been conducting virtual monthly meetings for several months now. (*Please refer to the meeting summaries below*). As pandemic restrictions began loosening at the end of the summer, the Section considered re-implementing in-person meetings if appropriate. In order to gauge the memberships' feelings about this idea, and to help in the decision-making, the Section invited feedback by the membership via a three-question survey, via Survey Monkey.

The three questions asked were:

1. Would you currently feel comfortable attending a dinner meeting in a restaurant? Please indicate "YES" or "NO"
2. If you answered "NO", what would have to happen before you felt comfortable?
3. Do you have any general comments or suggestions that would help the Executive Committee plan events for the coming months?

At the time the survey was taken, 75% of the respondents replied "NO" to **Question #1**. The reasons given in **Question #2** ranged from developing a vaccine, to attaining low levels of virus spread. Comments from **Question #3** included an overwhelming agreement to continuing virtual meetings, to "*maintain cohesiveness and momentum*" among other things. Looking to the future, a mixture of live and virtual meetings was also suggested.

The Executive Committee appreciated this feedback, as it helped us plan Section activities according to the best interests and current needs of the membership. Thank you to all who participated. We will be sending out another survey in the coming months, as conditions change, in order to re-evaluate this situation.

NJIT Student Chapter, AIChE

presents:

Hy-Lander - Their award-winning ChemE-Car

Earlier this fall, NJIT's ChemE-Car team participated in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the ChemE-Car Competition, which took place virtually as part of the 2020 AIChE Regional Conference, hosted by Virginia Tech University. NJIT's team won 2nd place in the *Poster Competition*, and 3rd place in the *Chem-E-Car Performance Competition*. These wins enabled NJIT's team to advance to the national competition, which was held virtually at the AIChE Annual Student Conference on November 15, 2020.

The ChemE-Car Competition involves constructing, fueling and running a car via a chemical reaction. Additionally, a poster must be developed, that describes the particular chemical reaction mechanism(s) driving the car. The Hy-lander, NJIT's ChemE-Car, is a hydrogen gas (*produced on-board via an acid-metal reaction*) - powered vehicle that generates electricity via a fuel cell. Additionally, it uses a secondary reaction to stop the car. At the competition, the car is required to carry a load of water a designated distance. The weight of the water is unknown until the day of the competition, and the ChemE Car Team must perform calculations on-site, to adjust their reaction, so that their car carries the water as close to the designated distance as possible. In winning 3rd Place, The Hy-lander carried its load of water 2 meters beyond the 13.7 meter designated distance.

At the AIChE Annual Student Conference in November, the team won **First Place** for their poster - Congratulations ChemE Car Team! Unfortunately, after completing their first run just 1.5 meters short of their

target, some unforeseen technical trouble hampered their efforts to complete their car's second run. Congratulations on reaching the national competition nonetheless!

At this virtual event, attendees met the members of NJIT's ChemE-Car team, who described their award-winning car and the chemical reaction powering it and reviewed their award-winning poster.



Some NJIT student chapter members ready for work on the ChemE Car project:

From left to right:

Mohammad Savarmand,

Nicholas Rubulotta,

Daniela Bushiri,


Ahmed Mahum,

Koko Lear

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

NJIT
AIChE & OXE
presents
**2nd Annual
Chemical Engineering
Networking Night**
September 24th, 2020 6-8:30pm





Itinerary

6:00 PM Welcome Remarks

6:15 PM Speed Networking


7:00 PM Panelist Introduction

7:05 PM Q/A with Panelist

7:50 PM Closing Remarks

8:00 PM End Event

Thank You to our Sponsors




Question? Contact us






INVITE YOU TO THE

**2ND ANNUAL
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
NETWORKING NIGHT**



JOIN US ONLINE ON
24th of September 2020 | 6-8:30pm





 The Global Home of Chemical Engineers
The American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Presents the
Chem-E-Car Poster Competition
Second Place Award
To
New Jersey Institute of Technology
"Hy-Lander"
 2020 Mid-Atlantic Student Regional Conference
 Blacksburg, Virginia (Kinda)


Chair, Student Chapters Committee


President, American Institute of Chemical Engineers


 The Global Home of Chemical Engineers
The American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Presents the
Chem-E-Car Performance Competition
Third Place Award
 Sponsored by AIChE ScaleUp Sponsors
To
New Jersey Institute of Technology
"Hy-Lander"
 2020 Mid-Atlantic Student Regional Conference
 Blacksburg, Virginia (Kinda)


Chair, Student Chapters Committee


President, American Institute of Chemical Engineers



Ms. Grubbe presenting at the February Scholarship Meeting in historic Eberhardt Hall



**Chemical Engineering & Materials Science Dept.
Chair Dr. Lisa Axe,
presenting Ms. Grubbe with
a special award**



Ms. Grubbe presenting Dr. Angie Perna with a special teaching award recognizing his years of service to NJIT

50-YEAR MEMBERS:

We would like to congratulate and recognize the following members of the North Jersey Section, AIChE, for becoming **50-year Members** in 2020, quite an accomplishment!

- **Neil Bernstein**
- **Leo Bowski**
- **Gail Braden**
- **Edward Brouillard**
- **Larry Rotter**

AIChE National will be contacting these members regarding this achievement. In the coming weeks, they will also receive, separately, a certificate from the North Jersey Section. Once the Section has returned to in-person meetings, these members will be more formally recognized at one of those meetings.

IN MEMORIAM:

We would like to express our condolences to the family of **Andy Soos**, a long-time member of the Executive Committee of our sister section, the **New Jersey Section**. Andy passed away in early November, in Arizona, where he had moved after retiring several years ago. Andy was well known to many members of this Section, and worked tirelessly for the New Jersey Section, so much so, that in 2009 he was one of the two inaugural recipients of AIChE's ***Shining Stars Award***, an award presented to someone, "*who has been recognized as the 2009 Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding contributions to the success of the New Jersey Section*". Rest in peace, Andy.

And finally, on a very sad, but respectful note, we would like to take the opportunity to formally recognize the passing, in 2020, of three long-time, key members of the **North Jersey Section AIChE Executive Committee**:

- **Albert Arnofsky** – January 4, 2020 - President, Pleasant Hill Consultants
- **George B. Stanton** - May 13, 2020 – President, American Hazard Control Consultants, Inc.
- **Angelo J. Perna** – July 1, 2020 – “Pillar” of the Department of Chemical Engineering, NJIT

Many of the current processes, protocols and operating procedures of the North Jersey Section can be directly traced to these three individuals, who coached and inspired all of the Executive Committees with which they were involved throughout the years, to continue giving back to the Section, and to the profession. Their hard work and dedication to the **North Jersey Section** of AIChE, has created the strong foundation from which we continue to grow and thrive, even in the face of a global pandemic. On behalf of the membership of the North Jersey Section,

thank you Al, George and Angie, for all you have done for us. You will be sorely missed.