



...Serving Chemical Engineers Who Serve the World

## Mid-Michigan Section Newsletter

**AICHE Mid-Michigan Section Mission: To provide opportunities to continuously develop our members professionally while working with the community to provide a positive view of science and engineering.**

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### Newsletter Highlights...

There are still two Mid-Michigan Section events to be held this year, the Awards Banquet with Keynote speaker Margaret Walker from The Dow Chemical Company and the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Family Night at the Delta College Planetarium. Check out the details on page 3.

National AIChE Director Hank Kohlbrand discusses the value of AIChE membership on page 4. Hank comments on a new AIChE member benefit, access to the Knovel Life Sciences and Chemistry collection.

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### *Words from the Chair...*

It's hard to believe that another AIChE program year is drawing to a close. With the end of the year comes the time to recognize our volunteers and to look for new people to take leadership of the organization for the next year.

If you volunteered at an AIChE event this year, it gives the executive committee great pleasure to invite you to the end-of-the-year banquet free of charge. It is one small way that we can recognize everyone who comes out to volunteer at events such as Sci-fest and Engineer in the Classroom or who serves on the committee for scholarship selection. Thank you very much for your effort.

A part of the banquet program is giving awards to some very well deserving members. In this newsletter you will find descriptions for four awards given by the local section. Do you know someone who is deserving of one of these awards? Don't delay; nominate him or her as soon as possible.

Thinking ahead to the next program year brings to mind the need for volunteerism within the local chapter. Many members enjoy the monthly programs and the volunteer opportunities brought by the local section. These activities do not happen without many people stepping up to help lead and plan. There will be several openings on the executive board for the next year. If you are interested please get in contact with any current officer. The future of the local AIChE section depends on new leadership year to year.

Please take the time to read this newsletter and consider volunteering with AIChE. If you're already a volunteer then enjoy the meal and program at the end-of-the-year banquet. Another exciting program year is already being planned for next year. Have a great summer!

*Sarah Ratcliff*

Mid-Michigan AIChE Section Chair

## **Annual Awards Banquet Scheduled**

***The Mid-Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
End-of-the-year Awards Banquet  
Wednesday, May 25, 2005  
Ashman Court Hotel, Midland, MI***

Speaker: Margaret Walker, The Dow Chemical Company

Title: The Future of Engineering: A Viable Frontier

Please mark your calendars for this event. More details will be sent out via e-mail soon.



The National AIChE Web site has set up a *Campaign for Web Excellence* to revamp and improve the functionality of this critical hub that connects members in nearly 100 countries...and they need your input and support. Help be a part of the solution. Found out [more](#).

## Delta College Planetarium Visit on May 3

Mid-Michigan AIChE is sponsoring a visit to the [Delta College Planetarium](#) in Bay City on Tuesday, May 3. Our group will view *The Cowboy Astronomer*, a program selected for its broad appeal to children in elementary school all the way up to adults.

We'll begin to gather at the planetarium at 6:45 p.m., and the hour-long program will begin at 7:00.

The visit is free for AIChE members and their families. For nonmembers the cost is \$2.

If you plan to attend this event please RSVP to Mike Durisin ([durisinm@umich.edu](mailto:durisinm@umich.edu), 989-631-5677).

Directions to the planetarium can be found by clicking the link <http://www.delta.edu/planet/map1.jpg>.



Delta College Planetarium &  
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## AIChE Introduces Access to Knovel as a Member Benefit

*Contributed by Hank Kohlbrand, Director AIChE*



I am often asked about the value of membership in AIChE. From time to time in our newsletter, I will be providing some insight into benefits that bring value to AIChE members. About a month ago, AIChE announced that members would receive access to the Knovel Life Sciences and Chemistry collection as a member benefit. Knovel brings engineering and scientific references, handbooks, and databases right to your desktop. While scientific information on the web is not a new thing, Knovel has taken a novel (no pun intended) approach to providing this information. Registered users have access to a wide variety of reference books which have been made available in an electronic form.

While other vendors offer on-line access to books or journals, Knovel is alone in providing users the ability to interactively manipulate and search for content across the entire collection. They have coupled some powerful search technology with other features that make the references easier to use. Users have the flexibility of navigating through e-References page-by-page or to search across the site and manipulate interactive tables, graphs, equations, spreadsheets, and other structured information. The chemical structure-searching feature allows you to even draw the chemical compound before searching. Many useful equations can be downloaded into an Excel spreadsheet. They have also provided graphs that are digitized and tables that you can download into your documents.

I would encourage you to go to the AIChE website (<http://aiche.org/knovel.htm>) and register for your access to Knovel. Then spend some time experimenting with it. I have found it a very useful addition to other resources that I use (and it beats having to carry heavy books around).

Members will have initial access to “flagship” chemical engineering content like the Plastics Design Library Series, Perry’s *Chemical Engineers Handbook*, ChemEssentials, and Lange’s *Handbook of Chemistry*, as well as the many important books in the AIChE Center for Chemical Process Safety Guidelines Series, among others. Hundreds of books are available in this collection.

## AIChE 2005 Spring National Meeting Proceedings on CD-ROM

The National organization has just released the complete proceedings of the 2005 Spring National meeting on CD-ROM. The proceedings contain more than 775 technical papers (including 4,300 pages) from all topical conferences. The cost is \$100 plus shipping & handling, and ordering can be done online at <http://shop.omnipress.com/aiche-individuals>. Limited copies of proceedings are available on CD-ROM for both 2004 Meetings as well as the 2003 Annual Meeting.



## Nominations Open for 2005 AIChE Mid-Michigan Section Awards

The AIChE Mid-Michigan Section is inviting nominations for the Young Chemical Engineer of the Year, Chemical Engineer of the Year, Service to Society, and Noland Poffenberger awards. The section will confer these awards at the upcoming annual banquet on May 25th.

A description of each award appears below. Anyone is free to make a nomination, but note that every nomination must include a description of why the nominee is worthy of receiving the award together with the names and contact information of at least two other people who can elaborate on the nominee's qualifications.

Please direct nominations and any questions to **Sarah Ratcliff** (chairperson, 989-496-5675, [sarah.ratcliff@dowcorning.com](mailto:sarah.ratcliff@dowcorning.com)) or **Tami Heilman-Adam** (past chairperson, 989-496-8771, [tami.heilman@dowcorning.com](mailto:tami.heilman@dowcorning.com)) Award recipients will be chosen by members of the section executive board.

**All nominations are due by Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:00 p.m.**

### Award Descriptions

**Chemical Engineer of the Year** - This award is generally given to a distinguished chemical engineer in the Mid-Michigan Section who has achieved significant career accomplishments in the profession. Recipients usually have about 20-30 years of service following graduation. Publications, patents, company recognition of achievement, and accomplishments in the field of chemical engineering are key criteria for consideration. The individual must be an active participant in AIChE at either the local or national level to be considered. This is normally an annual award.

**Young Chemical Engineer of the Year** - This award recognizes service to AIChE, technical and professional expertise, and personal leadership that is superior for an early-career engineer. It's generally given to a person with approximately 4-12 years of service following graduation. This is normally an annual award.

**Service to Society Award** - This award recognizes long-time service to AIChE, service to the profession through technical expertise and role modeling for other engineers, and community activities that benefit area students and residents. Recipients usually have about 25-30 years of service following graduation. This is normally an annual award.

**Noland Poffenberger Award** - This award is given to a high-level manager who has shown great support of the Mid-Michigan Section by encouraging employees within the recipient's organization to participate in professional organizations such as AIChE. This award is given only when a suitable candidate exists.



## SPE and AIChE Classroom Volunteer Training

*Contributed by Verna Talcott, Education Outreach Chair*

The Mid-Michigan Sections of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) work collaboratively to promote an interest in science and technology. The two societies provided training and resource materials in January for their members to conduct classroom demonstrations in local area schools. After training, several members have already visited students in Midland and Saginaw counties where students (in the 1<sup>st</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grades) performed experiments to learn more about polymers and materials and methods to clean up oil spills. More than 200 students have been visited by the classroom volunteers to date. Additional visits to local area schools are planned for the remainder of the school year.

More information on the types of experiments our members perform and instructions on how to volunteer in next year's program can be found by visiting the Mid-Michigan Section Web site at the following address: <http://www.mmaiche.org/classdemos.html>.



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## Future City Competition Winners

*Contributed by Verna Talcott, Education Outreach Chair*

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, **Mike Durisin**, **Erin Lacher**, and **Verna Talcott** were among the Mid-Michigan AIChE members who assisted in the judging of essays for the 2005 Future City Competition which is designed by the National Engineers Week Committee. St. John Lutheran School was the winner of the Michigan Region competition. St. John Lutheran School will represent the Michigan Region at the National Competition February 20-24, 2005 in Washington, D.C.



Photographs from the Competition are available on ESD's website, [http://www.esd.org/future\\_city.htm](http://www.esd.org/future_city.htm).

The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) holds the regional competition to find the winning team to represent the state of Michigan at the national competition in Washington D.C. The theme for this year's competition is the use of aggregates. The research essay question that the students specifically need to answer is, "How can futuristic transportation systems efficiently use aggregate materials as a basic construction product?" The research essay explores, develops and discusses the uses or production processes for products produced by the crushed stone, sand and gravel ("construction aggregates") producing industry that will increase transportation efficiency of their future city.

## Officer Volunteers Needed—How About You?

The Mid-Michigan Section of the AIChE is always in need of volunteers, and the upcoming 2005–2006 program year is no exception. Service does not have to begin on the Executive Committee, but perhaps with service on one of our various committees that administer community scholarships and school donations.

# AIChE



For those who wish to become officers of the organization note that all section officers attend the monthly Executive Committee meeting currently held over lunch every third Thursday of the month. The meetings are one of the most important and regular opportunities to discuss business face-to-face. The Executive Committee and related service committees are excellent opportunities to network with other engineers in the local area and to give back to the community.

For more information on service opportunities or questions regarding the activities of the Executive Committee please contact any officer found in the directory starting on page 10.

## Put a New Spin on Learning...ASME/AIChE Courses at Home

ASME/AIChE offers some of its most popular classroom courses on CD-ROM, bringing high-quality Professional and Technical Training to your desk, computer lab, or control room! These CD-ROM courses are the only interactive, multimedia, self-directed training tools developed and endorsed by AIChE.

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- Essentials of Chemical Engineering for Non-Chemical Engineers
- Fluid Mixing Technology - Operators
- Industrial Fluid Mixing - Engineers
- Tecnología de la Destilación para Operadores (Spanish Version)

For detailed information and to purchase a copy, visit <http://www.aiche.org/distancelearning/cdrom/>.



## Latest Letter from AIChE National President Jeffrey Siirola

*Editor's note: Although somewhat dated, this letter by AIChE National President Jeffrey Siirola is the latest to membership. It was distributed to membership since the last Section newsletter.*

January 20, 2005

Dear Member,

It is a great honor and a privilege to serve the Institute as your president for 2005. Last year the Board of Directors, the Operating Councils, the staff, and countless volunteer members worked extremely hard to implement the "Essential AIChE." Here is a quick snapshot of some of the progress that has been made:

**Finance** – The Institute finished 2004 with revenues slightly exceeding expenses for the first time in seven years. Also, for the first time in as many years, no withdrawals were required from our permanent fund.

**Operations** – Our overall budget and especially our overhead costs have been dramatically reduced. The sublease of three-quarters of our office space will save us approximately \$1.4 million every year going forward.

**Outsourcing** – In 2004, partnerships were implemented with ASME to provide educational services and with John Wiley & Sons to provide production services for our technical publications. These partnerships are economically advantageous to the Institute and at the same time extend our reach to a broader audience.

**Technical Leadership** – In 2004, all three of our new technical communities, the Society for Biological Engineering, the Institute for Sustainability, and the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum launched successful conferences and symposia. The Ammonia Safety Conference and the Annual Meeting attracted near-record numbers of participants.

**Communications** – In the past year, we have worked harder to share more Institute and professional news with you and the public. We gained exposure in local and national media markets, including National Public Radio, the History Channel, and the Sunday New York Times.

These have been challenging times. The Essential AIChE has focused on the core services and benefits you told us are essential to your career and to your profession. Maintaining this focus and a viable Institute has required some radical redesign of our operations and dedicated hard work by both volunteers and the staff. The changes that have been implemented are intended to be both permanent and sustainable.

I am gratified by the response of so many who have volunteered to step up and assume new leadership roles. We welcome such volunteer effort, but we also recognize that to be effective, volunteers need staff support. The Board is working hard to implement the most efficient balance.

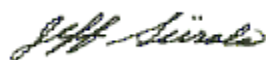
In the coming year, we will continue to explore alliances with other organizations to continue to enhance our global presence, provide additional revenue and add benefits to our members. A programmatic alliance with ACS is underway, and some of our local sections, and sustainability and biotechnology groups are already working together to help us realize our vision.

We will also begin work this year on some much needed improvements and enhancements to the AIChE Web site, [www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org). New technologies will allow for better access to data, improved e-commerce, a more powerful and intuitive internal search capability and integration with local section, division, and committee Web sites

Finally, in 2005 the Board will work especially on the issues of membership attraction and retention and local section revitalization. They will examine issues important to student members, young professionals, members involved in emerging areas and in more traditional areas of chemical engineering.

Personally, I am very excited about 2005. I look forward to working with all of you to build AIChE into an even stronger society, essential to all chemical engineers and to the organizations in which they serve.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey J. Siirala  
AIChE President

PS: If you have comments or suggestions for membership growth, our new Web site, or any other aspect of the Institute, I'd love to hear from you at [president@aiiche.org](mailto:president@aiiche.org).

## Assisting with Section Fund-raising

The Mid-Michigan Section is looking for assistance with two fund-raising efforts: a process equipment exposition (the Expo) and a trip to a Detroit Tigers baseball game.

The Expo would be a revival of the formerly annual event held in years past. We wish to organize an opportunity to allow equipment suppliers to display their wares and give seminars to local engineers. This will involve working with the purchasing departments of Dow Corning Corporation and The Dow Chemical Company, contacting suppliers to secure their participation, locating a venue, and so on.

Because of the effort involved, AIChE is offering a stipend of \$300 to the person or group that agrees to take on this job.

A second fund-raising idea involves organizing a bus trip to Comerica Park to attend a Tigers baseball game. This will involve arranging for tickets, renting a bus, and coordinating the advertisement of the trip to and receiving the RSVPs from the people who want to go on the trip.

Both tasks will give you the opportunity to use and develop your organizational skills and interact with a wide cross-section of people. You'll also be helping our local section raise money to continue carrying out its projects.

Anyone interested in taking on either of these projects should contact fund-raising Chairperson Michael Molnar ([michael.molnar@hscpoly.com](mailto:michael.molnar@hscpoly.com), 989-642-5201, x2218), section chairperson Sarah Ratcliff ([sarah.ratcliff@dowcorning.com](mailto:sarah.ratcliff@dowcorning.com), 989-496-5675), or past section chairperson Tami Heilman-Adam ([tami.heilman@dowcorning.com](mailto:tami.heilman@dowcorning.com), 989-496-8771).

## AIChE Mid-Michigan Section 2004–2005 Officers and Committee Chairpeople

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Past-Chairperson	Tami Heilman-Adam	Dow Corning Corp. Mail# 116 Midland, MI 48686-0995	TRHEILMA <a href="mailto:tami.heilman@dowcorning.com">tami.heilman@dowcorning.com</a>	496-8771	496-4352
Chairperson-Elect	Bedar Islam	Dow Chemical Co. 1319 Bldg. Midland, MI 48667-1319	Islam, Bedar (SB) <a href="mailto:bbislam@dow.com">bbislam@dow.com</a>	638-6404	636-4616
Treasurer	Mark Riddle	Dow Chemical Co. 684 Bldg. Midland, MI 48667-684	Riddle, Mark (MS) <a href="mailto:msriddle@dow.com">msriddle@dow.com</a>	638-2252	636-5121
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Position	Name	Address	Internal E-mail (within company) Internet E-mail	Phone	Fax
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Publicity/New Hire	Lisa Callender	Dow Chemical Co. 1400 Building, #205 Midland, MI 48667-1400	Callender, Lisa (LL) <a href="mailto:llcallender@dow.com">llcallender@dow.com</a>	636-7167	638-6671
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Section Historian	To be determined				

All telephone numbers listed above are in the 989 area code unless otherwise specified.