Letter from the Chair

It is time to bid goodbye to serving the STS AIChE community as chair and as I reflect on the challenging year that has been unprecedented, I can only begin by thanking all those volunteers who serve the local section in official and unofficial capacities. While I am sure I will leave out many, I wanted to call out specifically to Mark Harkness as past chair and Julie White as chair – elect for their outstanding support and leadership. My colleagues Yurika Diaz Bialowas (Treasurer), Joseph Hernandez (Secretary), Kanjakha Pal, Lucas Von Ruff, Tom Menn and Alan Rossiter have been the true forces behind why STS AIChE works. I also would like to call out William Pittman, Yasmine McColl, Mahdi Nouri, Nabila Shamim, and Romina Myrtaj of the Executive Committee for their

dedicated service to STS AIChE. Lastly, the numerous volunteers including Tom Rehm, Victor Edwards, Dale Embry, John Middleton, Dennis Griffith, Matthew Kolodney, Babak Rafienia, Kevin Zhang, Mickey Reeves and Andreas Matzakos, are truly inspirational and have made my job easy.

We have had an outstanding year of virtual and in-person dinner meetings and workshops over the year in spite of the logistical challenges. The speakers and the reach that our local section can bring together are truly unique. The Southwest Process Technology Conference held during September – October of 2021 was an outstanding success and demonstrated the vibrance of the local section and the national reach.

Thanks to Julie White and the executive committee, we were able to get a pulse of the STS community, what we could do more to satisfy the members, and grow the membership of our local section. This survey will also provide us with information for the winter planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 11th, 9am-12:30pm, in Person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, Rm 106 (first room on right hallway), 1414 Wirt Rd, Houston, TX 77055. The meeting is open to any members of the South Texas Section. Members interested in joining the meeting are kindly encouraged to contact the chair-elect Julie White.

I want to thank you for your support over the last year and for giving me the opportunity to serve the South Texas Section.

Sincerely

Ramanan Krishnamoorti

2021 STS AIChE Chair

Elections for STS – AIChE Officers (Secretary, Position 2, and Position 4)

The election closes on Friday, December 10th, 2021, at 5:00 PM CST.

The election for STS AIChE officers are open and the electronic ballot can be accessed at

Information about the candidates can be accessed at

The Summer Internship Program at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

The Houston Museum of Natural Science received funds for 18 summer interns, half funded by NASA through an OpenSpace grant to the American Museum of Natural History and the other half funded by local technical societies. These interns had 56,163 personal encounters with the public during the 10 weeks of summer 2021, including 27,234 people attending planetarium shows. This number does not include the simulation videos produced by interns using OpenSpace software and displayed in kiosks at the planetarium entrance.

Nine of the 18 interns hosted public demonstrations and encouraged visitors to experiment with hands-on science activities. The other 9 interns created video products using OpenSpace, often with advice and assistance from their fellow intern presenters. Most video products are under 5 minutes long.

The two AIChE interns of Summer 2021 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science were:

Emmy Li, a presenter from Clear Lake High School, Clear Creek ISD, and
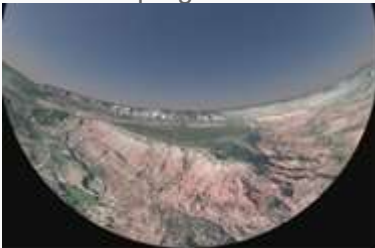Sohi Patel, a programmer from the Academy of Science and Technology, Conroe ISD.

Emmy Li hosted visitors to the Museum's Frensley Hall of Astronomy. She directed

them to the different exhibits and answered questions. She also led a program in the Microgravity Research Lab where visitors (often with children) experimented with a variety of toys that astronauts demonstrated in space and made predictions about how they would work in microgravity. Videos featured astronauts "playing" with the toys and explaining how they worked in the Space Shuttle or International Space Station.
Her third assignment was to make presentations which included (1) classifying Mars-like rocks and using OpenSpace imagery to show where they might be found on Mars; (2) using spinning toy helicopter blades to demonstrate lift, followed by video of the Ingenuity helicopter on Mars; and (3) our ongoing intern experiments growing plants in Mars soil simulant.

Sohi Patel programmed the following simulations using the OpenSpace software:

1. Gulf of California to Ghost Ranch flyover
2. Dinosaur Valley to Copper Ridge flyover
3. Moon zoom to Tycho for the Discovery Dish
4. Dead Sea Tour from the Gulf of Acaba
5. Yellowstone area Tour

The Astronomy Department produced a summer planetarium show that continues to draw audiences. Sohi Patel created two full-dome high-resolution fisheye segments for this program: (1) flying from the Gulf of California to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico; and (2) flying south from Dinosaur Monument to Copper Ridge, Utah. These scenes provided a new perspective on where specific dinosaur bones, imprints, and footprints have been found.

Announcements

2021 Winter Planning Meeting
Saturday, December 11th, 9am-12:30pm, In Person
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, Rm 106 (first room on right hallway)
1414 Wirt Rd, Houston, TX 77055
Phone: (713) 956-0881

2020 STS AIChE Annual Awards Recipients

Please click here for more information

Thank you to the STS AIChE Volunteers @ 2021 Offshore Technology Conference

Please click here for more information

Awards Time Announcement 2021 Information

Please click here for more information

STS AIChE 2021 Awards Nominations Form

Please click here for more information