



Robert Ofoli, Fellow Council
Chair

becomes available in the near future, so we can all begin to put our frazzled lives back together. My column for this edition of our newsletter will focus on two issues I consider to be very important for Fellows: promotion of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and the nomination of qualified chemical engineers to the grade of AIChE Fellow.

EDI: One would hope that those of us endowed with education, insight, and the ability to learn would readily embrace EDI in our profession, in both industry and academia. Sadly, that appears not to be the case. The Vice Chair of the Fellows Council, Annette Johnston, recently pointed me to a string of discussions on AIChE Engage's Discussion Central on "Diversity and Inclusion in Science and Engineering Disciplines." They were the result of a question

posed by Dr. Cesar de la Fuente of the University of Pennsylvania: "How can we make science and engineering disciplines more diverse and inclusive to reflect the true diversity of our society?" While there were many positive responses to this, a significantly shocking number of responses reflected how far we have yet to go to achieve EDI. I often talk to the undergraduate students in my courses about maintaining a presence of mind as opposed to a state of mind. A state of mind most often emanates from our upbringing, what we have been taught and cultured to believe is true or false. It is often laced with a significant dose of implicit bias. A presence of mind, on the other hand, reflects how our education, experiences and interactions with the society at large have shaped the way we think, view, and relate to the world around us. If you grow up in a family where the question is not whether you will attend college or not, but rather which college you would choose, you are likely more privileged than someone who is the first in his/her family to attend college. That does not make you a bad person, but it also does not give you the right to think that someone who comes from a different background does not belong. If you do, you are stuck in a state of mind, whether you recognize it or not. The fact is there are a lot of industries and educational institutions who are striving for equity, diversity, and inclusion. These organizations are not spending time and resources simply because they are charitable; most of them are pursuing EDI because of the potential to improve their bottom lines. I hope we can count on buy-ins from all Fellows.

Nomination of Fellows: The Fellows Council (FC) is embarking on actively promoting the nomination of AIChE members to the rank of Fellow. The FC would like to encourage current Fellows to nominate candidates. We particularly encourage nomination of women, minority and international AIChE members to this grade. The nomination process is well-laid out on the following [Fellow nomination web site](#).

The site does an excellent job of explaining the nomination process and should be consulted for guidance. The deadlines for nominations are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 annually. Nominators should note that election to the Fellow grade requires a combination of professional accomplishments and significant service to the Institute. Nominators should provide clear evidence of service to enhance the prospects of selection.

Collaboration across AIChE: The FC is planning to provide opportunities for Fellows to collaborate with the AIChE Young Professionals, the Management Division, the Minority Affairs Committee, the

Student Chapters Committee, and other AIChE entities. We will provide more information on this in the next newsletter.

Fellows Virtual Gathering - November 17 at 11:30 a.m. Pacific

Since there cannot be a Fellows Breakfast at the virtual AIChE Annual Meeting, AIChE and the Fellows Council have arranged a virtual gathering so we can maintain our traditions of connecting and engaging with peers virtually, honoring new and long-time Fellows, and learning more about the status of the Institute and recent AIChE programs. In addition, there will be an interactive activity about opportunities for Fellows to contribute to Institute activities and entities.

The best thing is that because we will be online, ALL Fellows are welcome to attend!

Pre-registration is required by Monday, November 9. [Register here](#). The event will be hosted on Zoom and a Zoom link to the meeting will be sent out beforehand to all who have pre-registered. For those attending the 2020 AIChE Virtual Annual Meeting – you will also be able to access this Zoom link through the vFairs conference platform under Networking Events.

Part of the event program includes 25 minute breakout discussions facilitated by leaders of Institute entities seeking Fellow involvement. The intent is to describe the activities and needs of Committees that carry out the mission of AIChE and to connect Fellows interested in directly making contributions to their functions.

The breakouts will feature different entities: Student Chapters Committee (SCC); Admissions Committee (AdCom); Young Professionals (YP); Local Sections (LSC). On the registration form, you are to indicate your preferences for rooms to participate. Assignments will be made automatically at the beginning of the activity, taking into account your preferences and the number of breakout participants.

The Fellows Council is in the process of creating the Fellows Endowment through the AIChE Foundation. The first major initiative will focus on undergraduate program support, and to do so we need to raise \$50,000. As you register for this free event, we encourage donations to help kickstart this fund. [You can donate any amount through this link](#).

We look forward to bringing our Fellows community together, as we “see” and connect with you online at 11:30 AM Pacific Time, November 17!

2020 AIChE Virtual Annual Meeting

There is still time to register for the conference! If you have not yet, [register here](#) before November 11 to receive the best rate. The whole [Technical Program](#) is available. Here are some links to sessions that Fellows might be interested in:

- [Sessions related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#)
 - [Featured Events](#)
 - [Ancillary Events](#) - including AIChE Committee meetings
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The Fellows Council

The AIChE Fellows Council (FC) oversees the organized activities of the Fellows and is to meet at least four times per year to discuss Fellow activities and policies. Normally, two meetings are to be face-to-face at the AIChE Annual Meeting and the AIChE Spring Meeting, and two or more are virtual. In 2020, the pandemic prevented all face-to-face meetings. See below for summaries of the virtual meetings since July. Fellows are encouraged to contact any of the FC leaders about issues that should be considered.

Fellows Council Activities

- [AIChE Spring Meeting Fellows Virtual Gathering Recap](#)
- [SIOC/Fellows Program for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#)
- [AIChE Task Force for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#)
- [Notes from September and November FC Meetings](#)
- [Many Long-Time Fellows and Recent Ones Too!](#)

For details and making comments about these items, send email to fellowscouncil@aiiche.org.

See the full Fellows Council [roster here](#).

AIChE Foundation News

All for Good: Engineering for Inclusion

[All for Good: Engineering for Inclusion](#) is a multi-year, industrywide effort to share best practices, fund new programming and increase inclusion at every stage of the career continuum: from the classroom to the boardroom. Browse to [Equity-Diversity-Inclusion Statement](#) for the AIChE Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, approved in March, 2020.

2020 AIChE Virtual Gala

The 2020 AIChE “Doing a World of Good” Gala recognizing companies and their leaders for solving societal problems and benefitting humanity through the safe and responsible practice of chemical engineering.

Funds raised at this year’s gala will support underrepresented communities — specifically focusing on expanding opportunities for minority students pursuing careers in STEM.

Reserve Your Gala Seat Now

Useful Links

- [Fellows Member Directory](#)
- [Fellows Council](#)
- [AIChE Academy](#)
- [AIChE Student Chapters Near You](#)
- [AIChE Local Sections](#)
- [AIChE's Public Affairs and Information Committee \(PAIC\)](#)
- [Past Fellows Newsletters](#)

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