

WIC Executive Committee Elections

Descriptions of Nominees

Vice Chair / Chair Elect

- Maryam Sarmazdeh
 - A little about me and my past commitment on training female students: I developed my independent research program in biomolecular engineering at the Chemical and Material Engineering Department at the University of Nevada, Reno in Aug 2019. My research laboratory combines multiple disciplines including protein engineering, directed evolution, molecular biology, and structural biology to solve significant issues in biomedicine, bio-imaging and biomaterials. I have demonstrated a commitment to training female and underrepresented students throughout my scientific journey who have gone on to Graduate School, PharmD and MD/PhD programs. One of my recent undergraduate trainees, Kerrie Greene, a female belongs to minority group, through Mayo Graduate School Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program and a co-author on the JBC 2019 paper is now a MD/PhD student at the Yale University. Kerrie mentioned her SURF journey under my supervision at the MIT news as a “life changing” experience: <http://news.mit.edu/2018/studentkerrie-greene-1118>. Kerri is pursuing MD-PhD at Yale University. Most of my current trainees at UNR are female students, many also belong to first generation and underrepresented groups. My vision for WIC includes but not limited to: -- Foster female in chemical engineering through dynamic interaction at AIChE with other pioneer female and male scientist in academia and industry -- Increase attendance of females in chemical engineering in the AIChE conference -- Provide educational opportunities for female students, postdocs, and early career faculty at AIChE through networking session and workshops, and outside the conference using a dynamic network of peers.

Secretary

- Rebecca Carrier
 - I am extremely excited for the opportunity to help advance the mission of AIChE WIC! I am dedicated to advancing the careers and interests of woman chemical engineers. In particular, I'm passionate about addressing the challenges this community has faced, for example in balancing multiple life challenges with career, as has been especially evident through the COVID pandemic. I believe serving through WIC will provide a great opportunity to make a large-scale impact in our community. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated dedication to advancing careers of women and underrepresented groups, serving as a founding member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in my home department, as well as holding 7 ADVANCE workshops and serving on 13 panels since 2010 for trainees and faculty, focused on overcoming barriers and career advancement while balancing life. These experiences and interactions with trainees and faculty have been invaluable in illuminating for me the challenges that different groups of people face as chemical engineers. I also have significant experience in scientific meeting organization, including chairing a large number of scientific sessions at AIChE over the years, as well as serving as a co-chair or chair for four major conferences since 2014 and serving as the Member at Large for the Society for Biomaterials in 2019. These experiences in scientific meeting organization have honed skills in setting/achieving goals. Finally, having worked in industry for 3 years and collaborated extensively with industrial research partners, I can provide valuable perspective and represent needs of both academic and industrial members.
- Lisa Volpatti
 - Last year, I was a Fall Programming Co-Chair where I incorporated a Travel Award winner poster session into our annual programming for the first time. This year I was planning to run for Communications Chair. In this position, I have three main goals: 1. Collaborate with Student Liaison and Industrial Liaisons to increase relations and communications with university and company "Women in.." organizations. 2. Collaborate with Awards Chair to advertise and solicit nominations for our awards (e.g. Travel Awards, Mentorship Award), specifically targeting URM's. 3. Enhance our Twitter presence and increase followers by 50% (from 727 to 1091). Also would be excited to run for Secretary if others prefer Communications Chair.

Treasurer

- Hannah Zierden
 - My name is Hannah Zierden and I am a postdoc at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I have been fortunate to receive several WIC travel awards funding my attendance at the annual meeting, and would like to be more involved with WIC as an active member, promoting women within chemical engineering. I would like to be the Women in Chemical Engineering treasurer or awards committee member. As treasurer, I would work with sponsors and the meeting coordinators to plan WIC events during the spring and annual meetings. I have previous experience as sponsorship chair for the Controlled Release Society Young Scientist's Committee. I am excited work with the rest of the team to increase engagement and to grow the community of women in chemical engineering. If not elected as treasurer, I would be excited to be a member at large or member of the awards committee to continue promoting women in Chemical Engineering.
- Elizabeth Haughton
 - I am applying to WIC because I would like to expand opportunities to women within the Institute and the profession. Over the past year as member-at-large, I have helped WIC transition to an AIChE Community by focusing on value proposition and bylaws (What can I say? I am an organizational nerd!). I am running for Treasurer to keep involved with WIC throughout this journey, finding areas to support innovations in leadership and innovation and strengthening our organization as a whole. In addition, I would like to continue utilizing my AIChE volunteer experiences (CTOC, LGBTQ+ & Allies Initiative, SIOC, and YPC) in service to WIC and see what new opportunities we can create to serve the WIC community moving forward.

Communications Chair

- Lisa Volpatti
 - Last year, I was a Fall Programming Co-Chair where I incorporated a Travel Award winner poster session into our annual programming for the first time. This year I was planning to run for Communications Chair. In this position, I have three main goals: 1. Collaborate with Student Liaison and Industrial Liaisons to increase relations and communications with university and company “Women in..” organizations. 2. Collaborate with Awards Chair to advertise and solicit nominations for our awards (e.g. Travel Awards, Mentorship Award), specifically targeting URM. 3. Enhance our Twitter presence and increase followers by 50% (from 727 to 1091). Also would be excited to run for Secretary if others prefer Communications Chair.
- Caroline Szczepanski
 - My first academic conference was the 2008 AIChE annual meeting in Philadelphia as an undergraduate. Since then, I have considered AIChE as my primary professional organization and have enjoyed the community it fosters. More recently, I have found the annual programming of WIC (networking breakfasts, keynote speakers, etc.) particularly valuable and invigorating. I, like many others in this community, have limited opportunities to network with other women chemical engineers in my immediate work environment. Therefore, I recognize the critical role WIC plays in fostering valuable professional relationships, establishing a community where challenges facing our members can be openly discussed, and advocating for our members who are too often overlooked because of biases. If selected to the WIC committee, I would work to ensure successful annual programming at the fall meeting and community advocacy. As one example, in a previous role in the leadership of my local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) I co-organized a salary negotiation workshop for graduate students, post-docs, and staff members of my institution. I believe similar training workshops that foster networking and professional development would be well-suited for the WIC community. I recognize that the challenges and needs of WIC members are constantly evolving and thus our programming should be met with pro-active thinking, and I am ready to commit to that endeavor.
- Maryam Sarmazdeh
 - A little about me and my past commitment on training female students: I developed my independent research program in biomolecular engineering at the Chemical and Material Engineering Department at the University of Nevada, Reno in Aug 2019. My research laboratory combines multiple disciplines including protein engineering, directed evolution, molecular biology, and structural biology to solve significant issues in biomedicine, bio-imaging and biomaterials. I have demonstrated a commitment to training female and underrepresented students throughout my scientific journey who have gone on to Graduate School, PharmD and MD/PhD programs. One of my recent undergraduate trainees, Kerrie Greene, a female belongs to minority group, through Mayo Graduate School Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program and a co-author on the JBC 2019 paper is now a MD/PhD student at the Yale University. Kerrie mentioned her SURF journey under my supervision at the MIT news as a “life changing”

experience: <http://news.mit.edu/2018/studentkerrie-greene-1118>. Kerri is pursuing MD-PhD at Yale University. Most of my current trainees at UNR are female students, many also belong to first generation and underrepresented groups. My vision for WIC includes but not limited to: -- Foster female in chemical engineering through dynamic interaction at AIChE with other pioneer female and male scientist in academia and industry -- Increase attendance of females in chemical engineering in the AIChE conference -- Provide educational opportunities for female students, postdocs, and early career faculty at AIChE through networking session and workshops, and outside the conference using a dynamic network of peers.

Awards Chair

- Soumya Srivastava
 - I have served in this role and I would love to be involved with this position. It has been a very rewarding experience with WIC as the Awards Chair. If I am not able to get involved in Awards, I can step-up to be involved as a treasurer or secretary.
- Hannah Zierden
 - My name is Hannah Zierden and I am a postdoc at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I have been fortunate to receive several WIC travel awards funding my attendance at the annual meeting, and would like to be more involved with WIC as an active member, promoting women within chemical engineering. I would like to be the Women in Chemical Engineering treasurer or awards committee member. As treasurer, I would work with sponsors and the meeting coordinators to plan WIC events during the spring and annual meetings. I have previous experience as sponsorship chair for the Controlled Release Society Young Scientist's Committee. I am excited work with the rest of the team to increase engagement and to grow the community of women in chemical engineering. If not elected as treasurer, I would be excited to be a member at large or member of the awards committee to continue promoting women in Chemical Engineering.
- Caroline Szczepanski
 - My first academic conference was the 2008 AIChE annual meeting in Philadelphia as an undergraduate. Since then, I have considered AIChE as my primary professional organization and have enjoyed the community it fosters. More recently, I have found the annual programming of WIC (networking breakfasts, keynote speakers, etc.) particularly valuable and invigorating. I, like many others in this community, have limited opportunities to network with other women chemical engineers in my immediate work environment. Therefore, I recognize the critical role WIC plays in fostering valuable professional relationships, establishing a community where challenges facing our members can be openly discussed, and advocating for our members who are too often overlooked because of biases. If selected to the WIC committee, I would work to ensure successful annual programming at the fall meeting and community advocacy. As one example, in a previous role in the leadership of my local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) I co-organized a salary negotiation workshop for graduate students, post-docs, and staff members of my institution. I believe similar training workshops that foster networking and professional development would be well-suited for the WIC community. I recognize that the challenges and needs of WIC members are constantly evolving and thus our programming should be met with pro-active thinking, and I am ready to commit to that endeavor.
- Maryam Sarmazdeh
 - A little about me and my past commitment on training female students: I developed my independent research program in biomolecular engineering at the Chemical and Material Engineering Department at the University of Nevada, Reno in Aug 2019. My research laboratory combines multiple disciplines including protein engineering, directed evolution, molecular biology, and structural biology to solve significant issues in

biomedicine, bio-imaging and biomaterials. I have demonstrated a commitment to training female and underrepresented students throughout my scientific journey who have gone on to Graduate School, PharmD and MD/PhD programs. One of my recent undergraduate trainees, Kerrie Greene, a female belongs to minority group, through Mayo Graduate School Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program and a co-author on the JBC 2019 paper is now a MD/PhD student at the Yale University. Kerrie mentioned her SURF journey under my supervision at the MIT news as a “life changing” experience: <http://news.mit.edu/2018/studentkerrie-greene-1118>. Kerri is pursuing MD-PhD at Yale University. Most of my current trainees at UNR are female students, many also belong to first generation and underrepresented groups. My vision for WIC includes but not limited to: -- Foster female in chemical engineering through dynamic interaction at AIChE with other pioneer female and male scientist in academia and industry -- Increase attendance of females in chemical engineering in the AIChE conference -- Provide educational opportunities for female students, postdocs, and early career faculty at AIChE through networking session and workshops, and outside the conference using a dynamic network of peers.

Member at Large

- Hannah Zierden
 - My name is Hannah Zierden and I am a postdoc at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I have been fortunate to receive several WIC travel awards funding my attendance at the annual meeting, and would like to be more involved with WIC as an active member, promoting women within chemical engineering. I would like to be the Women in Chemical Engineering treasurer or awards committee member. As treasurer, I would work with sponsors and the meeting coordinators to plan WIC events during the spring and annual meetings. I have previous experience as sponsorship chair for the Controlled Release Society Young Scientist's Committee. I am excited work with the rest of the team to increase engagement and to grow the community of women in chemical engineering. If not elected as treasurer, I would be excited to be a member at large or member of the awards committee to continue promoting women in Chemical Engineering.
- Nehal Abu-Lail
 - As a member of large for the women in chemical engineering community, I will act as a liaison between the community members and leadership. I will be happy to support the community efforts and facilitate a dialogue of mutual inclusion and respect between all members of the community
- Marjan Rafat
 - I served as an Annual Programming Co-Chair this year, and we oversaw multiple successful sessions both in person and virtually. I would be happy to continue in this role in person next year. I would also be interested in participating through the Awards Committee or supporting others as a member-at-large.
- Ariel Furst
 - I have served as the communications chair for the past two years and am excited to transfer my knowledge to the new chair through participation as a member-at-large!
- Rebecca Carrier
 - I am extremely excited for the opportunity to help advance the mission of AIChE WIC! I am dedicated to advancing the careers and interests of woman chemical engineers. In particular, I'm passionate about addressing the challenges this community has faced, for example in balancing multiple life challenges with career, as has been especially evident through the COVID pandemic. I believe serving through WIC will provide a great opportunity to make a large-scale impact in our community. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated dedication to advancing careers of women and underrepresented groups, serving as a founding member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in my home department, as well as holding 7 ADVANCE workshops and serving on 13 panels since 2010 for trainees and faculty, focused on overcoming barriers and career advancement while balancing life. These experiences and interactions with trainees and faculty have been invaluable in illuminating for me the challenges that different groups of people face as chemical engineers. I also have significant experience in scientific meeting organization, including chairing a large number of scientific sessions at AIChE over the years, as well as serving as a co-chair or chair for four major conferences since 2014 and serving as the Member at Large for the Society for Biomaterials in 2019. These

experiences in scientific meeting organization have honed skills in setting/achieving goals. Finally, having worked in industry for 3 years and collaborated extensively with industrial research partners, I can provide valuable perspective and represent needs of both academic and industrial members.

- Elizabeth Haughton
 - I am applying to WIC because I would like to expand opportunities to women within the Institute and the profession. Over the past year as member-at-large, I have helped WIC transition to an AIChE Community by focusing on value proposition and bylaws (What can I say? I am an organizational nerd!). I am running for Treasurer to keep involved with WIC throughout this journey, finding areas to support innovations in leadership and innovation and strengthening our organization as a whole. In addition, I would like to continue utilizing my AIChE volunteer experiences (CTOC, LGBTQ+ & Allies Initiative, SIOC, and YPC) in service to WIC and see what new opportunities we can create to serve the WIC community moving forward.

Annual (Fall) Programming Chair

- Caroline Szczepanski
 - My first academic conference was the 2008 AIChE annual meeting in Philadelphia as an undergraduate. Since then, I have considered AIChE as my primary professional organization and have enjoyed the community it fosters. More recently, I have found the annual programming of WIC (networking breakfasts, keynote speakers, etc.) particularly valuable and invigorating. I, like many others in this community, have limited opportunities to network with other women chemical engineers in my immediate work environment. Therefore, I recognize the critical role WIC plays in fostering valuable professional relationships, establishing a community where challenges facing our members can be openly discussed, and advocating for our members who are too often overlooked because of biases. If selected to the WIC committee, I would work to ensure successful annual programming at the fall meeting and community advocacy. As one example, in a previous role in the leadership of my local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women) I co-organized a salary negotiation workshop for graduate students, post-docs, and staff members of my institution. I believe similar training workshops that foster networking and professional development would be well-suited for the WIC community. I recognize that the challenges and needs of WIC members are constantly evolving and thus our programming should be met with pro-active thinking, and I am ready to commit to that endeavor.
- Marjan Rafat
 - I served as an Annual Programming Co-Chair this year, and we oversaw multiple successful sessions both in person and virtually. I would be happy to continue in this role in person next year. I would also be interested in participating through the Awards Committee or supporting others as a member-at-large.
- Elizabeth Haughton
 - I am applying to WIC because I would like to expand opportunities to women within the Institute and the profession. Over the past year as member-at-large, I have helped WIC transition to an AIChE Community by focusing on value proposition and bylaws (What can I say? I am an organizational nerd!). I am running for Treasurer to keep involved with WIC throughout this journey, finding areas to support innovations in leadership and innovation and strengthening our organization as a whole. In addition, I would like to continue utilizing my AIChE volunteer experiences (CTOC, LGBTQ+ & Allies Initiative, SIOC, and YPC) in service to WIC and see what new opportunities we can create to serve the WIC community moving forward.

Spring Programming Chair

- Nehal Abu-Lail
 - As a chair of the women in Chemical Engineering program at the AIChE Spring meeting, I will work with other WIC members to develop a program that offers workshops aimed at empowering women at all levels of their careers. The workshops will vary in content from ones focused on professional development to ones that devote attention to women specific concerns and issues. As a resident of San Antonio and a faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio Chemical Engineering, I will partner with the local community in town to facilitate the planning of the WIC events.
- Elizabeth Haughton
 - I am applying to WIC because I would like to expand opportunities to women within the Institute and the profession. Over the past year as member-at-large, I have helped WIC transition to an AIChE Community by focusing on value proposition and bylaws (What can I say? I am an organizational nerd!). I am running for Treasurer to keep involved with WIC throughout this journey, finding areas to support innovations in leadership and innovation and strengthening our organization as a whole. In addition, I would like to continue utilizing my AIChE volunteer experiences (CTOC, LGBTQ+ & Allies Initiative, SIOC, and YPC) in service to WIC and see what new opportunities we can create to serve the WIC community moving forward.