

## **THE CHARLES E. COATES MEMORIAL AWARD** (revised September 2015)

The Baton Rouge Sections of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the American Chemical Society (ACS) jointly establish an annual award to honor the memory of Dr. Charles E. Coates. Dr. Coates was undoubtedly the most prominent figure in chemistry and chemical engineering that Louisiana has had. He was head of the Chemistry Department at Louisiana State University (LSU) from 1893 to 1937. He was Dean of the Audubon Sugar School from 1908 to 1931. When the Audubon Sugar School was made part of the College of Pure and Applied Science in 1931, Dr. Coates was made Dean of this school and continued as head of the Sugar School. Dr. Coates was named chairman of graduate study when a separate graduate school was established in 1931. He organized and was director of the Institute of Industrial Research at LSU, which no longer exists.

The following is a quotation from Necrology in the Phi Kappa Phi Journal for March 1940:

“As Dean of the LSU Audubon Sugar School he formulated courses in Chemical Engineering which brought students to the university from every sugar producing country in the world and attracted the attention of scholars from many nations to himself and to the university. Through the alumni and alumnae of the school who work in all sugar countries in the world, the instructions which he gave continue to serve.”

Although they were called sugar engineering courses, they were actually among the first courses in chemical process engineering in the entire country. Process in the sense of an interconnected train of sequential unit operations from the raw material input to the final chemical or material product. Many graduates of these courses are now very successful chemical engineers in fields far removed from the sugar industry, thus attesting to the basic soundness of their training.

In 1934, the chemistry laboratory at LSU was dedicated, with the consent of the Board, as the Charles E. Coates Chemical Laboratory as a tribute to “significant services in the field of education and research in chemistry and sugar engineering.” The dedication was also sponsored by the Alpha Chi Sigma Chapter and a bronze tablet commemorating this event was installed in the building.

In 1935, Dr. Coates was selected by the National Society of Sugarcane Technology and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers as one of the official representatives of the United States to the International Congresses of Sugarcane Technology and of Chemical Engineers.

In 1938, Dr. Coates was awarded the Herty Medal by the ACS Georgia Section for his achievements in Chemistry.

### **DR. COATES AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

He was a charter member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and helped organize the Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter. This was the precursor of both the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Chapter of the AIChE.

He helped to organize the Louisiana Section of the American Chemical Society and served as councilor for a number of years. This was the precursor of the Baton Rouge Section and the other Louisiana Sections of the ACS.

He was also a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Phi Kappa Phi fraternities.

He was a member of the Chemical Society of London, Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Besides all of these scientific accomplishments, Dr. Coates was the first football coach at LSU in 1893.

It is fitting that we should honor a man of these accomplishments with an annual award sponsored by the Baton Rouge Sections of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

#### **NATURE OF THE AWARD**

The award shall be called the Charles E. Coates Memorial Award, and shall consist of an award plaque and monetary honorarium.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to receive the award a person must be a member of the American Chemical Society or the American Institute of Chemical Engineers or both. He or she must have lived in the Baton Rouge area for at least two years.

#### **BASIS FOR THE AWARD**

The basis for the award shall be outstanding performance in, and contributions to, the professions of chemistry or chemical engineering. Consideration shall be given to the overall eminence of the nominee in his or her chosen field, to quality and number of publications, to achievements in teaching, research, or technical administration, to the caliber of work, and of offices held in either ACS or AIChE, and to the general excellence of contributions to community activities. Each area, namely (1) Contributions to the profession of chemistry or chemical engineering, (2) Society Activities, and (3) Community activities, shall be accorded equal weight in selecting the recipient of this award. Also, consideration shall be given only to comparatively recent achievements.

Among the suggested community activities the following are examples:

Science Fairs	Boys and Girls Work Sports
Radio and TV Work	Junior Achievement
Chemical Progress Week	Service Club Work
Chamber of Commerce Work	Spiritual and religious activities

#### **AWARD COMMITTEE AND JOINT AGREEMENTS**

The Award Committee shall be composed as follows.

1. Two voting representatives from the majority organization, either ACS or AIChE. ACS will provide majority representation in odd years. AIChE will provide majority representation in even years.
2. One voting representative from the minority organization, either ACS or AIChE. ACS will provide minority representation in even years. AIChE will provide minority representation in odd years.
3. One ACS representative shall be the previous year's chairperson of the Baton Rouge Section. The second ACS representative in appropriate years shall be appointed by the current ACS chairperson.
4. One AIChE representative shall be the previous year's chairperson of the Baton Rouge Section. The second AIChE representative in appropriate years shall be appointed by the current AIChE chairperson.

5. One non-voting Award Committee chairperson who is also a previous Coates award winner. The non-voting chairperson shall be appointed by the majority organization current chairperson.

Each of the local sections shall submit up to ten nominations. For this purpose, the current chairperson of each section shall appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committees will also consider suggestions from the membership at large.

The nominations from the local sections of ACS and AIChE shall be available to the award committee before March 1st of each year. Each nomination shall be accompanied by an information sheet furnishing the data outlined in the attachment hereto.

The Award Committee may also add its own nominations

The Award Committee will choose the award recipient by March 15 of each year.

The recipient will receive the award at a joint meeting of the two groups at a mutually acceptable date in either April or May. The recipient will be the main speaker at this meeting. The responsibility for making arrangements for the joint meeting rests with AIChE in odd years and ACS in even years.

In case the Award Committee decides that none of the nominees are eligible to receive the award, no award will be made that year.

The expenses of this award will be divided equally between the ACS and the AIChE.

These revised guidelines have been ratified by the 2015 AIChE Executive Committee and also ratified by the 2015 ACS Local Section Board.

## **INFORMATION SHEET FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE COATES AWARD**

Nominators may use this information sheet, or they may provide the same information in a different format.

A. Curriculum Vitae

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Discipline, degrees, years: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Employment history, including positions: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Professional years in Baton Rouge (specific years): \_\_\_\_\_

B. Contributions to the Profession (include dates where practicable)

1. Number of patents and publications: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Awards and honors: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Achievements in teaching, research, technical administration, and other contributions to the profession: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Society Activities (include dates where practicable)

1. Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Offices held: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Other contributions: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Community Activities (include dates where practicable)

1. Religious: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Civic: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Other: \_\_\_\_\_