

# The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

May 2009

## CHAIR'S CORNER

by Elizabeth Willkom

As you may or may not be aware, our The Upper Midwest Section Board cycle runs from August to July. Which means it is time for our yearly elections of Officers. We have found a number of new recruits for the ballot, but still have a number of positions that do not have a warm body to run for the position. Those positions of interest are Scholarship Chair, Symposium Co-chair, and Publicity Chair. We will be holding elections at our next Local Section meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

With this coming election we will be saying goodbye to a number of board members that will be stepping down. I would like to extend a word of gratitude to Dongsheng Guan (webmaster), Matt Atkins (past chair) and Eric Hockert (scholarship chair) for their years of service as volunteers on the Board. We will always welcome them back if they ever feel the need to take on another task.

We will close our year with a final lecture in June. In June or July we will have a board meeting with the outgoing and incoming officers and chairs, to start planning for next year.

In the past, we have not highlighted the financial status of the Upper Midwest local section in one of our news letters. This newsletter will change that fact going forward. Every year we

are required to supply a Treasurer Report to AIChE National and required to file a tax return as mandated by the Pension Protection Act. In the past, we have been officially incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Minnesota and have to refile every year. Any income the local section has produced through the symposium, short courses and dues along with savings that have been accumulated through the years have been turned around to support scholarships for the college level AIChE members. Once we have completed the endowments for all the schools that the local section supports, we will utilize our funds to develop programs to better support our Local Upper Midwest Section members.

Financial Summary for the period January 01, 2008 to December 31, 2008

Total Revenue = \$61,477.72  
Total Expenses = (\$59,386.68)  
Net Income = \$2091.04  
Total Assets = \$25,478.67

The majority of our expenses revolve around room rentals, symposium expenses, instructor fees for the short courses, student scholarships and awards, food subsidy for various meetings, and website maintenance. This is just a brief look at our financial status. Any input on what programs should be developed in the future to support our local section members will be greatly appreciated.

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Chair	Elizabeth Willkom	3M	<a href="mailto:eegwillkom@mmm.com">eegwillkom@mmm.com</a>	651-778-4237
Vice Chair	Nathan Johnson	Pace Analytical	<a href="mailto:doc_curtis@rocketmail.com">doc_curtis@rocketmail.com</a>	651-737-0144
Past Chair	Matt Atkins	Fluor Global Services	<a href="mailto:matt.atkins@fhr.com">matt.atkins@fhr.com</a>	952-492-5315
Symposium Chair	OPEN			
Recording Secretary	Justus Hendrickson	Fluor Global Services	<a href="mailto:justus.hendrickson@fhr.com">justus.hendrickson@fhr.com</a>	651-438-7282
Membership Secretary	Brian E. Jensen		<a href="mailto:brianejensen@prodigy.net">brianejensen@prodigy.net</a>	952-926-2141
Treasurer	Cameron McDaniel	Fluor Global Services	<a href="mailto:Cameron.McDaniel@fhr.com">Cameron.McDaniel@fhr.com</a>	
Scholarship Chair	Eric Hockert	University of Minnesota	<a href="mailto:ehockert@umn.edu">ehockert@umn.edu</a>	612-624-9568
Webmaster	Dongsheng Guan	General Mills Corporation	<a href="mailto:dongsheng.guan@genmills.com">dongsheng.guan@genmills.com</a>	763-764-3533
U. M. Chapter Liaison	Prof. Raul Caretta,	University of Minnesota	<a href="mailto:caretta@umn.edu">caretta@umn.edu</a>	612-625-8066
General Mills Chair	Thomas Kempf	General Mills Corporation	<a href="mailto:thomas.kempf@genmills.com">thomas.kempf@genmills.com</a>	763-764-2873
Young Professionals Chair	Steven Head		<a href="mailto:head0043@d.umn.edu">head0043@d.umn.edu</a>	763-381-2678
Publicity Chair	OPEN			
Your Company Chair	OPEN			

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<http://www.aichelocal.org/tc>

## JUNE MEETING

at AMEC:

**Waste – to – Value and Other Green Endeavors:**  
**How an Engineering Services company contributes to the Green Revolution**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm**

801 Nicollet Mall (adjacent to office location at 800 Marquette Ave)

**Agenda:**

- 5:30 social
- 6:00 Introductions, dinner courtesy of AMEC
- 6:10 Presentation by Evan Erskine, Staff Consultant at AMEC
- 7:00 questions
- 7:30 ...possible lawn bowling and/or beer at Brit's...

PLEASE RSVP by JUNE 1 to Sarah Hansen, sarah.hansen@amec.com



[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=801+Nicollet+Ave,+Minneapolis,+mn&sl=42.008489,-93.515625&sspn=6.056665,7.635498&ie=UTF8&ll=44.976396,-93.266115&spn=0.022526,0.029826&z=15&iwloc=A](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=801+Nicollet+Ave,+Minneapolis,+mn&sl=42.008489,-93.515625&sspn=6.056665,7.635498&ie=UTF8&ll=44.976396,-93.266115&spn=0.022526,0.029826&z=15&iwloc=A)

**Directions and Parking:**

Parking in the Midwest Plaza building is \$5 after 4pm.

Detailed directions included due to construction on Marquette and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.

**From the North and East:** 35W south to 94; west to 11<sup>th</sup> St. exit; west (one way) to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S; North to 9<sup>th</sup> St.; west (left) for 2 blocks to Marquette Ave.;

Marquette Ave north ½ block to Midwest Plaza parking ramp between 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> St. Ramp has blue awning.

**From the West:** 394 East to 12<sup>th</sup> St.; 12<sup>th</sup> St. east to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S; North on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S to 9<sup>th</sup> St.; West on 9<sup>th</sup> St. for 2 blocks to Marquette Ave.; Marquette Ave north ½ block to Midwest Plaza parking ramp between 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> St. Ramp has blue awning.

Directions from the ramp to the meeting room will be emailed to projected attendees at a later date.

**JOB SEARCH SURVIVAL 2009**

Deborah Walker, Career Coach

Undoubtedly, this is the toughest year on record to land a new job. Reaching your career goal will take courage and nerves of steel. Are you up to the challenge? Here are three tips for job-search endurance that will keep you on the right track toward your employment goal.

## 1. Keep your career goal realistic.

This is not the time to strike out in a risky career direction. Following your heart toward a career in which you have little qualifications could yield months of frustration as you find yourself competing against legions of candidates far more qualified. Unless you are in the position to hold out for a very long job search, concentrate on positions where you are best qualified.

## 2. Realize it will take longer to land your next position.

If you've never experienced a lengthy job search, set your expectations out several months and practice patience. You will apply for many positions as the perfect candidate, and get no response. Expect that. You will conduct perfect interviews and hear nothing back. Expect that as well. Just remember that eventually the right company with the right job at the right time will come your way if you stay calm and focused and don't let discouragement keep you from moving forward. Just keep with it.

## 3. Write a better resume than your competition.

Less jobs and more applicants equals extremely high competition. The quality of your resume has never been more important. For the best possible resume keep these guidelines in mind:

- Focus your resume. Avoid a one-size-fits-all resume.
- Showcase your best information in the top half of page one.

- Include accomplishments that illustrate your ability to solve today's business challenges.

## 4. Sharpen your interview skills.

With employers interviewing only the best of the best, when you are chosen to interview be sure you are your competitive best. You CANNOT “just wing” an interview and expect to be called back for a second. Today it takes solid interview strategy to earn a second round of interviews. Interview books are helpful, but they usually fall short of teaching you how to read the interviewer's mind to understand his/her hiring motivations. A study in the art of selling is more effective to achieve great interview performance. A few basic selling strategies include:

- Asking the right questions to understand the interviewer's “hot button” motivations.
- Formulate answers around the interviewer's motivations.
- Know your accomplishments well enough to weave them effectively through your interview to achieve top candidate status.

Throughout 2009, the best jobs will go to those who persevere and stay focused. Keeping your expectations and goals realistic will help prevent the emotional ups and downs. Prepare for your job search as if you were competing in a marathon. With patience, endurance and skill you will win your next job.

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Deborah Walker, CCMC is a career coach helping job seekers compete in the toughest job markets. Her clients gain top performing skills in resume writing, interview preparation and salary negotiation. Learn more about Deborah Walker, career coach at:

<http://www.AlphaAdvantage.com>



## LDC Driving Leadership

AIChE's Central Savannah River Section has been chosen to host the Leadership Development Conference (LDC). The LDC will be held at the Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites from June 12-14, 2009. The LDC is designed to help prepare current and future AIChE members for leadership in their local sections, divisions, forums, and committees.

- For more information concerning the LDC, check out the [LDC web page](#).
- For more information concerning the Augusta Marriott, check out their [web page](#).
- If you want to discuss the LDC with one of the LDC chairs, contact either LDC co-lead below:
  - John Steimke, 803-725-1500, [john.steimke@srl.doe.gov](mailto:john.steimke@srl.doe.gov).
  - Chip Lasher, 803-952-6242, [lawrence.lasher@srs.gov](mailto:lawrence.lasher@srs.gov).

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**Nathan C. Johnson, [doc\\_curtis@rocketmail.com](mailto:doc_curtis@rocketmail.com)  
651-737-0144**

**COATING PROCESS FUNDAMENTALS SHORT COURSE**  
June 2-4, 2009; University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN

This course provides coating engineers and their colleagues with an understanding of the principles of the many processes by which liquid coatings are applied and solidified. The course is designed for engineers who are engaged in coating and who seek a deeper understanding of processes and processing problems. It is also relevant to physical scientists concerned with the formulation of coating liquids for processability and microstructure development. For more information, please see website:  
[www.cce.umn.edu/series/coatingtech](http://www.cce.umn.edu/series/coatingtech).



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