

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

September 2006

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Kurt Waananen

I hope that the summer has brought some good breaks from your professional schedules and demands. Mine was unusual with three weeks of vacation in a row, something I've not done before. It started with a visit to the Boundary Waters with my son and a small group of Boy Scouts that exceeded my expectations for beauty and physical challenge! This experience was followed by two weeks in Finland with my father and sister to meet relatives and learn about family history (my grandparents moved to the US in the early 1900's). It's been catch-up at work ever since!

As a new season of the AIChE local section kicks off, I encourage you to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities for networking, new learning, and leadership development. We are fortunate to live in a section that has such a diverse community of chemical engineers. Attendees at section meetings last year represented a mix of academic and industrial areas along

with specialties that included food, medical, energy, and electronics. Our typical meeting attendance was 20-30 people, but the potential exists for much higher numbers.

Why not start the year by attending the September meeting, our presentation and tour of the Aspen Research Corporation? This will be a great opportunity to learn about the capabilities of a local contract research company. Our Vice Chair, Matt Atkins, will be scheduling meetings for the upcoming year, and will welcome any ideas you may have. If your company would be willing to host a tour, please let Matt know.

We would also like to add more company chairs/representatives, so if your company is not currently on our list, and you are interested, please let me know.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and I look forward to seeing you at a meeting this Fall.

Chair	Kurt Waananen	General Mills Corporation	kurt.waananen@genmills.com	763-764-7446
Vice Chair	Matt Atkins	Fluor Global Services	matt.atkins@fhr.com	952-492-5315
Symposium Co-Chair	Jim Easton		jimeaston@mn.rr.com	952-947-4083
Symposium Co-Chair	Brian E. Jensen		brianejensen@prodigy.net	952-926-2141
Recording Secretary	Dongsheng Guan	General Mills Corporation	dongsheng.guan@genmills.com	763-764-3533
Membership Secretary	Nathan Johnson	Pace Analytical	doc_curtis@rocketmail.com	651-737-0144
Treasurer	Elizabeth Gonzales	3M	eegonzales1@mmm.com	651-737-5226
Past Chair	Mark Arlinghaus	General Mills Corporation	Mark.Arlinghaus@genmills.com	763-764-5808
Continuing Ed & Awards	Eric Hockert	Boston Scientific	Eric.Hockert@bsci.com	763-494-1892
Webmaster	Gordy Siers	Hutchinson Technology Inc.	gsiers@member.aiche.org	320-587-9542
Young Professionals Chair	Sarah Hansen	AMEC E&C Services	sarah.hansen@amec.com	612-252-3655
U of M Chapter Liaison	Dr. Satish Kumar	University of Minnesota	kumar@cems.umn.edu	612-625-2558
General Mills Chair	Thomas Kempf	General Mills Corporation	thomas.kempf@genmills.com	763-764-2873
Boston Scientific Chair	Eric Hockert	Boston Scientific	Eric.Hockert@bsci.com	763-494-1892
Publicity Chair	OPEN			
3M Chair	OPEN			
Your Company Chair	OPEN			

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tour of Aspen Research Corporation



Tuesday, September 12, 2006,
5:30–8:00 PM

Meeting location:
1700 Buerkle Road, St. Paul, MN 55110

Lecture and Tour Description:

On September 12th Aspen Research Corporation will host the Minnesota chapter of AIChE. The meeting will include a tour of the White Bear Lake facility and a presentation on their engineering capabilities and equipment. Case studies will be used to demonstrate how they help hundreds of companies in multiple industries resolve issues with existing products and develop new materials and products. Everything from developing test methods for identifying the source of compounds or performance of materials; to developing new materials and processes in order manufacture better performing products and/or throughput.

The tour will take us through Aspen's analytical testing facilities where novel methods are developed to resolve issues at the molecular level. An introduction to Aspen Technical Contracting group will explain how performance properties can be designed into materials and/or processes can be optimized for quality and/or throughput. Finally, the Aspen Materials group will show how Aspen has converted batch processes into continuous processes, developed just-in-time scheduling so that Aspen's costumers can begin to approach mass-customization.

Reservations: Reserve a tour spot by sending an e-mail to matt.atkins@fhr.com by Friday, September 8th.

Cost: The tour is free for local section members, \$12 for non-members

Agenda

1. Check in and tour 5:30 to 6:00
2. Sandwich and networking 6:00 to 7:00
3. Tour and Presentation on Case Studies 7:00 to 8:00
4. Adjourn

Link to Directions

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=1700+Buerkle+Road,+st.+paul,+mn>

YPAB MEETING

"Back to Basics" series: Valves and Control Systems

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
5:30–7:30 PM

Come and learn about valves and control systems at Swanson Flo-Systems. Swanson is a leader in providing valves, actuation, instruments, and control systems to a variety of industries including power, ethanol, and biofuels. This seminar series is open to all "Young Professionals."

Date:

Wednesday, October 4

Location:

Swanson Flo-Systems
2435 Xenium Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55441-3625

Agenda:

5:30-6pm Networking and sign-in
6-6:45pm Session 1 and dinner
6:45-7:30pm Session 2

There will be a session on valves and a session on control systems.

RSVP to Sarah Hansen (sarah.hansen@ amec.com) by Tuesday, September 26. Space is limited, so sign up early!

We hope to see you there!

Meetings for Young Professionals Advisory Board open to all "Young Professionals."

Link to Directions:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=2435+Xenium+Ln+N,+Plymouth,+mn+55441-3625>

Place an ad here and get results! Reach over 700 chemical engineers!

**Nathan Johnson, doc_curtis@rocketmail.com
651-737-0144**

OCTOBER MEETING

Seneca Water Treatment Facility

Followed by

Old Chicago in Eagan Town Center

When: Thursday October 19th at 2:30 PM (until ~4:00 PM)

Old Chicago ~4:30 in the bar area

RSVP to: matt.atkins@fhr.com

Details on Seneca

Located on the Minnesota River, the Seneca Plant is MCES's second largest facility. Built in 1972, the plant is the third largest in the state (after the Metro Plant and a facility in Duluth). A \$70 million expansion completed in 1992 increased the plant's capacity from 24 to 39 million gallons per day. The plant regularly earns state and national awards for operational excellence. In 1999, the Seneca Plant received a "Platinum Award" for 5 years of continuous compliance with discharge permit limitations.

The Seneca Plant provides primary and secondary treatment to wastewater before discharging it to the Minnesota River. Dewatering and incineration are the methods used for disposal of the sludge generated during wastewater treatment. The resulting ash is used as a raw ingredient in the production of portland cement.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Information

Located in: Eagan, Minnesota

Type: Advanced secondary with chlorination/dechlorination

Capacity: 39 million gallons per day

Discharges to: Minnesota River

Communities served: 7

Population served: 234,000

Interceptors to plant: 46 miles

Seneca Address: Plant Rd., Eagan

Old Chicago Address: 1312 Town Centre Dr, Eagan





Barr Engineering Company
4700 West 77 Street
Minneapolis, MN 55435
952-832-2600
www.barr.com

The Upper Midwest section of the AIChE wishes to thank Barr Engineering for their many years of support for the annual Symposium.



**American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Upper Midwest Section
c/o Nathan C. Johnson
8500 177th Lane
Forest Lake, MN 55025**