

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

January 2007

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Kurt Waananen

Mentoring

One on-line definition of **mentor** is to serve as a trusted counselor or teacher, especially in an occupational setting. Some synonyms are adviser, coach, counselor, guide, guru, instructor, teacher, trainer, and tutor.

Mentoring programs can be very structured and well-organized. We have more than one program like this at my company that involve interviews and significant consideration in the matching process. Trust is key to a mentoring relationship, and this up front work helps to make sure there are no barriers to open and honest communication. Planned events and follow-ups keep mentor-mentee pairs or circles on track and advancing successfully.

Less formal mentoring relationships are also important, and more common. Maybe it is your first recruiting contact with a company who stays in touch and helps

you several months into the job. Or, perhaps it is your first boss that remains available for career advice long after you have moved on to new groups. Soon you find that you are serving as a mentor for others in addition to receiving advice.

Don't miss our January section meeting, "**Carving a career path: A panel discussion on career choices and direction with local chemical engineering leaders.**" Sarah Hansen, our Young Professionals Advisory Board Chair for the section, is assembling a great group of leaders that will provide lively discussion on career topics. Bring your questions and take advantage of this opportunity to find insights for your own career.

Hope that you have had enjoyable holidays, and look forward to seeing you in late January!

Kurt Waananen

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

JANUARY MEETING

Career Choices Panel Discussion



Carving a career path: A panel discussion on career choices and direction with local chemical engineering leaders

When

January 31st

5:30-6:00pm sign-in

6:00-6:30pm dinner

6:30-8:00pm guided panelist discussion (see below)

Where

General Mills Headquarters (394 & General Mills Blvd, Golden Valley)

Directions will be sent to individuals who RSVP

What

Chemical engineers from the Twin Cities area with a variety of experience have volunteered to come and share their own experience in making career decisions as well as answer questions from the audience on the topic of career direction. The program will include a discussion among the panelists, guided by Tom Kempf of General Mills, and opportunities throughout for the audience to ask questions of the panelists.

This event will include dinner. The cost is \$12 per person, payable at the door. Please note that this event is not corporately sponsored; AIChE Upper Midwest Section will be using RSVPs received to order meals.

RSVP

To RSVP, please send an email with your name, professional affiliation (company or university, etc), and any dietary restrictions to:

Sarah Hansen

sarah.hansen@amec.com

612-252-3655

AIChE Upper Midwest 2007 Annual Symposium

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Speakers

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2007

Time : 8:30 AM – 4:10 PM

(lunch provided)

At the Hopkins Eisenhower Community Center

1001 State Highway 7

Hopkins, MN 55305

Theme:

Alternative Fuels, What about Hydrogen?

Keynote Speaker :

Rolf Nordstrom

Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative

For this year's AIChE symposium, the keynote talk and one break-out session will focus on "**Alternative Fuels, What about Hydrogen?**" We are inviting other potential speakers (either yourself or someone you would like to nominate) in this area as well as other topics. **We will also be offering AIChE PDH credits to any engineers who are interested in keeping up their professional development hours. Please ask at the registration table for your form.**

As in previous years, undergraduate students are encouraged to submit posters for the **student poster contest**. There are cash prizes for the top winners. Like last year, we would like to invite at least two students to be speakers during the morning sessions. We are also looking for **corporate sponsors** for this contest.

Please contact James Easton (phone: 952-947-4083; e-mail: jimeaston@mn.rr.com) to submit speaking interest (with topic, speaker, and speaker credentials.) Be prepared to submit an abstract. You can also contact him to sponsor this event, or to sponsor the student poster contest. **Deadline for speaker interest/nominations is February 10, 2007.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, TWO DAY WORKSHOP COMING IN FEBRUARY. ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND

by Tom Kempf

Principles of Process Engineering

February 20 and 21, 2007

Everyone working in product or process development encounters process engineering problems whether they recognize it or not. This 2 day workshop is designed to provide basic and useful process engineering principles for technicians, scientists and engineers at all levels of development. The concepts are presented in a way that minimizes the use of complex engineering formulas and emphasizes practical problem solving in a user friendly manner without sacrificing understanding. This approach has proven successful in building confidence and experience in a hands-on workshop format. The subjects include material and energy balances, fluid flow and viscosity, heat transfer in process equipment and thermal properties of biomaterials.

Instructors:

Course instructors are Ken Valentas and Leon Levine. Levine is a well known consultant to the food and consumer products industries with extensive experience at both P&G and Pillsbury. Valentas is currently Director of the BioTechnology Institute at the University of Minnesota and also has had over 27 years experience at Pillsbury, General Mills and Sinclair Oil. They have co-authored a book entitled, "Food Processing Operations and Scale-up". Valentas is co-editor of the "Handbook of Food Engineering Practice".

Cost:

We are in the preliminary stages of setting up this course. Our goal is to deliver the best possible learning experience at a cost below the Nationally advertised course fee. When the logistics are finalized, we will be sending out a registration notice.

Questions:

Contact Tom Kempf:
thomas.kempf@genmills.com
763-764-2873

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



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The Upper Midwest section of the AIChE wishes to thank Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. for their support of the annual Symposium in 2006.



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