

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

June 2005

CHAIR'S CORNER

"Make Big Plans"

by Ryan P. O'Connor

The time has come for me to write my last Chair's Corner, since the next newsletter (September 2005) will be published with the new officers in place. Please take some time to vote for the 2005–2006 board (ballot on page 5), and consider whether you might like to serve in an officer position (including Company Chairs). I can say that current Vice Chair Mark Arlinghaus will be Chair next year, by "automatic" succession. I look forward to working with the new officers in the leadership transition over the summer.

I would like to reflect a bit on my time as Chair during the past year. Thanks to the hard work of our officers, we have had excellent monthly plant tours and meetings. In fall 2004, we were re-incorporated as a Minnesota non-profit organization, and we rolled out a new budgeting process for 2005. We have close collaboration with other local technical societies, especially the Minnesota Chapter of ACS, giving you increased networking and educational opportunities. To help address the loss of young AIChE national members, we have stepped up our student initiatives. Most importantly, AIChE Upper Midwest has a renewed emphasis on **career development**. (I have taken my own advice from the November 2004 newsletter, recently obtaining the U.S. Patent Bar to help me create and protect intellectual property related to the chemical arts.)

As we look forward to next year and beyond, I believe there is still a lot we can do to provide more value to you, our members, and to society. A unique opportunity is coming up in a couple months for you to help **define the future** of our section and the local chemical-engineering profession. The Upper Midwest "Vision

2010," a mid-summer strategy retreat on Saturday, July 16, is open to all section members. Please see page 2 for further details.

I believe that one of our section's strategic directions (to be debated at the Vision 2010 meeting) should address the **industrial revolution** that is happening globally. The revolution I am talking about is the use of industrial biotechnology to produce renewable chemicals, materials, and energy. Collectively I refer to these industries as *biorefining*, as opposed to petroleum refining, which is how we produce the majority of our fuels and chemicals today. Biorefining promises to make enormous impacts, not only technologically and economically but also politically as we reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Minnesota, and the Midwest in general, has been called the Saudi Arabia of Biorefining by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty and other leaders. In response, AIChE Upper Midwest should take actions soon that enable chemical engineers to accelerate the success of these emerging and visionary industries.

To culminate my time as Chair, I leave you with two of my favorite quotes. I would say these apply not only to the AIChE Upper Midwest Section and to the biorefining industrial revolution, but also to your own career and life plans—whatever they may be:

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work." —Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846–1912)

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." —Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

AIChE Upper Midwest Section Vision 2010

A Retreat to Discuss, Share, and Build a Strategy for the Next Five Years

Saturday, July 16, 2005

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Snyder Building (Fireplace Room)
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318
952-443-1400 • www.arboretum.umn.edu

AIChE Upper Midwest invites all 2005–2006 elected officers, as well as interested members*, to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for Vision 2010. The Arboretum is part of the Department of Horticultural Science within the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota. The Arboretum's mission is to provide a community resource for horticultural and environmental information, research, and public education. The stimulating environment at the Arboretum should inspire us as we discuss the future of our local section. During the breaks and after the meeting, attendees are encouraged to wander around the 1,000+ acres of unique public gardens—spectacular annual and perennial display gardens, collections of plants developed for northern climates, and native areas.

Tentative Agenda:

Morning: *Strategy*
Afternoon: *Execution*

Continental Breakfast:	8:30–9:00 a.m.	
Morning Session A:	9:00–10:30 a.m.	Introduction, review of Upper Midwest history, and current snapshot
Break:	10:30–11:00 a.m.	
Morning Session B:	11:00–12:30 p.m.	Mission and vision; one-year and five-year strategies
Lunch:	12:30–1:30 p.m.	
Afternoon Session A:	1:30–3:00 p.m.	Executing the short-term, one-year strategy: action items
Break:	3:00–3:30 p.m.	
Afternoon Session B:	3:30–5:00 p.m.	Executing the longer-term, five-year strategy: action items
Adjourn:	5:00 p.m.	

A primary outcome of this meeting will be recommendations for 2006–2010. To that end, a report describing the strategic recommendations will be made available to all AIChE Upper Midwest members by the end of 2005.

* We are looking for about ten members to help define the future of the local section! Interested members should contact Ryan O'Connor at Ryan_OConnor@NatureWorksLLC.com or 952-742-0455 by Friday, June 17, 2005. We greatly appreciate the value of your time. Therefore, there is no cost (includes free admission into the Arboretum). We encourage all members to consider attending, but participation needs to be limited due to budget considerations.

This meeting is sponsored by AIChE, NatureWorks LLC, and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

JUNE SOCIAL EVENT

BREWERY TOUR

Saturday, June 25th, 2005

TOUR LOCATION:
Summit Brewery in St. Paul

Agenda: Tour starts at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us on June 25th for a free tour of the Midwest's leading craft brewery. Summit Brewery was founded in 1986 when Mark Stutrud disassembled a brewery in Brauerei zum Hirsch Germany and rebuilt it in a warehouse in St. Paul. Good beer and good business led to an expansion in 1998. Their new building is the first new brewery in Minnesota in 100 years. **Family and friends are welcome on the tour.**

RSVP:

We only have 30 openings in the tour, so please reserve your spots by sending an e-mail to Mark Arlinghaus at mark.arlinghaus@genmills.com. Please put the word "brewery" in the subject line. E-mails must be received before June 17th.

Directions:

The Summit web site provides general information at www.summitbrewing.com. For directions, use the following link: http://www.summitbrewing.com/data/pdf/Summit_Directions.pdf.



SUMMIT BREWING CO.

St. Paul, Minnesota

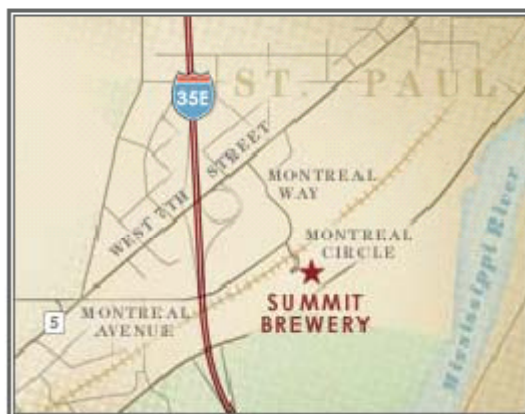
ESTABLISHED 1986

910 Montreal Circle St. Paul, MN 55102

PHONE (651) 265-7800

FAX (651) 265-7801

WEB www.summitbrewing.com



Young Professional's Corner

Financial Planning 101

We held the Financial Planning 101 session in April. There was a great turnout between the Society of Women Engineers, American Chemical Society, and AIChE. Blaine Davis of Piper Jaffray organized a great group of individuals to discuss a whole range of different financial tools and methods for investing basics. Information is available for those not able to attend. Contact Matt Atkins with any questions.



Tailgating at the St. Paul Saints

Come see the Saints take on Lincoln on Friday, August 5th! The game starts at 7 PM. Please join us after 5 PM for tailgating prior to the game. The cost is \$10/person for the game, but tailgating is sponsored by ACS and AIChE. We only have 50 tickets reserved, so we need an **RSVP by Friday, July 1st** (see contact info below).



Tailgating will include: hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and non-alcoholic beverages. Beer is available through the Saints for those wishing to get more in the spirit.

Please contact Matt Atkins if you have any questions.

Matt Atkins

YPAB Chair

Home: (952) 226-4538 mpatkins@msn.com

Work: (651) 438-1354 matthew.atkins@fhr.com

Upper Midwest AIChE Annual Election Ballot**April 13, 2005***You must be a section member to complete*

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair (by succession) | Mark Arlinghaus
Mark.Arlinghaus@genmills.com | General Mills
763-764-5808 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair | Kurt Waananen
Kurt.Waananen@genmills.com | General Mills
763-764-7446 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| Symposium co-Chairs | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Brian E. Jensen
brianejensen@prodigy.net | 952-926-2141 |
| | Jim Easton
James.Easton@spray.com | 952-944-7202 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| Recording Secretary | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Sec. | Nathan Johnson
doc_curtis@rocketmail.com | Braun Intertec
651-733-2184 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | Elizabeth Gonzales
eegonzales1@mmm.com | 3M
651-768-2621 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director, Webmaster | Gordy Siers
siers@hutchtel.net | 3M
320-587-9542 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director, U of M Chapter Liaison | Dr. Satish Kumar
kumar@cems.umn.edu | U of M
612-625-2558 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| Director, ConEd., Awards | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| Director, Publicity | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write In | _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past Chair (by succession) | Ryan O'Connor
ryan_oconnor@natureworksllc.com | NatureWorks LLC
952-742-0455 |

If you did not get a chance to vote at the symposium, e-mail your nominations to Tom Kempf at thomas.kempf@genmills.com by May 24, 2005. We need to make a quorum of voting members, so please help us out, if you can! There are also three OPEN positions that we have no volunteers to fill at this point. The three positions are Recording Secretary (since Kurt is moving to vice-chair), Director of Continuing Education and Awards, and Publicity Director. Please volunteer!

To Students and Recent Graduates: **The First Five Years...**

Making the transition from school to professional life is a great time—full of opportunity and promise. It's a time to translate classroom skills into workplace skills, explore industries and specialties, add skills, develop new relationships, and begin to build a reputation. Let's look at these critical areas and some suggested strategies for making the most of your early career experience.

Building workplace skills

Graduates who have had co-op, internship and summer employments oftentimes have an advantage over their peers in translating classroom knowledge into workplace skills. They have had the opportunity to watch professionals in action and learn from their example. They also have the self-confidence that comes with experience.

Here are a few tips for building workplace skills:

- Ask your manager what skills you will need to be successful in your assignment. Meet with your manager for a periodic reality check to ensure you are on the right track and that you are building the right skills for success. Find out what other skills will make you stand out from the crowd and work to develop them.
- Observe some chemical engineers who have a few years more experience than you. Who is successful, who is less successful? What technical skills separate the two groups? What personal skills do you see? Observe their communication skills, their interpersonal style, and their attitude...watching others can suggest behaviors to adopt and those to avoid.
- Keep a file to chronicle your skills and experience. The file will help you assess your progress, prepare you for performance reviews with your manager, and help you write an updated resume.

Exploring a career choice

You are one of the lucky few if you know exactly how you want to direct your career. On the other hand, you are in good company if you expect to use the first few years to try out an industry, a functional specialty, and a corporate culture. As you learn the basics of your job, look around to see how other departments use chemical engineers. What are the options for your career development—both in a straight line directly ahead of you or through a transfer to a related or even different area? Determine if this industry is meeting your short term and long term needs. Are you happy with the functional specialty you are developing? How well does it tap your preferred skills? How well does it fit in with your longer plan?

Does the company culture fit you—your personal style, values and preferences? Not everyone is destined to be a small fish in a big pond; some prefer to be a big fish in a small pond. Still, others thrive in a predictable, stable environment while some are energized by a high risk–high reward setting. Figure out what turns you on, and you will choose an environment that suits you. Have “virtual” meetings with AIChE members and read what they say about their career decisions and plans.

Adding skills

Savvy employees develop skills that exceed a job's requirements, making them ready for the next opportunity—either with their current employer or with a new one. What skills will make you more marketable? What will it take to acquire them? What is the timetable for action?

Make skill development part of your performance appraisal and write it into your goals for the coming year. Demonstrate to your manager that this skill is advantageous to you AND to your employer. Use your employer's tuition reimbursement plan to enroll in a course; encourage your manager to underwrite a technical conference or workshop. If you don't ask, you may never be given the opportunity to develop a desired skill.

Developing new relationships

Keep up through e-mail and phone with your friends. And expand this network beyond your school pals, family and existing friends. Join a softball team or volunteer for a community project. Introduce yourself to counterparts—engineers and non-engineers—in other departments and arrange to have lunch with them. By building good relationships throughout an employer and in the community, you'll develop a mutually beneficial network.

Building a reputation

If you were a member of your university's AIChE student chapter, you know the value of membership in AIChE. Continue that membership by joining National AIChE and your local section. In a local section such as Upper Midwest, you will get to know key players and leaders of major corporations, heads of research & development, independent consultants, and more. In addition, you'll find a volunteer assignment that will give you visibility to leadership and may even help you develop a new skill or talent.

This article was adapted from www.aiche.org/careerservices/manage/fiveyear.htm.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SECTION!

by Lily Leung

This year's AIChE Upper Midwest Section has been busy with many exciting events ranging from the 2005 AIChE Annual Symposium to an ever-relevant Financial Planning seminar. Don't miss out on other great events and seminars. Now is the perfect time to join or renew your local section membership! Membership cost is only \$12, which includes the monthly local-section newsletter to keep you updated on happenings in and around the Twin Cities. Monthly meetings are held primarily in the Twin Cities, with a handful of satellite events in other Upper Midwest locations. The meetings are always interesting and fun, including various company or plant tours throughout the year. Not to mention, these events are a great way to network and meet other chemical engineers in the area. Our membership includes people from a wide array of industries and in many diverse professional roles.

To join now for 2005, please send contact information and a check payable to "AIChE—Upper Midwest Section" to:

Lily Leung
AIChE Upper Midwest Section
General Mills Riverside R&D
330 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lily Leung (lily.leung@genmills.com), Publicity Director or Nathan Johnson (doc_curtis@rocketmail.com), Membership Secretary.

Place an ad here and get results! Reach over 600 chemical engineers!

**Nathan Johnson, doc_curtis@rocketmail.com
651-733-2184**

Top Employers of AIChE Members

Developing a long-term career plan? In the middle of a job search? Curious about where chemical engineers work? The database at www.aiche.org/careerservices/jobs/search/sic.asp lists companies that employ AIChE members. Search for companies by name or by industry description. Each company is hot-linked to its homepage (if available).

Chair	Dr. Ryan O'Connor	NatureWorks LLC	Ryan_OConnor@NatureWorksLLC.com	952-742-0455
Vice Chair	Mark Arlinghaus	General Mills Corporation	Mark.Arlinghaus@genmills.com	763-764-5808
Symposium Co-Chair	Nathan A. Busch	ICHG, LLC.	busch034@tc.umn.edu	952-542-3858
Symposium Co-Chair	Brian E. Jensen		brianejensen@prodigy.net	952-926-2141
Recording Secretary	Kurt Waananen	General Mills Corporation	kurt.waananen@genmills.com	763-764-7446
Membership Secretary	Nathan Johnson	Braun Intertec Corp.	doc_curtis@rocketmail.com	651-733-2184
Treasurer	Elizabeth Gonzales	3M	eegonzales1@mmm.com	651-768-2621
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Young Professionals Chair	Matt Atkins		mpatkins@msn.com	952-226-4538
3M Chair	Steven Zhang	3M	szhang2@mmm.com	651-737-6773
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
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MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:

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



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