

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

November 2009

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Nathan Johnson

When I first joined the local section board fresh out of college nearly 11 years ago now, the board was in a time of transition. I found that the board was almost entirely new at that time, with only the Chair, Cassian Lee, and Vice Chair, Karen Geronime, as returning officers. The rest of us were new college graduate Chemical Engineers interested in helping the local section move forward into the future.

In the years that followed, three of those new graduates, Slava Thaler, Amit Shukla, and I, advanced to leading the section, and for at least one year we **were** the local section board, as well as the symposium committee. Then, both Slava and Amit retired, and it appeared that the board was in trouble. However, with the help of long-time members like Tom Kempf and a new crop of young volunteers, we were able to continue, and the section has gone on better than ever.

In the years I have been on the board, we have also seen changes in the culture of the U.S. Membership in societies is down across the country, with many employers no longer willing to pay for their employees to be in professional societies like the AIChE. We have been no exception to this, and have seen membership in our section decline from over 800 when I first became an officer to under 200 now. The good news about all this is that the number of members who participate in our local events is about the same as it always was. That means, even though we have fewer members, of

those we do have, more are getting real value out of their membership by participating in our events.

One thing that has stayed the same throughout my eleven years on the board is that our officers plan great events for our local section members to participate in. We have toured the biggest and the best of the companies that hire chemical engineers in the Twin Cities area. We have walked through many different plants in the area, making everything from windows to soap. We have heard guest speakers on everything from job searching to alternative energy.

Over the years, I have had multiple members tell me that they get more out of their local section membership than they ever do out of the national section. Comments like these made me proud of our section, and the work we have done to provide interesting and exciting events for you, our local chemical engineers. After all, that is why the local section exists!

Now, as I take the reins of the section as Chair, I once again see a mixture of returning officers and relatively new college graduates in our local section board. The faces have changed, but many things have stayed the same, and our commitment to providing great monthly meetings for all of you, the membership, has stayed the same. If you have not attended a local section meeting lately, I would urge you to look over our meeting announcements in this newsletter. Discover why so many people have been faithful attendees at our section meetings over the years. We would love to see you at an upcoming meeting!

Chair	Nathan Johnson	Pace Analytical	doc_curtis@rocketmail.com	651-737-0144
Vice Chair	Christine Kurtz	Trinity Consultants	ckurtz@trinityconsultants.com	651-275-9900
Past Chair	Elizabeth Willkom	3M	eegwillkom@mmm.com	651-778-4237
Symposium Chair	Jason Kurdziel	OSI Soft, Inc.	JKurdziel@osisoft.com	651-894-4230
Recording Secretary	Justus Hendrickson	Fluor Global Services	justus.hendrickson@fhr.com	651-438-7282
Membership Secretary	OPEN			
Treasurer	Cameron McDaniel	Fluor Global Services	Cameron.McDaniel@fhr.com	
Webmaster	Ryan Birkenholz	Golder Associates Inc.	rbirkenholz@golder.com	612-810-0124
U. M. Chapter Liaison	Prof. Raul Caretta,	University of Minnesota	caretta@umn.edu	612-625-8066
General Mills Chair	Thomas Kempf	General Mills Corporation	thomas.kempf@genmills.com	763-764-2873
Young Professionals Chair	Steven Head		head0043@d.umn.edu	763-381-2678
Scholarship Chair	OPEN			
Publicity Chair	OPEN			
Your Company Chair	OPEN			

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

NOVEMBER MEETING

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Tour of Blue Lake Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

When:

Thursday, November 19

3:30-5:30pm

Included will be a tour, time for questions, and AICHE meeting afterward in a reserved room at the WWTP.

Where:

6957 County Road 101

Shakopee, Minnesota 55379

RSVP: Please [RSVP](#) to Christine Kurtz at ckurtz0887@gmail.com by Friday, November 13 if you plan to attend.

Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant



Blue Lake, the third largest MCES plant, is the fourth largest plant in Minnesota. Located on the Minnesota River in Shakopee, the Blue Lake Plant treats an average of 28 million gallons of wastewater per day. In 1998 the plant earned a national AMSA Platinum Award for five consecutive years of perfect compliance with clean water discharge permits. In 2004, the plant earned a Gold Award from AMSA for permit compliance during 2003.

Blue Lake Plant Statistics

Located in: Shakopee, Minnesota

Type: Advanced secondary with chlorination/dechlorination

Capacity: 37 million gallons/day

Discharges to: Minnesota River

Communities served: 27

Population served: 236,000

Interceptors to plant: 108 miles

The Blue Lake Plant has a design capacity to treat 37 million gallons of wastewater per day. The plant provides primary and secondary treatment to wastewater before discharging it to the

Minnesota River. Biosolids thickening, dewatering and heat-drying facilities began operation in fall 2000. The heat-drying facility is operated under a joint venture between MCES and the New England Fertilizer Company. The heat-dried biosolids are pelletized for use as a fertilizer.

PLEASE NOTE:

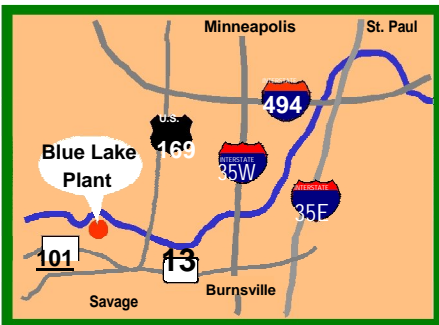
Shoes that cover the foot and clothing that covers the leg is **REQUIRED**.

No cameras, recording equipment or briefcases are allowed on the tour. There will be a room where belongings can be left during the tour.

Directions:

Meet at the security entrance at Blue Lake WWTP. There is ample parking near the entrance.

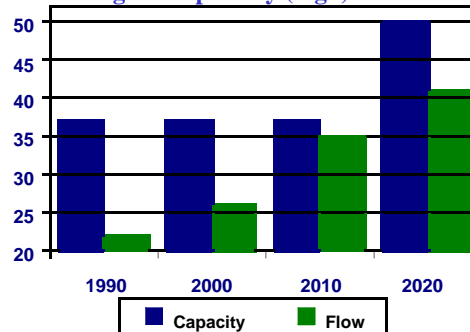
It is recommended that you use a service such as MapQuest for directions from your location.



Plant Capacity

From 1990
Projected to 2020

Millions of gallons per day (mgd)



DECEMBER MEETING

From Energy Foolishness to Energy Independence

Tuesday, December 8th, 2009

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

The Old Spaghetti Factory

233 Park Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Abstract:

Join Joe Shuster, author of *Beyond Fossil Fools*, for a relevant and revealing talk on the most important issue of our time: energy. Shuster, a Minnesota businessman from New Prague, will lead you on an energy road trip to U.S. energy independence in one generation. He will outline how we must urgently map a new energy direction to avert the energy disasters that loom on the horizon. His clear and quantified presentation defines the problem, explores the possibilities and then shows the roadmap to a solution, complete with costs and a timeline for implementation.

Speaker Biography:

Joe Shuster is a chemical engineer, graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1954, and is a true entrepreneur. He founded or co-founded eight companies and has served on the Board of Directors of over 20 businesses, organizations and international firms. Joe has testified before Congress, lectured often and widely, and received numerous professional and civic awards. He also accurately predicted the oil embargo of 1973 in an energy alert paper he wrote for the U.S. congress.

In 1962, Joe co-founded Minnesota Valley Engineering which is the world's leading manufacturer of high technology cryogenic equipment used in industry, agriculture, transportation and medicine. MVE was, and still is, headquartered in New Prague, MN. Shuster also founded Teltech, a science and engineering consulting firm, which produced hundreds of technical reports, including reports on photovoltaic manufacturing, fuel cells, natural gas purifications and other energy related topics. His greatest contribution to our society, however, occurred with the publication of his book [Beyond Fossil Fools - The Roadmap to Energy Independence by 2040](#). For the past 35 years, Joe Shuster has been sounding the alarm about our unhealthy reliance on fossil fuels and the energy foolishness inherent in our use of such fuels. We are most fortunate to have an individual like Joe who is more interested in our children's future on this planet than the selfish pursuit of comfort for only his generation.

Reservations

Reserve a spot by sending an e-mail to ckurtz0887@gmail.com by Friday, **December 4** (include [name](#), [company/affiliation](#), and [choice of meat or mushroom spaghetti](#)). **The sooner we get your RSVP, the easier it will make planning.** Thank you.

Cost

\$12 for members, \$24 for non-members

Agenda

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Presentation

Link to Directions

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?address=233%20Park%20Ave&city=Minneapolis&state=MN&zipcode=55415%2d1112&country=US&title=233%20Park%20Ave%20Minneapolis%2c%20MN%2055415%2d1112%2c%20US&cid=lfmaplink2>

YPAB (Young Professionals) Announcement

by Steve Head

Join AIChE Upper Midwest on Facebook. Go to the groups application and search for "AIChE Upper

Midwest" and click the join group link. This is a great place to get meeting information and connect with other members.



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