

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

November 2004

CHAIR'S CORNER

A "Pep Talk" for Chemical Engineers

by Ryan P. O'Connor

Knute Rockne (1928, Notre Dame vs. Army football game):

"Well, boys...I haven't a thing to say. Playing a great game...all of you. Great game. I guess we just can't expect to win 'em all. I'm going to tell you something I've kept to myself for years—None of you ever knew George Gipp. It was long before your time. But you know what a tradition he is at Notre Dame. (There is a gentle, faraway look in his eyes as he recalls the boy's words.) And the last thing he said to me before dying was, 'Rock, sometime, when the team is up against it—and the breaks are beating the boys—tell them to go out there with all they got and win just one for the Gipper...' (Knute's eyes become misty and his voice is unsteady as he finishes.) I don't know where I'll be then, Rock,' he said, 'but I'll know about it—and I'll be happy.'" One of the players yelled, "Well, what are we waiting for?" and with a single roar, the players rushed through the doorway and went on to beat Army in the football game.

When Knute Rockne gave his "Win One for the Gipper" speech to the Notre Dame players at halftime, Rockne was trying to salvage something from his worst season as a coach. To inspire the players he told them the story of the tragic death of arguably the greatest player ever at Notre Dame, George Gipp. The story became solidified into popular culture after its recreation in the 1940 movie, *Knute Rockne—All American*. The phrase "Win one for the Gipper" later became a rallying cry for the political campaigns of the actor who played Gipp in the movie, the late Ronald Reagan. (Source: <http://archives1.archives.nd.edu/rockne/speech.html>)

Sixty-five years after Rockne's famous pep talk, I arrived on campus as a freshman and quickly came to love the captivating atmosphere on game weekends. (I was also spoiled because 1993 was an excellent season in which we competed for the national title.) I now have a passion for Notre Dame football—just ask my wife!

The Rockne story is symbolic of each of our careers, and really, our lives. We will have successes, but there will also be some rough times. I know that the economy has been better for chemical engineers than it is today. The chemical and allied industries have experienced some tough breaks, and they do impact us personally.

But as chemical engineers, you are equipped for almost any industry or career. Chemical engineering can serve as the platform for not only a career in the process industries but also medicine, law, business, education, sales, or anything else. You are able to add a lot of value to society in many different ways. As the best college degree money and time can buy, chemical engineering really is a launching pad to success. I encourage each and every one of you to think about where you have been and where you want to go. Maybe your goal is top management, or you have entrepreneurial aspirations. Pursue your dreams!

What are *you* waiting for?

Tell us your success stories. We want to start, in this newsletter, a section describing what members are up to—new jobs and assignments, professional accomplishments, family news, and so on. Such a column will help keep local AIChE members connected. Please send any of your recent news to our newsletter editor, Nathan Johnson (see contact info on page 6).

NORTHERN MINNESOTA MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Old Chicago Restaurant
327 Lake Ave. South
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-720-2966

*Located in the historical Canal Park District east of I-35,
in the Old Marine Iron & Ship Building Company Warehouse*



Agenda

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:30–5:30 p.m. | Happy Hour |
| 5:30–6:30 p.m. | Informal Presentation and Q&A by Dr. Tom Kempf,
General Mills Chair, AIChE Upper Midwest Section |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 8:00–? | Continued Networking and Socializing (Old Chicago “Beer Pong” starts at 9 p.m.!) |

This networking event is intended for all chemical engineers living in Northern Minnesota, as well as chemical-engineering students at the University of Minnesota–Duluth. For industry folks, it is an opportunity to socialize and get to know fellow AIChE members and future leaders of the profession. For students, come for some free career-related advice from engineers in the corporate world.

Tom Kempf, the 2004–2005 General Mills Chair of the AIChE Upper Midwest Section, and long-time active member of our local organization, will be there to talk to students about career opportunities in chemical engineering today. Please bring questions for Tom and other practicing engineers!

Feel free to invite other chemical engineers you know, even if they are not members of our local section. Also, this event is open to any AIChE members regardless of their location. If you have questions, please contact AIChE Upper Midwest Chair Ryan O’Connor at ryan_oconnor@cargilldow.com or 952-742-0455, or UMD Student-Chapter President Bill Snellman at snel0035@d.umn.edu. There is no RSVP required for this meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tour of FSI International

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

Meeting Location:

3455 Lyman Boulevard, Chaska, MN 55318-3052

Agenda

- 5:30 p.m. Short presentation overview of FSI, followed by production and process lab hall tours
6:30 p.m. Social hour and free refreshments sponsored by FSI (limit to first 50 people)

Company Background

FSI International, Inc. is a global supplier of semiconductor processing equipment, technology and support services for microelectronics manufacturers. Headquartered in Chaska, Minnesota, the company focuses its investments on technology, infrastructure, R&D and support programs to help device manufacturers achieve their process performance, flexibility and productivity goals.

Thirty years of industry expertise is built into FSI's high-performance surface conditioning systems. FSI furnishes its customers with the equipment and technology solutions necessary to meet microelectronics manufacturing challenges, such as 300-mm, sub-90-nm design rule applications and new material obstacles. The company's ongoing support-services programs provide product and process enhancements to extend the life of installed equipment, enabling worldwide customers to realize a higher return on their capital investment. Website: www.fsi-intl.com.

A global presence is maintained by direct selling and customer support throughout the United States, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, and through m•FSI, a Japanese joint venture with its own engineering, development, sales and marketing, and customer service departments.

Reservations are required. Please reply to **Mark Arlinghaus** at Mark.Arlinghaus@genmills.com or call 763-764-5808 **no later than November 24**. 1.0 Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit will be provided for this meeting. Please let Mark know if you want PDH credit when you register.

Cost: Free

Directions to FSI's Chaska facility

FSI is located southwest of Minneapolis and St. Paul in the suburb of Chaska. Follow I-494 West to the Highway 5 West exit. Travel west on Hwy. 5 (through the cities of Eden Prairie and Chanhassen) to State Hwy. 41. Turn left (south) on Hwy. 41. Follow Hwy. 41 approximately 1/2 mile to County Road 18/Lyman Boulevard. FSI Building 3455 is on the southwest corner of this intersection.

DECEMBER MEETING

“An Entrepreneurial Success Story in the Twin Cities”

Speaker: Larry Corless of Food Systems Design

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

Meeting Location:

The Old Spaghetti Factory
233 North Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN
(Downtown near the Old Milwaukee Train Depot)

Agenda

5:30–6:00 p.m.	Social Hour
6:00–6:45 p.m.	Dinner
6:45–7:30 p.m.	Presentation and Questions

Topic

Larry Corless describes the founding and growth of one of the nation’s largest food-specific engineering-consulting firms.

Abstract

As large companies reorganize to reduce costs, many engineers have had to seek non-traditional career paths. One of those paths is to start a business instead of working for someone else. Larry Corless founded Food Systems Design, Inc. in 1990, following his departure from Pillsbury. Pillsbury too was “down-sizing” and following the trend to outsource engineering services. Now working as a provider of those services, Larry managed FSD’s growth over the last decade and a half. FSD currently has a staff of over 45 people with food-processing backgrounds. Larry will discuss the difficulties of starting a business, the rewards and stresses associated with managing growth, and the challenges of transitioning a business to others at retirement.

This will be a great talk for anyone who has ever considered the move to self-employment and for anyone interested in learning more about the field of contract engineering.

Reservations

The talk is open to everyone, but **reservations are required for dinner**. Please reserve your seat by replying to **Mark Arlinghaus** at Mark.Arlinghaus@genmills.com or 763-764-5808 **no later than December 9**.

Cost

The price of dinner is \$10. Please bring cash or a check made out to AIChE—Upper Midwest Section.

AIChE Code of Ethics

(Revised January 17, 2003)

Members of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers shall uphold and advance the integrity, honor and dignity of the engineering profession by: being honest and impartial and serving with fidelity their employers, their clients, and the public; striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession; and using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare.

To achieve these goals, members shall:

- Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and protect the environment in performance of their professional duties.
- Formally advise their employers or clients (and consider further disclosure, if warranted) if they perceive that a consequence of their duties will adversely affect the present or future health or safety of their colleagues or the public.
- Accept responsibility for their actions, seek and heed critical review of their work and offer objective criticism of the work of others.
- Issue statements or present information only in an objective and truthful manner.
- Act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, avoiding conflicts of interest and never breaching confidentiality.
- Treat fairly and respectfully all colleagues and co-workers, recognizing their unique contributions and capabilities.
- Perform professional services only in areas of their competence.
- Build their professional reputations on the merits of their services.
- Continue their professional development throughout their careers, and provide opportunities for the professional development of those under their supervision.
- Never tolerate harassment.
- Conduct themselves in a fair, honorable and respectful manner.

Source: www.aiche.org/about/ethicscode.htm

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

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



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