AIChExtra

The Votes Are In

Larry Evans Elected 2006 President-Elect

In preparing his campaign for the AIChE presidency, Larry Evans harnessed the power of the Web to reach out to voters. His website, www.larryevans.net, described his position, including support for local sections and championing emerging technologies. However, the website also allowed him to do something extraordinary — to listen to members from all over the world.

Evans heard from dozens of members via email. Individuals shared their thoughts on what's right and what changes they'd like to see in AIChE. Over 100 members took his survey, providing feedback on AIChE member benefits and strategic goals, as well as the role of chemical engineering in the next 100 years. "There are a large number of members who are dedicated to AIChE's success," said Evans. He is clearly one of them.

After he received his PhD from University of Michigan in 1962, Evans joined AIChE because it was important to be an active member of his professional community. Forty-three years later, Evans is a member for the same reasons. "I always felt it was important to be active in the chemical engineering community. I have published, attended meetings, and taken advantage of all AIChE has to offer."

True to his word, Evans has served on the Board of Directors (1981–1983), as trustee of AIChE Foundation, a member of the AIChE Awards Committee (2000–2005), and as an active member of his local section, the Boston Ichthyologists. Evans is also a Fellow.

Evans' impressive career has spanned both academia and industry. As a professor of chemical engineering at MIT (1962–90), he pioneered the use of computers in chemical engineering education and was co-founder of CACHE (Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering Education). He was principal investigator of the ASPEN Project at MIT (1976–81) that developed the ASPEN software widely used for process simulation and design.

Evans founded Aspen Technology in 1981 and served as chairman until his retirement in 2005. Under his leadership, the company grew from a start-up venture to become the leading provider of software for the chemical process industries. Aspen Tech went public in 1994. Its software is used for design, operation, and optimization of process manufacturing facilities worldwide.

A vision of the future

Experience in both academia and industry offers Evans a unique perspective in his new role as 2006 president-elect. "It's important for AIChE to bridge the gap between academic and industrial members, and I think I can play an important role in doing just that," said Evans.

Since he retired from Aspen Tech, Evans has been particularly active in the Boston Section and has been a part of its astounding success and revitalization (Nov. 2004, p. 61; Dec. 2004, p. 60; Oct. 2005, p. 61). His support for all local sections played a prominent role in his campaign.

"In Boston, I've seen what can be done to reinvigorate a section. We surveyed the members on topics for meetings they're really interested in. They responded with ideas we hadn't thought of — topics that would help them in their career, such as public speaking, how to launch a new product, how to start a business, and other entrepreneurial activities. In one our current programs, we're getting local executives together every two months for breakfast. They really value the opportunity to meet with their peers."

Evans proposes support for local sections and their leaders through leadership development and program support. "The AIChE national organization can support local sections by providing a forum to help develop leadership skills and continue to encourage leaders to share ideas that have worked. A key need is to provide good speakers for section meetings. I know [AIChE President-Elect] John Chen is currently working on reactivating the Speakers Bureau, which will be instrumental in helping sections provide strong programs."

While Evans works locally, he also thinks globally. In his campaign, Evans focused on AIChE's leadership role in emerging areas of chemical engineering. "We want AIChE to be the place where people come to debate new ideas and give papers in these important new areas. It's important we provide a forum for areas like bio, and renewable energy," said Evans. "In fact, we're already doing that with the establishment of technological communities like the Society of Biological Engineering."

"Our leadership as the premier professional society in emerging fields will ensure that our members are also at the forefront of these new areas of technology," said Evans. "In addition, members want to see AIChE at the forefront of social issues like energy and the environment. We're working on it." In September, AIChE leaders met with U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman to discuss how AIChE can be instrumental in renewable energy efforts (see p. 60). And, at the Annual Meeting there is a forum for members to share their ideas on AIChE's role in the future of energy.

Evans continues to listen and correspond with members on his website. And there is no doubt he will keep this strong communication flowing when he takes on the office of president-elect in 2006 and president in 2007. "In my opinion the most important ingredient for improved communications is to be proactive in seeking input, to listen and to be responsive to what you hear…it is almost impossible to over communicate," he said. "Strong communications between AIChE leadership, local sections and individual members, insures that the Institute's goals align with members' needs."

2006 Election Results

The Tellers have examined the votes for candidates for Officers and Directors of the Institute and declared the following to be the results of the ballot:

President

John C. Chen

President-Elect

Lawrence B. Evans

Directors (2006–2009)

Rakesh Agrawal

Amos A. Avidan

Thomas R. Hanley

James R. Swartz

AIChE and DOE Discuss Today's Energy Challenges

High oil prices are here to stay, so say many economic pundits. As a result, alternative energy sources have become more economically viable. In recent news, we have heard more about the hydrogen economy, clean coal gasification technologies, and even nuclear power generation.

With this in mind, the leaders of AIChE — President Jeff Siirola, current President-Elect John Chen, 2006 President-Elect Larry Evans and Executive Director John Sofranko, — met with Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and sat down with other leaders of the Dept. of Energy — Director of the Office of Science, Raymond L. Orbach and Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Science, Thomas J. Vanek — to brainstorm ideas on how to motivate chemical engineers to help solve U.S. energy challenges. DOE has long known about the impending energy crunch, which has recently been in the media spotlight due to the damaging effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast — the petroleum and petrochemical heartland of the U.S. (p. 8). Back in 2003, the DOE released the study "Basic Research Needs to Assure a Secure Energy Future," which focused not only on improving current fossil-fuel technology, but also investigating alternative energy sources, such as renewable and solar energy (The publication can be downloaded at www.sc.doe.gov/index.htm).

Above (l to r) John Chen, Larry Evans, Samuel Bodman, Jeff Siirola and John Sofranko.
Below (l to r) Larry Evans, John Sofranko, Raymond L. Orbach, John Chen and Jeff Siirola

Another focus of the report was on educating and preparing tomorrow's workforce for energy challenges. This is one area in which AIChE and DOE can cooperate. Leading the charge on this subject is AIChE President-Elect John Chen, who has personally taken on the task of designing a workshop on this topic and implementing it in a short time frame of 6–8 months. This effort dovetails with other AIChE energy initiatives, including the creation of a high level Commission on Energy Challenges and a special Forum on Energy Challenges recently held at the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH. For further information, visit www.aiche.org/new/energy or if you have questions or comments, contact us at energy@aiche.org.

ECC Honors James B. Porter, Jr., and Appoints New Board Members

James B. Porter, Jr., Vice President, DuPont Safety, Health & Environment and Engineering; and Chief Engineer was presented the 2005 ECC Achievement Award at the 37th Annual Engineering & Construction Contracting Association* Conference, held in Orlando, FL, from Sept. 7–10. Porter joined DuPont in 1966 as a chemical engineer in the Engineering Service Div. (ESD) field program at the Engineering Test Center in Newark, Delaware. Over almost 40 years, he has held various positions in many different DuPont business units and functional areas. On May 1, 1995, he was appointed director of operations. Porter also assumed the position of Vice Chairman of the DuPont Corporate Operations Network. He was named Vice President of Engineering on November 1, 1996 and added Operations to his area of responsibility in January, 1999. In June of 2004, Porter assumed responsibility for Safety, Health, and Environment. He is currently responsible for managing Engineering, Facilities, & SHE Services.

Jim has served as Chair for the CII and for Delaware's United Negro College Fund. He is a member of the Board of Directors for AIChE, FIATECH, and the Fieldbus Foundation, and sits on various industry advisory boards such as AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety. He is also a member of the University of Tennessee's College of Engineering Board of Advisors and the National Academy of Construction.

The next annual conference is scheduled for September 13–15 in San Antonio, TX, at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort.

*An affiliate of the AIChE.

2005–2006 Engineering & Construction Contracting Executive Board of Directors

Chairman
John W. Dalton, Sr.,
Process and Industrial Sector Manager, Mustang

Vice Chairman
Arthur Burson, VP, Central Engineering, Merck & Co

Other appointed board members
Dwayne Wilson,
SVP and General Manager, Mining and Minerals, Fluor
Stephen L. Cabano, COO, Pathfinder, LLC
Robert Donaho, Director, Design and Project Engineering, The Dow Chemical Co.
Chuck Greco,
Manager, Global Project Development & Delivery, BP
H. David Sloan, P.E.,
Engineering Procurement Manager, Valero Energy
Joseph P. Morray, Jr., President, Trinity Technologies Corp.
Christopher Nagel, VP, Philadelphia Operations, Jacobs
A. Charles Rowney, ACR, LLC

New members
Brian G. Evans, P.E.,
Manager, Technology Solutions Div., ConocoPhillips
John C. Moore,
Director, Technical Engineering Services, BASF Corp.
Donald C. Runaldue,
Venture Manager, ExxonMobil Research and Engineering
Anne-Marie Walters, Director of Marketing, Bentley Systems Inc.

2005 Board of Directors and Institute Awards

In a ceremony during the 2005 AIChE Annual Meeting, 12 chemical engineering professionals were recognized as having served as exceptional leaders and innovators in the chemical engineering profession. "This year's honorees are representative of the entire breadth of disciplines within the field of chemical engineering," noted Institute President Jeff Siirola. "They all are pioneers whose educational and research contributions have helped shape our profession and mark significant contributions to society."

William H. Walker Award for Excellence in Contributions to Chemical Engineering Literature

The award was presented to Dr. Alexis T. Bell, University of California, Berkeley, for pioneering the application of quantum methods to elucidate the siting and reactivity of active sites and the detailed pathways of catalytic reactions.

F.J. and Dorothy Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute

The award was presented to Dr. Basil C. Doumas, retired Project Manager at the Dow Chemical Co. and a past President of AIChE, for dedicated, sustained service to the AIChE, spanning decades as Director, President, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, and International Ambassador and member of the SIOC.

Warren K. Lewis Award for Contributions to Chemical Engineering Education

The award was presented to Dr. Thomas F. Edgar, Abell Chair of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, for pioneering contributions in process modeling and control, authorship of leading textbooks, and outstanding leadership in university administration and professional organizations.

Chemical Engineering Practice Award

The award was presented to Dr. Adam Heller, Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, for reducing the pain and suffering of diabetic people through bio-electrochemical engineering.

2005 Founders Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Chemical Engineering

The award was presented to Dr. Dan Luss, Cullen Professor in the University of Houston's Department of Chemical Engineering, for groundbreaking research contributions coupled with significant service to the Chemical Engineering profession.

Allan P. Colburn Award for Excellence in Publications by a Young Member of the Institute

The award was presented to Dr. Samir Mitragotri, Associate Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, for outstanding leadership in the field of transdermal drug delivery and for training the next generation of researchers in biotechnology.

R. H. Wilhelm Award in Chemical Reaction Engineering

The award was presented to Dr. Massimo Morbidelli, Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland, for outstanding innovative contributions to polymer reaction engineering, chromatographic reactors, supported catalyst design, and the dynamics and sensitivity of chemical reactors.

Award for Service to Society

The award was presented to Dr. Richard D. Noble, Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, for his tireless service to society as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for neglected and abused children and in numerous leadership roles.

Professional Progress Award

The award was presented to Dr. Theodore W. Randolph, Gillespie Professor of Bioengineering at the University of Colorado, for his seminal contributions to the science of chemical engineering in drug delivery, protein stabilization, enzymatic catalysis and particle formation.

Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology

The award was presented to Dr. Kamalesh K. Sirkar, Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at the NJIT, for pioneering novel membrane gas separation techniques, innovative process concepts, membrane contactors for gas absorption/stripping, highly selective and stable liquid membranes, and for co-editing the "Membrane Handbook."

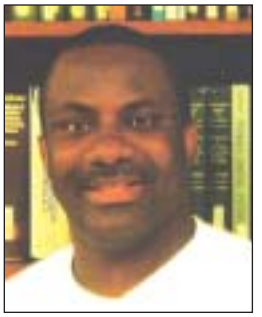
Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Chemical Engineering Research

The award was presented to Dr. Darsh Wasan, Motorola Chair, Professor Chemical Engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering at IIT, for his ingenious applications of thin colloidal films for identifying novel fluid-particle interaction mechanisms in dispersions, and his translation of fundamental principles to industrial practice.

Arthur D. Little Award for Chemical Engineering Innovation

The award was presented to Dr. C. Grant Willson, Professor in the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Austin, for fundamental contributions to the discovery of novel lithographic imaging materials and the development of a nanoimprinting technique for patterning sub-100 nm features.

Samuel O. Owusu Wins ISA Scholarship



Recognizing the outstanding talent in the areas of instrumentation, systems, and automation, the ISA Educational Foundation will award over $28,500 in scholarships at its annual Honors and Awards gala, to be held in Houston, TX. Among the 2005 scholarship recipients is AIChE member Samuel O. Owusu, a PhD student in chemical engineering at Oklahoma State University.

Owusu's PhD pursuit involves developing techniques for monitoring the performance of process controllers, as well as process control loops. "Recent surveys indicate that only about one-third of industrial controllers provide an acceptable level of performance and this is not satisfactory," says Owusu. His research focuses on solving this problem by developing efficient tools rooted in fundamental statistics for monitoring industrial processes with a view to automatically provide an early warning system for operators and engineers. The anticipated result — improved safety, reliability and profitability.

Commenting on the ISA award, Owusu says, "The recognition has been a morale booster, challenging me to go the extra mile in my research endeavors. I am excited and thankful to the ISA for recognizing my work and awarding me a scholarship to help me continue my studies." He also expresses his thanks to his current research advisor, Prof. Russell Rhinehart, "whose supervision, guidance and support has helped me overcome many challenges," and his "better half, Millicent Owusu, who is also studying for her masters degree in chemistry at Oklahoma State University" and their three and half year old daughter, Kimberley.

Prior to coming to Oklahoma State, Owusu received his BS degree from the University Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana and MS degree in chemical engineering from North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro.

2006 AIChE Conference Calendar

For information and to register visit www.aiche.org/conferences or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-212-591-8100 (outside the U.S.)

2006 Spring National Meeting, in connection with World Congress on Particle Technology
- 21st Annual CCPS International Conference
- 40th Annual Loss Prevention Symposium
- 8th Process Plant Safety Symposium

April 23–27, 2006 • Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort • Orlando, FL

Offshore Technology Conference — OTC.06

May 1–4, 2006 • Reliant Center • Houston, TX

Process Development Symposium
Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future

June 11–14, 2006 • Doral Desert Princess Resort • Palm Springs, CA

Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium

September 10–14, 2006 • Hyatt Regency • Vancouver, Canada

2006 Annual Meeting

November 12–17, 2006 • San Francisco Hilton • San Francisco, CA

OBITUARIES

George F. Asselin, 83, Mt. Prospect, IL
Paul M. Barroyer, 58, Maule, France
Jonathon R. Biedenharn, 25, Pekin, IL
Roger M. Butler*, 78, Vancouver, Canada
Henry W. Grote, 88, Raleigh, NC
Robert C. Gunness*, 94, Fullerton, CA
Earle R. Gurtler, 86, Longwood, FL
Eugene W. Hanszen, 86, Rockport, TX
William L. Harned, 87, Kingsport, TN
Donald L. Henderson, 82, Temple, TX
Marvin Henize, 86, Moorestown, NJ
Emerson J. Lyons, 96, Evanston, IL
David McKay, 84, Mission Viejo, CA
August H. Meinrath, 87, Corpus Christi, TX
Robert L. Mitchell Jr., 82, Garden City, NY
Robert O. Moore, 47, Columbia, TN
J. William Morris*, 87, Greenwood, SC
Donald L. Muffat, 90, Lansing, IL
Franklin Retzke, 89, Glen Allen, VA
Henry Grady Robertson, 73, Port Neches, TX
Keith M. Russ, 41, Corpus Christi, TX
Ray W. Shade, 78, Clifton Park, NY

* Fellow member

Yankees in Queen Elizabeth's Court: Chicago Section Leaders Honored by IChemE

The Haden Freeman Award for Engineering Excellence, sponsored by IChemE, was presented to two AIChE members September 29th in London at the gala dinner in the Royal Court of Justice. The award recognizes good engineering and design principles and practice. AIChE Chicago Local Section members — Dr. Mike A. Schultz, UOP LLC and Dennis O'Brien, Jacobs Consultancy and a third recipient, Doug Stewart UOP LLC, were presented with the award.

The award was inspired by the successful commercialization of the dividing-wall distillation column. "This column requires 14% less capital compared with conventional designs," said O'Brien. "Even more important, this new design used 50% less energy to provide higher quality products than in the conventional two-column design."

Are you in the news?

Tell *Extra* about your recent award or latest research. Or share information on innovative new programs you think members would like to hear about. Email us at news@aiche.org.