



*Women's Initiatives Committee*

## NEWSLETTER

*August, 2017*

*Welcome to 2017's end-of-summer e-newsletter of the Women's Initiatives Committee. We have exciting events coming up at the 2017 Annual Meeting. You will also find information about our past events held at the 2017 Spring Meeting. Enjoy!*

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# Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

2017 has been an exciting year for WIC, as we are diversifying our programming, as well as preparing for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up in 2018.

For the spring meeting this past March in San Antonio, we held a Women's Networking and Relaxation Reception with the Women's Energy Network. We also co-sponsored a panel with the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) on "Mentorship and Reverse Mentorship." These new events were in addition to our traditional networking luncheon, where Carol Dudley Williams delivered a motivating keynote on "Navigating Obstacles: How women leaders successfully overcome challenges." I would like to thank Intan Hamdan for leading this programming! More details recapping our spring programming can be found in this newsletter.

At the upcoming fall meeting in Minneapolis, we have added some programming for young industrial professionals (thanks to Julianne Holloway for her leadership in this!). This extends our reach from our traditionally academic-focused workshops. We will be having our workshops on Sunday, and our networking luncheon, featuring Keynote speaker Rachel Segalman, on Monday. More details can be found in this newsletter and the attached fliers. I wanted to highlight that we will also be holding a networking reception, which we haven't done in a few years, with the hope of engaging both women and men to support our organization. I encourage you to distribute the attached fliers with our fall programming details to your networks.

As 2018 marks WIC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are starting the preparations for this big event. We have formed a special committee, led by our Vice Chair Bindu Krishnan, to brainstorm and decide the best ways to honor women in our profession.

I want to end by thanking all of you who volunteer and support WIC. Please engage with us on our social media (links at the end of this newsletter – we now have Twitter, thanks Julie Renner!). And don't hesitate to contact me at [hnemady@gmail.com](mailto:hnemady@gmail.com) for any comments or questions about WIC or to get involved.

Best regards,

Heather Emady  
Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering  
Arizona State University

## Join WIC's Email List and Social Media

Please join our email list and social media groups. Here, we are hoping to create networks between women undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, industry professionals, and academics. Please feel free to start discussions and post relevant articles.

Email:  
<http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/committees/womens-initiatives/forms/keep-posted-on-wic-activities>

LinkedIn:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/AICHE-Womens-Initiatives-Committee-4823836>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aichewic/>

Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/aichewic>

## 2017 AIChE Annual Meeting Announcements Minneapolis, MN, October 29 – November 3



### Women's Initiatives Committee's (WIC) Travel Award Program

This award is geared to women graduate students, and post-doctoral associates, who would like to attend the Annual Meeting. WIC provides individual awards up to \$500 to be utilized towards travel (hotel, airfare, meals and incidentals) and registration fees only.

Awardees will be notified by mid-September and recognized at the WIC Luncheon at the Annual Meeting. The application deadline is September 4. More details about the application can be found [here](#).

### Women's Initiatives Committee's (WIC) Mentorship Excellence Award

This award recognizes women faculty who have contributed to the development of the next generation of chemical engineers through outstanding mentoring. Awardees will be recognized at the WIC Luncheon during the next Annual Meeting. The application deadline is September 18. More details about the application can be found [here](#).

### WIC Luncheon

Hilton Minneapolis - Minneapolis Ballroom C, Minneapolis, MN  
Monday, October 30, 2017, 11:00am to 12:30pm

You are invited to join us for the WIC Luncheon, an event to honor and recognize exemplary students, mentors, and professionals. Our luncheon will feature keynote speaker Rachel Segalman.

### Workshops

WIC will be very active at the Annual Meeting with several workshops in addition to the luncheon! We will hold workshops and panels for undergraduate and graduate students as well as post-docs, assistant professors and young scientists.

In these events, fellow chemical engineers and recruiters will share their experiences and answer your questions. We will have specific panels for graduate school, for leadership/innovation/project management and for career choices in academia, industry and national labs, in addition to seminars from COACh. The details about all of the ticketed events can be found [here](#).

## 2017 AIChE Spring Meeting Recap San Antonio, TX, March 26-30



### WIC Women's Networking and Relaxation Reception

A ticketed event open to all AIChE members was held at the Hyatt Regency. Complementary drinks, snacks and foot massages were provided to the attendees. This event also included a speed networking event. The reception was well attended with about 25 participants, and was cosponsored by the Women's Energy Network.

## WIC Luncheon

Speaker: Carol Dudley Williams, Board Chairperson at Owens Illinois.

At the spring meeting luncheon, Carol Dudley-Williams delivered a key note presentation entitled “Navigating Obstacles: How women leaders successfully overcome challenges”.

Carol addressed over 25 attendees, giving insight into how to be successful in a very challenging and male dominated Industry. With the help of personal stories and experiences, she captivated the very interactive audience. The session ended with a question-answer session.

The WIC Team (Intan Hamdan, Megan Donaldson & Bindu Krishnan) presented the speaker with a plaque to commemorate the event.



Ms. Williams retired from The Dow Chemical Company in 2015 after serving as a special advisor to the Chief Executive Officer at Dow. Prior to her special advisor role, she served as Dow’s Executive Vice President of Manufacturing and Engineering, Supply Chain and Environmental, Health & Safety Operations. During her 34-year history at Dow, she assumed increasingly more significant management positions in R&D before becoming Operations Leader and then Vice President for the North American chlor-alkali business. She was named Senior Vice President of Basic Chemicals in 2009 and President of Chemicals & Energy in 2010. Ms. Williams was a board member of Atlanta based Zep, Inc., a leading producer of maintenance and cleaning chemical solutions, for three years. She joined the Board of Owens Illinois in 2014 and Olin Corporation in October 2015. In 2016, she was named Chairman of the Board, Owens Illinois, a leading Glass manufacturing company. Ms. Williams received a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. In 2009, she was selected as Alumnae of the year at Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Williams received the 2010/2011 Woman of the Year Award from the National Association of Professional Women and in 2014, received the Junior Achievement Laureate award of Mid-Michigan.

## WIC Snack and Chat

An interactive open session was held to recruit volunteers as well as to brainstorm events for the forthcoming WIC 20th Anniversary celebration.

## WIC & Young Professionals Committee Panel Sessions: “Mentorship and Reverse Mentorship”

WIC co-sponsored this event with YPC.

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.” — John Crosby. Throughout our careers, we will benefit from being mentors as well as mentees. We had an enlightening discussion on the importance of mentoring, on leveraging effective ways to ensure a lasting and valuable mentor-mentee relationship, and on the concept of reverse mentoring as a means to empowering an organization and bridging the generational gap. Our panel session featured a diverse set of panelists from various industries and career stages who provided their perspectives on the value of mentoring and how their careers have been influenced by it.

The panelists included Carol Williams, Board Chairperson at Owens Illinois; Bond Calloway, President of AIChE; Thang Ho, Chair of Young Professionals Committee; and Nikki Bishop, Director of Global Turnaround Program for Emerson.

## Spotlight (by Irem Sen)



Beyza Bulutoglu was awarded the WIC travel award in 2016, the year before she completed her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Columbia University. She is currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. Beyza's current research is focused on elucidating drug-drug interactions at the transcriptional level in hepatocyte cultures and constructing recombinant bioactive peptides for tissue engineering purposes.

**Beyza, AIChE Women's Initiatives Committee has awarded you the travel award for the 2016 AIChE meeting. Congratulations! What motivated you to apply for the award?**

Thank you Irem! I became aware of this award when I got involved with WIC in 2015 and I thought it was a great opportunity. I would like to stay in academia and I always look out for resources to attend conferences and meetings. I have been attending AIChE annual meetings since 2014 and the awarding of this travel grant made it possible for me to attend the 2016 meeting. I strongly believe in gender equality and I would like to support women in engineering and science throughout my career. WIC offers a great platform for everyone to contribute as much as they can, whether as a panelist in a workshop or as a member of one of the sub-committees.

**I guess you attended the WIC workshops or luncheons, what did you get most out of attending these events and the AIChE meeting in general?**

Yes, I have been attending the events held by WIC for the past 2 years. If I had to summarize my experience, I think I would say I found inspiration at these events. For example, I still remember the highlights of the talk by Cynthia Murphy. Last year, she gave a great presentation and walked us through the challenges and rewards of her engineering career. Hearing about someone else's experience makes you feel stronger. In addition to luncheons, you can learn a great deal at the workshops whether you are an undergrad, a grad student, a post-doc or an early-stage professor. The COACH events offer a great opportunity for making career choices and for self-development. AIChE meetings in general have been an important part of my academic life. I have met great fellow chemical engineers. Apart from scientific enrichment, I also see these meetings as a social platform to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

**Well it sounds like you learned a lot in a few days! Do you think this is a type of experience that more grad students and postdocs should participate in?**

I most certainly do. When you learn about other people's work, it puts your own research into a certain perspective. I try to listen to talks within and outside my field as much as I can. It stimulates your thoughts and opens up ways for new collaborations. In addition, I definitely encourage all women ChemEs to stop by and learn more about WIC at the Annual Meeting. You can learn about different career choices if you are undecided between academia and industry; you can get inspired by experienced fellow female engineers; or you can just meet new people and build up your network. I think there is something for everyone.

**Finally, Beyza what do you do? Tell us about your background and your research a little bit.**

Sure! I am originally from Istanbul, Turkey. I moved to the US in 2010 for my masters studies, and that's when I fell in love with research. I completed my doctoral studies under the supervision of Prof. Scott Banta in the Protein & Metabolic Engineering Lab at Columbia University. My work focused on various protein-protein interactions for different biotechnology applications. I recently started another position as a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard & MGH, where I will use my background in protein engineering for medically oriented studies.

## WIC Mission

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) will lead in promoting the entry, development, and full participation of women in the Institute and the profession through the following strategies:

- Develop / distribute resources on subjects pertaining to women in the profession.
- Mobilize AIChE to meet the needs of existing and potential female members of AIChE and the profession.
- Provide networking means for women in AIChE to use each other as resources.
- Increase the visibility of women within AIChE and the profession.

## 2017 WIC Executive Committee

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\*Donating to WIC is critical to having continuing programming. You can donate online now at <http://www.aiiche.org/community/giving/donate>.

Scroll to "Women's Initiatives" at the bottom of the page. Also, look for a donation box for WIC when renewing your AIChE membership.