

March Section Meeting: Career Paths within Alternative Energy

The University department and the AIChE Rocky Mountain Section will co-host a panel discussion on alternative energy on Thursday, March 31 from 5:30-6:20pm in the Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building (note: parking in the large northwest lot is free after 5pm). The discussion will be followed by a reception.

Biographies of Panelists:



Professor Alan Weimer, *University of Colorado*

Alan W. Weimer, H. T. Sears Memorial Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, joined the faculty of the University of Colorado in 1996 after a 16-year career with the Dow Chemical Company. He was named Dow Research Inventor of the Year in 1993, and received Dow's "Excellence in Science Award" in 1995 for commercializing high-temperature processing to produce advanced materials. He was named University of Colorado Inventor of the Year in 2004 and received both the campus-wide and the College of Engineering and Applied Science Faculty Research Awards in 2005. He is recipient of the 2005 DOE Hydrogen Program R&D Award for developing solar-thermal technology to split water, the 2009 AIChE Thomas Baron Award in Fluid-Particle Systems for his pioneering effort to functionalize fine particles with thin films, and the 2010 AIChE Excellence in Process Development Research Award for his persistence to commercialize his academic discoveries. His former students have co-founded two spin-off companies out of his university laboratory (ALD NanoSolutions in 2001 and Copernican Energy, now Sundrop Fuels, in 2006). He is an inventor on 29 issued

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March Section Meeting

- Topic:** Career Paths within Alternative Energy
- Date:** Thursday, March 31
- Time:** 5:30 Panelist Introductions
6:00 Q & A Session
6:20 Refreshments in lobby
- Panelists:** **Alan (Al) W. Weimer**, H.T. Sears Memorial Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder
Dr. Esther Wilcox, Principle Investigator and Manager at the National Renewable Energy Lab
Jerrod Hohman, P.E., Principal Engineer at Process Engineering Solutions, LLC
- Location:** Room A115, [Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Bldg.](#), University of CO, Boulder
- Menu:** Pizza
- Cost:** Free for students
(w/RSVP)* \$10 Members & Non-members
Students RSVP directly to [Carrie Ngai](#). All others please **RSVP by Friday, March 25** (early RSVPs are greatly appreciated!) You may RSVP via email at rockyaiche@yahoo.com indicating your name, phone number, number of attendees and pay at the meeting. Or you may RSVP and pay online using [PayPal on our meeting link](#).

* Add \$5 for attending meeting without RSVP

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U.S. patents and an author of 150 peer-reviewed publications. He received a 2004 R&D 100 Award for his invention and commercial development using atomic layer deposition to functionalize fine particles (i.e. Particle ALD). He recently received the 2011 State of Colorado Cleantech Industry Association Award for "Excellence in Bio-Derived Technology Commercialization". He teaches the capstone design sequence in chemical engineering at CU, but, also has a research team of 15. He anticipates potentially two additional startups out of his university lab over the next 5 years based on projects currently supported by the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARvPA-E).



Dr. Esther Wilcox, NREL

Esther Wilcox is a principle investigator and manager at the National Renewable Energy Lab researching pilot-scale thermochemical conversion of cellulosic biomass to liquid fuels. She has over 10 years of experience in alternative energy research with a strong background in catalysis and kinetics. Esther obtained her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Tulsa and M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University.



Jerrod Hohman, P.E., Process Engineering Solutions, LLC

Jerrod Hohman is a Principal Engineer at Process Engineering Solutions, LLC. He graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in chemical engineering. For the first few years of his career, he worked with engineering companies and fabricators serving the oil refining and natural gas processing industry in Texas. After that, he spent a number of years in the chemicals industry in western Pennsylvania. Eight years ago, he moved to Colorado to work for an alternative energy company developing a process to produce cellulosic ethanol from woody biomass. Since leaving that job, he has worked as an independent contractor providing process engineering services to both alternative energy companies and traditional oil and natural gas producers and processors. Jerrod has about twenty years of industry experience in all phases of process engineering from front end process design to detailed engineering to commissioning and startup of plants ranging in size from laboratory units to commercial facilities.

2016 STATE SCIENCE FAIR

by Michael Mutnan

The AICHE Rocky Mountain Section team for judging at the Science Fair consists of myself, Rebecca Spearot, David Maloney and Doug Brown.

As special judges we are looking for projects that have a Chemical Engineering focus (regardless of how faint). We will issue 1st and 2nd Place Awards for projects in the Junior and Senior High Divisions. This means a total of four awards which includes a cash prize.

I prepare the winners packet which will consist of the following:

- A check (\$100 for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd place),
- A certificate, and
- An invitation to attend our May meeting.

They will be asked to bring their project for display at the meeting and to answer questions about the project.

Members may do the following at their leisure to find out what type of projects will be displayed at the Fair:

- Go to csef.colostate.edu (The Science Fair web site),
- Hit the hot button for "Judges" and a list will appear,
- Hit the hot button for "CSEF Abstract Database", which contains abstracts for each project,
- Follow the instructions to access the projects for both the Junior and Senior High Divisions,
- Browse through your topics of choice and for each division.

I have done this for over 20 years and have found it to be a tiring, but fun, rewarding time.

Section Members, thank you for supporting our future scientists/engineers.

SAVE the DATE: April 13 Section Meeting – Co-Sponsor of [CEMS Spring Film Event](#) “The Great Divide” at the Denver Sie Film Center

*Pictures from our Tour of Stranahan's
at the February Section Meeting*



SAVE THE DATE:
APRIL 13th
for our
next Section
Meeting co-
sponsoring
the CEMS
Spring Film
Event – “The
Great Divide”



AIChE Meetings

2016

- Apr 1-3 [2016 Rocky Mountain Student Regional Conference](#)
University of Arizona
- Apr 10-14 [2016 Spring Meeting and 12th Global Congress on Process Safety](#)
Houston, TX
- June 7-9 [2016 Process Development Symposium](#)
Boston, MA

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The objectives of AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, and to serve society, particularly where chemical, engineering can contribute to the public interest.

AIChE Rocky Mountain is a public non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and thus any and all donations are tax deductible.

Rocky Mountain AIChE News Publication Schedule

April 2016 issue

Articles due Wednesday, April 7

Publish on Friday, April 9

Meeting on Tuesday, April 13

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Rocky Mountain District of AIChE generally meets the third Tuesday of every month, September through November and January through May.