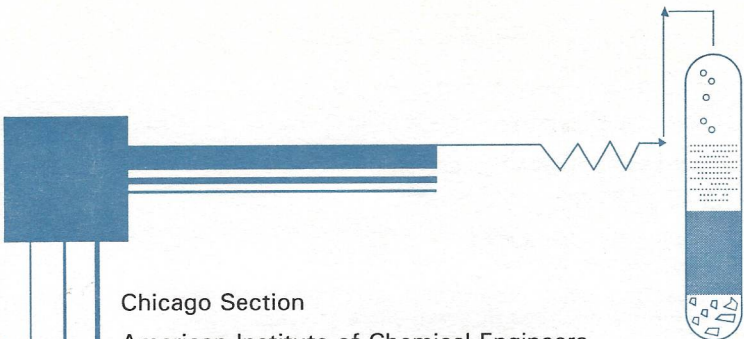


# AIChE<sup>SM</sup>

section

## Chicago Columns



Chicago Section  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
[www.aiche-chicago.org](http://www.aiche-chicago.org)

### January Meeting Notice

Thursday January 16, 2003

Drury Lane Theatre  
100 Drury Lane  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
(630) 530-8300

#### Agenda

Dinner.....6:00 pm  
Show.....8:00 pm

#### Cost

\$35.75 per person

#### Menu

Dinner includes Salad, Choice of Main Course (Rotolo di Pasta, White Fish with Dill Sauce, Roast Sirloin of Beef), and coffee.

#### Reservations

Make your reservations by calling the AIChE Reservation Hotline at 847-588-3323 or emailing [evalopez@teianalytical.com](mailto:evalopez@teianalytical.com). Or register online at [www.aiche-chicago.org](http://www.aiche-chicago.org). Deadline is noon December 23, 2002.

#### Directions

From Chicago:  
Take the I-290 West Eisenhower Expressway to I-88 West. Exit I-88 at IL-83 (N. Cermak Road/22nd Street). Turn a slight right onto Spring Road and then right onto Spring Road.

#### From North, South and East:

Take Interstate I-294 to I-88 West. Exit I-88 at IL-83 (N. Cermak Road/22nd Street). Turn a slight right onto Spring Road and then right onto Spring Road.

### Social Night

#### *Little Shop of Horrors*

The Show's hero is a timid salesman, Seymour, who works in an unlucky skid row flower shop. Seymour silently pines for a pretty shoppgirl named Audrey. He finds a path to romance and fame through his discovery of a strange, new species of flora, a carnivorous cactus which he named Audrey II. Audrey II promises to reward Seymour with all of life's goodies in return for feeding it gleefully gruesome "meals." Based on a 1960 sci-fi movie comedy by Robert Corman, the book and lyrics for the musical are by Howard Ashman (Disney's the Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin) and the music by Alan Menkin (Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Pocahontas, ...)

Drury Lane has a winner with LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, this zany, fun-filled, and thoroughly delightful bit of musical nonsense. The catch tunes and hilarious book lead the audience to the unpredictable surprise ending that wraps everything up neatly. This horticultural horror will leave you ravenous for more.

## Chair's Corner

Alan Levine, Law Engineering  
Chair 2002-03  
Chicago Section AIChE

Temperatures have dropped since the last newsletter was mailed and winter is upon us. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season. With the holidays behind us, it seems a perfect time to reflect on the past year. I was fortunate enough to be off on vacation the last 12 days of the year. I spent the time at home enjoying my family. I took time to play with my 3-year old son and 6-month old daughter. I also made sure to spend some quality time with my wife. After traveling out of town on business the first two weeks of December, I was very thankful for this extra time. Whenever I have time to spend extended periods with family, I feel recharged as I return to work. With young children, the time is less than relaxing, but their spirit and energy recharge my batteries in short order.

As for AIChE business, the first half of the programming year is over and was very successful. The second half of the year promises to be just as exciting. This month is our social outing, a chance to spend a night with someone special in your life and your friends from AIChE. Past years have been a lot of fun and I hope to see you there. The Symposium will be in March. The topic will be nano / biotechnology with a focus on Chicago's contribution to this hot area.

As you look back at the year, I hope you take time to think about changes you would like to make in the upcoming year. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help the local section. Whether you have 15 minutes to help make some phone calls, or would like to spend time planning a meeting, we can use your help. If you ask any of the current or past section board members, you will find that our service to the section is very rewarding.

In the spring, the poster session will give local chemical engineering students the opportunity to

display their hard work. If you are interested in being a judge at this event, please contact a board member. All that is required is your attendance at the event, scheduled at a regular AIChE meeting. You will review each of the students and their presentation and vote for your favorite.

The Illinois Engineering Council is accepting nominations / applications for excellent engineering projects completed in the last year. If you worked on a project or know of one that should be nominated, call me and I can send you an application. I attended the awards banquet last year and was disappointed that there were no chemical engineering projects highlighted. This is most likely due to our lack of applications.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the section the first half of the year.

## Welcome New Members

Chicago section is very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Michelle Brooke Lynch - Chemical Engineer from Virginia Tech; now with UOP LLC

Christine Rayner - Chemical Engineer from the University of Tennessee; now with UOP LLC

Bryan J Egolf - Chemical Engineer from the University of Illinois; now with UOP LLC.

Their objectives in joining AIChE are stated as follows: New to both the Chicago area and professional life, they look forward to interaction with professionals in chemical engineering and other disciplines. They want to continually expand their knowledge of the chemical engineering industry and related fields.

## **Regional Finals in "Future City Competition"**

*Students create a vision of the future*

In conjunction with NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK, Chicago engineering societies will be hosting a student design competition for area schools. The contest, known as the "Future City Competition," will require middle grade students with the assistance of an engineer mentor to design a future city with the aid of the award winning computer game, SimCity 3000 from Maxis. This program has been developed by engineers to provide much needed technological education to the students. According to Bob Johnson, the Chicago program is in the eleventh year and is one of the largest of the 30 regional programs. "Currently schools are completing their futuristic cities using the SimCity software and beginning to work on their essays."

Regional chairman Don Wittmer notes, "It is exciting to see the interaction between the students and witness the enthusiasm that these students have in learning about engineering and the real life problems that are encountered everyday. Our hope is that this competition helps students consider the possibility of studying engineering when they attend college." Janine Moederndorfer who chaired a past contest says, "This program is extremely beneficial for students because it helps them understand the creative as well as the practical side of science and math."

For detailed information on the competition, call the NEW hotline at 703-684-2852 or Don Wittmer at (312) 930-9119. Locally, the regional judging for the competition will take place Saturday, January 25, 2003 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 South Halsted. Judging of the projects will begin 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony beginning about 3:15 p.m. The student models will be on display until the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The public is invited and encouraged to see the vision of the future as seen by Chicago's 7th and 8th grade students. There is no cost to attend.

Students from Chicago area schools will be competing for the top prize. The winning school will receive prizes and trophies for the team members. All participants will receive gifts courtesy of the Chicagoland Engineers Week Committee and local

engineering firms. In addition, team members from the winning school will advance to the final judging in Washington, DC. during NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK, February 16-22, 2003.

Since 1951, NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK has been the nationwide celebration of the engineering profession, to acknowledge the essential role which engineering has played in advancing civilization and adding quality to our lives. In Chicago, activities scheduled include engineering lectures, student outreach efforts, bridge building competitions and exhibitions of engineering achievements.

National Engineers Week website at

<http://www.eweek.org>

Chicago Engineers Week information at

<http://www.chicagolandeweek.org>

FUTURE CITY website at <http://www.futurecity.org>

### **Nominations Requested For The Ernest W. Thiele Award**

The Ernest W. Thiele award is sponsored by BP and recognizes the outstanding contributions to our profession by a Midwest region chemical engineer. This award was established by the AIChE Chicago Section and is presented annually to a Midwest region AIChE member. This internationally recognized award consists of an engraved plaque and \$1000 honorarium presented at our sectional meeting.

Nomination forms and additional information can be obtained from the Thiele Committee Chair. Completed nominations are due to the committee chair no later than March 01, 2003.

One of the highest honors a distinguished chemical engineer can receive is our Chicago Section Thiele award. Please consider nominating a deserving engineer for this prestigious award.

Jim Simnick

BP Amoco Complex, J-8

150 W. Warrenville Road

Naperville, IL 60566

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### Some of my Passions - Folk Music

J. Peter Clark  
Oak Park, IL  
Jpc3@worldnet.att.net

As a small change from past columns, I am going to share a few of my non-technical passions. This is going to be a challenge, because these are arts and experiences that are sensed rather than read about. Nonetheless, I will try. I have not received much reaction from my previous columns, though there have been some favorable second-hand comments. Perhaps these will strike more of a resonance.

The topics I have in mind are folk music, pottery, wine and food. I will devote a column to each.

Folk music means a lot of different things to most people. To some, it is the music that was popular in the 1960's as played by such people as Bob Dylan, Peter Paul and Mary, and the Limelighters. To others, it is the music that inspired those artists, the music of the Appalachians as recorded by Alan Lomax and then popularized by Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie, or the original blues or Celtic music from Ireland and Scotland. Today, it often means singer-songwriters who play and sing their own music most often with acoustic guitars or other instruments.

Music has many categories - classical, country, rock, blue grass, jazz, and now Americana. It is not uncommon for artists to find popularity among different audiences. Radio stations define their programming to appeal to desired audiences, primarily young and affluent. Large radio chains narrowly limit their play lists, so many categories of music have few outlets. Until recent changes in fees, the Internet seemed to offer much opportunity for greater variety in available music, but for the moment, that chance does not exist.

In Chicago, WFMT, 98.7 FM, is unusual for playing primarily classical music. There are only about thirty stations in the country that do that. WFMT is more unusual in being a not-for-profit commercial station. This is distinct from public radio, which is both not-for-profit and non-commercial. Even public radio has become homogenized as the stations rely heavily on talk and news rather than music.

I became involved at WFMT with a popular and unusual program called the Midnight Special, broadcast 9 - 12 PM Saturday nights. The program is over forty years old and plays "folk music, show tunes, madness and escape." "Folk music with a sense of humor." The same host, Rich Warren, also presents Folkstage at 8 PM on Saturdays, which is a live broadcast of one or more folk musicians or a recording of such a concert.

My wife and I help sponsor Folkstage because we truly enjoy hearing this type of music and have come to know a number of the artists. Several have stayed in our home and we have presented small concerts in our living room. (We will have three this Fall.) While my wife once played the guitar, as did most California coeds in our day, I have no musical ability at all. Why is this a passion? Folk music, more than many other art forms, usually has a message. I admire greatly the ability of the writers to tell a story or convey something significant in very concise poetry. Here are some examples.

Now every time I try to sleep,  
I'm haunted by the sound  
Of firemen pounding up the stairs while  
we were running down.

*The Bravest*

Tom Paxton, 2001

Anyone hearing that verse, let alone the entire,  
short song, knows what it is about. What is more,

it tells just about all one needs to hear about a great, complex tragedy, in just a few minutes. Another song, by James Keelaghan called "Cold Missouri Waters" tells in a few minutes what Norman Maclean took an entire book to do (Young Men and Fire) about the loss of thirteen firefighters in Montana in 1949. Christine Lavin, normally a very funny and unusual entertainer, wrote and sang "Wild Blue" about the creation of the kamikazes in World War II. A group I like very much, Tanglefoot, five talented guys from Canada, write songs based on true incidents in Canadian history that are catchy, accurate and fascinating. Other artists are funny, some just want to preserve old ballads, some write from their own lives. For me, it is the variety as much as the artistry that appeals.

Outside of WFMT on Saturday, this music is hard to find on the radio, but the modern artists have fervent followers on college campuses and most have web sites. Most have CDs even if they have to produce them themselves, and some have day jobs.

Ed Trickett, a veteran folk singer, is professor of psychology at University of Illinois Chicago. Chuck Suchy is a farmer in North Dakota. Fred Holstein tends bar. But many make some sort of living from their music. They could use more fans.

### **Chemistry Day Celebration Update**

*Alan Zagoria, UOP*

Our Section was well represented at the Annual Chemistry Day Celebration, held October 26 at UIC. We put together a new display with a couple of special features that attracted the attention of about 800 middle school and high school students.

The theme was **The Honeybee as Chemical Engineer**. How is a honeybee like a chemical engineer you ask? Well both turn raw materials into finished products, work in teams, and carefully control the process to assure quality and efficiency. The display board was full of colorful pictures and diagrams illustrating bees turning nectar into honey and chemical engineers turning glucose into Nutrasweet. The topic proved to be one that kids (and parents) of all ages could relate to.

But what really drew the students to our booth? John Hansen of the Illinois Beekeeper's Association brought a live honeybee hive. Many of the students had never seen live bees before and "swarmed" all over our display. The fact that we gave away honeysticks to anyone who tried our engineering quiz didn't hurt either.

Next stop for our display is National Engineers Week in February. We can always use help. Please contact Alan Zagoria ([azagoria@uop.com](mailto:azagoria@uop.com)) if you are interested in participating in National Engineers Week, or taking this display into a school. We have lots of classroom presentations already prepared. Contact Ellen Sullivan at [ellen@teianalytical.com](mailto:ellen@teianalytical.com) for more information about our Science Ambassadors Program, or to get matched up with a school.

It took a team of dedicated people to research and put together this new display. Thanks to Cindy Blomquist (EarthTech), Joe Bonucci (Abbott), Jill Bonucci (UOP), Gloria Fountain (Unilever), Don Nell (Grace), Debbie Quock (Argonne), Steve Schade, and Alan Zagoria (UOP). Debbie, Steve, Alan, and Amy Thies (Fauske) manned our booth, making the connection between honeybees and chemical engineers.

### Chemical Engineering in the Classroom

Many thanks to the following AIChE Chicago Section members who gave classroom presentations on chemical engineering during the fall of 2002: Stephen Schade, East Leyden High School, Franklin Park, Oct. 8, and West Leyden High School, Northlake, Dec. 10; Tim McCarthy, Queen of Angels School, Chicago, Nov. 21; Don Chmielewski, Doolittle East Middle School, Chicago, Nov. 15; and Stan Kanderski, James B. Conant High School, Chicago, Dec. 19. Patrick Bishop is scheduled to make a presentation to Perspectives Charter School in February 2002. Additional opportunities to bring chemical engineering into the classroom are available at these Chicago schools:

Portage Park School, 5330 West Berteau

Ames Middle School, 1920 N. Hamlin

Crane High School, 2245 W Jackson Blvd.

Wells High School, 936 N. Ashland Ave.

Jensen Elementary, 3030 W. Harrison

Shields School, 4250 S. Rockwell Ave.

Wendell E. Green School, 1150 W. 96th St.

Charles Deneen School, 7240 S. Wabash

Melody School, 412 S. Keeler

Stone Academy, 6239 N. Leavitt

Newberry Math and Science Academy, 700 W. Willow

Hubbard High School, 6200 S. Hamlin

Saucedo Scholastic Academy, 2850 W. 24th St. Blvd.

Young Women's Leadership Charter School, 3410 S. State St.

Schurz High School, 3201 N. Milwaukee

Robert A. Black Magnet (Elementary) School, 7133 S. Coles Ave.

Madero Middle School, 3202 W. 28th St.

Carpenter Elementary School, 1250 W. Erie Street

Power Point presentations and simple hands-on experiments are available at <http://www.aidhe-chicago.org/speakerskit.htm>. Topics include cleaning up an oil spill, scaling up a small alphabet soup recipe, making ice cream, and explaining the chemical engineering profession. Section members who make a classroom presentation receive one free admission to a Section monthly meeting of their choice. To volunteer, contact Ellen Sullivan at 847-588-3840 or [ellen@teianalytical.com](mailto:ellen@teianalytical.com).

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The objectives of the AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, to serve society, and to sleep all night and to work all day, particularly where chemical engineering can contribute to the public interest. If you have any spam, questions and spam, spam sausage comments and spam, or spam spam spam snide remarks spam spam spam and spam regarding the newsletter, please contact the editor at [polarbear4x@yahoo.com](mailto:polarbear4x@yahoo.com).

Chicago Section Columns is published eight times a year by the Chicago Section AIChE. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the officers of the Chicago Section. Articles for inclusion in the next Chicago Section Columns must be received no later than December 27, 2002. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Say no more.

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## Job Postings

The Job Posting service is still available for AIChE Chicago section members. Please submit your resumes or available positions to Jerry Bard at [geraldb@genevaonline.com](mailto:geraldb@genevaonline.com), or contact Jerry at 262-279-6394. Don't miss out on this opportunity to reach your target audience.

You can also submit your resume or position on our website, [www.aiche-chicago.org](http://www.aiche-chicago.org) in the Professional Development section. Please also consider the website of AIChE in New York as a resource. The web address is [www.aiche.org/careerservices/](http://www.aiche.org/careerservices/).

## Seeking Positions

An innovative, analytical, and solution focused chemical engineer with over 19 years of mostly product and process development experience in the chemical industry. Major strengths include initiating ideas, conceptualizing solutions, originating plans, investigating alternatives, and interpreting and clarifying conflicting data. Also skilled in instructing personnel, writing computer code, representing companies to customers, leading brainstorming sessions, and writing technical reports. Interested in a company that wants to improve existing products, and introduce new products into the marketplace. Call Dave Quart 815-455-0056

## AIChE Chicago Officers and Board Contacts

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American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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