

...Serving Chemical Engineers Who Serve the World

Mid-Michigan Section Newsletter

AIChE Mid-Michigan Section Mission: To provide opportunities to continuously develop our members professionally while working with the community to provide a positive view of science and engineering.

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Newsletter Highlights...

The Mid-Michigan Section of the AIChE recognized volunteers and honored individuals and scholarship winners at the Annual Awards Banquet on May 25, 2005. Please see page 5 for more details.

As new Mid-Michigan Chair, Dave Tascarella gives his Words for the first time. See page 2.

The November AIChE lunch meeting has been postponed. More information is found on page 2.

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Words from the Chair...

Hello fellow Chemical Engineers. As your chair of the Mid-Michigan section, I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. We have a lot going on in the near future with some new programs, new officers, new members, and perhaps new priorities for the section.

With respect to the programs we offer, we are looking into some new programs. Based on your feedback last year, we are looking into a possible tour of Midland's water treatment plant. We will also have some of our annual programs, such as the Delta Planetarium visit and the end of the year banquet. Both our kick-off meeting at Oscar's and the Hershey's "It's Just Candy" presentation were well attended.

We have a new slate of officers, including some new faces, to help serve you. New officers include me as Chair, **Rachel Wright** as Chair-elect, **Mike Durisin** as Membership Chair, and **Brett Birchmeier** as Programs Chair. We are all excited to help guide the section to best serve you.

The economy seems to be turning around, as evidenced by increased hiring at Dow Chemical and Dow Corning. Therefore, it seems reasonable to expect that we will see some new faces around our work place and community. Let's all take a moment to greet these aspiring new ChEs and invite them to attend an AIChE meeting, to volunteer in Section activities, and to become members of the local Section. The local Section is a great way to meet and network with other ChEs at the two chemical companies and beyond. Also, new faces can bring new ideas and new energy to our Section.

A focus this year will be to re-evaluate the priorities of the Mid-Michigan AIChE as we react to challenges of hectic schedules for members as well as opportunities presented by constant change. The local Section tries to balance community outreach, professional development, and social activities as dictated by member feedback. Traditionally, the local Section has been quite strong in the area of outreach through our classroom experiments, SciFest participation, and annual scholarship programs. Socially oriented programs have always enjoyed good popularity with our membership. In recent years, technical programs were less well attended due to budget constraints. The demands of work and personal life have strained our membership to the point where we do not have enough volunteers to do everything we would like to do. The Executive Committee hopes to evaluate these various priorities by surveying ChEs (members and non-members alike) to find out where the Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE really brings value to our ChE community and what can be done to attract more ChEs. Stay tuned for more on this topic...

Anyhow, it will be a busy year for the MMAIChE. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming program or presentation, and please take advantage of the opportunity to bring a fellow ChE with you. If you have a desire to get involved, do not hesitate to contact any of the officers. And, as always, your candid feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

David Tascarella

Mid-Michigan AIChE Section Chair

November AIChE Meeting Postponed

Fred Justice of Chemstations Inc. unexpectedly had to postpone his planned lecture on thermodynamic models in simulations. Mid-Michigan AIChE will work with Fred to reschedule this presentation at his earliest possible convenience. Please keep an eye on our events calendar at http://www.mmaiche.org/events.html. Information will be posted as available.

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Mid-Michigan AIChE Thanks Margaret Walker

Contributed by Mike Durisin, Membership Chair

The Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE thanks Margaret Walker for her recent support. Maggi is the Vice President of Engineering Solutions, Technology Centers, and Manufacturing and Engineering Work Process for The Dow Chemical Company's Manufacturing & Engineering group.

Maggi was the keynote speaker for the section's annual awards banquet last May, delivering the presentation "The Future of Engineering: A Viable Frontier?" The talk was well received by the audience and generated a lot of discussion.

Soon after that she was instrumental in securing a donation from Dow Chemical that helped cover the cost of the section's recent kick-off meeting at Oscar's to start the 2005–2006 program year. The food and drink bought with that money helped to make the event a successful one.

The Mid-Michigan Section is extremely grateful for this support. It's people like Maggi who help us stretch our budget and demonstrate that participation in groups like AIChE is a worthwhile activity.

Mid-Michigan AIChE Needs Your Help—Vital Positions Open

Mid-Michigan AIChE needs your help. We currently have three open positions on the AIChE Executive Committee: Education Outreach Chair, School Donations Chair, and Section Historian.

The Education Outreach Chair is in charge of organizing and finding volunteers to assist in education outreach programs targeted at elementary- through high school-age children in the Mid-Michigan area. The education outreach activities are meant to pique children's interest in science in technology, particularly chemical engineering, and to share examples of how chemical engineers apply their skills on the job to every day household products.

The School Donations Chair solicits annual grant proposals from local science teachers in the outlying high school districts to Midland. Based on the proposals, Mid-Michigan AIChE gives monetary awards to help the teachers purchase equipment and supplies to enhance their classrooms. The requests are typically for several hundred dollars.

The Section Historian is responsible for organizing the extensive documentation that preserves the over 50-year history of our Section. A push is underway to convert our extensive paper documentation into electronic format for future preservation.

If you have interest in these or other volunteer opportunities, please consider giving of your time. For any information on these, or any other position, contact David Tascarella or any other member of the Executive Committee. Officer names can be found starting on page 13.

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Mid-Michigan AIChE Participates in SciFest 2005

The Mid-Michigan Section was one of many groups to participate in SciFest 2005 celebrating the 18th anniversary of National Chemistry Week. This year, the theme was "The Joy of Toys." The annual event held at the Delta College Auditorium was sponsored by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society, Delta College, and the Mid-Michigan Technician Group.



Booth attractions included a variety of fun chemistry experiments and activities: glassblowing, West Nile virus—mosquito control, water & air quality, microbes, fitness aerobics, dental health, anatomy, Dr. Slime, kinesthesiology, spin paint, a Frisbee® contest, archeology, kitchen chemistry, blood drive & blood typing, general health, model airplanes, astronomy—the night sky, and many more. Once again this year, the Mid-Michigan Section entertained children with an ultraviolet (UV) light exposure demonstration. Thanks to all those who volunteered.





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Mid-Michigan AIChE Recognizes Individuals at Annual Banquet

With contributions by Tami Heilman-Adam, Erin Lacher, Erik Ohare, and David Tascarella. Pictures by Sarah Ratcliff and Tami Heilman-Adam

The Mid-Michigan Section of the AIChE held its awards banquet at the Ashman Court Marriott Conference Hotel on May 25, 2005. This annual recognition dinner not only allows the Mid-Michigan Section to reward all AIChE volunteers for the last program year, but serves as the forum to present our scholarship recipients to our members.

Margaret Walker, Vice President of Engineering Solutions, Technology Centers, and Manufacturing and Engineering Work Process for The Dow Chemical Company's Manufacturing & Engineering group, was the keynote speaker for the evening. Her lecture entitled "The Future of Engineering: A Viable Frontier?" included a lead-in videotape of vintage *MacGyver* footage that brought many tears of joy and remembrance to the engineers in the room. Please see the related article on page 3.



Christopher Tobin (middle), 2005 Mid-Michigan AIChE Scholarship Recipient, and Family

Christopher Tobin, from Heritage High School, was selected as the winner of the 2005 Mid-Michigan Section AICHE Scholarship. David Tascarella, Scholarship Award Committee Chair, presented Christopher with the first of his scholarship checks at the banquet. The four-year Section Scholarship is given to promote the advancement of undergraduate engineering and to encourage students to enter the field of chemical engineering. The scholarship award is a total of \$2000 spread over four years, and rewards past academic performance as well as school and community involvement; it is not based on financial need. This year, a record number of applications were received from the Tri-city region served by the Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE. All of the applicants were top students in their class, having excellent grades, school and extracurricular involvement, and well-written essays describing why they wanted to become chemical engineers.

Christopher had a 3.876 GPA and was ranked 26th in his class of 378 students. He was also involved in numerous after-school activities, including Helping Hands, the varsity cheerleading squad, track, and tutoring fellow students in chemistry and calculus. In addition to his schoolwork and activities, he held several jobs, including that of a lab technician at Dow Chemical where he was responsible for testing and analyzing ion exchange resins. Working at Dow Chemical afforded Christopher the opportunity to interface with a number of working professionals, including chemical engineers and chemists, further strengthening his desire to enter the field. He enrolled at the University of Michigan.

The Mid-Michigan AIChE Scholarship Committee thanks all the fine applicants for their interest. This choice was a difficult one. Committee members were **David Tascarella—Chairperson**, **Lisa Callender**, **Erin Lacher**, **Verna Talcott**, and **Rachel Wright**.

Paul Adam was introduced by **Tami Heilman-Adam** as the 2005 Young Chemical Engineer of the Year. This award recognizes involvement with AIChE, technical and professional expertise, and personal leadership that is superior for an early-career engineer.

After graduating from high school in 1987, Paul joined the Air Force and worked in cryptology while being stationed in Florida and England. Following the completion of his military service, he began attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for chemical engineering. He graduated in 1994 and joined Broin Industries where he began his focus on process control for newly designed and constructed ethanol plants. A recruiter brought him to Dow Corning in 1996 where he transitioned into the process control area in a Midland plant servicing a number of different buildings and control systems. He recently began a new position, creating the future vision for process control for the phenyl supply chain in Dow Corning's Midland plant. Paul is highly respected for both his technical knowledge as well as his very helpful personality.

Paul has a variety of other talents, ranging from an excellent singing voice utilized in the St. Agnes Church choir to bagpipe playing in the White Pines highland group along with his wife, Ruth, and children, Tyler and Katie. He also identified a new target audience for our AIChE engineers in the education outreach activities by starting our first session last year for home schooled children.

Tami Heilman-Adam also had the pleasure of introducing **Dennis Phillips** as the 2005 winner of the Noland Poffenberger Award. This Award is given to a senior corporate leader who has shown great support of the Mid-Michigan Section by encouraging employees within the recipient's organization to participate in professional organizations such as AIChE.

Dennis joined Dow Corning in 1973 after receiving his Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has held several positions in process engineering and manufacturing. The majority of his career has been spent designing, implementing, and optimizing silane intermediate processes in the Midland plant.



Dennis Phillips (l.), winner of the Noland Poffenberger Award, and Paul Adam, the Young Chemical Engineer of the Year.

Dennis has been a major contributor to the successful start-up and operation of several key basic processes (including phenylsilanes, phenylmethylsilanes, alkylsilanes, alkoxysilanes, HCl/MeCl recovery, and several organofunctional silane processes). He is recognized for his practical manufacturing and engineering expertise in the specialty silanes arena as well as being an excellent mentor for young engineers.

Dennis has been continually involved in the local AIChE section through a variety of activities, ranging from serving as the Dow Corning director to visiting schools for National Engineers week. He has also repeatedly sought out high-level support of AIChE including supplemental funding of our educational outreach and continuing education activities.

Garald Allen was given a meritorious service award by **Mike Durisin** for sixty-years of membership in AIChE. Gerald took to the podium and delighted the audience with tales of work processes past. Our Section congratulates Garald on this milestone and thanks him for his long-term commitment to AIChE.

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Erik Ohare was pleased to announce the recipients of the Michigan Tech University Summer Youth Program (MTUSYP) Scholarships for 2005. This was the 20th year that MMAIChE has offered scholarships for this opportunity. The Summer Youth Program is a one-week program at the MTU campus, which gives students an opportunity to explore careers and develop skills. The students will participate in laboratory, classroom, and field experiences in a selected career area. The scholarships cover room, board, tuition, and a \$100 travel allotment for a one-week session at the MTUSYP. This scholarship's purpose is to promote education of future engineers through the opportunity to explore careers and develop skills in engineering, science, mathematics, and computers.



From left to right: Garald Allen, 60-year Service Honoree; Erik Ohare, MTUSYP Scholarship Committee representative; Tristan Layfield, MTUSYP winner, and mother; Hollie Zimmerman, MTUSYP winner, and parents; Daniel Dotson, MTUSYP winner, and parents.

This year the selection committee received 18 applications awarded three winners the opportunity to attend the MTUSYP. Daniel Dotson of Freeland High School attended the chemical engineering session at MTU, while the two other winners chose medical-related endeavors. Tristan Layfield of Saginaw Arts Sciences Academy participated in medical the physiology session, and Hollie Zimmerman of Bay City Western High School attended the clinical laboratory sciences session.

Thanks go to the members of the MTU Scholarship Committee who made the difficult decisions from many excellent applications: Erin Lacher—Chairperson, Norm Lake, Megan McHenry, Erik Ohare, Dennis Phillips, and Rachel Wright.

In addition to recognizing the 2004–2005 Section officers, individuals were also recognized for volunteering at a variety of AIChE Educational Outreach events and activities. These included the annual classroom visits, SciFest 2004, Future City Judging, and the MMAIChE Booth at the Midland Site Open House. Volunteers from 2004–2005 were Tami Heilman-Adam, Barbara Alstad, Becky Alstad, Debbie Barger, Peter Carver, Laura Dietsche, Kevin Fransen, Joshua Hicks, Todd Hogan, Steven Holty, Vicky Hsu, Jennifer Korn, Erin Lacher, Rebecca Lanning, Mike Molnar, Cody Newbold, Kevin Nichols, Sarah Ratcliff, Karen Schweitzer, Ray Stephens, Dave Talcott, and Verna Talcott.

The evening concluded with the traditional passing of the gavel from now Past-Chairperson **Sarah Ratcliff** to now new Chairperson **David Tascarella**. David's first words as new Chairperson to the Mid-Michigan Section membership can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. The Executive Committee thanks all the people who made the 2005 awards banquet a success.

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Free E-mail Address Available to National AIChE Members

Contributed by Mike Durisin, Membership Chair

This article describes a free benefit to members of the National AIChE organization: a permanent e-mail address. Some of you may not think that this is much of a benefit. After all, many of us already have an address for work, another one for personal use at home, and perhaps more. What's so great about getting one more?

The e-mail address from AIChE has a few unique properties. For one thing it's a *permanent* address that you can keep when you switch jobs or Internet service providers (ISPs). In addition, the address isn't the normal kind of mailbox that stores your messages on a server until you retrieve them and pull them down to your computer. This address redirects incoming messages to another address that you specify.

Have you ever had the experience of switching jobs or ISPs and then having to notify all of your colleagues, contacts, and friends of your new e-mail address? Sometimes you don't remember to send the new address to everyone who needs to know it. Sometimes the people who receive your new address fail to record it and then can't reach you. This situation can be a real hassle, but the e-mail address from AIChE can allow you to avoid it.

The AIChE address is always of the form name@member.aiche.org, where you choose the characters that comprise *name*. You could use JoeEngineer, for example. When you set up your JoeEngineer@member.aiche.org address you also specify the e-mail address to which incoming messages will be forwarded. You might choose JoeEngineer@BigChem.com, or perhaps JoeTheMan@wildmail.net. All the e-mail sent to JoeEngineer@member.aiche.org will end up at the alternate address.

If you should then switch jobs and end up with JoeManager@BiggerChem.biz as your new address you can make just one change and reconfigure JoeEngineer@member.aiche.org to point to the new destination. While your new colleagues will likely send you e-mail at JoeManager@BiggerChem.biz, all of your other contacts can continue to use JoeEngineer@member.aiche.org with no disruption at all.

How do you get started? Go to the national AIChE Web site at http://www.aiche.org. Off to the right you'll see a blue box titled MEMBERS ONLY ONLINE COMMUNITY (see below). If you're setting up your permanent e-mail address for the first time, then click the "register here" link (https://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/CHM/register.html). If you've already set up the address but want to view or modify its settings, including the "real" address that will ultimately receive your forwarded messages, then click on the "enter here" (https://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/CHM/). People accessing the registration link will have to choose a userID and password. Once you're into the site, click on the "Permanent E-mail" (http://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/CHM/permanentemail.html) link on the left and follow the directions.



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ASME and AIChE Form Joint Membership Venture





ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) and AIChE have established a formal partnership that includes joint membership privileges and cross-promotion agreements.

Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding signed by the two technical groups, joint membership is available to members of both ASME and AIChE at a discounted rate. Specifically, AIChE members and student members interested in joining ASME receive a 33 percent discount off the Institute's regular dues rate, and vice-versa.

"We see this joint membership agreement as an opportunity to reach out to all engineers and more effectively serve the engineering community," said Virgil Carter, executive director of ASME.

"We are excited to join with ASME in creating this significant additional member benefit, offering engineers in both disciplines the ability to pursue opportunities across both organizations," said John A. Sofranko, Ph.D., AIChE executive director. "This could be especially significant in frontier areas like biological engineering, sustainability, and nanotechnology."

The agreement also allows ASME and AIChE to distribute educational and promotional material to each other's membership, and enables joint members to take advantage of discounted offers on meetings, publications, and other products and services from both organizations.

Pay your 2006 AIChE Membership Dues On-line



The holidays are fast approaching. Before you get caught up in the hustle and bustle, make sure your AIChE membership stays current through the new year by following this link: http://www.aiche.org/2006dues.

- FREE access to Knovel, the interactive, online technical library for faster, easier research.
- FREE enrollment as a Participating Member in AMA to maximize your career potential.
- ENHANCED member-only features at the new, improved AIChE Web site... for better networking opportunities and accessing your benefits.
- Plus more to come in 2006!

If you are not a member, but would like to discover more about the benefits of membership, please visit the National Organization Web site at http://www.aiche.org/membership.

AICHE Offers Slate of Career and Financial Information

Information taken from AIChE Local Section Newsletter, October 2005

Salary Wizard—courtesy of Salary.com

Check out the new salary wizard for the most current salary statistics and career resources. Please visit at http://www.aiche.org/careerservices/.

Group Auto and Homeowners Insurance

AIChE has partnered with Liberty Mutual to offer its members a group discount on auto and homeowners insurance. Are you taking advantage of this partnership? Call Kimberly Shughart, National Account Manager, to discuss Liberty Mutual's sponsorship of events, advertising, and promotions in newsletters and also to arrange for a Liberty Mutual representative to explain this money-saving benefit. Kimberly can be reached at (800) 746-7421 or at mailto:kimberly.shughart@libertymutual.com.

Grogan Advisory Services

Grogan Advisory Services is the financial services firm for all AIChE members. Grogan welcomes the opportunity to speak to you about any topic of interest, including retirement, long-term care, health insurance, college funding, caring for parents, and investment analysis. Contact Anette Ngijol at anets@aiche.org for more information and to schedule a presentation with Grogan Advisory Services.

AMA Benefits Offer Tools for Career Enhancement

To help you build leadership skills for career enrichment and advancement, AIChE has arranged special savings with the American Management Association—the world's leading provider of management and professional education. AMA offers more than 200 practical seminars a year in 35 cities coast to coast. Just a few examples demonstrate the breadth of AMA offerings: Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers, Management Skills for New Managers, and Senior Project Management. To get started, visit http://www.amanet.org/alliances/AIChE and use the reference code, "AMA-AIChE." Or you can call toll-free 1-877-765-3634.

AICHE 2005 Spring National Meeting Proceedings on CD-ROM

View the Table of Contents to see the titles and authors from more than 775 technical presentations from all topical conferences. New for this year, the abstract content has now been included to supplement technical papers that were not ready at the time of publication. The CD-ROM contains more than 775 technical presentations (including 4,300 pages) from all topical conferences in an easy-to-use, fully searchable format. Also included is the latest emerging research, as abstracted by Chemical Abstract Services (CAS). Easy full-text searching is available using Adobe Acrobat® Reader for Windows, Mac, Linux, and most UNIX. The cost is only \$100 plus shipping & handling. Ordering online is secure, fast, and convenient. Go to the AIChE Online store now.

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2005 AIChE Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio

Editor's Note: By the time this newsletter is published, the 2005 Annual AIChE Meeting will have concluded. If you were unable to attend the meeting, please follow any of the links below to find meeting summaries provided by AIChE as they become available.

October 30-November 4 Cincinnati Convention Center Cincinnati, OH



Cinergy Center

The Cinergy Center is located in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, connected to all major hotels, shopping and restaurants by an enclosed skywalk. The Cinergy Center is a 300,000 square foot facility with 35 meeting rooms, a 30,000 square foot ballroom, and 161,900 square feet of exhibit space.

AIChE Annual Meeting

R&D professionals from academia and industry have access to a record number of conference sessions and papers at this year's AIChE Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting takes place October 30–November 4 at the Cincinnati Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH. The conference will include 16 topical conferences and over 600 sessions, covering everything from advances in fundamentals to the newest developments in emerging technologies including bioengineering, nanotechnology, and sustainability. More than 4,000 engineers and scientists are expected to attend.

Highlights

- Annual Meeting Exhibition
- Annual Student Conference
- Collocated Management Conference-Register for both Annual and Management conferences and save!
 More on Management conference.
- Welcome Reception
- Short Courses
- Poster Sessions

- Guest program
- Institute lecture by Rakesh Agrawal, Winthrop E. Stone Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University speaking on "Energy Supply Challenges and Opportunities"
- Special Energy Forum encouraging attendees to share their thoughts on AIChE's role in energy policy and technology issues

Please visit http://www.aiche.org/conferences/annual/ for addition information. Remember, for any meeting you can directly register online at https://www.aiche-mart.org/meetreg/meetreg.asp.

Call for Papers—2006 Spring National Meeting



April 23–27 Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort Orlando, Florida

This meeting will feature the 2nd Global Congress on Process Safety.

The 2006 Spring National Meeting will be held in sunny Orlando, Florida April 23–27. The focus will be on research and development, addressing the hottest topics and latest findings in chemical engineering.

- Fifth World Congress on Particle Technology
- 40th Loss Prevention Symposium
- 18th Ethylene Producers Conference
- 2nd Global Congress on Process Safety
- Plus many more topical conferences, exhibits, and special sessions

The "Call for Papers—PTP" process is open. Click Here to submit your PTP.

More information will be posted to the National Web site as information becomes available.

Additional Information can be found at http://www.aiche.org/conferences/spring/index.htm. Submit a paper for the spring meeting on-line at http://aiche.confex.com/aiche/s06/cfp.epl.

If you are interested in learning about opportunities for you and your family in the immediate Orlando area, please visit the Orlando Visitor's Information Center at http://www.orlandomeetinginfo.com/aiche.



AIChE Mid-Michigan Section 2005–2006 Officers and Committee Chairpeople

Position	Name	Address	Internet E-mail	Phone	Fax
Chairperson	David Tascarella	Dow Corning Corp. Mail# 128 Midland, MI 48686-0995	david.tascarella@dowcorning.com	496-5377	496-6243
Past-Chairperson	Sarah Ratcliff	Dow Corning Corp. Mail# 121 Midland, MI 48686-0995	sarah.ratcliff@dowcorning.com	496-5675	496-8812
Chairperson-Elect	Rachel Wright	Dow Chemical Co. Mail# 128 Midland, MI 48686-0995	Rachel.Wright@dowcorning.com	496-6874	496-6243
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Program Chairperson	Brett Birchmeier	Dow Chemical Co. 438 Building Midland, MI 48667-0438	bbirchmeier@dow.com	636-1916	638-7337

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Fund Raising Chair	Mike Molnar	Hemlock Semiconductor Corp. 12334 Geddes Road, P.O. Box 80, Mail# HEM090 Hemlock, MI 48626	michael.molnar@hscpoly.com	642-5201 x2218	642-7360
Education Outreach	Open position				
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School Donations	Open position				
Newsletter Editor/ Web master	Eric Stangland	Dow Chemical Co. 1776 Building Midland, MI 48674-1776	eestangland@dow.com	636-0517	638-9674
Section Historian	Open position				

All telephone numbers listed above are in the 989 area code unless otherwise specified.