

# THE ACTION & REACTION

Newsletter of the Mid-Michigan Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Volume 20 Issue 1 April 2017

## Bruce Holden Honored with Shining Star Award

On Monday, March 27, Bruce Holden was honored at the Spring AIChE Meeting in San Antonio, TX with a 2017 Shining Star Award. The Shining Star is awarded to those who exhibit exemplary involvement in local AIChE sections. The MMAICChE was proud to nominate Bruce for this award and was delighted when the award committee affirmed our opinions of his dedication. One noteworthy excerpt from his nomination package is as follows:

*Bruce has been a guiding force for the local section, serving as a key leader and champion who has worked diligently to drive the local section's success. His long service as Secretary has enabled the MMAICChE to*

*function smoothly. He serves as an inspiration to all members of MMAICChE and particularly the Executive Committee with his dedication to the Institute and the Section, his hard work that often goes above and beyond the call of duty, and his unselfish support of all section officers. The section would be far less effective and far less influential within the local ChE community without Bruce's hard work. His cheerful disposition at board meetings have made working with him both effective and enjoyable for the many MMAICChE executives he has supported over the years. His energy, humor, and dedication make him one of the most important cogs that helped turn the section around and sustain that gain.*



*He is an excellent example of what a local volunteer should be.*

Thank you, Bruce, and congratulations!

## Call for Nominations: MMAICChE Section Awards

BY MIKE MOLNAR, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Each year the Mid-Michigan AIChE Section recognizes distinguished members by presenting awards at the Annual Spring Banquet. We would like to recognize deserving members and affiliates so we request our membership to consider nominations for our four award categories. The award categories are:

**Chemical Engineer of the Year** - This award generally is given to a distinguished chemical engineer in the Mid-Michigan Section with about 20-30 years of professional experience following graduation. Publications, patents, company recognition of achievement, and other accomplishments in the field of chemical engineering are key criteria for consideration. The individual must be an active participant in AIChE at either the local or national level to be considered. This is normally an annual award.

**Young Chemical Engineer of the Year** - This award recognizes service to AIChE, technical and professional expertise, and leadership that is superior for an early-career engineer. It is generally given to a person with approximately 4-12 years of service

following graduation. This is normally an annual award.

**Service to Society Award** - This award recognizes long-time service to the profession through role modeling for other engineers and leadership of community activities that benefit area students and residents. Recipients usually have about 25-30 years of service following graduation.

**Noland Poffenberger Award** - This award is given to a high-level manager 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.

Anyone interested in nominating someone can do so by sending an e-mail letter to Michael Molnar at [michael.molnar@hscpoly.com](mailto:michael.molnar@hscpoly.com). Please copy Bruce Holden, Section Secretary, at [bs\\_h0@hotmail.com](mailto:bs_h0@hotmail.com). The following information should be included:

- Identify the specific award category that you feel is most appropriate for the individual you are nominating.

- Include several paragraphs explaining why this individual is deserving of special recognition.
- Include background information in support of the nomination, such as a listing of professional accomplishments and service to AIChE.
- Also include a phone number where you as the person making the submission can be contacted for more information.

**The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, May 8, 2017.** The awardees will be announced at the Annual Spring Banquet on May 23, 2017.

We certainly expect that there are many individuals in the area deserving of special recognition, so please consider nominating someone you know. The Awards Committee may decide not to give an award in a particular category if too few nominations are received. More information about the Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE is available at <http://www.mmaiche.org> and <http://www.aiche.org/community/sites/local-sections/mid-michigan>.

## Words from the Chair

BY STACIE SANTHANY

Time flies when you are having fun, and the MMAICHe 2016-2017 year has gone by so fast. I thought it would be fun to revisit some of the activities we made possible through MMAICHe this year. We have continued to learn together through seminars and networking, we have taught and inspired others through young professional and K-12 outreach, and we certainly have had some fun along the way. As I mentioned in my first newsletter, I was excited to try a couple of different things for MMAICHe this year.

We started the year off with our kickoff at Tri-City Brewing. The highlights of that evening were the networking with many new faces, the fantastic music by John Anderson and David Malinich, the informative brewery tour by Kevin Peil, and a few laughs over a beer and trivia. A good time was had by all! We continued the learning with a diverse set of speakers that were invited to talk at our monthly seminar series. See the images in this newsletter that showcase some of those great events. One of the highlights was a lunchtime seminar by the MMAICHe Chemical Engineer of the 2015-2016 year, Scott Tipler, who packed the house with record setting attendance. We received feedback from many of you that Scott's topic on Process Safety was interesting to a vast array of

MMAICHe members and that the lunchtime timeslot was good for many people with busy evening lives. We will adapt these ideas into next year's seminar series, so please plan to attend and keep the record attendance up.

The other events that were highlights for me for this MMAICHe year were the young professional and K-12 outreach events to help the next generation of engineers continuously learn. STEM outreach for young people is a passion of mine, and we really nailed it this year. You will see a full article in this newsletter regarding the new implementation of the U of M and Kettering student events, so please take note. We will hope to make young professional outreach a strong tradition within the MMAICHe community, so when you hear a call for volunteers next fall, please raise your hand up high! We have already been approached by the AICHe student chapters to continue this partnership next year!

We are looking forward to the MMAICHe spring banquet. Be sure to hold your calendars for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be hosting Gene Anderson as our keynote who will be speaking on the topic of "Life Is Too Important to Be Taken Seriously" at Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center. The evening is sure to be a treat. I will also be passing the gavel to Ted Calverley,



who is looking forward to taking the reins as chair for the 2017-2018 MMAICHe year. If you have any recommendations to make MMAICHe better, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone else on the Executive Council.

I have enjoyed the year very much, and I look forward to participating as the past chair next year. Thanks for making MMAICHe great!

Sincerely,  
Stacie Santhany

## Mid-Michigan AICHe to Hold Spring Banquet Featuring Gene Anderson

Mark your calendar! The Mid-Michigan Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AICHe) cordially invites you to attend the annual Spring Banquet on **Tuesday, May 23, 2017**. Our special guest speaker for the evening will be Gene Anderson.

**"Life is Too Important to Be Taken Seriously"**

**Where:**

Great Hall Convention Center, Valley Plaza Hotel and Resort, 5221 Bay City Road, Midland, Michigan, 989-496-2158

**Agenda:**

5:30 – 6:00 p.m., Social time with cash bar  
6:00 – 7:55 p.m., Dinner and awards program

8:00 – 8:45 p.m., Gene Anderson, Guest Speaker

**Menu:**

--Chicken Breast with Marsala Wine & Mushroomsauce

--Slow-Cooked Beef Brisket with Coca-Cola BBQ Sauce

--Garlic & Chive redskin potatoes; penne pasta with alfredo, sautéed zucchini and yellow squash, classic Caesar salad, romaine salad with raspberry vinaigrette, tomato salad with fresh mozzarella, onions, olives, and basil pesto

**Cost:**

\$30 per person for members and one guest per member, \$40 per person for non-members.

If you will attend, please RSVP to Bruce Holden, Secretary, at [bsh0@hotmail.com](mailto:bsh0@hotmail.com) by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Please pay at the door the evening of the event – with cash or a check made out to Mid-Michigan AICHe.

*Note: if you make reservations but then do not attend the event, AICHe will still need to charge you for the cost of the dinner to recover our costs.*

# Mid-Michigan AlChE Fundraiser

A great cause  
and some great food



All friends, family and supporters of [Mid-Michigan AlChE](#)  
are invited to participate in their fundraising event on  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in Midland (6728 Eastman Ave.) for lunch, dinner, or a snack. On this day, 20% of purchases\* accompanied by the certificate below will be donated to

**Mid-Michigan AlChE.**

## Mid-Michigan AlChE Fundraiser Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Present this certificate to your server at the time of your order and 20% of your purchases\* will go to support **Mid-Michigan AlChE.**



\*Valid towards Dine-In and Carry-Out. Not valid towards gift card purchases. Flyers are not permitted to be distributed inside or outside the restaurant

**Only valid at 6728 Eastman Avenue, Midland, MI (989) 633-9464**



# MMAIChE Speed Networking, Fall 2016

BY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

In October and November 2016, the Mid Michigan AIChE hosted undergraduate chemical engineering students at Dow Chemical Company's Michigan Operations. This event was sponsored both by the Dow Chemical Company and by Project Connect Grant funding from the Institute.

This event involved 17 chemical engineering undergraduate students from Kettering University and the University of Michigan. The students were shown how new materials are invented in R&D labs, scaled up into mini and pilot plants, and ultimately implemented in production with walking tours of chemical plants. The students were later welcomed by 10 MMAIChE section members for 90 minutes of speed networking and professional interaction in a social

setting. This program was well received by both the mentors and the mentees. Most of the undergraduate students expressed that they had never seen a chemical production facility up close. They gained a new appreciation for the scope of chemical engineering problems and the attention to detail required to work efficiently and safely. A significant portion of our program was devoted to describing how industrial processes and research function safely. These topics included discussion around ergonomics, flammability, line-of-fire, rotating equipment, and others.

The speed networking portion of the program allowed the students to form professional relationships with mentees that have taken career paths that closely mirror their intentions for

themselves. A variety of careers were represented in the mentor pool including manufacturing, research and development, sustainability, and communications. The intent was to provide professionals to reach out to for guidance as they move toward making career defining decisions upon graduation.



## Scenes from the 2016-17 MMAIChE Seminar Series



*MMAIChE members watching Brian Walther's October seminar.*

# More Scenes from the MMAIChE Seminar Series



*Tracy Young discussing water sustainability.*



*Scott Tipler discussing overpressure protection at MiOps.*



*Kim Zimmer, MDOT engineer, on highway safety.*



The Mid-Michigan Section of AIChE gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following sponsors.



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## 2016–2017 Seminar Schedule

Event	Date, Time, and Venue	Speaker and Topic
October	October 11, 2016, 6–8 pm Grand Traverse Pie Co., Midland	Brian Walther T&D Technology Leader, The Dow Chemical Company <i>"Keeping Our Food Supply Tasty Through Technology"</i>
December	December 13, 2016, 6–8 pm Grand Traverse Pie Co., Midland	Tracy Young Core R&D Program Director, The Dow Chemical Company <i>"Advancing a Water Circular Economy: Key to Sustainable Process Development"</i>
January	January 17, 2017, 11:30 am–1 pm Dow Chemical Michigan Operations 1790 Bldg Rm 272, Midland	Scott Tipler Overpressure Protection Expertise Area Leader, The Dow Chemical Company <i>"Recognizing and Mitigating Overpressure Scenarios"</i>
February	February 15, 2017, 6–8 pm Grand Traverse Pie Co., Midland	Kim Zimmer, P.E. Bay Region Traffic Safety & Operations Engineer, Michigan Dept. of Transportation <i>"Toward Zero Deaths™ safety campaign"</i>
April	9AM-4PM on Thursday, April 13, 2017 - MSU facility in Midland 1910 W St. Andrews (formerly the MMI location)	"Reactive Chemicals Hazard Evaluation in Chemical Laboratories, Pilot Plants and Production Facilities" <a href="http://vprgs.msu.edu/event/handling-hazardous-chemicals">http://vprgs.msu.edu/event/handling-hazardous-chemicals</a> NOTE: Registration is required (event fee is \$85)
April	April 25, 2017, 6–8 pm MSU-Midland 1910 W. St. Andrews (formerly the MMI location)	Mark Worden Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science, Michigan State Univ. <i>"Nanostructured Biomimetic Interfaces for Sensing and Catalytic Applications"</i>
May Spring Banquet	May 23, 2017, 5:30–9 pm Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center, Midland	Gene Anderson <i>"Life Is Too Important To Be Taken Seriously"</i>