

2024 4th Quarter



AICHE Fellows Newsletter

Fellows Breakfast—The next breakfast will be at the 2025 Spring Meeting — Dallas, TX.

Tuesday, April 8th—(Time TBD)

From the Fellows Council

Your comments are solicited as to content you would like to see, or if you would like to provide content. Our Vision is to involve you in furthering the mission of AIChE by promoting an active Fellowship!

[Click the "In this Issue" links on the right](#) to jump to features on the following pages.



2024 Fellows Council Executive Committee:

Linda Bergeron, Chair; , Ahmed Khogeer, Vice-Chair;
Anthony Fregosi, Secretary; Lori McDowell, Immediate Past Chair;
John O'Connell, Past Secretary; Fernando Aguirre, WebMaster;
Gina Gatto, AIChE Staff Liaison



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Special points of interest

Come to Breakfast!

Fellows Events

Dallas, TX: April 8, 2025

Boston, MA: November 4, 2025

Get Active with Students!

Seeking Fellow Volunteers:

Student Conferences

AIChE Student Conferences in 2025

Student Chapters

Get involved with a student

chapter at a university near you

Useful Links

Fellows Leadership

FC organization and leadership

Fellows Directory

Where to find an AIChE Fellow

Fellows By Laws

Current Governance Document

Fellows Volunteer Service.

Register your interests & availability to volunteer AIChE service

AIChE Academy

Education & training for chemical engineers & their companies

AIChE Foundation

Doing a World of Good

AIChE Annual Report

Complete information about AIChE activities, organization, and people

Contact Us

Email the Fellows Council

From the Chair of the Fellows Council



"The Fellows Endowment reached the initial goal of \$50,000 as Fellows have given generously!"

This amount will allow the K-12 STEM Ambassador Program, an initiative within our national awareness campaign, Bee a ChemE, to expand."

Fellows Council Activities

The AIChE Fellows Council oversees the organized activities of the Fellows. The Fellows Council meets at a minimum of four times per year to discuss Fellow activities and policies.

Two meetings are face-to-face at the Spring (National) and Annual AIChE meetings; virtual meetings are scheduled the other months as needed.

Fellows interested in being considered for Fellows Council service should [contact us](#).

Dear AIChE Fellows,

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all!

As we come to the end of 2024, I want to say that it has been my honor and privilege to serve as the AIChE Fellows Council chair this year. Dr. Ahmed Khogeer is the incoming, 2025 Fellows Council chair, and Mark Swientoniewski will serve as the 2025 vice-chair. We look forward to their leadership in the new year. I will continue serving on the Fellows Council executive committee as past-chair. Lori McDowell finishes her term on the executive committee at the end of 2024. We very much appreciate her commitment and the leadership she has provided.

As I write this message for our Fellows 2024 fourth quarter newsletter, I look back over the accomplishments of this past year. There have been many, and I will highlight a few.

The AIChE Annual Meeting recently took place in San Diego. The Fellows breakfast was well-attended, with 116 people, was very informative, and celebrated 22 newly-elected Fellows. You can view the video recognizing the new Fellows at [Fellows Recognition | AIChE](#).

I am so sorry I did not attend the annual meeting and breakfast as I had planned, but my sweet mother passed away; I want to thank Anthony Fregosi for filling in for me on short notice.

Also at the Annual Meeting, there were two sessions sponsored by the Fellows.

1. A collaboration between AIChE and the Science History Institute: "Chemical Engineers Stepping Up to Lead Energy Transitions". There were several great speakers along with a panel discussion, and positive feedback was received on this session. We look forward to further collaborating with SHI in 2025.
2. A "Speed Networking" Event at the Student Conference. This event also received excellent feedback and will be sponsored again at the 2025 Student Conference.

Also in 2024, the Fellows Endowment reached the initial goal of \$50,000 as Fellows have given generously. This amount will allow the K-12 STEM Ambassador Program, an initiative within our national awareness campaign, "[Bee a ChemE](#)", to expand.

Several members of the Fellows Council have been involved in following up and responding to the 2023 Fellows survey and some previous interest information accumulated since 2022 with the goal of connecting Fellows with areas they are interested in serving within AIChE. The Fellows Council developed six goals based upon the 2023 survey. All six have been addressed, and there are ongoing activities with some. Please see this link for more information and the report [2023 Fellows Survey Results | AIChE](#).

I recommend visiting the Fellows website [AIChE Fellows | AIChE](#) for more information on AIChE Fellows. Under Content, you can find newsletters, council meeting minutes, and a new section on Testimonials. Under About, you can read about the Fellows history and find the Bylaws. Please take a look and explore. I want to thank Fernando Aguirre for doing an outstanding job maintaining the website. If these links do not work for you, you can go to the AIChE website, click on Communities, and then Fellows.

In closing, I look forward to what is to come with the AIChE Fellows. And I wish for each of you a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,
Linda H. Bergeron, P.E., CCPSC®, F. AIChE
Fellows Council Chair 2024
lhb12470@gmail.com





"Click" on this [link](#) to view the 2024 New Fellows video released at the 2024 Annual Meeting Fellows Breakfast.

"How To" Nominate an AICHe member for Fellow

Fellows Membership. We developed a ["Video"](#) about how to nominate potentially worthy members for Fellow, which can be found on the Fellows page of the AICHe website. We are recruiting Fellows to assist with nominations, and to work with entities in AICHe that have not historically nominated many Fellows in the past.

Fellow's Council Project to Capture Fellow Testimonials

The Council is seeking Fellows over the age of 80 to consider the three questions below to share their reflections on being a Fellow.

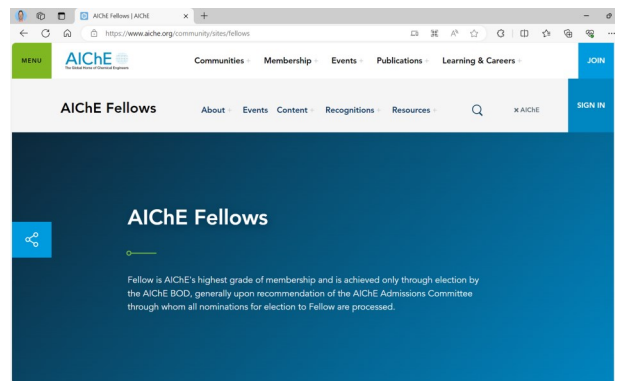
1. What has being an AICHe Fellow meant to you in your professional life?
2. Do you have a particular experience as an AICHe member that you would like to share?
3. What do you feel should be the expectations from Fellows currently?

Please return your reply to Fernando J. Aguirre @ (fja@aguivel.com).

Please "click" on this [link](#) for the testimonials we have received thus far.

When was the last time you visited the AICHe Fellows site on the AICHe Web site?

Please click on the following link below to access the site: [AICHe Fellow Site](#)



Moment of Silence

Fellow	Date	Age
Elisabeth "Lis" Drake	7/25/2024	
Ecevit Bilgili	11/25/2024	

If you are aware of any Fellows that have passed recently, please let us know by writing to: fja@aguivel.com).



K-12 STEM Ambassador Program Fellows Endowment to Enable Expansion

The AIChE K-12 STEM Ambassador Program has seen impressive growth since its launch at Ohio State University in Fall 2021 thanks to a generous multi-year gift by Dan and Ellen Coombs. This initiative, a cornerstone of AIChE's Bee a ChemE campaign, began with the training of 10 ambassadors via AIChE Academy including teaching skills, understanding and managing learning styles, and DEI strategies before they entered the classroom to engage 4th and 8th grade students through interactive experiments designed to ignite interest in chemical engineering careers.

By Fall 2023, the program's success led to an expansion, with the number of ambassadors increasing to 15 per semester, now reaching three K-8 classes. Six semesters since its launch, approximately 35 OSU Ambassadors have worked with more than 300 K-8 students, fostering enthusiasm and understanding for the field of chemical engineering.

Through a mix of corporate and individual contributions, the AIChE Ambassador Program has grown to encompass seven universities nationwide, each led by AIChE Student Chapters. These universities include Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, Lamar University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, and Villanova University.

The Fellows Endowment has reached its initial goal of \$50,000 and is poised to fund the launch of the next K-12 STEM Ambassador Program at one new Student Chapter! Look for future newsletters to explain the next step toward the establishment of the next Student Chapter.

Want to learn more? Visit the [Bee a ChemE site](#) or contact [Sylvia Choi](#) today. Want to make your gift and ensure chemical engineering is brought into the classroom? Visit the [Fellows Endowment giving page](#) or use the QR code below today.



"Being a part of the STEM Ambassadors program has been the most rewarding experience of my college career. It has been a privilege to watch the next generation of scientists develop right in front of my eyes for the past two and a half years."

- Matt Mileski, former K-12 STEM Ambassador Lead at OSU and BS ChemE OSU

2024 Board of Directors

Alan E. Nelson, President—Alan Nelson is the Senior Vice President (SVP) for Redwood Materials where he is responsible for leading the sustainable development of cathode active materials (CAM) for lithium-ion batteries.

Joseph D. Smith, President-Elect—Joseph Smith works at Missouri Univ. of Science and Technology (MST; previously Missouri Rolla) and leads Elevated Analytics Consulting as Chief Technology Officer.

Billy B. Bardin, Past President —Billy B. Bardin, PE, is the Global Digitalization Director for Dow. He joined Union Carbide/Dow in 2000 and has held global leadership roles in research, development, and manufacturing.

MaryKathryn Lee, Secretary—MaryKathryn (Kathy) Lee has been a researcher at ExxonMobil Corporate Strategic Research for 30 years. She has been an active AIChE member for more than 10 years and was recently elected Fellow.

Ana Davis, Treasurer—Ana Davis heads Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) in North America for Syngenta, a global agriculture company.

Norma A. Alcantar, Director—Dr. Norma A. Alcantar is Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the Dept. of Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering at the Univ. of South Florida. She is a global pioneer in developing innovative, natural technologies for environmental, medical, and industrial applications, including improving access to clean drinking water, oil spill cleanup, and cancer tumor cell treatments.

James R. Beilstein, Director—Jim Beilstein is Vice President of Advanced Manufacturing at Owens Corning. In this role, he has responsibility for the technology of manufacturing operations, process innovation, capital engineering, and equipment purchasing.

David Dixon, Director—David Dixon joined AIChE as a student and recently became an AIChE Fellow. He served for four years in the military, primarily overseas, and worked for Dow Corning in process development before earning his PhD in chemical engineering from UT Austin. He then began his academic career at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Omolola Eniola-Adefeso, Director—Omolola (Lola) Eniola-Adefeso is the Associate Dean for Graduate and Professional Education in Engineering and the University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Univ. of Michigan. She received her BS in chemical engineering from the Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a PhD from the Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Hugh James, Director—Hugh James is the Chief Executive Officer at Project Commercialization Group (PCG), Inc. He has worked in industries including engineering and construction, gas, fertilizers, chemicals, power, pipelines, mining and venture capital.

Concetta La Marca, Director—Concetta La Marca is a Senior Principal Consultant at the Chemours Co., with 35 years of industrial experience.

Laura Matz, Director—Laura Matz is the Chief Science and Technology Officer for Merck, KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, driving innovation and digitalization across the company's life sciences, healthcare, and electronics sectors. Serving as an executive vice-president, she is responsible for the corporate innovation teams including the digital office and new digital business models.

Anne O'Neal, Director—Anne O'Neal is Manager of Process Safety Culture and Competency at Chevron, and an AIChE Fellow. Her 40-year career includes senior positions in process safety, as well as health, environment and safety.

Dave Parrillo, Director—Dave Parrillo is currently the Vice President of R&D for Dow's Packaging and Specialty Plastics and Hydrocarbons division.

Daryl Roberts, Director—Daryl Roberts is Chief Operations and Engineering Officer at DuPont. He has 32 years of experience in chemical engineering in a number of leadership positions with companies including Arkema, Inc. and Eastman Kodak. He serves several industry organizations including AIChE, the American Chemistry Council, and the National Action Committee for Minorities in Engineering.

Jean Tom, Director—Jean Tom is the Executive Director of Development Engineering, Chemistry Process Development at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS).

Jessica O. Winter, Director—Jessica O. Winter is a Distinguished Professor in the William G. Lowrie Dept. of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and past Associate Director of the Center for Emergent Materials, an NSF Materials Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) at The Ohio State Univ.

Notes from Fellows Council Meetings 2024 August

Note these are “excerpts” from the Fellows Council meeting minutes.

A FC zoom meeting was held on **August 19, 2024**. The following items were discussed:

FC Virtual Meeting Minutes_07_15_24_Draft_V3—Approved

Annual Meeting Update

Fellow’s Breakfast scheduled on Tuesday. (Oct. 29th) – 7:00 am;
Video of new Fellows from 2024 Spring/Annual Meetings is on the agenda for the breakfast. FC meeting scheduled virtually following Annual.

SHI/Fellows Session on Wednesday. (Oct. 30th) –
8:00 am. – 10:30 am. CEOC approved to provide \$1,500 for light refreshments.

Fellows Newsletter

2024 Q3 Newsletter submission deadline: August 15th

On Going Activities for 2024

Promotion of the AIChE Fellow’s Endowment – “Letter” was sent out from the FC Chair on 8/14/24.

Fellows Engagement Interest from 2022 – AIChE “intern” has compiled the data gathered from the 2022 Survey (Derek Ward – AIChE Staff).

2023 Fellows Survey Actions

Completed items – 5 and 6.

(Continued on Page 7)

Save and [download](#) the new AIChE Fellow ribbon and add it to your email signature to show your pride in belonging to AIChE!

A blue ribbon graphic with the text "AIChE FELLOW" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

Notes from Fellows Council Meetings 2024 August

(Continued from Page 6)

AIChE-SHI Collaboration – To capture oral Histories.

John O'Connell – Proposed an idea of having Fellows write what being an AIChE Fellow means to them (This may be especially worthwhile for our Fellows over the age of 80)! Three Fellows over ninety responded to the 2023 Survey

Staff can send “targeted emails” to Fellows who “fit” the criteria to request they participate in an oral history project.

Fellows Council Governance

Review Council Membership Requirements - Succession planning.

Raymond Rooks – Brought up a way to interact with Students during Annual Student Conference (Sunday 1:00 pm) – “Speed Networking.” – “In the Works.”

New Business

Need to update roster file in Box - add column (s) to identify demographics to comply with requirements recommended in the Bylaws.

Ahmed requested that Anthony continue as FC Secretary for 2025.



Laura Dietsche's ABET journey

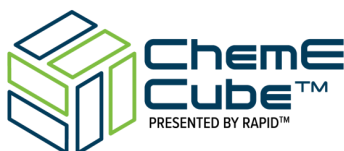
Laura Dietsche (AIChE Fellow) is the 2024-2025 ABET President-Elect. Although she chose an industrial career with the Dow Chemical Company, she maintained a passion for the academic environment. In 1999, she was given the opportunity to become an ABET program evaluator (PEV), with the support of her company. She jumped at the chance to "scratch that academic itch," as well as to give back to her profession by supporting high quality chemical engineering education. After 12 visits as a PEV, in 2008 Laura became a member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC), where she served as a team chair for visiting teams evaluating multiple engineering programs at 14 different institutions. She joined the EAC executive committee in 2012 and took on new responsibilities including serving as an editor for the visit team reports and chairing the materials committee. The next volunteer opportunity was to represent AIChE on the ABET Board of Delegates (2018 to 2024), before joining the Board of Directors as ABET President-Elect.

Laura would like to see more industry professionals and retirees serve as ABET volunteers. She considers industry to be the primary "consumer" of STEM graduates; therefore, they have a strong stake in sustaining a high-quality STEM educational system that is producing a high-quality "product", i.e., the future industrial workforce. It is also a way to maintain the strength and good reputation of her chosen profession. ABET has the added benefit of providing a large professional network across numerous STEM disciplines through its many diverse volunteers.

Laura Dietsche, PhD, PE
Dow R&D Fellow
AIChE Fellow

2025 Election Results

President: Joseph Smith
President-Elect: Anne O'Neal
Secretary: Julianne Holloway
Directors: Frank Van Lier
Raymond Rooks
Jerry Forest
Stephen Beaudoin



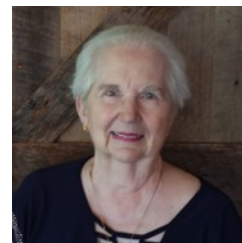
Recognizing active long-time Fellows

By - Fernando J. Aguirre

Of the 99 Fellows that responded to the 2023 Fellows Survey, three were Fellows older than 90 years old at the time. We would like to recognize their commitment and involvement with AIChE in this newsletter. These Fellows are recognized below.

Patsy Chappellear

Patsy joined AIChE in 1965, so she has been an active member for 60 years. She was the first woman to become a Fellow in 1980. She started her professional career in an oil refinery but had to resign due to nepotism. She then did basic research for 20 years at Rice University, and then 10 years with an engineering and construction company, producing about 60 technical publications during that time. Patsy was active in her local section and was a founding member of the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division, serving on its Board and then as Division Chair. She was also active in National committees and served as a national director of AIChE. Reflecting on the impact of becoming a Fellow, she commented that her election to Fellow came late in her career, so it did not have much of an impact on promotions or job opportunities. However, being able to say that she was the first female Fellow lends special credibility when she speaks to Students at the local Houston Community College. You can read more about her reflections on her career and being a Fellow in the following link: <https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/fellows/patsy-chappellear-fellow-1980>



Gerry Lessells

Having joined AIChE in January 1951, Gerry has been a member for 74 years. He became a Fellow in 1975, which will be 50 years by the time you read this article. He turned 98 years old in 2024. Gerry was a driver for equity and inclusion in the profession and within AIChE since the 1960s. A former Director of AIChE, he was honored at a November 2021 gathering of AIChE's Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) as one of its pioneers. You can read more about his contributions to minority affairs within AIChE in [this CEP article published in the February 2022 issue](#).

Emmett R. Miller

Emmett joined AIChE in 1962, now an active member for 62 years. He became a Fellow in 1982; 42 years ago. He turned 97 years old in 2024. Emmett has contributed significantly to AIChE since he became a member. He continues to participate as a member of the Fuels & Petrochemicals and Transport & Energy Processes Divisions, the Northern California Local Section, and the Licensing and Professional Development Committee. He is a Past Chair of the NorCal Local Section and the Professional Registration Committee, and has contributed to the Local Sections Committee, the Equipment Testing Procedures Committee, and is a Charter Member of the Fellows Council.

