

**The Minority Affairs
Committee Presents:
Spring 2022 Newsletter**

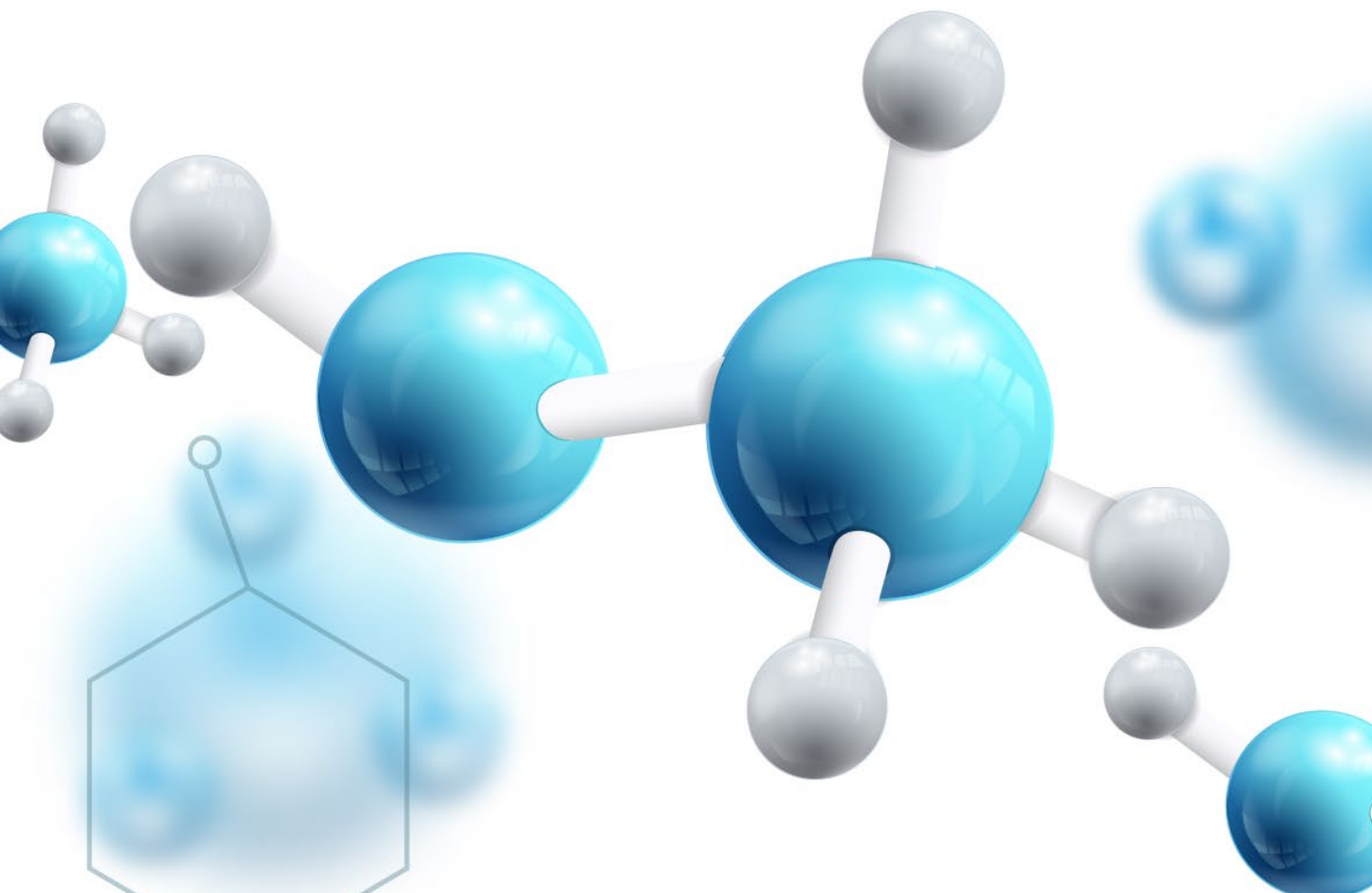
In This Issue

MAC 30th Anniversary Celebration

Meet the 2022 MAC Executives

Highlights of MAC 2021 Awardees

MAC 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION





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From the Desk of the MAC Chair

Dear MAC Family,

Although the year 2021 was fraught with many challenges and uncertainties due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the MAC community was able to celebrate its 30th anniversary at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the many awardees and to thank all the volunteers that helped make the event a resounding success. Looking forward to 2022, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome our new Chair-elect, Dr. Carlos M. Rinaldi-Ramos, and all the other members of the leadership team.



Dr. Manuela Ayee

I would also like to thank our out-going Past-chair, Dr. Audie K. Thompson and share some of the major goals we have for MAC this year.

In 2022, our major goal is to develop and nurture future leaders by engaging with students at all levels and helping them set a solid foundation towards a career in Chemical Engineering. By focusing on career development and emphasizing the importance of community building and mentorship, we hope to develop a broader MAC community that welcomes and supports those from traditionally underrepresented groups in Chemical Engineering. We invite anyone who shares this vision to consider engaging with MAC as we work together to achieve this goal.

- Dr. Manuela A. A. Ayee



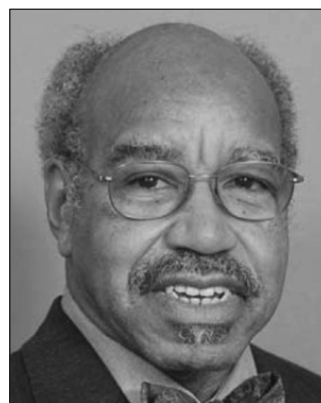
Celebrating MAC at 30: The journey so far...

I am excited to introduce MAC Founders who were instrumental from inception in defining, paving the path, and setting a standard for a strong, diverse, and inclusive Group. MAC's strong foundation yields exceptional growth in several areas, including scholarships, impactful volunteerism, mentorship, and awards. In addition, MAC's family continues to embrace a generation of leaders, young professionals, MAC Scholars in academia, industry, non-profit organization, government, and more. So, with that, we celebrate the past three decades and look forward to the many accomplishments of the fourth decade. Below is a list of MAC Founders. A brief history of MAC follows this which was pulled from a recent publication of the AIChE CEP Magazine, March 2022.

Founder Recognition

Mr. Henry T. Brown (Late)

- Director, AIChE (1981–1983)
 - AIChE Fellow
 - AIChE Foundation Board of Trustees
 - AIChE Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute
 - MAC Distinguished Service Award
 - MAC William W. Grimes Award
- “Recognized for exceptional and sustaining contributions to the Minority Affairs Committee — as co-founder of the original Task Force on Minority Youth Career Guidance; as the Institute’s Minority Affairs Coordinator for three decades; and as the tireless implementer and guide to the committee and its leaders.”



Dr. James Wei

- President, AIChE (1988)
 - Director, AIChE (1970–1972)
 - AIChE Fellow
 - AIChE Foundation Board of Trustees
 - National Academy of Engineering
 - American Academy of Arts and Sciences
 - AIChE Founders Award
 - AIChE William H. Walker Award for Contributions to Chemical Engineering Literature
 - AIChE Professional Progress Award
 - MAC William W. Grimes Award
- “Recognized for exceptional contributions to the Minority Affairs Committee and the Institute. His advocacy provided for the establishment of the Minority Affairs Committee and drove AIChE’s efforts to advance inclusiveness in the Institute and the chemical engineering profession.”



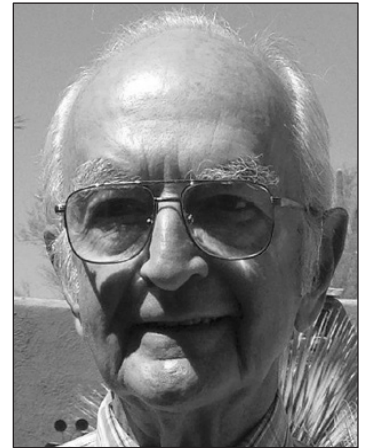
Founder Recognition Contd.

Mr. Gerry Lessels

Founder recognition

- Director, AIChE (1973–1975)
- AIChE Fellow
- AIChE Award for Service to Society
- AIChE Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute
- MAC William W. Grimes Award

“Recognized for exceptional contributions to the Minority Affairs Committee — as a pioneering driver and advocate for diversity within AIChE; as co-founder of the original Task Force on Minority Youth Career Guidance; and as the Institute’s first Minority Affairs Coordinator.



About the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)

AIChE’s Minority Affairs Committee promotes activities that encourage the education and training of disadvantaged minorities in engineering and related disciplines; fosters the employment of minorities at all levels of skills within the engineering field; encourages minority entrepreneurship; and directs the expertise of engineers to the solution of special social and economic problems faced by such minorities. It also serves as a clearinghouse for information on programs, meetings, and contacts involving ethnic minorities where AIChE could, or might, be able to contribute to this societal problem area.

Celebrating MAC at 30: The journey so far...

MAC Journey: 1960 to 1970s

1968: AIChE members and future directors [Henry Brown](#) and [Gerald Lessells](#) begin their work to raise the profile of minority engineers, forming a task force on minority youth career guidance. AIChE was the first engineering society to adopt a program addressing this need

1970: The task force collaborates with AIChE's Career Guidance Committee to produce and distribute training materials to AIChE local sections, with recommendations on how members could support disadvantaged youth in the community.

1976: Based on a proposal by AIChE director Gerald Lessells, the Institute establishes a Minority Affairs Coordinator position. This outreach role was filled by Lessells until 1983, and subsequently by Henry Brown.

MAC Journey: 1980 to 1990s

1988: The advocacy of AIChE president James Wei provided for the establishment of a standing Minority Affairs Committee.

1990: The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) is chartered, with Irvin Osborne-Lee as its first chair.

1994: MAC launches two annual scholarship programs — one for [university engineering students](#) and one for [incoming college freshmen](#). Administered for most of its history by [Emmanuel Dada](#), the program has provided up to fifteen \$1,000 scholarships per year in each category, and has served nearly 500 students

1995: AIChE members Gilda Barabino and Lance Collins establish the Minority Faculty Forum, a group that mentors chemical engineering faculty along their academic career paths. The forum continues to assemble at each year's AIChE Annual Meeting

1995: MAC establishes its [William W. Crimes Award](#), named for AIChE's first African American Fellow (elected in 1982).

Celebrating MAC at 30: The journey so far...

MAC Journey: 2000 to 2014

2000: MAC collaborates with AIChE's Women's Initiatives Committee (WIC) on a joint mentoring program.

2009: MAC leaders, including Thomas Mensah and Emmanuel Dada, create the Eminent Chemical Engineers' Forum, a symposium with invited honoree speakers held in connection with the AIChE Annual Meeting

2014: Otis Shelton serves as AIChE's first African American president

2015: The Minority Affairs Committee marks its [25th anniversary](#) with a celebration at the AIChE Annual Meeting. The occasion was commemorated by the publication of a [book](#) about the history of MAC, the presentation of Pioneers of Engineering awards, and other projects.

MAC Journey: 2015 to today

2017: The AIChE Foundation establishes a new endowment to support the existing minority scholarship program: [The Henry T. and Melinda C. Brown Endowment for the Education of Underrepresented Minority Chemical Engineers](#).

2017: MAC offers travel grants for students from minority serving institutions and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to attend AIChE's Annual Student Conference.

2020: [Christine Grant](#) is elected president-elect of AIChE. She is the first African American woman to hold the position.

Today
As it enters its fourth decade, the Minority Affairs Committee continues its progress, with leadership by a new generation of members and increased community engagement via the MAC [Newsletter](#) and visibility on social media.

Excerpts from AIChE CEP Magazine March 2021: ([AIChE's Minority Affairs Committee: The March of Progress | AIChE](#)).

- This section was curated courtesy of Sipho Ndlela, Ph.D.

Interviews with MAC Lifetime Service Awardees

MAC Lifetime Service Award was presented to Dr. Otis Shelton, Mary Kathryn Lee, Dr. Soni Oyekan (in memorum), and Dr. Christine Grant in recognition of steadfast service to MAC, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- Interview conducted by Busayo Alagbe

Mary Kathryn Lee



Mary Kathryn Lee

Q: Can you tell us about yourself?

A: I would like to first thank MAC for this award. It makes this a very special year for me. I also want to thank MAC for all the support you have lent me over the years.

I come from a small town, Greensboro, North Carolina. I attended MIT (BS Chemical Eng) and NC State University (MS Chemical Eng). I am currently obsessed with quilting, researching the history of quilts and how fibre art expresses the political and emotional climate yesterday and today. I am celebrating my 40th wedding anniversary this year. I have two children who have grown up to be scientists, writers and engineers. I love music, listening and singing. I love art museums and science museums. I love spending time with my family. I love reading stories of Afrofuturism. I am a SciFi nerd at heart. I think it allows me to always see the potential in science and STEM and people.

Q: You recently retired from Exxonmobil, can you tell us about your career journey in industry and your retirement plans?

A: My career journey pretty much started and continued with Exxon and then ExxonMobil. And it has been a rewarding career. My technical interest has always been separations and analytical chemistry and most of my research life has been research aimed at discovering new separations for oil and gas processes. I have worked with water/oil separation in bioprocessing, extraction of used lubes, CO₂ adsorption and membrane separation. This has led to designing and building laboratory instruments to measure fundamental characterization of new materials and critical properties. Along the way, I have received a patent for designing an instrument to detect wax formation in lubes.

Q: Having enjoyed a rewarding career at Exxonmobil, what career advice do you have for chemical engineering young professionals?

A: Normally a career in oil and gas requires relocations and lots of travel. Early in my career, not much consideration was given to work/life balance. But at Exxon Corporate Research, I found a place where I could apply my understanding of chemical processes and my interest in separations and analytical science and face new challenges every 4-5 years on new and interesting separation problems.

One piece of advice I would give to young people is that often there are compromises that you must make when thinking about career and lifestyle. It is important to know what satisfies you intellectually and makes you happy spiritually. Then don't be afraid to make those choices.

Q: Congratulations on receiving the MAC lifetime service award! You were two-time MAC chair, a Fellow of AIChE, and recently a director on the board of AIChE. Can you tell us more about your involvement with AIChE especially MAC, and what to expect in your new leadership role?

A: My involvement with MAC started with an invitation by Henry Brown to come to a business meeting. He waylaid me at registration at my first AIChE meeting. I immediately felt the welcome and warmth from the MAC community in my first meeting. My parents, Julia and Alexander Anderson were very much involved in the Civil Rights struggle on a local level. My mother was a guidance counselor at Bennett College in Greensboro, one of only 2 colleges for African-American women in the United States. I never doubted the power and potential of African-American women.

Mary Kathryn Lee

I saw that everyday growing up, on and around that campus. And even though my father died when I was young, I was a passionate pastor that trained people in his church to be Freedom Riders. I think we often forget that the struggle for equality and equity happens on all levels. They gave me a passion for investing in young people. AIChE and MAC gave me the opportunity to promote and support under-represented minorities in my profession.

Q: What are your hopes for MAC in the future?

A: I have many hopes for MAC right now. Even though I am retired, I don't see my role in AIChE diminishing. I had the honor this year of being elected to the Board of Directors as Secretary which gives me plenty of new opportunities to learn more about AIChE and participate in its growth. In addition, I am working in MAC to develop a community for young industry and government professionals within MAC. I would like to see a virtual and F2F community that supports its members early in their career journey.



Mary Kathryn Lee

A Tribute to Dr. Soni Olufemi Oyekan



Dr. Emmanuel Dada on behalf of AIChE presented the post-humous MAC-AIChE Lifetime Service Award to late Dr. Soni Oyekan as received by Mrs. Priscilla Oyekan on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at the Oyekan's residence at Richmond, TX

Many of his peers will remember the late Dr. Soni Oyekan's prowess as a world-renowned chemical engineer, and that he was second to none in his petroleum refining specialty of catalytic naphtha reforming. On a more personal note, however, Soni was very much a man of a strong, practical faith. He took to heart the binary commandment to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. He adopted a universal view of what it meant to be a neighbor, and as a result, he considered everyone to be one. A person was a neighbor whether they lived in proximity or not, or whether they were of the same heritage as himself or not. Having developed such a world-wide point of view, he decided to do his best to work toward making the world a better place by using the mental acumen and talents that God had given him. Through the years, he demonstrated that he cared for others in his world-wide community by sharing his knowledge through personal involvement.

In the early 1970's, while still a graduate students, Soni

taught physical science for a few years in the University of Pittsburgh's UCEP (University Community Education Program). UCEP was an undergraduate program designed to provide opportunities to minority students to gain admission to the university and to major in the sciences, or what we would now call STEM majors. After graduating from graduate school, Soni continued to teach after work hours at The New Jersey Institute of Technology, and he also taught courses in refining sponsored by AIChE. In addition, he tutored many individual students in math and science.

Often sacrificing his weekends, Soni worked as an alumni interviewer for students seeking admission to Yale and to Carnegie Mellon Universities during the 1980's and the 1990's. Soni had a "lifetime" dream of using his expertise to help with oil refining in Nigeria. In 2015 he attended the 4th International Conference of Downstream Petroleum Engineering in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. There he presented a paper on oil refining and gas monitorization.

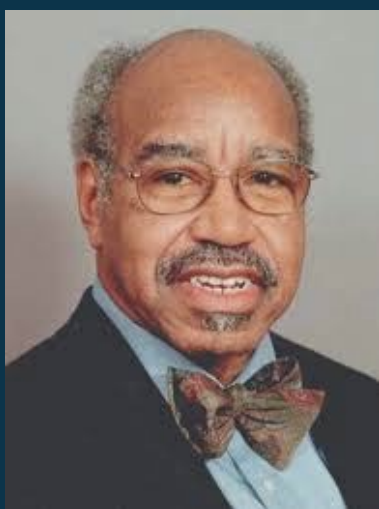
As the years passed, Soni became more dedicated to engaging and inspiring young engineers. He genuinely enjoyed sharing his knowledge and expertise with them. He mentored many young engineers through the years.

Due to his practice of practical faith and his personal sharing with others during which times he generously gave so much of his time and knowledge, words such as, "thoughtful", "kind", "honest", "brilliant", "generous" and "a 360-degree person who got along with everyone" were used in the many tributes written in his honor. The world will miss his lifetime efforts of caring for and supporting others.

Priscilla Oyekan
March 23, 2022

MAC 30th Anniversary Founder's Awards

In honor of the instrumental founders of MAC, the awards aim to celebrate excellence and dedication by members of traditionally underrepresented groups to the chemical engineering profession over the past three decades and beyond.



*pre-1990 – 2000
Honoring Founder,
Henry Brown*



*2001 – 2010
Honoring Founder,
Gerry Lessells*



*2011 – 2020
Honoring Founder,
James Wei*

Henry Brown Awardees: Pre 1990 – 2000



Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

- University Professor and Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Endowed Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
- University of Connecticut.
- 2021 Spingarn Medal
- First surgeon in history elected to all four National Academies
- Founder of the field of regenerative engineering
- Received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Barack Obama in ceremonies at the White House, the nation's highest honor for technological achievement.



Dr. Emmanuel Dada

- Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering
- Prairie View A & M University (PVAMU)
- President & CEO of ChemProcess Technologies, LLC
- Associate Research Fellow, FMC, 14 years
- AIChE Fellow
- Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee
- MAC Eminent Engineers Awardee
- Chair of Janice Lumpkin Travel Award Committee since 2012.



Dr. John Erinne

- Established Matrix Petro-Chem Ltd, an Oilfield Chemical Services and Lubricants concern.
- Managing Consultant of CHEX & Associates, Industrial & Energy Consultants.
- Member/Secretary of the Anambra State, Nigeria, Committee on Petroleum & Energy
- Member/Secretary of the National Petroleum Refineries Task Force of the Federal Government of Nigeria
- COREN Registered Professional Engineer in Nigeria
- Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSChE)
- Plant Manager at the Apapa Terminal, Lagos, with overall responsibility for the company's lube oil, grease and petroleum jelly production operations.

Gerry Lessels Awardees: 2001 – 2010



Dr. LaShanda T. J. Korley

- Distinguished Professor Departments of Materials Science & Engineering and Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
- University of Delaware (UD)
- Director Energy Frontier Research Center & Center for Plastics
- Co-Director Materials Research Science and Center – UD Center for Hybrid
- Principal Investigator for the National Science Foundation Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)



Dr. Lydia M. Contreras

- Associate Professor (and Jim and Barbara Miller Faculty Fellow) Chemical Engineering
- University of Texas-Austin
- Member of the Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology



Cynthia Murphy-Ortega

- Manager of University Partnerships and Association
- Relations of Chevron Corporation.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, University of California, Davis
- Diversity and Retention Advisory Committee (LEADR)
- Berkeley Women in Chemical Engineering Committee (WIC), MAC, and SIOC for the AIChE
- Past, Petroleum Geosciences Advisory Board and Petroleum Engineering Advisory Board at Chulalongkorn University/Thailand

James Wei Awardees: 2011 – 2020



Dr. Kazeem B. Olanrewaju

- Assistant Professor
- Department of Chemical Engineering at Prairie View A & M University



Dr. Jude M. Phillip

- Assistant Professor
- Biomedical Engineering, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Oncology, and Member Institute for Nanobiotechnology (INBT)
- Johns Hopkins University.

Photographs From the MAC 30th Anniversary Celebration



Photographs From the MAC 30th Anniversary Celebration



AIChE MAC 30th ANNIVERSARY AWARD

Celebrating Professional and Leadership
Growth in the 21st Century

- ❖ **Yusuf Adewuyi**
- ❖ **Victor Atiemo-Obeng**
- ❖ **Gilda Barabino**
- ❖ **Ana Davis**
- ❖ **L. Antonio Estévez**
- ❖ **Zenaida Gephardt**
- ❖ **Paula Hammond**
- ❖ **LaRuth McAfee**
- ❖ **Irvin Osborne-Lee**
- ❖ **Sheena Reeves**
- ❖ **Cristina Thomas**
- ❖ **Lola Eniola-Adefeso**
- ❖ **Sindia Rivera Jimenez**
- ❖ **Symone Alexander**
- ❖ **Manuela Ayee**

MAC ALLIES AND FRIENDS AWARD

Celebrating allyship, service, volunteerism,
financial, and moral support to MAC
program

- ❖ **Janice Adewuyi**
- ❖ **William Byers**
- ❖ **Bruce Finlayson**
- ❖ **Deborah Grubbe**
- ❖ **Peter Lederman (In memoriam)**
- ❖ **Scott Love**
- ❖ **Syamal Poddar**
- ❖ **James Porter**
- ❖ **Stanley Proctor (In memoriam)**
- ❖ **Subramanian Ramakrishnan**
- ❖ **Darlene Schuster**
- ❖ **Gayle Gibson**
- ❖ **June Wispelwey**

Meet the 2021 William Grimes and MAC Eminent Engineers Awardees

The William W. Grimes Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering is in honor of William W. Grimes, the first African-American Fellow of AIChE. This award recognizes a chemical engineer's outstanding achievements in the chemical engineering profession and as a distinguished role model for minorities.

The MAC Eminent Engineer's Award is the Minority Affairs Committee's highest award and recognizes outstanding achievements from a professional in a traditional chemical engineering position or from a chemical engineer making significant contributions in a non-traditional profession.

- Interviews conducted by Motunrayo Ogunleye

Dr. Thomas Epps III: William W. Grimes Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering Recipient 2021

Q: Hello, Prof. Epps, can you tell us about yourself?

A: I am originally from Virginia and have always had a love for both chemistry and mathematics. Much of that love came from my parents, a father, who was a professor of chemistry and a mother, who was a professor of accounting. Following on that, I had the opportunity to do things like go to NASA Space Camp, work at NASA Langley, and those experiences really allowed me to develop an appreciation for chemical engineering and polymers. I obtained my B.S. and M.S. degrees from MIT, Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota; I did a postdoc at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and secured a faculty position at the University of Delaware (UD). UD has been a great place for me to work on polymers-related research. My lab examines structure-property relationships of



Dr. Thomas Epps III

soft materials and how we can use those relationships to develop fundamental concepts, but more importantly, to apply those fundamental concepts to help better society. Some of the research questions that my lab works on include: how to create polymers from biomass, how to utilize plastics waste and turn it into more environmentally friendly or upgraded upcycled materials, how to apply polymeric systems for drug delivery, gene therapy, polymer membranes, and battery applications. We also work on materials for personal protective equipment for military applications. In terms of myself, I have been lucky enough to work with a variety of organizations, for example, leading undergraduate programs at UD such as National Science Foundation (NSF) research experiences for undergraduates (REU) sites and working with the American Chemical Society (ACS) on the Project SEED Program and the ACS Scholars Program.

Q: You are enjoying an outstanding career as a faculty in chemical engineering and materials science. Can you tell us about your journey and the factors that led to the choice of a career in chemical engineering?

A: What I really like about chemical engineering is the opportunity to do fundamental work that can clearly have impact on the society. It helps us in terms of understanding of materials, understanding how processes work, how to generate and recover energy – all of which enable us to design processes, systems, and materials that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, and lead to faster and safer batteries. So, my love really comes from being able to design molecules. In addition to that, I enjoy the math that is associated with science and engineering in terms of thinking about not only how we design (macro)molecules, but how do we turn them into materials that we can potentially manufacture.

Q: What are some of the challenges you have faced in your career as a chemical engineer, especially being from a minority demographic, and how did you overcome these?

A: I will start with a specific example. When I was just finishing up my undergraduate studies at MIT, I had the opportunity to participate in an alumni-related reception. I was standing next to a gentleman, who was also chemical engineering undergraduate student, and a lady walked up to us and introduced herself and asked us to introduce ourselves. We both did and then she asked the gentleman standing next to me, a white male, “So what was your major? And what was your concentration?” and he answered. Then she turned to me and said, “What sport did you play?”. This made it very clear how she valued the two of us and how she thought I got into MIT. The other undergraduate student was mad about that for a couple reasons, but the irony of the situation is she asked an All-American athlete, what his major/concentration was, and she asked the person with ~4.0, what sport he played. So, a lot of the challenge is overcoming the stereotype of, how did you get somewhere?

Dr. Thomas Epps III: William W. Grimes Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering Recipient 2021

Did you deserve to be able to do that? The reality is that there are people that are going to act in that manner, but how do you deal with it? How do you remain happy with yourself? How do you remain confident in yourself? How do you understand yourself enough to know when to extract yourself from such situations? I think that is always been a challenge, and it continues to be a challenge. Another one of the challenges is finding a community. As an African American faculty member, I believe that I was the first African American faculty member in UD College of Engineering, and I was the only African American faculty member for about my first ten years. So, in terms of thinking about a community, I had to go elsewhere to find it, or I had to try to integrate myself into a community that maybe did not always understand my point of view.

Q: Your lab has received prestigious grants in recent years to study the conversion of biomass to fuels and other useful materials. Can you tell us about these grants, the research being conducted and potential outcomes?

A: I think the first thing is answering the question “how do we get those grants?”. One of the ways is doing what is perceived to be high-quality research, and much of that boils down to the undergraduate students, graduate students, and the postdocs in my group. When they do great work, it is easy for me because I just have to write it up. Much of what we do as a group is now focused on the biomass space. We are interested in using feedstocks like lignin, which is basically, a part of biomass that does not compete with food and is typically considered a cheap waste product. We ask questions like: “can we take such a material and turn it into high-value polymers that can be alternatives to the petroleum-based materials?” We look at everything from how to source lignin, to how do to deconstruct it, to how to turn it into polymers, and we also thinking about using lignin for different applications. Some of the things that we are really excited about are those applications. We have looked at incorporating lignin into adhesives, 3D-printing resins, and other materials. We also have a startup company called Lignolix, Inc. Overall, one goal is to do our small part in creating a more sustainable economy, especially from a materials standpoint.

Q: Congratulations on receiving the 2021 William Grimes Award presented by the AIChE Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)! Can you tell us more about the award and what would you say is the key to achieving such a feat?

A: The first thing that I will mention is that one of the proud parts of receiving the award for me is the mentors that I have had along the way who have helped me shape how I think about things and go about my activities. In particular, the first one to give me a real research opportunity in a university lab was Prof. Paula Hammond. I had the opportunity at MIT to work in her lab, understand a little bit more about how to do research, how she thought about problems, and how she innovated and continues to innovate today. It is wonderful to be viewed as someone who understands the basic science and who also can innovate. That is something that Grimes was able to do, demonstrate that one can drive innovation. The ability to drive that innovation, in this case in the biomass and plastics waste space is something that we are excited about. I am honored to be on the list of Grimes Awardees.

Q: Can you talk about your involvements with AIChE and MAC? How have you benefitted from being a member of MAC?

A: One of the ways that I have benefitted from MAC is going back to when the Minority Faculty Forum (MFF) was part of MAC, and that forum gave me the opportunity to really find a home in American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), where I could talk with other faculty that were going through some of the similar ebbs and flows that I was going through when I was starting out at UD. Being able to form that community at MFF and at MAC, as well as being able to work with others have helped champion some of my activities. They have really supported me in terms of nominating me for other awards, making me aware of opportunities, including me on proposals, inviting me for seminars – things that have really helped me in terms of the promotion and tenure process. I think the main thing for me has been the sense of community that has come from it

Dr. Thomas Epps III: William W. Grimes Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering Recipient 2021



Dr. Thomas Epps III

Q: Do you have any advice for up-and-coming Chemical Engineers especially undergraduate and graduate students?

A: One of the key things that has really helped me and still helps me is networking with people. For example, when you have the opportunity to go to that American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) or National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) meeting, it is really about going to make connections and meet people. One of the key things that has provided opportunities for me are all the connections that I have made at conferences, and I think that is one key opportunity that should be maximized. I think it is very vital when people know who you are, know about you, and see what you do. They remember you and then your name is at the top of their mind when they are thinking of opportunities for you. None of us can do it without a network and being able to build that network is probably one of the things at the top of the list.

Dr. Luke Achenie: MAC Eminent Engineer Award Recipient 2021



Dr. Luke Achenie

Hello Dr. Achenie, can you tell us about yourself?

This is rather open ended, but I will do my best. I am originally from Ghana in the western part of Africa. Did you know that Ghana is the closest country to the equator? I did all my primary, elementary and high school in Ghana. I was offered entry to Ghana's premier medical school at UG Medical School; nevertheless, I could not pass up the opportunity to move to the United States to continue my education in Cambridge, MA graduating with an SB in Chemical Engineering ("Course 10") at MIT in 1981. Let's just say that my mother was not happy about the move, but sometimes you just have to say "no" to mom.

In high school I liked Math, Chemistry, Physics and Biology in that order. At MIT I tried to double major in Math, but I did not have enough credits and tuition funds to complete the Math part. I enrolled at Northwestern University (Evanston campus) completing an MS in Engineering Science in 1982. I found the

Chicago/Evanston winter so cold that I felt I could not stay on for the PhD. I had my first painful "stay up all night" frost bite in Evanston. I transferred to Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh) and enrolled in the MS/PhD program in Applied Math, remembering that my first love was Math. At the time, my "well-planned" career path was to return to Ghana to either teach at the university or busy myself with industry. Several people including my parents thought that a career in Math in Ghana or anywhere else was a non-starter as the salaries were just a pittance – not true, at least in the US, by the way. Regardless, such comments/advice got into my head. As such after an MS in Applied Math, I transferred to CMU's Chemical Engineering Department where I completed a PhD in 1988. Now it was time to weigh my options – go back to Ghana or stay here in the USA? What industry? Location, location, location? A number of professors on my thesis committee felt I needed to consider a career in academia. As a compromise I made a deal with myself to try industry for a while and make a possible transition to academia. My first and only industrial job was at Shell Oil Research and Development Company at the Westhollow location in Houston, Texas; I was assigned to the Process Control group which had about 80% PhD and 20% MS backgrounds. Despite the lighthearted jokes about Houston, I really did like my stay in that lovely city! One can argue that the great engineers and scientists I worked with at Shell and the wonderful bosses I had were contributing factors to my love of Houston.

After 3 years at Shell, it was time to make my next move. I joined the University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT) in 1991 as an Assistant Professor with a research area that combined Math, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; lots of good stories here (plus the other kind), but let's just move on. A family member's environmental illness over a period of time forced me to consider a relocation. I took advantage of an opening at Virginia Tech and moved south in 2007.

Q: What factors influenced your decision to choose chemical engineering as a career path?

A: I believe I partially answered this question above. Chemical Engineering is a field that seamlessly allows research that fuses math, chemistry, physics, and biology; this versatility in the ChemE discipline is very attractive. These days, one can make a similar statement about other engineering disciplines, and one gets the feeling that the various disciplines are diffusing into each other blurring the traditional boundaries. I have done research in machine learning/AI, process systems engineering, molecular modeling and modeling in oral drug delivery. A little story to spice things up: of all the courses I took as undergrad/grad, thermodynamics was my least favorite – the feeling was that of going to the dentist. When I started my academic research in molecular modeling, it dawned on me that I needed thermodynamics more than it needed me. Now I am a big fan of thermo.

Dr. Luke Achenie: MAC Eminent Engineer Award Recipient 2021

Q: What will you say prepared you for success as a professor in academia?

A: The study of the fundamentals in engineering and the STEM areas are key. Don't underestimate the power of good role models and mentors; a well-crafted, well-placed phrase here or there from mentors could literally turn a potential "so so" outcome to a success. For example, when I was in my final year of my PhD, I overheard a professor in my department suggest to my PhD advisor that he thought I could be a good academic, to which my advisor concurred. That seed was planted into my head.

Another way to attain success in academia is to be open minded with respect to ideas from different researchers and different disciplines. What can a chemical engineer possibly get from attending a seminar in social science? Well, this engineer was silly enough to do just that. In one of the seminars, the speaker was talking about agent-based models within the social sciences; I came out of the seminar thinking how such models could potentially be considered within the purview of chemical engineering? I currently teach a graduate course in Agent Based Modeling and I have also been using such techniques in my research.

Q: As an immigrant coming to US from Ghana, what challenges have you faced in your journey towards becoming a chemical engineer and how did you overcome these?

A: For immigrants coming to US schools in the late 70's, the first thing that hits you is culture shock. From being surrounded with people who look like you, to feeling you are in a fish bowl being stared at and being constantly evaluated by pairs of eyes (both visible and invisible); your guard is up fairly frequently. Why are you in chemical engineering? Shouldn't a softer discipline have served you much better? Oh, you do have a foreign accent, where do you "originally" come from? When do you intend to go back to your country? After enduring all these, now you have to compete with everyone else for the "A's" and "B's", anything below that just won't cut it. In my case I studied the paths of several of those who came before me to learn their best practices of do's and don'ts. I always reminded myself that the trail blazers had it much worse than I and I was very determined not to be kicked off the island!

Q: Congratulations on the recent award as an Eminent Engineer! Any advice to young chemical engineers on how to achieve such an outstanding career?

A: There are some people who determine or set goals that they would like to attain and come up with plans that help them in that regard; this "eye on the ball" strategy works if the person knows how to adjust plans under all the uncertainties of life. There is another group of people who commit to working in the trenches on things they love with all the hard work they can muster and let the chips fall where they may. I am somewhat a hybrid of these two schools of thought taking into account a duty to help my family and extensions of it live a reasonably good life; this is beyond the "work-life balance" ideas that one often hears about. My advice to young people is to first identify the role model whose journey they would like to follow and consider the possibility of acting in accordance, being wide-eyed with regard to the environment they lived in, the special challenges they faced, the expectations of the period they lived in, and the behind-the-scenes untold story they would never be privy to. The key question a young person should answer is: if I follow the path that my favorite world-renowned XYZ followed, how likely will I have the same successes in the current technological/social environment? My lazy suggestion is chart your own path!



Dr. Luke Achenie

Dr. Luke Achenie: MAC Eminent Engineer Award Recipient 2021

Q: Can you talk about your involvements with AIChE, specifically the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), and how you have benefitted from being a member?

A: I started as a member of MAC circa 1992; at the time I felt MAC was for under-represented ChemE's who were somewhat lost and looking to belong to something – thank God I was wrong. Yes, people were looking to belong to an entity that would bring out the best in them and be successful. MAC has been a huge success thanks to its founders Drs. Brown, Wei, and others. The ball is in young people's court to take MAC to higher levels on the shoulders of its founders and those who came after that. I always made it a point to attend MAC meetings at AIChE Conferences and to balance that with my tenure track obligations to present papers and attend the technical meetings. At the onset of the internet in the mid to late 90's (believe it or not the internet hasn't been around that long), I volunteered to develop and maintain a website for MAC; this was grunt work at the time given the state of the technology, but I was happy the website filled a need for MAC and helped publicize MAC. I became the Vice-Chair and the Chair of MAC in the early 2000's. I also for a short time became Chair of the MFF (Minority Faculty Forum) which was a sub-committee of MAC in the late 2010's.

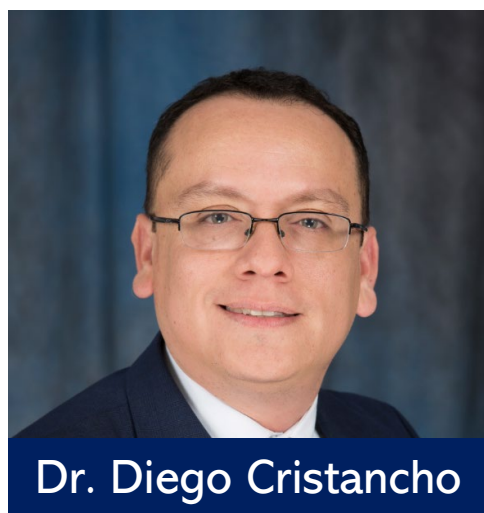
It is hard to quantify all the benefits I have received from being a MAC member; however, in a qualitative sense, through MAC I have developed a sense of how to navigate the system and be successful in what I do. The connections, contacts, and acquaintances have helped me understand that some of the problems I use to perceive as huge and insurmountable are actually not that important from the grand scheme of things. I always enjoyed the camaraderie within MAC, to the point that there are individuals I view as siblings, cousins and other family members.

Dr. Diego Cristancho: MAC Eminent Engineer Award Recipient 2021

Q: What were some of the challenges have you faced in your journey towards becoming a chemical engineer and how did you overcome these?

A: I think the two biggest factors for me were largely focused into two areas: time management and career path. I will tackle the time part first. I started my bachelor's journey at the young age of 15, which presented some challenges as I moved away from home to pursue my chemical engineering degree and created financial stress to support my studies in addition to room and board. Therefore, I knew I needed a source of income and started teaching personalized classes that continued through my college career. In addition to teaching, I started a dual major in physics in my third semester, which significantly increased the number of courses each semester. It was at this point I knew I had to prioritize time management to ensure I could dedicate enough time to both my studies and my work to be effective in both. This really accelerated my personal growth as I had to focus on what were critical tasks, especially in test preparation, and what were tasks I had more flexibility with. This led to my discovery of conceptual maps which I used to avoid getting lost in so much information. Even now I used them to prioritize and to clarify my research work. The decision on a career path also proved to be another significant challenge. During my studies, it became clear I had a lot to learn about what chemical engineering really is. The initial core courses give you a tremendous amount of flexibility to tackle many industrial and scientific problems. For starters, the combination of equilibrium thermodynamics, reaction kinetics, mass, momentum, and energy transfer in the same curriculum gives the foundation for working in the various chemical engineering applications. All these, accompanied by the fundamentals of economics and finance, now creates the difficult question of what to do as chemical engineer.

Fortunately, if you are open to the many possibilities as I was, it can create an interesting path in life to help you discover and realize what you really want to do.



Q: What was it like combining the academic position at Texas A & M and working in the industry?

A: I cannot thank Dow and Texas A&M more for giving me the opportunity to work simultaneously in academia and industry. It was an excellent experience because it gives a clear perspective of the role of academia and industry in society, as well as the enormous synergies when they work together. While I was doing research in the thermodynamics research group at Texas A&M and doing my research work at Dow, I saw the importance of chemical engineering fundamentals when preparing the future chemical engineers, even at the graduate level. As I mentioned before, as chemical engineers, we can impact many different areas of industry and sciences, but the effectiveness as engineers is grounded in our fundamentals. The other important aspect is the clear role in society and primary focus of each area. Industry focusses on creating value for society in a time frame that keeps the economy moving and academia focuses on moving the scientific frontier to enable new technologies with less pressure for short-term success. There is not a well-defined delineation between academia and industry when we are talking about research. The challenge we face today is that we don't have simple problems to solve. We need to keep in mind that industry is not competing with academia, but rather learning from each other. The synergy between the two research environments lays foundation for a more technologically improved society.

Dr. Diego Cristancho: MAC Eminent Engineer Award Recipient 2021

Q: Congratulations on the recent award as an Eminent Engineer! Can you tell us more about the award and what would you say is the key factors to get this far in this career?

A: I am really honored to receive such a prestigious award. The value of this award is the fact it targets individuals from minorities that are doing good work as chemical engineers and mentors. The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) in the AIChE organization is doing an amazing job promoting minorities and recognizing their contributions in chemical engineering. The 30 years of continuous support from the MAC has had a tremendous impact on the current efforts within industry and academia towards diversity and inclusion. I have worked in R&D for almost 20 years, where I have contributed to many different areas of research, and, at the same time, I have been a proud representative of my community. I always try to take advantage of the opportunities R&D gave me to mentor the next generation of researchers and, hopefully, be a role model for them. After participating in many different projects, teams, and programs, I came to the realization that chemical engineers can profoundly impact society. We are responsible for the raw materials transformation to value products. In addition, we now face unprecedented environmental challenges as we face the impact from the products we make; therefore, we are now also responsible for implementing new processes and technologies with nature in mind to allow for the sustainable growth of society in a finite world and I am sure we are up for the challenge. Being part of a Hispanic community from a region that historically has been limited in resources for many different reasons, a mindset for effectively handling resources is always part of our skill set. The willingness to learn and grow is an important ingredient of the Hispanic community character and mirror many of the challenges chemical engineers are currently facing and will face in the future. I am happy to be part of both communities.

Q: You have seen it all from the Industry with Dow and from Academia as an assistant professor. Any advice for students who are interested in pursuing a career in chemical engineering?

A: My basic advice to anyone pursuing a career, not necessarily chemical engineering, is to have a vision. Having a vision means internalizing and projecting how you see yourselves in the future, as lawyers, singers, artists, and of course chemical engineers. This is an important step in life, it helps you to have a target, an aim, a goal, even when you do not have a clear path. I remember the many years of being on public transportation on the way to university in Colombia, daydreaming about being a scientist, having my own lab and being paid for learning everyday more and more. And now, I am doing that, my vision became a reality and when I look back to the path, I cannot believe what I went through. On the other side, as a chemical engineer and a physicist, I can tell you with certainty chemical engineering is a wonderful career. I see no limits to its possibilities, and you can align many visions to this profession, and I am sure all of them will work. Chemical engineers do not limit themselves to a part of the process, they own it all, from the materials transformation, separations, and commercialization we have something to add to all of it. If you pick chemical engineering as your career, wonderful things can happen, just make sure that you have a vision.

A Tribute to Prof. Babatunde Ogunnaike



Dr. Babatunde Ogunnaike is remembered as a brilliant administrator, researcher, professor, mentor, musician, athlete, coach, calligrapher, and poet; a beloved friend, brother, husband, father, and grandfather; and a devout Christian. Dr. Ogunnaike earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Lagos, Nigeria in 1976. He went on to receive a master's degree in statistics and doctoral degree in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1981. He spent six years as an assistant professor at the University of Lagos prior to joining the DuPont Co. in Delaware in 1989, where he pursued a successful 13-year research career. Dr. Ogunnaike joined University of Delaware as an adjunct professor of chemical engineering in 1996 and became a full-time professor in 2002. He served as dean of the College of Engineering from 2011 to 2018.

Highly esteemed in his field, Dr. Ogunnaike was a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the Nigerian Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among many other honors. Dr. Ogunnaike distinguished himself both as a scholar and practitioner. He was an expert in process control, modeling and simulation, systems biology, and applied statistics. He possessed a robust knowledge of both industrial and academic applications of chemical engineering.

In addition to being an accomplished engineer, Dr. Ogunnaike was also a poet. In 1977, prior to arriving in the United States to attend school, he responded to a call seeking contributions for a new national anthem. The poem he submitted would come to comprise most of the second stanza of Nigeria's current national anthem. His wide-ranging influence was largely due to his humility and collaborative approach to research—he often said that “success is a shared game, there are certain successes that can never happen unless you work with somebody else.” He authored four books (most notably, the celebrated textbook, 'Process Dynamics, Modeling, and Control') and over a hundred publications in major academic journals and held a patent and a vast array of awards.

Dr. Ogunnaike was beloved by his students, who repeatedly voted him “the best-dressed professor,” and was perhaps even more beloved by the many young men he coached in local soccer.



Dr. Babatunde Ogunnaike received the AIChE Warren K. Lewis Award for Chemical Engineering Education in 2018. (image from engr.udel.edu)

Dr. Ogunnaike was a devoted family man and gracefully balanced his numerous professional commitments and accomplishments with an active family and spiritual life. He supported numerous charitable causes but considered his greatest legacy and pride to be his good name and his three children and three grandchildren. He liked to quote Proverbs 22:1, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold,” and 3 John 1:4, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

- Biography curated by Busayo Alagbe

Article sourced from:

UDaily article by Karen Roberts - <https://enr.udel.edu/news/2022/03/in-memoriam-babatunde-ogunnaike>
Official obituary - <https://www.dohertyfh.com/obituary/DrBabatunde-Ogunnaike>

2021 MAC Awards/Scholarships

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This award recognizes an AIChE member for sustained service and outstanding achievements that advance the goals of the Minority Affairs Committee.

- ❖ **Dr. Kazeem B. Olanrewaju**
(Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering at Prairie View A&M University)

Janice Lumpkin Travel Award

- ❖ **Matthew Rivera**
(PhD. Candidate, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Tech)
- ❖ **Guty Francisco**
(PLZ Aeroscience Corp)

MAC Technical Poster Presentation Award

- ❖ **Busayo Alagbe (1st place)**
(PhD. Candidate, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University)
- ❖ **Azeem Farinmade (2nd place)**
(PhD. Candidate, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University)
- ❖ **Oluwole Ajumobi (3rd place)**
(PhD. Candidate, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University)

2021 MAC Awards/Scholarships

MAC Scholarship Awards for College Students/Freshmen

Funded by the Henry T. & Melinda C. Brown Endowment for the Education of Underrepresented Minority Chemical Engineers

- ❖ Diana Alvarado, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
- ❖ Trinity Coates, Syracuse University
- ❖ Tiffani Grayes, The College of Wooster
- ❖ Andrea Green, Georgia Institute of Technology
- ❖ Khalifa Munyagane, Brigham Young University
- ❖ Olamide Omisakin, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- ❖ Edgar Salinas, University of Iowa
- ❖ Brandon Ugbesia, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- ❖ Tyler Void, North Carolina State University
- ❖ Amanda Webb, University of Michigan
- ❖ Seth Williams, University of South Florida
- ❖ Jasmine Alarcon, University of California, Davis
- ❖ Erickson Allen, North Carolina State University
- ❖ Uzoma Aniche, California State University Sacramento
- ❖ Victoria Blanco-Pineda, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- ❖ Amari Butler, Harvard University
- ❖ Giovanni Costa, Dartmouth College
- ❖ Nicole Enriquez, The University of The Pacific
- ❖ Antonio Garcia, Loyola Marymount University
- ❖ Lilian Gough, Central methodist University
- ❖ Renaud Kamgang, The George Washington University
- ❖ Owali Moeai, Brigham Young University - Hawaii
- ❖ Nicholas Musa, University of California - Berkeley
- ❖ Mireya Narvaez, University of Michigan - Computer Science
- ❖ Kodiak Ortiz, New York University
- ❖ David Quarles, Duke University
- ❖ Madelena Ruedaflores, Yale University
- ❖ Mackenzy Sarracino, Fort Lewis College
- ❖ Alyssa Stevens, Mount St. Joseph University
- ❖ Karen Vera, Northern Arizona University
- ❖ Messiah Williamson, Dominican University of California

Meet the 2022 MAC Officers



Manuela A.A. Ayee serves as an Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at Dordt University, a primarily undergraduate institution in Northwest Iowa. She obtained her baccalaureate at Dordt and earned her master's and Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), respectively. After completing an NIH Pulmonary and Critical Care Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Medicine at UIC, she began her position at Dordt University in 2018. Her research interests involve the use of both computational and experimental methods to elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying cell membrane biomechanical modulation in pathophysiological contexts.

In addition to research and teaching, she has a significant interest in supporting students from traditionally underrepresented groups in STEM by facilitating initiatives to ensure their academic success.

Consequently, she actively works to foster an educational environment where the recruitment and retention of academically talented students from traditionally underrepresented groups, first generation, and lower income communities is prioritized. One such initiative is the NSF-funded "RU-STEM Scholars Program", administered by Dr. Ayee (PI), which awards annual tuition scholarships and uses evidence-based practices to foster academic success and build STEM identity among cohorts of scholars. She also serves as the faculty sponsor of the Women in Science and Engineering club on campus, on the Graduate Studies Committee, and the Institutional Review Board. Most recently, Dr. Ayee was elected to become a Trustee of the CACHE Corporation, which promotes the development and distribution of computer-related and technology-based educational aids for the Chemical Engineering profession.

Carlos M. Rinaldi-Ramos is the Chair and Dean's Leadership Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Florida. He is also a Professor in the J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering. He received his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, and completed degrees in Master of Science in Chemical Engineering, Master of Science in Chemical Engineering Practice, and Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to the University of Florida, Dr. Rinaldi-Ramos was a Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. Dr. Rinaldi-Ramos is a leading scientist in the areas of ferrohydrodynamics, biomedical applications of magnetic nanoparticles, and transport of nanoparticles in complex and biological fluids. His research spans theory and simulation of magnetic nanoparticle response to dynamic magnetic fields, nanoparticle synthesis and surface modification, and characterization of nanoparticle interactions with biological environments. Dr. Rinaldi-Ramos is committed to mentoring new generations of scientists and engineers seeking solutions to biomedical problems and to broadening participation of women and minorities in science and engineering.



Audie Key Thompson is an assistant professor and holds the Robert E. Babcock, Sr. Professorship in Chemical Process Safety & Environmental Fate of Chemicals position at the University of Arkansas's department of chemical engineering. She received her bachelor's degree from Alcorn State university, Masters from Alabama State University and she has a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Audie is an active member of MAC and is the past chair for MAC.



**Audie Thompson,
Ph.D. (Past-Chair)**

Meet the MAC Officers

Karen Romero is the current Secretary of The Minority Affairs Committee of AIChE. Ph.D. in Engineering. Former Process Engineer/Project Engineer at Pequiven and PDVSA for 10 years. Former Business Consultant at Aspen Technology. Over 18 years of experience in Oil & Gas and Petrochemical industry, with a focus design, development, management and execution of projects. Chemical Engineer. MSc. in Gas Engineering. Online tutor. Professor and Advisor at several international universities. International Speaker.



Karen Romero, Ph.D.
(Secretary)



Tayo Femi-Fowode
(Treasurer)

Tayo Femi-Fowode is a passionate Chemical Engineer with over 15 years of corporate and leadership experience. He is currently an Operations Leader for GE Power where he is responsible for operationalizing tools, processes, and interfaces needed to execute Global Customer Service & Support workstreams. Prior to that, he led the digital adoption of Asset Performance Management (APM) for GE Gas Power Fleet Management business where he drove digital integration of monitored turbines, generators, and downtime, optimize plant performance and save operating cost for more than 950 power plants in 75 countries and serving 350 million people worldwide. Tayo is a senior member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and serves as Treasurer for the Institute's Minority Affairs Committee since 2019. He has also volunteered in different capacity amongst which are the MAC Real Talk Speed Mentoring and AIChE's apprentice program where he

worked with other young professionals to foster STEM education in the Houston community with K-12 students. Tayo is a recipient of Janice Lumpkin Award and a two-time recipient of the MAC-AIChE College Students Scholarship while studying as an undergraduate. Tayo graduated from Prairie View A&M University, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering. He also holds a Master's in Chemical Engineering and an MBA both from Columbia University in the City of New York. Tayo enjoys mentoring young professionals and spending time with his wife and daughters.

Azeem Farinmade is from Lagos, Nigeria. He recently completed his PhD in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Tulane University in New Orleans. He is currently a Packaging R&D Engineer at Intel corp. Prior to this, Azeem obtained his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria in 2015. Afterwards, he worked as a Process Engineer for two years at Radiatt Engineering, an oil & gas consulting firm in Nigeria, where he contributed to the conceptual and detailed engineering design of natural gas transport pipeline and processing facilities. Azeem is passionate about minority STEM education and volunteers with professional organizations such as NSBE, AIChE, and NOBCCHE to encourage STEM education amongst minority demographics. He has been a member of MAC's communications team since 2020 and is the current communications chair for MAC. When not working, Azeem enjoys travelling and play soccer.



Azeem Farinmade, Ph.D.
(Communications Chair)

Get Involved with MAC

Join the MAC Slack Workspace



Join and interact with the MAC community through our slack channel. We have channels tailored to college students, graduate students, faculty, and young professionals with many more to come. Slack is an informal community for members to chat, learn about new opportunities and make new connections. [Click here to join!](#)

Stay connected through our website and social media platforms.



Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) of AIChE

<https://www.aiche.org/community/sites/committees/minority-affairs>



Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) of AIChE

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6646841/>



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MAC Communications Team



Azeem Farinmade, Ph.D.
(Communications Chair)
Packing R&D Engineer
Intel Corporation



Sipho Ndlela, Ph.D.
Principal System Engineer
Obantarla Corporation



Jude Phillip, Ph.D.
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Manuela Ayee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
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Alagbe Busayo
PhD candidate
Chemical & Biomolecular
Engineering at Tulane
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Motunrayo Ogunleye
Graduate student
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Damilola Daramola, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Chemical & Biomolecular
Engineering at Ohio University



Shamim Nabila, Ph.D.
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Prairie View A & M University