
CAST 2024 Spring Newsletter

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We hope everyone had a great start into the new year! Much has happened since our last newsletter. Please see below an overview of the CAST activities that took place in the second half of 2023.

CAST 2023 Division Awards

We were all excited to see each other again at the CAST 2023 Awards Banquet. The event was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 in Orlando. Awards were presented to all recipients listed below.



Professor [Bhavik R. Bakshi](#) from Arizona State University was the recipient of the 2023 Computing in Chemical Engineering Award. He gave his award lecture at the CAST Banquet.

Other awardees that were recognized are:

- Computing Practice Award: [Jose M. Pinto](#), Linde plc
- David Himmelblau Award for Innovations in Computer-Based Chemical Engineering Education: [Daniel Anastasio](#), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; [Cheryl Bodnar](#), Rowan University; [Daniel Burkey](#), University of Connecticut; [Matthew Cooper](#), NC State
- Distinguished Service Award: [Stratos Pistikopoulos](#), Texas A&M University
- Outstanding Young Researcher Award: [Fani Boukouvala](#), Georgia Institute of Technology
- W. David Smith Jr. Graduate Publication Award: [Sungho Shin](#), Argonne National Laboratory
- Directors' Best Poster Award (from 2022): [Edna Soraya Rawlings](#), Sandia National Laboratories
- Directors' Best Student Presentation Award (from 2022): [Arijit Chakraborty](#), Columbia University
- Award for Excellence and Service to the CAST Division: **Matt Basset**, Corteva

CAST 2023 Poster and Presentation Awards

Directors' Best Poster Award

Nicholas Glover, University at Buffalo - *Simulating Solute Transport through the Kidney Glomerulus Using Febio*

Directors' Student Presentation Awards

The following students were invited to present their work in the Directors' Session for Student Presentation Finalists:

- Oluwadare Badejo, University of Delaware
- Leonardo Gonzalez, University of Wisconsin
- Rishabh Gupta, University of Minnesota
- Pavan Inguva, MIT
- Vipul Mann, Columbia University
- Ilias Mitrai, University of Minnesota

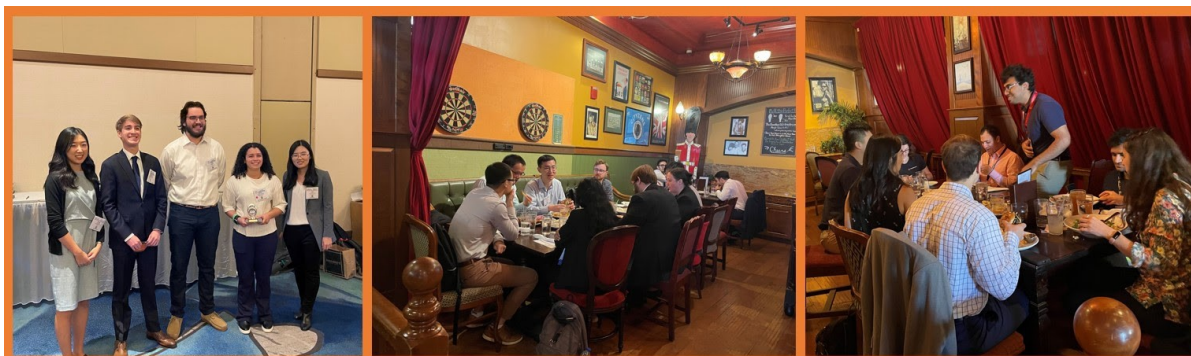
- Shilpa Narasimhan, UC Davis
- Farshud Sorourifar, Ohio State University

The Student Presentation Award winners were:

- 1st Place: **Ilias Mitrai**, University of Minnesota - *Taking the Human out of the Decomposition-Based Optimization Loop via Artificial Intelligence and Network Science*
- 2nd Place: **Farshud Sorourifar**, Ohio State University - *High-Dimensional Bayesian Optimization of Molecular Properties Using Quantitative Structure-Property Relationships on Sparse Axis-Aligned Subspaces*
- 3rd Place: **Vipul Mann**, Columbia University - *Accelerating Drug Discovery and Development Using an Ontology-Based Machine Learning Framework*

CAST Young Professionals Events

A number of CAST YP events took place at the AIChE Annual Meeting in Orlando.



Undergraduate Student Poster Competition

We were excited to see 33 undergraduate research contributions in the Computing and Process Control topic area on November 6. Warmest congratulations to the CAST Division award winners: **Sophie Colmenares** from Princeton University, **William DeFreese** from Auburn University, and **John Velkey** from University of Maryland, Baltimore County! Also big thanks to all volunteers who helped with judging!

Meet the Industry Candidates Poster Session

For the first time, CAST hosted the Meet the Industry Candidates session on November 7. This session received considerable interest, featuring ~40 poster

presentations with attendance from ~20 industrial companies and national labs.

Young Professionals Networking Lunch

CAST YP Lunch Social took place this year at The Pub – Orlando on November 8. ~40 attendees signed up for the event including graduate students, young academics, and industrial representatives. We look forward to seeing our old friends again and welcoming new friends at next year's YP events!

CAST 2023 Election Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the elections. The CAST community elected the following **Programming Coordinators** for 2026:

- Area 10A: **Qi Zhang**, University of Minnesota
- Area 10B: **Wentao Tang**, NC State
- Area 10C: **Styliani Avraamidou**, University of Wisconsin; **Andrew Allman**, University of Michigan (2027, voting tie)
- Area 10D: **Calvin Tsay**, Imperial College London
- Area 10E: **Miguel A. Zamarripa-Perez**, National Energy Technology Laboratory

The following **Executive Committee members** were also elected for the following positions:

- 2024 Chair: **Prodromos Daoutidis**, University of Minnesota
 - 2024 1st Vice Chair: **Selen Cremaschi**, Auburn University
 - 2024 2nd Vice Chair: **Rahul Bindlish**, Dow
 - 2024-2026 Director: **Helen Durand**, Wayne State University
 - 2024-2026 Director: **Dimitrios Georgis**, ExxonMobil
 - 2024-2025 Secretary/Treasurer: **Juergen Hahn**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
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Upcoming Conferences

- [ESCAPE34-PSE24](#): June 2-6, 2024; Florence, Italy
- [2024 American Control Conference \(ACC\)](#): July 8-12, 2024; Toronto, Canada
- [12th IFAC Symposium on Advanced Control of Chemical Processes](#)

[\(ADCHEM\)](#): July 14-17, 2024; Toronto, Canada

- [2024 Foundations of Computer Aided Process Design \(FOCAPD\)](#): July 14-18, 2024; Breckenridge, CO
- [2024 Foundations of Molecular Modeling and Simulation \(FOMMS\)](#): July 28 - August 1, 2024; Snowbird, UT
- [2024 AIChE Annual Meeting](#): October 27-31, 2024; San Diego, CA

Process Systems Engineering Webinars

Visit [this website](#) to find many great webinars on topics in the broad area of process systems engineering, including modeling, control, optimization, machine learning, and more. You can also find a link for future speaker nominations.

