We would like to thank all of our speakers this semester and their companies:

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Fall 2003 in Review
By Lisa Wulff

Our first AIChE meeting of the semester was held on September 9. We welcomed back everyone for another semester, and had Mike Carlson from Cargill as our speaker. He talked about Cargill’s operations and what he is specifically involved with at his plant in Nebraska.

At the next meeting on September 17, we welcomed Jason McHaney from Atofina to tell us about different kinds of protective equipment and to demonstrate the use of some of this equipment. We also encouraged everyone to help clean up our Adopt-a-Highway section on the 19th.

Andy Doerflinger from Black and Veatch was the speaker at our October 1 meeting, and he talked about working in consulting and some of the projects he has worked with. A constitutional amendment was also approved to create the position of AIChE Historian.

On October 15, we met to listen to a presentation by Marques Griffin from ChevronTexaco. He gave an overview of the entire oil production process and gave an idea of what types of positions his company had available. We also had this semester’s officer auction, where bidders could hire an officer for an hour to do such as things as cleaning or yard work. Our volleyball tournament to be held on October 17 was also announced.

The meeting on October 29 featured John Culter, who talked about a career in the packaging industry. He explained the large number of considerations that must be made when packaging any material, especially food, and why chemical engineers are particularly suited to the packaging industry.

On November 12, we held elections for next semester’s AIChE officers. This was done one meeting sooner than usual to allow next semester’s officers to learn more about their positions and hopefully be able to continue things which have been started this semester. We also were selling tickets for a soup dinner to be held on the 19th, where we served several kinds of soups from Panera.

Our last meeting is December 3, as we welcome Mark Junkins from Ash Grove Cement.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our many activities this semester, and, for those who will be here next semester, look forward to more coming in the future.

If you have any suggestions on speakers or if you know a company that would like to come and talk at a meeting please email any information to aiche@umr.edu. Or you contact the WS04 president Scott Clodfelter at clodfelt@umr.edu or the retiring FS03 president Daniel Regenhardt at drege@umr.edu. Please contact them ASAP if you would like to speak at a meeting.

The meeting dates are: January 21st, February 4th, February 18th, March 3rd, March 17th, April 7th, and April 21st.
A new officer position was added to AIChE this semester. In the past, no one was responsible for documenting the meetings and events. Whoever had a camera took pictures and then the collection was merged to complete the photo memories of the semester. This semester, a historian position was created to remedy the problem. The historian’s duties include video taping and taking photographs of the speakers at the meetings and various AIChE events. The pictures are then posted on the SMART board outside of the Chemical Engineering office as well as on the chapter website. This year the historian captured the speakers and additional events such as the BBQ in the Chancellor’s Backyard, the soup dinner, AIChE nationals in San Francisco, and dinner after the meetings. A photo scrapbook was put together to contain memories of a great year of AIChE events. Many years in the future, students will be able to look back at the 2003 Winter Semester AIChE photographs and see what a wonderful semester it was.

Memories by Photograph
By Becky Durham

Senioritis
By Christina Huelsing

Senioritis is defined as a disease of overwhelming laziness that overcomes students during their last semester at school. Classes are skipped, workouts are neglected, and homework is eyed with extreme distaste. What can you do to save these poor, diseased souls? Give them jobs!! These once wonderfully motivated individuals will get a new spark in life at the prospect of an excellent employment opportunity. There are many such souls graduating this December and more to come this May!! Some symptoms of this terrible disease include:

• Skipping eight o’clock classes because it is too cold, too early, too boring, went last week, etc.
• Saving homework to the very last minute, not because they are too busy, but because all of their time is devoted to napping.
• Did I mention frequent napping?
• Utter lack of interest in Laplace Transforms because everyone knows that we won’t use them anyway!
• Qualifying for two mugs at the Grotto!!

I won’t say that I have been completely immune from this disease myself. I have definitely logged up the napping hours. And have I mentioned procrastination? Well, let me tell you! Procrastination has become a very big problem in my life, so much so that…

Co-op Experience: getting your foot in the door early
By Chris Reeves

As many people are well aware, its becoming increasingly difficult to nail down that dream job. Its not only harder to get the exact job you would like, but looking at a specific geographic location only decreases the available jobs even more. As I currently search for jobs and discuss opportunities with my fellow students as well as recent grads, I’ve noticed a couple of things that I would like to point out to some of our younger undergraduate students.

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This semester has been a crucial semester for our organization. Several things needed to turn around in order of it to thrive. First thing was participation and support. In past semesters, the membership and faculty support has been going down. It was getting hard to raise enough money to cover each semester's expenses. The officers noticed this problem and tried to take serious action to turn things around. The National Outstanding Chapter award was another important concern of the officers and our advisors. In order to do this, AIChE needs to participate in the right kind of activities to win. In order to do this, the chapter needs to have successful fundraisers, athletic event participation, community service, regular meetings, and increase attendance at meetings. This semester, the officers successfully achieved all of these. First we had awesome attendance at every AIChE meeting. The average was around 70 people. We also had 90 dues paying members this semester.

AIChE kicked off the fall semester of 2003 with a welcome barbeque in the chancellor’s backyard. The event was held September 11th from 11:00 to 1:00. The purpose of the event was to give freshman and sophomore students a chance to interact with faculty and older chemical engineering students. High quality hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda were provided by the chapter at no charge to the potential and current chemical engineering students. The faculty turnout was the best one in recent semesters, 7 faculty members were in attendance. Along with good food and getting to know one another, students played washers. It was a riot to watch professors and students have fun and sharpen their BBQ gaming skills.

This semester AIChE also assisted in two department open houses. The students gave tours of the department including the computer labs, unit operations labs, and controls lab to potential UMR students and their parents.

In order to raise enough funds to cover the semester’s expenses and help pay for 9 people to go to national in San Francisco, the chapter held several fundraisers. In a little over a month’s time, AIChE held four fundraisers. The first one was burning 3000 CD’s for the Academy of Chemical Engineers. The CD was a chemical process simulation exercise called MicroPlant. The program was an interactive training tool for young chemical engineers and was dispersed to professors around the country. The second fundraiser was our biannual sports tournament. The chapter decided to experiment with a different sport to try to increase participation. An Indoor Volleyball Tournament was held on October 17. Although the participation was not as great as expected, the tournament went off successfully and everyone who participated had a lot of fun. Next was the Officer Auction. This fundraiser is held every semester and is usually very successful. This semester the officers decided to change things up and give the faculty more of a chance to participate in this since they generally do not attend the meetings. Two separate auctions took place, one for faculty and one for students. We thought that more of the faculty would show there support but it turned out one professor bid on all of the officers. The last fundraiser was the Panera Soup Co. Dinner that was held on November 19 at the Wesley House. Part of the proceeds benefited the local AP Chemistry programs. This was the first time that this organization ever held an event like this and it was very successful. Around 150 people showed up to part take in the feasting. Six different types of soups were served: Broccoli Cheddar, Clam Chowder, Baked Potato, Garden Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, and French Onion. Since this was truly an all you can eat soup dinner, several people tried to eat one of each bowl and succeeded.

**Co-op Experience: getting your foot in the door early**
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Everybody that I know that has come back from a coop or intern session has had a chance to return to that particular company. By successfully working as a coop, your bosses and colleagues will know you can be a competent engineer in their company. When the time comes for interviews for full time positions, you already know the industry, equipment, personnel, and jargon. This helps eliminate a lot of time researching a company before an interview, which is nice if you have a reactor or controls test on the same day.

The second thing I’ve come to realize is you’ve got to try to decide where or who you want to work for early and go for it. For the Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors reading this, its never too soon to research industries and hit the career fair early looking for those summer and coop positions. Also, don’t forget that there are more companies out there than those that come to the career fair. I would suggest the utilization of the internet to find those companies in the industries or cities you desire.

I personally wouldn’t trade my coop experience for anything. If what I have written is true, you won’t see me without a job come this time next year, knock on wood.
The most recent AIChE national conference in San Francisco, California was the largest gathering of Chemical Engineers EVER! A record-breaking 18 topical conferences featuring 550 sessions and more than 4,000 papers was presented. The program covered everything from advances in fundamentals, to the newest developments in emerging technologies including bioengineering, nanotechnology, sustainability and more. More than 4,000 engineers and scientists were expected to attend. The University of Missouri-Rolla had nine students and five faculty members in attendance, and I am proud to say that I was one of them. You can read all about the papers and presentations on the national AIChE website, so I won’t bore you with the details.

There is so much to do in San Francisco that it would take a month to see everything that you want to, and it would cost you an arm and a leg too. We had 3 days, less conference time, to see everything that we wanted to, and with a little sweat and tears I think we almost did it. Cable cars, China Town, Muir Woods, Fisherman’s Wharf, Pier 39, Transamerica Building, Lombard St., Sausalito, Alcatraz, and of course the Golden Gate Bridge. It was a great time, and it was made even better by the friends that went with me. The friendships that grew from this trip were almost as rewarding as all the sites that we saw. I wish I could be around next year to do it again.