Best Student Chapter in the Nation  
By Dr. Daniel Forciniti

I have been the advisor of the AIChE Student Chapter for about two years and I have enjoyed every single moment of it. In university jargon, we call my activity as an advisor service but I think it is misleading. It is actually a privilege to interact closely with the leaders of our student body who spend countless hours to see their Chapter achieving excellence.

This semester the Chapter started planning the AIChE Student Chapter Regional Conference that we will host. This is a new challenge for our current student body. The plans are quite advanced mostly because of the work of two of our seniors, Ezra and Kelly. I would like to thank them publicly for all the hours that they have put into this. During the next couple of months, the details will be polished and we will be ready to host the best regional conference ever.

The Chapter is financially healthy because of aggressive fundraising activities. One of the fundraising activities that has become a success is Trivia Night. This year, the Chapter decided to change the rules to try to defeat the reigning champions (Drs. David and Kim Henthorn, Dr. Ludlow, my wife (Gladys) and I). Of course, they failed.

“Can you imagine a better way of publicizing your company than being a sponsor of the best student chapter in the nation?”

The organizers of the Regional Conference need as much support as we can possibly give. We are counting on our Alumni to approach their corporations for financial support. Can you imagine a better way of publicizing your company than being a sponsor of the best student chapter in the nation?

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring Semester. I expect our new officers to continue our tradition of excellence and our Alumni and Department to continue their support to our Chapter, which makes an invaluable contribution for the professional development of our students.

Fall AIChE Speakers and Officers  
By Kendra Riddle

The UMR American Institute of Chemical Engineers had a great semester. We had eight meetings and an all time high in meeting attendance with over 250 people attending. Our first speaker, Lauren Sisel from CRB Consulting Engineers, opened the semester. Mike Johnson representing Anheuser-Busch spoke to the chapter regarding career opportunities and proper etiquette. ExxonMobil was represented by Jason Brinker; he allowed the chapter to run the program answering any questions students had about industry, college, and life. Ash Grove Cement was represented by Jake Naeger and Andy Edwards. They spoke about their company’s unique new employee orientation program. Bob Stevens, a member
of our UMR Academy of Chemical Engineering, presented to an audience of AIChE and American Nuclear Society members. He spoke about the engineering challenges of designing a nuclear/chemical waste treatment facility. Our final speaker, Chris Reeves from Innoventor, presented on converting manure into a valuable product. The chapter would like to thank all of our returning alumni for presenting and generously providing dinner and refreshments.

AIChE Fun and Fundraising
By Brent Patrick

What a semester! AIChE went on an all out blitz this semester to recruit more people into committees, keep the highway clean, fundraisers, bowling, and prepping for the regional conference next semester. Everyone in this semester’s officer core did an amazing job at working together to accomplish everything that was done this semester.

Fundraisers this year included a White Castle run, penny wars, and of course our Trivia Night. The White Castle run was made right before Greek Week and delivered right to the people who ordered. The day that the run to White Castle was made was the worst possible day to be on the road. Tornado warnings were blaring all over the news, and rain was pouring all the way back from White Castle, which made this semester’s trip memorable to say the least. Aaron Davis was a huge help by offering his car and riding with me to get the food.

Penny wars has been revived and along with it the Snuff award was introduced. Penny wars works by placing a box for a professor or faculty and putting change into it. Pennies count as positive points while silver and dollars count negative against that person. The one with the most positive points receives a Slice of Pie whole pie. The one with the most negative points receives the Snuff award. The Snuff award is a block of wood with one of that teachers test or homework assignments pinned down onto the wood with a screwdriver or nail. This year’s winner is Dr. Wang, and receiving the Snuff award this year is Dr. Raper.

Trivia Night this year was another huge success. Almost six hundred dollars was raised in prizes. The questions were all for fun, but every competitor was aiming to take down the now three time champions of trivia, the Professors. This year, Dr. Forciniti and his wife (Glady), Dr. Ludlow, Dr. Kim Henthorn, and Dr. David Henthorn made up Team Undefeated, who won again this semester. But the scores are getting closer. Maybe next semester the Professors will be toppled.

AIChE hit the bowling lanes this semester, and partied despite the frozen weather outside. Forty eight people showed up for Quarter-Mania bowling at Coach Light lanes. Bowling started at 9:00 pm and most people stayed until at least midnight. This was a great opportunity for the students and faculty to get together outside of class, and for the students to take a small break before dead week. With scores ranging from 187 to 40 and people playing games with their opposite hands, this years bowling night was a blast.
AIChE 2007 Regional Conference
By Kelley Arrington and Ezra Czuba

Each spring hundreds of chemical engineering students from all over the Midwest get together for a weekend of competition, networking, and fun. Hosting the conference rotates among the twelve schools in the Mid-America region, and this year it is our turn. We are excited about this opportunity to showcase UMR and are confident that we can put on a great conference.

The conference will be held in Rolla on March 30 – 31, 2007. We have a packed schedule planned, giving attendees a chance to participate in numerous activities. The conference will include the traditional Chem-E-Car competition and research paper competition. In addition, students will be able to attend professional presentations representing different industries populated by chemical engineering graduates. We are bringing back a forgotten activity by including a chapter idea exchange. This will give officers from each of the twelve chapters a chance to share their successes and failures from the past year, allowing all chapters to benefit from their experiences. A hazmat presentation and hands-on demonstration presented by two of our own alumni, Jason McHaney and Brian Donley, will be one of the highlights of the conference. Finally, a UMR alum keynote speaker and banquet followed by social event will round out the conference.

We have been working hard this past semester to make sure this conference is a success. At this early stage, we have been focusing our efforts on accommodations, speakers, live entertainment options, etc. Fundraising has been our main goal after developing our budget of $35,000 for all conference expenses. We have been focusing on attaining corporate donations but are in need of individual support as well. If you would like to help support our conference, either financially or by participating, please feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Kelley Arrington
Regional Conference Co-chair
klatg2@umr.edu

Ezra Czuba
Regional Conference Co-chair
ezra@umr.edu

Great Feats
By Greg Eike

On November 11th, seven UMR students including Dan Burtman, Jason Hartman, Brent Patrick, Kendrick Callaway, Alex Carnes, Bryan Solomon, and myself flew to San Francisco, California for the 2006 AIChE National Conference. Hosted by Oregon State University and UC Berkeley, the Student Conference had one of its largest turnouts in history with more than 30 schools being represented.

“We have found it rewarding to be able to converse with our professors in a setting outside of the classroom.”

Also in attendance at the conference was our advisor Dr. Forciniti as well as other faculty members such as Dr. Ludlow and Dr. Raper. Sunday evening the students enjoyed dinner with Dr. Forciniti and dessert with Dr. Raper, Dr. Ludlow, and Dr. David Henthorn. As students, we have found it rewarding to be able to converse with our professors in a setting outside of the classroom. They have proven to be great assets for the student chapter by helping us along the way.

While in San Francisco, students were able to attend seminars and workshops given by leaders in both academia and industry. Along with these presentations, the Chem-E Car and poster competitions were held. Taking away valuable information from last year’s competitions, the UMR Chem-E Car team was able to place 13th at its first national competition. We have high hopes for the team in the future.

The student chapter is gearing up to host the 2007 Regional Convention here at UMR in March. It has been quite some time since we have hosted a conference and we are all very excited to do so. The wheels are in motion and much of the planning has already been finished. Both the students and the department are looking forward to hosting this event.
Chem-E Car
By Dan Burtman

The Chem-E Car team has grown since last semester. We have grown from a small start up team to the 13th strongest competitor in the national Chem-E Car competition. We boast new members, very supportive faculty and alumni, and fresh design ideas.

Sunday, November 13th, 2006 marked the annual AIChE national competition. 31 teams from around the United States assembled in San Francisco to try their hands at landing their cars on an imaginary line 73 feet from the starting line. These 31 teams represented an estimated 150 teams that did not qualify at regional competitions. With the new experience that our team has, it is our goal to move up quickly into the top five teams at Nationals. We expect the best.

The support that we have received from alumni, faculty, and our fellow students has been amazing. Our team has enough student support to break up and work on two separate cars. We hope to take 1st and 2nd at our upcoming regional competition in Rolla. Our faculty, especially Dr. Daniel Forciniti and Mr. Dean Lentz have been more than helpful for helping us attain the resources we have needed to succeed. A special thanks to Dr. Book is also in order for helping us review the safety of our car.

As for the future of Chem-E Car, much construction and design will ensue. It is time to take apart our car and rebuild it to make it better. Additionally, it is time to put together a brand new chassis for our second car. We will be looking at fuel cells for their consistency and reliability.

We wish to thank everyone again for their contributions. It has been a busy year and we’ve tackled a lot with the help of students, faculty and our alumni.

Achy (A.I.Ch.E.!) Breaky New Developments
By Emily Bahram-ahi

The AIChE Webpage Committee has been working hard throughout the semester to design and create a new, professional, informative website. As you may have heard, this coming spring semester the UMR Chapter of AIChE will be hosting the 2007 AIChE Mid America Regional Conference from March 30th through April 1st. Hundreds of people will be referencing the UMR AIChE website for information regarding the conference and our chapter. Therefore, it is very important for us to exhibit a well organized, thorough website. I am very pleased with the progress that we have made. I really appreciate all the help and support from the Webpage Committee. I would especially like to thank Jason Tarasenko and Tim Forbis for all of the time and effort they both put into the website and John Lawson and Nick Krzyanowski for their ideas and interest in the website.

In addition to working on completely revamping the AIChE website, I have done my best to create a new and improved AIChE newsletter. Our chapter has made tremendous improvements in the last few years, and I feel that it is important to keep all of our alumni informed and involved in our chapter here at UMR.

This semester we have also begun a Member of the Month program in order to recognize a member’s outstanding service to the chapter each month. Each Member of the Month receives a certificate, a UMR Chemical and Biological Engineering Copier Access Code to make free copies on the department copy machine, and one additional AIChE point. The point system is used to keep track of how involved each member is and is typically used during the officer elections. One point is equivalent to attending one meeting. In addition, the Members of the Months are rewarded by getting their name and photograph on the homepage of the AIChE website throughout the following month. This fall semester the following members were acknowledged as Member of the Month: Kris Hamilton, Tim Forbis, Courtney Loveless, and Jason Tarasenko. Thank you for your dedication to the UMR Chapter of AIChE.

The officers of AIChE feel that recognizing the individuals who go above and beyond to help the chapter will encourage other members to get involved as well and further increase member participation. After all, student involvement and commitment to the UMR Chapter of AIChE is a big part of what makes our chapter so successful. Of course, we would not thrive as much as we do without support and encouragement from faculty, staff, and alumni.

To further improve our chapter, the Chemical Engineering Peer Mentor and Tutor program was established. The primary purpose is to foster peer support throughout the Chemical Engineering Department and provide support for new Chemical Engineering students at UMR. I hope you enjoy this AIChE update!
2007 AIChe Mid America Regional Alumni Donation Form

Name: ____________________________________________

Address:

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

☐ Check here if you do not want your name to appear in the program

I am interested in sponsoring the 2007 AIChe Mid America Regional Conference for: (Please circle one of the following.) Donations will be noted in the program booklet under these same categories.

Platinum Level $200 Sponsorship
Gold Level $100 Sponsorship
Silver Level $50 Sponsorship
Bronze Level $25 Sponsorship
Other Any amount is welcome!

Please send the donation in the form of a check (made payable to the AIChe Regional Fund) or money order to:

University of Missouri-Rolla
AIChe Regional Fund
143 Schrenk Hall
Rolla, MO 65409

Thank you for your donation to the 2007 AIChe Mid America Regional Conference. Your support is always appreciated!
Changing the Ratio?
By Deborah Shannon

This year on October 14, AIChE was one of six organizations participating in “Badge University” (formerly known as “Bridging the Gap”). This program is put on annually by the UMR Biology department for the girl scouts of Springfield, MO. Its goal is to spark the girls’ curiosity in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. The girls (school grades 1st-6th) take an all day field trip to UMR on an autumn Saturday. During their stay at the university, the girls are separated into age groups and they travel around campus to the 40 minute activities planned by the various organizations. At the end of the day, the girl scouts receive a badge (see image to the left). This year, approximately 45 girls came to the program. This number is usually higher; unfortunately, there was a conflict with another Girl Scout program.

The following five volunteers from AIChE took charge of our event: Brandi Anderson; Amy Moerer; Deborah Shannon; External Activities Coordinator; Elizabeth Smith; and Bryan Solomon, Historian. AIChE’s activity was lovingly called “Fluid Flow” after a class in which 3 of the volunteers were enrolled. A variety of fun “experiments” to educate the young girls about density, solutions, non-Newtonian fluids and proper usage of a graduated cylinder were planned.

On the day of the event, Anderson led the girls through the making of oobleck (a cornstarch and water non-Newtonian fluid), and Smith made excellent sketches and explanations for the mysterious meniscus in their plastic graduated cylinders. The others helped the girls get accurate amounts of water. Anderson also explained the formation of a tasty solution of Kool-Aid® powder, water, and sugar to them. While they were enjoying the Kool-Aid® Moerer served them, Shannon had a few problems with her density demonstration. The 1st-2nd graders laughed with delight as Shannon spilled rather warm, red colored water on herself for a 3rd time (she was laughing herself). The 4th attempt was successful, and the girls were fascinated to see that warm water was less dense than cold water. The volunteers shared information about themselves and their major, and afterward they had a question and answer session. As the girls got older, the questions became more sophisticated, and soon there were quite a few sketches on the chalkboard of the biology laboratory. At the end of their session, every group of girls gave them a chorus of “Thank You” as they left. Soloman chatted with the group as he escorted them to the next event.

In the beginning, one of the questions asked of the girls was “What do you want to be when you grow up?” A plethora of answers was received from police officer to veterinarian, many teachers, and a few scientists. Hopefully, as these girls grow up and start looking at colleges and careers, they will remember their trip to UMR and give chemical engineering a second thought.

Points to Ponder in AIChE
By Bryan Solomon

The University of Missouri - Rolla student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers has had a busy but productive semester, and this coming spring semester will be even more eventful with the 2007 AIChE Regional Conference being hosted by our chapter at UMR. In an effort to encourage member participation, keep record of each student’s involvement in AIChE activities, and further develop our chapter, the previous officer corps developed the Points System. This system awards a given number of points to each student who participates in each AIChE activity. Depending on the events relative importance, a different number of points are given. Meetings, for example, are each worth one point, while helping with the clean up of our adopted portion of Highway 44 is worth four points since it is a philanthropic project.

Not only is this system capable of informing all concerned individuals about who is actively involved in our student organization but it is also a great help in determining who among those running for officer positions are truly dedicated to the advancement of our student chapter. In addition, we hope to use the Points System as a means for determining how to divide the available finances when traveling to regional and national AIChE conferences in the future. This past November seven students from the UMR Chapter of AIChE, including myself, were fortunate enough to attend the AIChE National Conference and participate in the National Chemical Car Competition in San Francisco. In order to make the trip affordable for students, some AIChE funds were used. In the future, we would like to use the Points System to better allocate these funds to those members who are most deserving of such aid. The Points System can also be used to monitor the improvement of our chapter from semester to semester in the following categories: meeting attendance, number of dues-paying members and National AIChE members, philanthropic activities, fundraising activities, and committee participation and has already proven to be an effective tool.
Focus On All Things Soda
By Darla Ellis

Laugh, it’s a celebration! One thing I learned this semester is not to take myself too seriously. The first presentation I did this semester didn’t get many laughs, and I’ll admit I was a bit nervous. I struggled with being funny in a professional setting. Then, I came to the conclusion that I would just have to get in trouble for my presentations after the meetings due to content. I started doing filmed comedy, because it’s a better way for me to express my sense of humor. Being the sodagirl really allowed me to take out a lot of my frustrations, most of which have been caused by professors (smile). At times, it helps to just focus on all things ignorant and have a good time. Do what makes you laugh and don’t worry about the rest…and keep those sodas coming.

“Do what makes you laugh and don’t worry about the rest…and keep those sodas coming.”

Fall 2006 AIChe Officers: Bryan Solomon, Deborah Shannon, Kendra Riddle, Greg Eike, Brent Patrick, Dan Burtman, and Emily Bahram-ahi

Thank you for your support!