

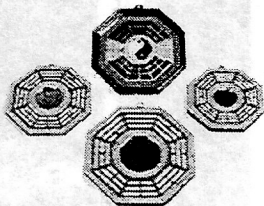


# Currents

Newsletter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, UC Berkeley Student Chapter

## Feng Shui

By "Anonymous"



Feng Shui. To my roommates it's an odd sounding phrase that suddenly acted as the catalyst for my sudden cleaning frenzy. After emptying ten bags of clothing from my closet, removing stacks of old chemical engineering books and placing a serene orchid on my bedside table, I declared my room more energy friendly. I've even recently considered a switch to a futon instead of my normal fluffy white bed. And this has been all in the name of Feng Shui.

So what exactly is it? It's a phrase that has prompted the publishing of hundreds of books and the creation of Energy Experts. Thousands of people across the United States have claimed huge benefits from allowing energy to flow freely through their houses. These miracles have been everything from renewed love lives, sudden financial success, and weight loss. It's amazing. Or is it?

Some might argue that it's a trend. With that, I would agree. And while I don't entirely buy into the whole energy flow idea, I do believe that something about it works. My friends may laugh at my odd notions of "feng shui-ing" my room, as it's now called at my house, but at least it gives me something to do other than studying.



## History of AICHE

By Ruben Omega, Secretary

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (<http://www.aiche.org>) is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1908. It currently represents 57,000 members in all fields of chemical engineering, including industry and education. Efforts to start a student chapter here at UC Berkeley began in 1947 and finally came to fruition in 1949 thanks to efforts by Professor C.R. Wilke and a few Chemical Engineering students. In its first few decades of operation, AICHE was closely tied to the professional chemistry fraternity, Alpha Chi Sigma (AXΣ), and even held most of their meetings at the AXΣ house on Virginia Street at the north side of the campus. Later, AICHE began to share an office with the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, SAACS, in 101 Latimer Hall (where AICHE is still presently located).

AICHE and SAACS were the two major student clubs in the College of Chemistry. AICHE was for the Chemical Engineering students and SAACS was for the Chemistry students. Most of the funding for these clubs came from vending machine profits throughout the College of Chemistry. However, in the 1980s, the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), the campus-wide student organization, "took over" all campus vending machine rights.

Continued on page 4

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## Complaint #1

By Gilbert Kwok, Publicity

Hi, my name is Gilbert and I m the publicity chair for the spring 2000. I m writing to you today to reclaim my initial "G" from Gondica, the president... (please excuse my "..."'s for I haven't taken chemE 185). I noticed this conflict with her ever since I became an AIChE officer... it is very irritating every time I end my email, message or whatever w/ "G" and everyone thinks Gondica wrote it. So ever since I have been trying to find a way to avoid this problem but had no idea.... Recently, a suggestion came from Oscar, another AIChE officer, he remembered back in da day when he was living in the "hood" that when ever someone join a street gang and wanted the same name w/ someone already in the gang... they will fight for it.... So I think this should apply to AIChE too. Therefore, Jondica u either switch ur initial to a "J" or whatever or meet me at the flag pole after school! =)

Sincerely,  
The publicity dept.



"Jondica" graciously agreeing to G's request



John O'Brien and Gondica Nguyen accept the Marx Isaacs Award from Kathleen Fullerton, National AIChE Director, for Outstanding Newsletter in Dallas, TX.

## AIChE Currents wins National Award

By Ruben Omega, Secretary

Last fall, our president Gondica Nguyen and former vice-president and newsletter editor John O'Brien attended the National AIChE Conference at Dallas, Texas to accept the 1999 Marx Isaacs Award for Outstanding Newsletter. This award is given annually to the best student chapter newsletter in the nation. We are proud of John and those who contributed, and hope to follow in his footsteps. Other UC Berkeley AIChE members attending the Dallas conference included Dale Webber, Riham Morcos, Philippe Tabada, and Stephen Chan.

If you are interested in submitting an article for our Fall 2000 newsletter, send an idea or an article submission to Ruben Omega ([rubedog@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:rubedog@uclink4.berkeley.edu)). The next newsletter will be distributed at the annual Wine and Cheese with Professors.

# The Need to Excel

By "Anonymous"

Whether it happens to be our parent's encouragement or our personal aspirations, all of us try to "do our best." For most students, this cliché translates directly into making good grades. However, the cost of grades comes at a heavy price: sleepless nights, stressful situations, and maybe even indigestion. Many cash out and go elsewhere: maybe chemistry, maybe other engineering, and even anthropology.

For the enduring, we're all betting on our BS in chemical engineering to carry us ahead. But even the enduring ones, have faded fast and exploited the shortcuts and loopholes. Cheating is a weekly performance for hordes of undergrads who now rely on their "buddies" to complete assignments. Almost daily, you can sit outside the chem library and watch little cliques stroll in and out of the copiers with answer sets. It disgusts me to know that this little "groupie" finished their homework about 4, maybe 6, hours sooner than I did. Not too fair is it?

So what compels these academically dishonest individuals to such ends?

- time? Yeah, there's plenty, so go out and play
- friends? Yeah, continue smiling and befriending all those smart guys
- grades? Yeah, 100% - wow, that was easy

But have we completely forgotten why we're all here at the University of California, Berkeley? This is an educational institution, right? I came to Cal looking to learn a few things about myself, how I fit into this crazy world, and above all, to learn something about ChE. Of course I can't say that about everyone else, but I'd hope they have similar aspirations. So, it bewilders me to imagine how some of my peers are learning anything besides how to copy without the graders noticing. Call me crazy, but I don't know how you're going to learn thermo without doing a single problem! Seems like their just throwing away their time and money. Maybe one day they'll see what I'm bitching about. Then there are those who say that the stakes will be turned: perhaps in an examination or perhaps

even in the workplace. Maybe it'll happen, maybe it won't, but for now they'll continue unabated.

I have heard of a few incidences of cheaters getting caught. So they failed the assignment and got a "slap on the wrist." Yeah, big deal. This only encourages them to be smarter cheaters; largely ignoring the problem. Did anyone realize that we have academic codes at this University? I learned of an incident where one professor (in some humanities department) went as far as to expel the students from Cal. I'm not saying throw all the cheaters out but change is long overdue. I'm fully aware of the difficulties in accusing students of cheating and proving their guilt, however, you have to start somewhere.

*Continued on page 4*

## ONE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE

Academic dishonesty cases at the University of Southern California, 1997-98

### Cases reported - 152

#### Student status:

- Undergraduate students - 98
- Graduate students - 54

#### Nature of incidents:

- Copied homework/assignment - 48
- Plagiarism - 29
- Documentary falsification - 19
- Exam violations - 17
- Unauthorized collaboration - 16
- Submitted paper to multiple courses - 6
- Fabricated assignment - 5
- Obtained solution to prior semester's assignment - 4
- Resubmitted altered work (exam) after grading - 4
- Imposter sat exam - 1

#### Sanctions assessed:\*\*

- "F" or "0" on assignment - 68
- Grade of "F" in course - 48
- Reduced grade in course - 13
- Delay of degree - 6
- Suspension - 5
- Revocation of admission - 4
- Warning - 3
- Deferred suspension - 3
- Reduced grade on assignment - 2
- Rewrite - 1
- Expulsion - 1

\* Three cases pending initial adjudication.

\*\* More than one sanction assessed in some cases



## The Need to Excel

*Continued from page 3*

In my imagined utopia, we really shouldn't need any policing. That's a grade-school idea. What we [the students] need is some integrity. We should know better. Why not, challenge yourself and do your own work. You won't get anything from copying your "buddies" work. Go see your TAs and professors. If you don't get a perfect score on your H.W., big deal; you should know that it doesn't amount to any significant portion of your grade.

For me, it's just really hard to respect someone who can't think on their own. In the long run, I'd just hate to leave Cal knowing that my classmates were a bunch of mindless zombies.

You have a brain, use it.

If you have comments or questions about this bitter tirade or have hate mail please address to AICHE at:  
aiche@socrates.berkeley.edu  
and hopefully, they'll forward it over to me.

## History of AICHE

*Continued from page 1*

The loss of this major source of funding effectively brought an end to SAACS, and almost brought an end to AICHE, had it not been for the strong efforts to gain support from corporate sponsors.

Today, AICHE is open to all majors, although our events are targeted toward science majors. We are grateful to receive most of our funding from corporate sponsorships, thereby giving our members a great value for their membership dues. Our largest contributors include Dow Chemical, Chevron, Proctor and Gamble, and the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Student membership dues are \$10 per semester or \$15 per year, but students receive an estimated value of over \$100 in services, food, and other goodies. AICHE's mission is:

- To provide students with insight into various Chemical Engineering careers,
- To provide a social medium for student interaction, and
- To promote informal student-faculty contact.

To this end, AICHE offers many company presentations/recruiting events throughout the academic year, as well as social events including the annual Wine and Cheese with Professors in the Fall and the annual Spring Banquet. Other events include the Brown Bag Lunch (an informal, bring-your-own-lunch talk with a professor or industry representative), and sports activities such as football and basketball versus the graduate students. A few students attend the annual National Conferences (held at Dallas last semester) and the Regional Conferences (held at UCLA this semester). AICHE also offers tutoring for the introductory Chemical Engineering courses and conducts a survey of graduating seniors every year to gauge students' needs and opinions.



Professor John M. Prausnitz with student Erica Siu at the annual Wine and Cheese



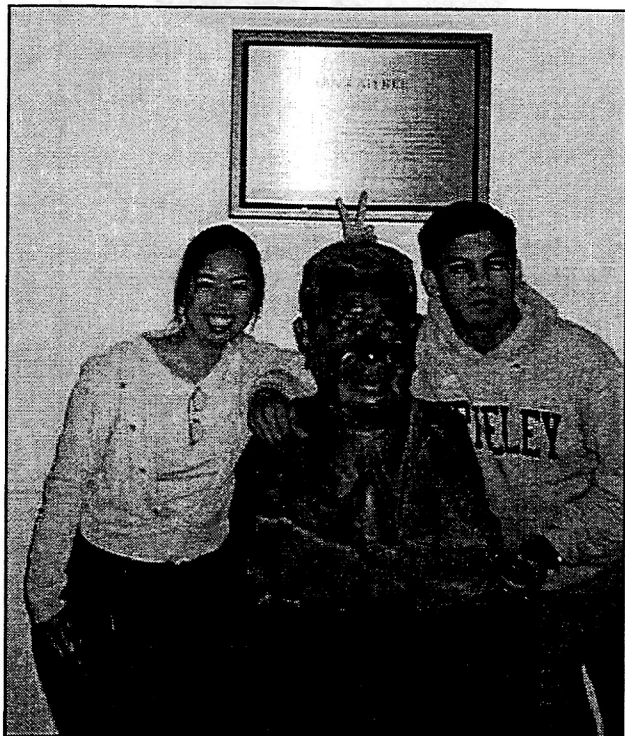
# Introducing Professor Katz

By Ruben Omega, Secretary



AIChE welcomes the newest member of the Chemical Engineering faculty, Professor Alexander Katz. Professor Katz received his B.S. and M.S. at the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. at the California Institute of Technology (CalTech). He joins the faculty after completing a postdoctoral study in France working on supermolecules. His research involves assembling complex molecules for use in catalysis and separations.

When asked why he chose Berkeley, Professor Katz points to our intellectually stimulating environment. He says Berkeley “felt right at all levels” and he also enjoys the diversity Berkeley has to offer. His impressions of Berkeley students are that they generally have a high level of school spirit and they ask questions which go beyond knowing how to complete the problem set.



**Above:** Gondica Nguyen and Ruben Omega pose with Tan Kah Kee.

In his spare time, Prof. Katz is a big fan of musical events, including the jazz and acupella performances on lower Sproul and the Wednesday noon concerts at Hertz Hall. He occasionally visits the San Francisco Symphony and Ballet and enjoys theatre performances. Outdoors, he enjoys hiking, often at the Berkeley hills or the Marin Headlands.

As an undergraduate at Minnesota, Prof. Katz’s favorite courses were thermodynamics (our ChE 141) and separations (our ChE 152). He says he enjoyed it more because of the teacher rather than the course itself, although the courses are indeed useful.

Professor Katz currently co-teaches Chemical Engineering (ChE) 142, the kinetics and reaction engineering course, with Professor Enrique Iglesia. He praises Prof. Iglesia’s phenomenal job of teaching the course, and he considers it a pleasure to co-teach with him. Prof. Katz will also be instructing ChE 157, the transport laboratory, with Dr. Henrik Wallman.

His advice to undergraduates is to follow their aspirations and to not sell themselves short. He cautions against doing things you don’t want to do for a long term. Also, being at Berkeley offers the opportunity to do undergraduate research, and he suggests that it is a very good experience for all students, especially those wishing to continue to graduate school. He views the classroom as teaching the history of ChE while research teaches the future of ChE.



## ASUC / EJC Supported

This publication is supported by the Associated Students of the University of California and the Engineers Joint Council at UC Berkeley.

All photos courtesy of Jeremy Isaacs

# AIChE 1999-2000 Senior Survey

Survey by Gondica Nguyen  
 Graphics by Alvin Lin  
 Summary by Ruben Omega

Toward the end of each academic year, the AIChE student chapter conducts a survey of graduating seniors. This enables AIChE to plan the following year's events to meet the needs of its members. This year's survey gives us interesting results.

A total of 59 surveys were collected. Some of the highlights are as follows:

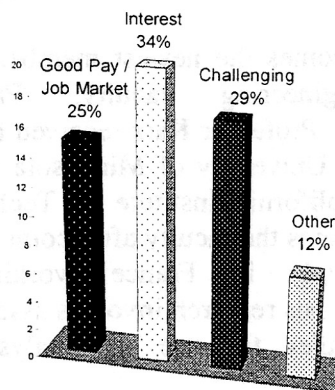
- The average time to graduation is 4.5 years.
- Of the 8% who plan to pursue graduate programs, most (69%) plan to go into business.
- 54% of those surveyed had previously done an internship or co-op. Of those, **100%** found it to be a useful experience (not shown on graphs).
- If given the opportunity to major in Chemical Engineering again, only 49% would.

The survey also allowed people to provide comments. Some comments included:

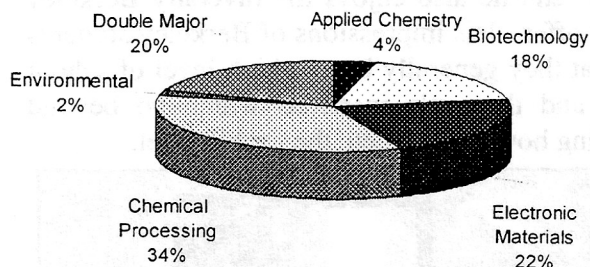
- "Tell future Chem E's to change to Computer Science."
- "When one enters chemical engineering, they should be fully aware of the fact that very few companies will hire you for your Chem E knowledge (like how to build a [plug flow reactor])....A sizable portion of each year's graduating class finds employment with companies that do little with traditional Chem E jobs."
- "I want to go to sleep."



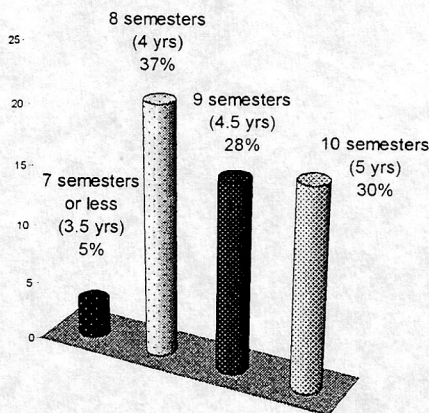
## Why did you choose Chem E as your major?



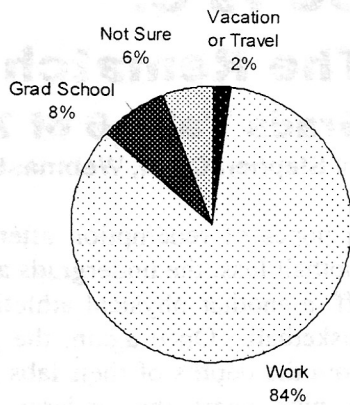
## What is your technical option?



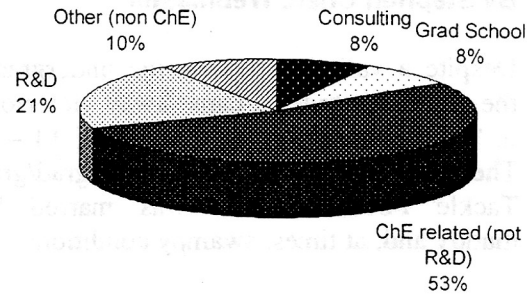
## How many semesters did it take you to graduate (including community college)?



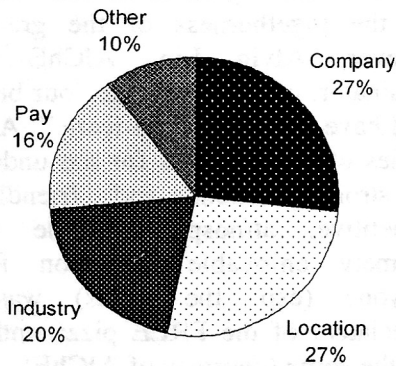
**What do you expect to be doing one year from now?**



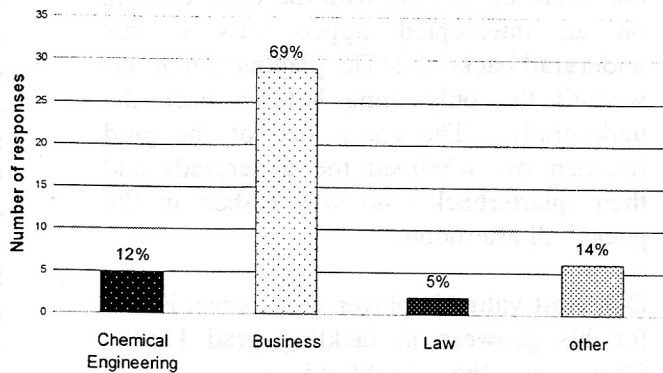
**What type of work will you be doing?**



**What affected your job decision the most?**

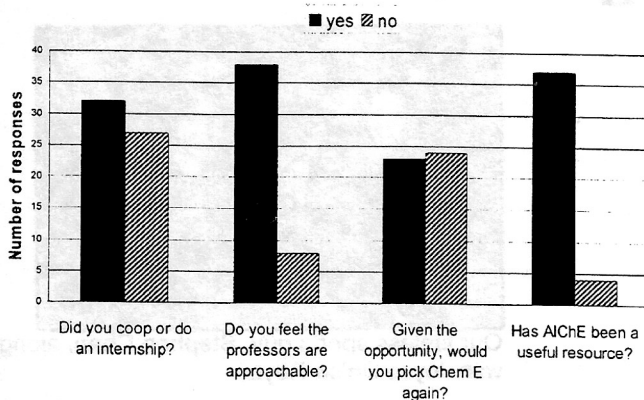


**If you plan to go to graduate school, what grad program are you considering?**

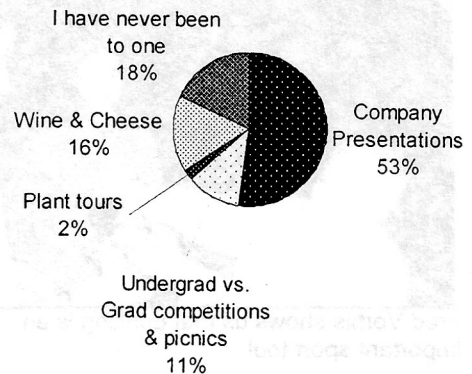


**Most Useful Class: Chem E 185 (Technical Communication)**  
**Least Useful Class: Chemistry 120A (Physical Chemistry)**

**Miscellaneous Yes/No Questions**



**What is your favorite AIChE event?**





# The AIChE Sports Page

## “MUD BOWL 2000”

### Grads Clobber Undergrads

By Stephen Chan, Webmaster

Despite a valiant effort by the undergrads, the graduate students came away victorious in “Mud Bowl 2000” by a score of 14 – 0. The inaugural ChemE undergrad/grad Tackle Football Game was marred by muddy and, at times, swampy conditions.

The game was characterized by hard hitting linemen and short running attacks. The mud caked ball thwarted both team’s attempts at establishing a passing game or an efficient offensive attack. The grads managed only one score on offense with the other coming on an intercepted tipped pass in the undergrad backfield. The playing conditions weren’t the only thing holding back the undergrads. The sheer size of the grad linemen overwhelmed the undergrads and their quarterback who was rushed in the pocket all afternoon.

Our most valuable player was Usman Habib for his prowess in tackling grad Phyllis Chen in the backfield for a loss (accompanied by a horrific scream!)

The game was held at Lake Anza Park in Tilden in front of a lively crowd of nearly 20.



Fred Vorhis shows us that drinking is an important sport too!

## UG vs G:

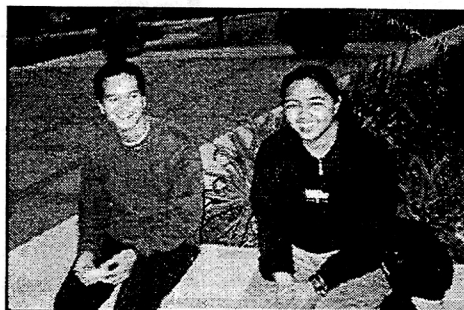
### The Rematch

#### Grads Take 6 of 7 Games!

By Stephen Chan, Webmaster

In hopes of redemption after the humbling football loss, the undergrads and grads faced off in another physical athletic competition: basketball. Once again, the grads emerged from the depths of their labs and proceeded to pick apart the undergrads. As with football, size and team cohesiveness proved to be the clinching factor in the grad’s victories. They won 6 of the 7 games played against an undergrad team that seemed to lack the togetherness of the grad team. However, Alvin Lin, AIChE activity coordinator, commented that “our best team could have beat their best team.” Although a series of tough losses for the undergrads, the strong turnout and friendly, yet competitive, atmosphere made for an extremely enjoyable afternoon for all. Everyone (esp. the grads) was most appreciative of the FREE pizza and drinks after the game (courtesy of AIChE).

In related news, one final game for the season is currently being planned. The choices are either ultimate frisbee or softball. Suggestions are currently being accepted at [aiche@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:aiche@socrates.berkeley.edu)



Our tireless sports guy, Stephen Chan, along with Joyce Delos Reyes.

## E2K

By Riham Morcos, EJC Representative

From Monday, April 10, through Friday, April 14, Berkeley engineering students enjoyed barbecues, dunk tanks, contests, prizes, dancing, and music in celebration of Engineering Week 2000.

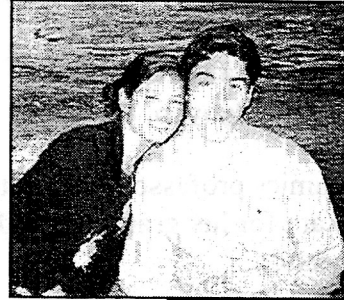
"E2K" was sponsored by the Engineering Joint Council (EJC). The Engineering Week (E-Week) activities were sponsored by many of the engineering student societies, including AIChE. A full schedule of fun and educational contests, food sales and more serious activities were planned. Some of these included dances, pie-eating contests, movie night, and a seminar "Anatomy of a Start-Up."

On Monday, many students watched the movie "The Matrix" in Sibley Auditorium. The following evening, students learned about materials used in musical instruments during a lecture given by Professor Ron Gronsky of the Materials Science department. On Wednesday, students had the opportunity to meet four CEO's and two Venture Partners in the "Anatomy of a Start-Up" panel discussion.

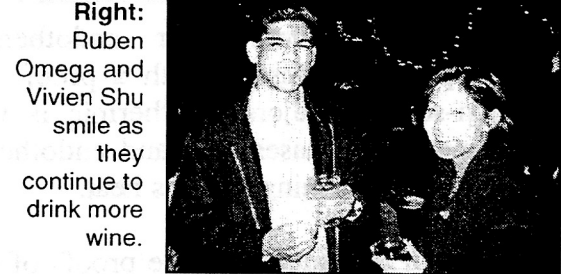
If you missed out on Engineering Week this year, watch out for the next one in 2001.



Riham Morcos with Alexandra Holland



Left: Sumi Narain and John O'Brien pose at "Senior Hall" on the Berkeley campus.



Right: Ruben Omega and Vivien Shu smile as they continue to drink more wine.

## AIChE Regional Conference at UCLA

By Riham Morcos, EJC Representative

A few students from Cal had the opportunity to attend the AIChE Western Regional Conference (April 7-9) hosted by the University of California at Los Angeles. Gondica Nguyen, Tuyen Le, Ruben Omega, and Riham Morcos all stayed at the Holiday Inn Hotel a few blocks away from the UCLA campus.

The UCLA AIChE chapter planned many events, including a welcoming reception, oral presentation competition, poster and "Chem-E-Car" competition, a job fair, banquet, and a trip to the Getty Center Museum. Going to the conference was a great experience and a lot of fun. I had the opportunity to meet many other chemical engineering students from many schools. I recommend that everyone attend the regional conference next year.

# Thermodynamics

Stolen by Gondica Nguyen, President

A thermodynamics professor had written a take-home exam for his graduate students. It had one question.

Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with a proof. For non-science majors, exothermic is when something releases heat and endothermic is when something absorbs heat.

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we postulate that if souls exist, they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls can also have mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and what rate are souls leaving? I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets into hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for souls entering hell, let's take a look at the different religions that exist in the world today.

Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change in volume in hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant.

#1: So, if hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.

#2: Of course, if hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Jennifer Smith during freshman year that "It will be a cold night in hell before I sleep with you," and take into account that I still have not succeeded in doing so, then #2 can not be true, and hell is exothermic.

## 6AM

The AIChE Poet

Berkeley at 6am is a very different place  
The bums will generally find a bench  
and fall asleep  
If you're not careful, you might wake them up  
All of their possessions are in shopping carts  
They hold them while they sleep  
Perhaps to keep other bums from stealing them  
There is almost no noise but my own footsteps  
Only the occasional health fanatic  
almost no one is moving on the street  
No busses pass by  
Especially the one that I am waiting for  
One or two lights are on in the apartments I pass  
My problem set is almost done  
It's due at 8am  
It's time to go to sleep



Your sleepy AIChE Currents editor, Jeremy Isaacs.





**Clockwise from top left:** (1) Craig McDonald of Dow Chemical with Gondica Nguyen, President; (2) Dr. Henrik Wallman with Shereen Sackmann; (3) Jasmine Yu, the official "AICHE Helper;" (4) Gilbert Kwok, Publicity, with David Parks of Dow Chemical; (5) Riham Morcos, EJC Representative, with Professor Clayton Radke; (6) Alvin Lin, Activities, showing his pearly whites.

### **AICHE Officers 1999-2000**

President.....	Gondica Nguyen
Vice-President.....	Stephanie Ko
Treasurer.....	Sumi Narain
Secretary.....	Ruben Omega
Webmaster.....	Stephen Chan
Publicity.....	Gilbert Kwok
Student-Faculty Liason.....	Neha Parekh
Frosh/Soph Coordinator.....	Oscar Garcia
EJC Representative.....	Riham Morcos
Activities.....	Alvin Lin
Activities.....	Salvador Macasieb, Jr.
Historian.....	Jeremy Isaacs

**American Institute of Chemical Engineers**  
 UC Berkeley Student Chapter  
 Department of Chemical Engineering  
 201 Gilman Hall #1462  
 Berkeley, CA 94720-1462  
 Phone: (510) 642-0925 Fax: (510) 642-4778  
 The AICHE Office is physically located at 101 Latimer Hall

Newsletter edited by  
**Jeremy Isaacs and Ruben Omega**  
 Send all comments, thoughts and questions  
 to:  
 aiche@socrates.berkeley.edu

### **AICHE Officers 2000-2001**

President.....	Stephen Chan
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Treasurer.....	Riham Morcos
Secretary.....	Jeremy Isaacs
Webmaster.....	April Bowen
Publicity.....	Jaya Boppana
Student-Faculty Liason.....	Gondica Nguyen
Frosh/Soph Coordinator.....	Oscar Garcia
EJC Representative.....	Gilbert Kwok
Activities.....	Philippa "Pip" Reeder
Activities.....	Wendy Y. Lin
Historian.....	Dale Webber

AICHE Congratulates our  
**Graduating Seniors**

*May 2000*

Mursalin Mohammed Anis  
Rebecca Elizabeth Brafman  
Adam Philip Cate  
Martin Chern Huan Chai  
Lothar Chan-Sew  
Hsuan Ying Chang  
Andrew I-Shine Chen  
Peter Ming Yau Chu  
Yong Hwee Chua  
Tien Dinh  
Wan Cheng Goh  
Diana Lee Gragg  
Jeffrey Thanh Ha  
Usman Habib  
Silvia Halim  
Imelda Hartono  
Carlos Guillermo Hernandez  
Julia Rae Herriges  
Jason Yiu Chung Ho  
Tina Hsu  
Chu Hung Huang

Rahi Kanchan Karnik  
David Friend Kilburn  
Kien-Don Lam  
Khim Wee Lee  
Jeremy B. Lewis  
Gilbert Li  
Nancy Whengkhong Liew  
Myasari Lim  
Alvin Ching Lin  
Salvador Calauan Macasieb  
Gary Sung-Yee Mak  
Michael James Milos  
Kamyar Moftakhar  
Sumi Shah Narain  
Trung-Duong Cuoc Nguyen  
Vu Thanh Nguyen  
Julia Kathryn Nichols  
Eric Richard Owens  
Samantha Christine Ozuna  
Neha Harendra Parekh  
Nghia Cong Phan

Jason Michael Ploeger  
Jeffrey Edward Reichert  
Anna Remennik  
Brian Scott Roberts  
Marci Lynn Schaefer  
Russell Alexander Seeman  
Binoi Shah  
Alex Shun-Ting  
Erica Lai-Sheung Siu  
Wang-Dar Sun  
Karen Yuankie Tang  
Vincent Tang  
Thanh Thi  
Long Nguyen Tran  
Mariel Pacis Triggs  
Lanthu Thi Trinh  
Sy Vo  
Alan De Lun Xu  
Grace Jimi Yu  
Laura Ann Zmijewski

*December 2000*

Patricia Aguilar Suarez  
Matthew Burgess Avery  
Melita Michelle Batra  
Nathan Kirk Blakely  
Lam-Kit Cheuk  
Donald Kim Aun Chua  
Mimi Dang  
Joyce Lyn Delos Reyes  
Serena Le-Thi Diec  
Ilya Elyashkevich  
Samson Oluwatosin Famurewa  
Yi-Chun Fang  
Nancy Shen Fung  
William Frederick Glesener  
Waheed Rehman Hai  
Monika Halim

Susan Xuan Hsiong  
Matthew Robert Irwin  
Kenny Theodoric Komala  
Duong Huong Le  
Chris Lee  
Katie Jeannine Lewis  
Xiao-Zhe Li  
Fazlin Haney Mohamad Khader  
Raymon M. Morcos  
Jonathan David Morrison  
Marc Christopher Morrison  
Gondica Trinh Nguyen  
Ryan Ong  
Pooja Jasdeep Purdhani  
Nikita Harakh Rambhia  
Ines Ruth Renner

Rosario Scott  
Vivien Tze-Huei Shu  
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Joel Andrew Smith  
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Phillipe John Tabada  
Melissa Mei-Lei Tam  
Thuan Qui Tran  
Michelle Loretta Van Buskirk  
Tianshi Wang  
Lili Wei  
Vera Wijono  
Derek Bing-Yuan Wong  
Ellen Heather Wong  
Wai Chun Wong