1993 Marx Issacs Award Recipient

NEWSLETTER

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Renowned Author Wins 2003 Wilson Award

Congratulations to Randall N. Robinson, the winner of the Robert E. Wilson Award for 2003. If you've studied for the Professional Engineer examination in Chemical Engineering recently, you may recognize the name: He is the author of the *Chemical Engineering Reference Manual for the PE Exam*. He was nominated for his contributions to chemical engineering in the nuclear industry, first with General Electric and now with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. His major contributions and achievements are briefly described below.

- Invention of the Passive GEZIP system, which resulted in a substantial reduction of radiation dose to workers during BWR outages worldwide.
- Contribution to the improvement of the skills of thousands of chemical engineers by his teaching and the production of his book for the PE exam.
- Investigation into safety problems with the use of tetraphenylborate for in-tank precipitation of cesium from high level waste.
- Earning his Ph.D. in chemical engineering at age 60.

Dr. Robinson will receive his award on April 1 at a special dinner at the New Orleans meeting. We hope you'll join us in recognizing Randall for his achievements and for this award.

It's not too early to start thinking about your nomination for the 2004 Wilson award. For information on the nomination process, contact Wilson Solicitation Chair Nate Chipman at chipna@inel.gov.

See You in New Orleans!

AIChE will hold the 2003 Spring National Meeting at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans from March 30 through April 3. You can save $100 on the registration fee using the Early Bird rates available through February 7. Standard registration fees apply through March 14 and are $40 less than on-site registration. Complete information on registration, housing, special events and much more is available on the web at AIChE's Conferences web page, http://www.aiche.org/conferences/spring/.

NED will sponsor seven technical sessions as described below. The program will feature 37 papers in six technical sessions, plus three topics in a poster session. Complete information on paper titles, authors and abstracts is available on the meeting web site.

Group 14 - Nuclear Engineering

Date	*Time*	*Code*	*Book Number – Sessions*
Mon., 3/31	8:00 a.m.	14001	151 - Recent Advances in Chemical Separation Process for Tank Waste Treatment
Mon., 3/31	2:00 p.m.	14002	152 - Advances in Separations & Immobilization of Nuclear Waste in Support of the DOE Environmental Management Program
Mon., 3/31	5:00 p.m.	14006	153 - Poster Session
Tues., 4/1	8:00 a.m.	14003	154 - Methodologies for the Management and Disposal of Unique Nuclear, Toxic, and Mixed Waste I
Tues., 4/1	3:30 p.m.	14004	155 - Methodologies for the Management and Disposal of Unique Nuclear, Toxic, and Mixed Waste II
Wed., 4/2	8:30 a.m.	14901	157 - Technical Aspects of Projected Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication at the Savannah River Site
Wed., 4/2	2:00 p.m.	14005	156 – Novel Hydrogen Generation Processes and Energy Applications

Information on future AIChE meetings is available on the AIChE Conferences web page.

If you've been to any of the previous AIChE meetings in New Orleans, you know it's a great place for a meeting. We hope to see you there.

Message from the Chair

Luis Canas

Greetings to all NED members and guest readers of this newsletter. As I take over as Chair for 2003, I look forward to a great horizon for this Division.

But let us face reality first: This is a critical year for NED. The Chemical Engineering Technology Operating Council (CTOC), which oversees all AIChE Divisions, is seriously concerned about the future viability of NED in light of its stagnant, aging membership and poor attendance at technical programs at national meetings. If there is no visible improvement in the short term, the CTOC may opt to "sunset" NED. This is a sad prospect for the oldest AIChE Division just short of its golden anniversary in 2004.

Throughout the past year, the former Chair, Ron Denney, and I brainstormed ideas to save NED from its demise. A revitalization plan is in progress and partially implemented. As directed by the CTOC, the focus is on expanded, diversified, and sustained programming for the national AIChE meetings and similar events. However, we recognize that the Division needs to be actively involved in a wide spectrum of activities to gain more visibility and provide value to its membership.

Our name suggests that we are inherently a nuclear organization. In the beginning, NED was essentially tied to nuclear energy and so was stated in our bylaws until recently. In July 2002, NED redefined its mission to encompass nuclear science and technology at large and applications in other fields. NED is even considering a new beginning as a Division focused on sustainable energy (nuclear, hydrogen, solar, biological).

A Programming Committee has been created to identify core areas for robust programs. The first such area formally established is Nuclear Hydrogen Generation and Applications, led by Charles Forsberg, who served as one of the NED Directors from 2000 through 2002. The idea is to take the programming burden away from a single individual and delegate it instead to the Committee. Cognizant, enthusiastic individuals will be appointed to lead the various core areas.

NED is also emphasizing interactions with other AIChE Divisions and with selected groups in the American Nuclear Society, American Chemical Society, Waste Management Symposia, and other organizations in the corporate, government, and academic sectors. The AIChE Separations Division is a prime example, since chemical separation processes play a big role in nuclear material production and waste conditioning. There is consensus that these alliances would be mutually beneficial by eliminating detrimental competition for participation in technical programs and by consolidating audiences. This vision further contemplates reaching out to international nuclear chemical agencies.

Another aspect of the NED revamping plan is reaching out to members at the personal level and promoting networking among the membership and beyond. NED is a relatively small community of 232 members at present, yet there is a surprisingly low level of mutual awareness. A member directory limited to name, affiliation, business telephone, and e-mail is now available on the web site as an essential resource.

Speaking of the NED web site , have you visited it recently? The look has been redesigned and the contents enhanced. I have personally taken responsibility to maintain the web site. The web site still resides in a server at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Tom Klasson, the former

webmaster, is still our internal contact there. Please feel free to contact me with requests or suggestions for the web site. The web address is http://www.ornl.gov/ned.

Have you ever attended an NED business meeting? Though meetings are open to the membership at large, attendance has traditionally been limited to the Executive Committee. With members scattered all over the country, few can afford the time and expense to travel. In an effort to deal with this limitation, NED will have teleconferencing capability for its future meetings. This technology was successfully tested at the last business meeting during the AIChE 2002 Annual Meeting at Indianapolis. A handful of people (including myself) joined in from our offices or homes. We hope that the next business meeting (to be held during the AIChE 2003 Spring National Meeting at New Orleans) will draw an even larger crowd both in person and by telephone.

What benefits do you get from your $10 NED membership? This is a question that existing and potential members occasionally ask. The answer is obviously not a fixed dollars and cents return on your $10 investment like in a savings account. Your membership stands for affiliation in a very unique club. You have the potential for real material benefits that can materialize in several ways, whether by chance or anticipated. For instance, your NED membership may make the difference in landing a job, receiving a promotion, or gaining recognition as a subject matter expert. The more you get involved with NED, the more potential opportunities there are to benefit in some particular way.

Please read other sections of this newsletter for more information on where NED stands and where it is going. Let us bring new blood into NED and make it work for all of us. I am open to any feedback on how to achieve this vision. Feel free to contact me anytime by e-mail at luis.canas@srs.gov or telephone at (803) 952-4624.

Contributions to Newsletter Welcome from All NED Members

NED welcomes contributions from all its membership for future editions of this newsletter. Potential topics include the following:

- Profiles of outstanding members
- Industry news
- News from your company
- Local section news
- DOE site news
- Relevant political or regulatory developments
- Engineers' Week activities
- Any other topics of potential interest to your fellow members

We are planning for the next issue to come out this summer. Please send your contributions to Editor Keith Hampton by May 31 via e-mail at bryan_k_keith_hampton@rl.gov.

NED 50th Anniversary Next Year!

Nuclear Engineering Division is looking forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2004. As the oldest AIChE division, NED is putting together some special recognition for an AIChE meeting next year. The lists of past NED chairs and Wilson award winners read like a Who's Who in nuclear processing, and NED is working to advertise this fact to the rest of the Institute. If you would like to help or have some ideas for this, please contact Keith Hampton via e-mail at bryan_k_keith_hampton@rl.gov.

New Division Officers

Several Division offices now have new people in these roles to serve NED and its members. Here are profiles of the new officers. You can contact NED officers and liaisons using the information given below.

Paul d'Entremont. Paul is the new Vice Chair for the Division, progressing to Chair in 2004. Paul is a Senior Fellow Engineer in High Level Waste Engineering with Westinghouse Savannah River Company. He has 22 years experience in high-level waste management at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. He is currently the lead for development of a dynamic, multicomponent computer model for the SRS HLW evaporator systems. He has participated in numerous review panels for radioactive waste management programs at Hanford, West Valley, and Oak Ridge, and he has a great variety of experience at SRS. Paul is a member of both AIChE and the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he served as a technical session chair at the 2000 AIChE spring meeting in Atlanta. He earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1977. Paul looks forward to serving NED membership and especially to serving as NED technical program chair.

William Rhodes. William was just elected to one of three NED Director positions. He is serving in the term running through 2005. Bill is with the Actinide Technology Section at Savannah River Technology Center, where he works with solvent extraction, flowsheet development, and computer modeling of solids precipitation in nuclear fuel dissolution. Previously he was with Exxon Research and Development and then with Westinghouse Electric Corporation at the Naval Reactors Facility in Idaho and at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory. He received his B.S. from the University of Cincinnati in 1981, his M.S. from Idaho State University in 1990, and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. Bill is a member of the American Nuclear Society in addition to AIChE. He will be a session chair in the NED technical program at the 2003 Spring National Meeting in New Orleans. Bill hopes to aid in membership growth for NED and expects to build synergy in our cooperation with other societies via his contacts in ANS.

NED Contacts

Officers			
Chair	Luis Canas	(803) 952-4624	luis.canas@srs.gov
Vice Chair	Paul d'Entremont	(803) 208-8727	paul.dentremont.@srs.gov
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Past Chair	Ron Denney	(208) 526-3102	denney@inel.gov
Directors			
Through 2003	Emory Collins	(865) 574-6928	collinsed@ornl.gov
Through 2004	Chip McClard	(803) 952-4612	james.mcclard@srs.gov
Through 2005	William Rhodes	(803) 725-4785	william.rhodes@srs.gov
NED Committee Chairs			
Membership	Bob Wham	(865) 576-7783	whamrm@ornl.gov
Nominations	Ron Denney	(208) 526-3102	denney@inel.gov
Programming	Ron Denney	(208) 526-3102	denney@inel.gov
NED Web Page	Luis Canas	(803) 952-4624	luis.canas@srs.gov
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Wilson Evaluation	Glen Benedict	(208) 465-7422	geblb@aol.com
	Rowland Felt	(208) 526-8241	feltre@id.doe.gov
	Randall Robinson	(202) 694-7141	randallr@dnfsb.gov
AIChE Liaisons and Committee Representatives			
HQ, CTOC Liaison	Joe Cramer	(212) 591-7950	josec@aiche.org
GRC Liaison	Darlene Schuster	(202) 962-8690	darls@aiche.org
NED RANTC Rep.	Ron Denney	(208) 526-3102	denney@inel.gov