

The Element

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November 2020

From The President's Corner...

As I finish my term as President of AIChE, I look forward to seeing what the next executive board will accomplish, and I hope they will maintain and bolster our efforts to institute community, progress, and excellence in our chapter.

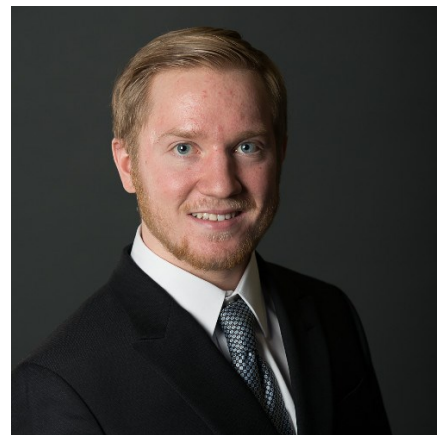
Our chapter continued to host events virtually to maintain the comradery amongst our chapter members. Every week, we hosted a professional at our general body meetings to discuss topics ranging from the work in their industry to career building and much more. We encouraged our students to communicate with professionals and each other to build their networks and learn more about the possibilities that lie ahead. We hosted virtual game nights weekly to help students decompress after a hard week of schoolwork and build relationships with each other. I know the next executive board will continue to host fun and interactive events to keep the family that is AIChE together.

Our Chem-E Car team was fortunate to compete in the North-Central

Regional Chem-E Car Competition this year. The team set everything up from the testing area to the set-up station to host a successful event. We were able to allow students to also attend the AIChE National Student Conference to give them an opportunity to attend workshops, view student projects, and network with professionals. Our Mentor-Mentee Program continued to make strides in connecting students with mentors, and we continued building relationships with our Graduate student counterparts.

I am so proud to see everything that our chapter has continued to do even during this pandemic. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of this organization and getting to know all of the people involved. I would like to thank all of those who made everything we did this past year possible. I wish everyone the best health and good fortune moving forward, and I cannot wait to see what lies ahead for AIChE and Illinois Tech.

Jake Tracey



From the Presidents corner	1
This Semester's events	2
A Treasurer's tale	3
Mentor-Mentee	3
About our Speakers	4
Outreach Coordinator	5
Fundraising Chair	5
ChemE Car	6
Sister Chapter Liaison	7
Conference Coordinator	8
Awards Dinner & Young Professionals	8
Local Section & Plant Tour	9
Graduate Liaison	9
Public Relations	10



This Semester's Events

Hi everyone!

My name is Jessica Forbes and this year I've had the honor of holding the position of Internal Vice President. My role consisted of planning and hosting events for the entire community to participate in. When I was a freshman coming into IIT, I didn't know a lot of people so I decided to attend a few AIChE events. As I did, I felt that immediate sense of comfort. Because of that, I was able to find people that I now consider some of my closest friends/family. I wanted to return that same feeling towards the new members.

In the beginning of Spring 2020, in January, we held a Dinner with Professors event that was located in Labriola Cafe in Chicago. We ordered delicious pizza and pasta and had a total of roughly 30 students and faculty. This was an amazing opportunity to network and to get to know the professors along with other ChemE's outside of academia.



In February, we had an Escape Room event held at Fox in a Box in Chicago. There were 4 rooms (The Bank, The Prison, The Bunker and The Zodiac) that held about 6 players each. The goal was to solve a series of puzzles in a group under a time constraint to "escape" the room.



There were other ideas planned for the remaining semester such as a Glow in the Dark Party that would have been held in IIT's arcade "The Bog", a tie dye and cotton candy collaboration event with PRISM (LGBTQ+ org) as well as ChemElympics (a joint competition with all the other engineering related orgs). Unfortunately, these events were cancelled due to COVID-19 in March.

In the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, we transitioned to completely virtual events. The first GBM (General Body Meeting) we

had started off with a kahoot, learning about the executive board members. Each executive member had to provide three lies and one truth and the general body had to guess which one was true. Afterwards, we broke out into break out rooms and did an A-Z scavenger hunt. The objective was to find an object in your room for every letter of the alphabet. For example an apple would be for the letter A and a backpack would be for the letter B. Whatever group got the most items in 20 minutes won. For the rest of the semester, we held weekly game nights on Friday's playing one of the most popular games right now, Among Us.

Lastly, I wanted to give a HUGE shoutout to every executive member for all their hard work. We won the Outstanding Student Chapter Award once again because of everyone's wonderful contributions. I'm beyond proud of what this team has been able to accomplish under the unforeseen circumstances and I am excited to see what the AIChE 2021 Executive Board has in store for the future! :)

Always stay kind and continuously spread love & positivity,
Jessica Forbes

Mentor-Mentee

I am Oreoluwa Ogunnaike, AIChE mentor-mentee coordinator for 2020 in charge of leading the implementation of the mentorship program. The AIChE-IIT student chapter had a successful Mentor-Mentee Program for Fall 2020 semester. We appreciate the participation of AIChE members in the program and hope they had lots to learn from their mentees and mentors as we were able to connect current upperclassman students with freshmen and other underclassmen. In this role, I gained valuable hands-on experience since I had the opportunity to go out of my comfort zone, including a sense of accountability to myself and others.

I would like to thank the entire 2020 exec board and our advisor, Don, for the new friendships and for making this such an amazing experience.

A Treasurer's Tale

Hello, hello, it's Abby your 2020 treasurer. I can't believe my time as treasurer is coming to a final close. You thought I'd be gone last year, but here I am completing my second term as treasurer. I am very thankful for everyone who has supported me throughout my terms and for the amazing exec boards that really exemplify what it means to have a successful organization. My time in this office has given me a lot of insight into the inner workings of student organizations and AIChE in particular. I have planned events, budgeted for said events, helped with conference planning, and coordinated food for GBM's. Even with the uniquely tough year, I am proud that AIChE continues to hold professional as well as social events. Listening to a speaker on Wednesday afternoons, then playing Among Us on Friday nights has given my semester a little bit more structure which is hard to come by in 2020. Even though we had to cancel a lot of our events last semester, I am still determined to see that we have Portillo's Chocolate Cake at one of our future GBM's. Also, to continue with the theme of updating you all about my Amazon recommendations, they are still wild (ranging from zinc metal plates to somehow still turkey suit recommendations). With the university giving students access to the purchasing platform, now my recommendations are encased in a new and improved Business account (very fancy!). Before I sign off as treasurer, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone in AIChE for making this such a rewarding experience. Also, thank you to everyone on the executive board for all of their hard work in making this organization successful, it would never work without all of your support. I hope to see everyone in person soon! Stay safe!

<3 Abby

About our Speakers


This last semester, AIChE decided to continue hosting our weekly General Body Meetings virtually, and we've been able to join over video conferences to hear their presentations from our speakers. At each of these meetings, a speaker would present on a topic related to their field, giving students an opportunity to discuss with our speakers post-collegiate experiences. Transitioning our meetings online for this semester worked well, and we've had a lot of great presentations, with more to come. There were some virtual challenges, but they eventually all got worked out, and helped remind people that not everyone is in the same time zone as you. We hold these meetings Wednesdays at 12:50, Chicago time, via a Google Meets link that gets sent out in our weekly email. Having Pro-

fessors from both IIT and other colleges, founders of startup companies, and various other professions gave these meetings a wide range of interesting and engaging topics. We've had the opportunity to hear about racing solar cars in Australia, Professor Anderson's four themes of Chemical Engineering, and many other interesting talks.

Communicating with AIChE to organize and arrange our General Body Meeting turned out to be a great way to stay in touch virtually throughout the semester, in addition to giving us students a lot of wonderful insights into the professional and academic fields.

David Hults

AICHE IS HOSTING A GUEST SPEAKER EVENT!



'JOB SEARCH FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERS'


PRESENTED BY
PROFESSOR ROBERT ANDERSON

About Bob:

Professor Anderson received his BSChE from Illinois Tech in 1962. He was an active member and officer of the student chapter of AIChE, later chair of the Chicago Section of AIChE, and Director of the National AIChE. He has been teaching CHE 506 and 543 for 19 years. He did campus recruitment for UOP for about 25 years and has strong advice for job seekers. This talk will entail his "Four Themes" for ChemEs: (1) No such thing as a chemical engineer (2) No more homework problems (3) If you are not a creative problem solver, forget it (4) Getting the first job is probably the hardest task you will ever have to accomplish.

WEDNESDAY |
NOVEMBER 4TH, 2020
12:45 - 1:40 PM CST
EVENT LINK:
[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/ZDT-JTYI-HJO](https://meet.google.com/ZDT-JTYI-HJO)

FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US AT AICHE@IIT.EDU!



9/23	Alexander Fergusson	Process and Safety
9/30	Bipin Vora	Chemical Engineering & Sustainability
10/14	Seok Hoon Hong	Cell-Free Protein Synthesis
10/21	Ruben Barajas	Chicago AIChE Young Professionals
10/28	Alex Dowling	How Racing Solar Cars Made Me a Better (Chemical) Engineer
11/4	Robert Anderson	Job Search for Engineers
11/11	Victor Sussman	Industrial Career's and Industrial R&D: A perspective

Fundraising Chair

Howdy y'all! This year as fundraising chair has been utterly amazing. It was a great experience to learn how to create my own role and establish the structure and rules for the future chairs to come (maybe we will have enough to build a table). Even though the Fundraising Chair is a new position, we as a team led strong and were very adamant about retrieving partnerships and donations. Through our exec boards lovely efforts and coordination. We executed a Valentines Day Cookie Decorating Fundraiser to celebrate the spirit of love in the air! And through countless other donations from professors and industry members alike. We were able to amass a projected total of \$1278.46 raised for the year of 2020! Our chapter is thankful for the many donations and student volunteers that made this campaign successful. All funds raised will go directly to the betterment of the student chapter in order to ensure the continuation of social and professional opportunities!

Antonio Archilla

Outreach Coordinator

Hello everyone!

My name is Anthony Mendiola and I resided over the Outreach Coordinator position from Spring 2020 to Fall 2020. Our first event was in February where I and several other volunteers assisted in a VEX robotics competition in which we were able to talk to all participants and hear about their robotics team and project.



In March we had the opportunity to be involved in the high school outreach event in the AICHE Midwest Regional Conference. We had set up a balloon racing activity to have a fun way to display configuration in the engineering process.

Unfortunately our event was cut short and cancelled by COVID-19. This setback would prove to throw a huge wrench towards outreach events in the upcoming months as it would be difficult to have group activities and engage with students. Our final event was in November where we teamed up with IIT's pre-collegiate team to present a workshop to CPS students on IPRO and the design process in order to give a taste of what design thinking is all about. This was done virtually over zoom and several of us were able to communicate and guide students into portraying and pitching their ideas to a large audience.

Despite setbacks it was great to see the large ambitions of prospective students and high school students throughout the city.

A ChemE Car Story

My name is Tom Doyle, and I am a third-year student studying chemical engineering at Illinois Tech. I had the pleasure of serving on the AIChE Executive Board for the 2019-2020 term, holding the unique position of Chem-E Car Coordinator. In this position, I was responsible for relaying team progress and updates between the executive board and the Chem-E Car team, as well as organizing a team of students to work on the many tasks of building an autonomous shoe-box sized car that is capable of starting and stopping itself solely from chemical reactions. I have taken on so many diverse challenges throughout this experience, but these challenges have helped me grow as an engineering student and have made me a better teammate and leader in the process. It has been a year full of ups and downs, but the Chem-E Car team prevailed. The vision to build an electric-powered car operated by a uniquely designed zinc-air battery was the focal point throughout the past year, and through many iterations and prototypes, our team had successfully accomplished this goal; of course, the battery design wasn't the only challenge. The interdisciplinary nature of the Chem-E Car Competition requires teammates to work together on a wide variety of science and engineering topics, including chemical reactions and kinetics, electrical circuits, motors, mechanical and electrical design, etc., all while considering safety and economic limitations.

Each year, there is a regional and national competition held in the spring and fall at the AIChE Regional and National



Conferences, respectively. In the spring of 2020, the Illinois Tech Chem-E Car team had its eyes on the upcoming regional competition, set to be held near the middle-end of April at the University of Akron. In the process of beginning data collection in anticipation for the competition, we received the news that COVID-19 was becoming an international threat, subsequently following a cancellation of the 2020 regional conference; fortunately, the North Central Regional Competition was rescheduled to occur virtually on October 3rd. Forced to abandon the labs, our team was not able to continue our work until the middle of September, and with a little over two weeks to prepare, we had to work very quickly. These two weeks were perhaps the busiest two weeks that I have ever experienced, as there was a ton of work to be done. Nevertheless, our team had successfully completed our final design and data analysis, and we were ready to compete at the competition.

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ChemE Car Cont.

On the day of the competition, all was going very well. Suddenly, with only 15 minutes remaining before the performance section of the competition, our team ran into a major electrical issue, as one of the light sources that was vital for the operation of the car had been accidentally shorted from the power source and burnt out. We tried everything we could to fix this issue, but unfortunately could not do so in time, subsequently forfeiting both rounds of the competition. Although we had bad luck on the performance section, our team managed to pull through with a 1st place win for the poster competition, marking the third year in a row that Illinois Tech has placed within the top two posters.



Sister Chapter Liaison

This year we continued partnering with the amazing sister chapter at UFES, Federal University of Espirito Santo. It has a smaller sister chapter with a different culture and unique way of running their chapter. This is what made the chapter such a great one to partner with.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we had many difficulties from both sides having to adjust to new conditions. We all had the misfortune of having to change our normal routines which led to a slight disconnect in activities that we had plans, but it was very interesting to see how we all had to manage and how our “normalities” in society came to be.

Nathalia was the outreach coordinator for their chapter. They speak Portuguese and English, so there is a slight language barrier. However, it was not hard at all for communication.

We are excited to help grow each other's chapters and eventually meet up at a conference. Also, we are looking forward to sharing in projects that they have for us, including teaching English to them as well as us learning some Portuguese from them. Overall, I am very optimistic for our future with our new sister chapter UFES.

~Melissa Gomez
Sister Chapter Liaison



UFES

Conference Coordinator

My name is Kiera Puls and I am the conference coordinator for AIChE IIT.

This fall we attended the first Virtual AIChE Conference. The conference was held from Nov 20-22. The AIChE Annual Meeting is an educational forum for chemical engineers interested in innovation and professional growth. During their workshops, industry experts covered a wide range of topics relevant to cutting-edge research, new technologies, and emerging growth areas in chemical engineering. Furthermore, the conference is a great way for IIT students to network professionally with other peers across the country and with various companies. This year we have the pleasure to announce that IIT won the Outstanding Student Chapter award at the conference. We would like to congratulate everybody on the executive board and Don for their hard work throughout the year.



Besides, on behalf of the executive board, I would like to thank the staff of OCL for help registering for the conference during these tough times. Due to COVID-19 the next location, for next semester's conference has yet to be released.

~Kiera Puls
Conference Coordinator

Awards Dinner/ Young Professional

At first, I did not know what to expect under this role at all. But after talking with faculty who have done this in the past, I picked up a lot of knowledge that would lead me to success. My main role was to carry out an annual event celebrating the academic and professional development of senior students. This would be starting from creating the itinerary, finding guest speakers, organizing and designing the venue, and coordinating the catering with working staff. It was a lot to take in at first, but with the help of fellow exec board members and faculty I'm confident the event would have been great. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we were unable to carry out the plans we had, but I did learn how important it is to coordinate with others for such a big event. Doing this alone would have been extremely difficult, and I am grateful for the kindness everyone has given me as I started getting comfortable with this position.

~ Hans Chung

Graduate Liaison



Hello all!

My role as Graduate Liaison consisted of maintaining communications between AIChE and our Graduate Student Association (GSA) as well as organizing the Taste of ChemE. I'll admit, I felt very strange going into this role when I first started. However, being a 1st year with a group of graduate students was not strange at all. Though I was not able to in the spring semester, I attended all the GSA exec meetings to keep them updated on what AIChE was doing and keep track of what GSA was doing. Keeping both organizations informed allowed us to share our events and speakers with each other and widen our range of opportunities.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, Taste of ChemE never got to happen in either semester. We also planned and got extremely close to hosting Pumpkin Palooza, a pumpkin carving event. However that was also canceled due to Covid complications. One thing that we were able to do in the fall semester was create an all-inclusive ChemE Discord server! This communication platform for AIChE and GSA students can be used for games nights, study nights, and general interactions between students.

I've really enjoyed getting to talk with older students and get to see how another student organization operates. Having this position on the AIChE board has been a super great opportunity for me, and has given me a high respect for both AIChE and GSA.

~ Danielle Kittaka

Local Section Meeting/Plant Tour

As LSM and Plant Tour Coordinator, my job is to promote the attendance of students to the Chicago Local Section monthly meetings and organize tours to operating plants and chemical engineers' workplaces. I chose this position because I saw the importance of these meetings and tours through which students can expose themselves to different fields and network with professionals. These events were one of my first networking activities in college and I'm thankful that Antonio, who served at this position before me, organized them so that I had the opportunity to learn from not only professionals but also from my ChemE senpai's.

Through this position, I learned that there is a lot that goes into organizing a plant/workplace tour and I tremendously admire the people before me who were able to successfully host one. I learned how to send professional emails to companies to request for tours and learned to get used to being rejected or ghosted by them and persistently keep shooting my shots at other places. During my term, I could have been able to organize a tour to a prototyping workplace and another one to a nuclear energy plant if not because of the pandemic. The experience of being on the AIChE executive board was precious nonetheless. People were not exaggerating when they say ChemE's and especially the AIChE members are like a family. I'm glad to say I was able to experience that to the fullest.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jess and Antonio for being such wonderful human beings who have bestowed their upperclassmen knowledge upon me and continuously push me to be better.

- Hieu Trinh

Public Relations

Hello everyone!

This year, AIChE has boosted its focus on reaching out to our student body through social media and notifying them about various opportunities and information. To make this possible, the events are posted at least once a week on all our social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) as well as IIT student groups before they take place. In addition, we have expanded our online presence by circulating all the updates, forms, and upcoming events on our linktr.ee account so it would be easier for students of all majors to access links and see what we have been up to. Let us know through email if you do not know our respective social media platforms and we would be happy to help you out!

Furthermore, we have been more descriptive in our speaker event posts by not only adding information about the speakers and which field they are involved in, but also by putting in a few helpful links such as links to their companies or links to the recordings of the meetings (if permitted by the speaker) and sharing them with students in our chapter. AIChE has held numerous events throughout the year, including Dinner with Professors, Escape Room, Valentine's Day Fundraiser, Midwest Regional Conference, Career Workshops, tons of exciting game nights, countless guest speaker events and more! The 'Glow in the Dark Party' event was supposed to take place at the end of March, but even though we had thoroughly planned it all out, unfortunately because of COVID-19, it had to be cancelled.



We support many on-campus student organizations by spreading awareness about the opportunities they provide and vice versa. Lastly, I would like to give a huge shout out to our President and the executive board for ensuring that I had the proper guidance to perform well throughout the semester and with that, it was my pleasure being your Public Relations Chair.

- Kimberley Catherine Goveas,
Public Relations Chair

AIChE Mission Statement

“Enriching chemical engineering students with the knowledge and ideas necessary for their future career through innovative and creative thought processes.”



Contact us!

Linktree: http://linktr.ee/AIChE_IIT

Email: aiche@iit.edu

Website: <https://aicheiit.wixsite.com/aiche>

Presence: <https://iit.presence.io/organization/american-institute-of-chemical-engineers>

Discord: <https://discord.gg/KjN8hAd>

Add us on:

Facebook: AIChE-IIT

Instagram: @aiche.iit

2020 Executive Board

President	Jake Tracey
External Vice President	David Hults
Internal Vice President	Jessica Forbes
Secretary	Kimberley Mannikum/ Danielle Kittaka
Treasurer	Abigail Gunderson
Outreach Coordinator	Anthony Mendiola
Public Relations Chair	Kimberley Goveas
Local Section/Plant Tour Coordinator	Hieu Trinh
Mentor Mentee Coordinator	Oreoluwa Ogunnaike
Conference Coordinator	Kiera Puls
ChemE Car Coordinator	Tom Doyle
Sister Chapter Liaison	Melissa Gomez
Graduate Liaison	Danielle Kittaka
Awards dinner Coordinator/ Young Professionals Liaison	Hans Chung
Fundraising Chair	Antonio Archilla
Faculty Advisor	Donald Chmielewski

