

Students return to campus this month, but just down the road, these young engineers will enter a rapidly changing industry and uncertain marketplace. There, the support and guidance of established professionals will be more crucial than ever.

To help student members thrive — and to integrate them into the profession once they leave the classroom — AIChE offers several key initiatives, most notably through its Student Chapters Committee (box) and the newly-created Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB).

There are many ways that member professionals can support students as they get in stride with the demands of life in engineering. Here are some of AIChE's ongoing initiatives, and how members can play a role.

National and Regional Student Conference

Among AIChE's most impressive annual events are the National Student Conference and the series of spring regional student conferences. Nearly 2,000 undergraduate student members took part in one or more of these events this past year, and the importance of professional member support — both constructive and financial — cannot be overstated.

Local and regional AIChE professional groups provide guest speakers and career fair representatives for the conferences or donate travel stipends, allowing students from area colleges to participate in regional competitions and to take advantage of this important professional development opportunity.

AIChE's most prestigious and popular

competitions — including the regional and national Student Paper Competition and the Chem-E-Car Competition (photo) — are the highlight of these meetings. Volunteers help plan, judge and secure financial support for these competitions, and are key to their success. Indeed, financial donations from corporations are essential to their existence.

AIChE members and companies who would like to lend their support can contact AIChE at studentchapters@aiche.org

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Join the Nominating Committee

With voting underway for the 2005 Board elections, AICHE President Byers has begun to pull together the Nominating Committee that will select the candidates for the 2006 elections. If you are interested in serving on the committee — or in recommending names for the committee's consideration — contact President Byers at president@aiche.org.

only \$10 for a single use. To learn more, visit www.efs529.com/aiche or call 518-899-6090.

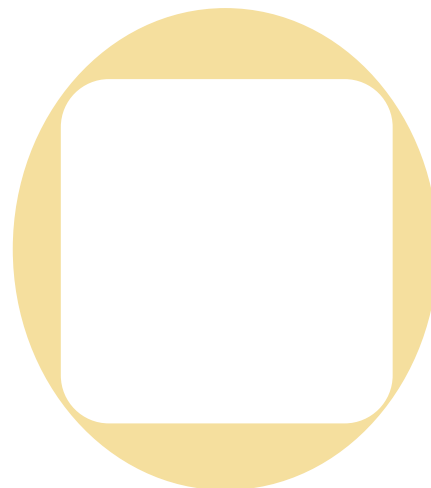
The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) installed its 42nd president, AIChE member Violettee (Vi) Brown, at a ceremony on Friday, Aug. 6 in Scottsdale, AZ.

Brown will serve as SWE president for one year. She began her SWE membership as a student at Howard University, and has served on the SWE board in numerous roles, including president-elect, vice president-transition (operations), national secretary and regional director. As president of SWE, Brown's duties and responsibilities include representing the organization to the public and presiding over all meetings of the board of directors and membership. In addition to the obligatory roles as president, Brown has two personal priorities relating to professional development and diversity.

"I plan to focus on areas that I view as critical to enhancing the engineering pro-

fession and the corporate environment for women," says Brown. "SWE will be strengthening its professional development programs to include opportunities for all members at various stages in their career development. In addition, I am challenging the board, our membership, and our partners to have a different conversation on diversity — diversity of gender, diversity of race and, most importantly, diversity of thought — to be a catalyst for businesses and governments to fully tap the value of diversity."

Brown is principal and owner of Prophecy Consulting Group, a Mesa, AZ-based firm that specializes in engineering and management consulting. Prior to starting her own firm, she worked for Motorola, Maricopa County Government, Pacific Gas & Electric, CH2M Hill, and Procter & Gamble. She recently received an MBA from



Arizona State University in 2002, and has bachelor and master's degrees in chemical engineering from Howard University.

For more information about SWE, visit www.swe.org or call 312-596-5223.

Stratis Sotirchos, adjunct professor of chemical engineering at the University of Rochester and AIChE member, died June 13 at the age of 48 in Brussels, Belgium. He was struck by a car while attending a scientific conference. Sotirchos was known internationally for his work in complex chemical systems.

Sotirchos' career revolved around chemical reaction engineering, and later composite materials. At the time of his death, Sotirchos was working on producing carbon nanotubes of surprisingly large size.

Sotirchos studied chemical engineering at the National Technical University of Athens where he earned his diploma in 1979. In 1982, he earned his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Houston, Texas, before accepting an appointment at the University of Rochester. He had published

more than 100 refereed journal papers and conference proceedings.

Sotirchos is survived by his wife Kalliope Legaki-Sotirchos, his sons Vlassis (Blaze) and Elias.