



Interview With New Department Head Dr. Carol McConica

By Kevin Harris and Eric Mock

Q. What is your educational background?

I received my BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Denver University, which had the oldest program in Colorado. It is a private school that is strong in the liberal arts, and is very dedicated to undergraduate education. For graduate school, I attended Stanford, which is more dedicated to research, and has fantastic facilities for it.

Q. What is your experience with industry?

I worked at Hewlett-Packard for three years as a process development engineer making chips. I have also worked for an oil company and in biological labs, particularly doing arctic research. I left industry because I wanted to have a more flexible schedule for my children. I enjoyed industry, but I would probably not go back, as I like relating to students.

Q. Tell us a little bit about your family.

I have a 23-year-old son, and a 20-year-old daughter. They are both engineering students in Colorado. We enjoy many outdoor activities, such as skiing, backpacking, and rock climbing. My daughter went to Junior Worlds in rock climbing, and my son taught me how to snowboard. My husband enjoys racing vintage cars. We have pretty much tried everything from rafting to sailing the Caribbean.

Q. What area(s) of Chemical Engineering are you specifically interested in?

I'm interested in all areas of Chemical Engineering, but my experience lies mostly with microelectronics, and I believe that chemical engineers can make a big impact in this area. I currently have four graduate students in Colorado and one here finishing up their degrees. I have received two grants that are being used to develop ways to process chips that will minimize waste while utilizing 100% of the reactants. Although all of my equipment is

DR. SKIP'S CORNER

still in Colorado for my students at this time, I hope to have it moved here by next year.

Q. What are your goals for the department?

First of all I'm going to clean up the building even if I have to bring in my own van to do it. Then I would like to build a real Unit Operations lab for the undergraduates. Along with these two things I also would like to expand the number of computers available, make a better library, and build a specific eating-place for students. I also have to balance the budget, and increase the number of undergraduates in the department.

Q. Do you have any advise for students working towards their BS degree?

I would definitely recommend taking five years to finish your degree. That way you can take the time to learn the material instead of just memorizing it for a short period of time. I also suggest that the students have balance in their schedules. Developing other skills such as your people skills can be just as important as learning all of the technical things that you have to learn. Be thinking about graduate school. Many students do not realize that students are paid to go to graduate school, and that this option can be open even to those who think that they may not have the finances.

Q. What is the best way for students to get in touch with you?

I have set aside special office hours for any students that would like to stop by for any reason. They are from 4-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Another way of reaching me is through e-mail (mcconica@che.orst.edu). I encourage students to stop by and share with me any ideas that they might have for the department, or just to say hello.

Welcome to the "Y2K" Academic Year

On September 27th the bells chimed to signal the start of a new and exciting year at OSU.....and in the Chemical Engineering Department!

On October 23rd the OSU Beavers "whooped" those patsies in the "pale blue and gold" (that would be UCLA) from the place "down-under" (that would be all of Southern California!), and on Nov. 6 they beat CAL to ensure their first winning football season in 28 years. WELCOME TO THE "NEW MILLENNIUM"!!

For those of you that don't yet know me, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Dr. Skip Rochefort (hence the name of the column), and I am the OSU AIChE Student Chapter Advisor. My office is in *Gleeson 205*, so if you have any questions about AIChE, and especially if you want to join or participate in activities, please feel free to stop in and see me. I would like to extend a "special invitation" to first year students (freshpersons and transfers) who might not be too familiar with AIChE and the benefits it has to offer to their present activities (which classes to take and from whom; where to get help with specific classes; where to buy those "cool" ChE T-Shirts, etc.) and future careers (networking!) The Student Chapter is what the STUDENTS make it. It can be a lot of fun, and it can be beneficial and a learning experience too! I would urge you to be active in the Chapter and take advantage of the numerous plant trips, speakers, and PIZZA FEEDS that occur. This is your chance to meet other (more experienced) students, faculty, and industry people in a informal and friendly setting.

Networking was a "buzz word" for the 90's, and *networking* is what the Student Chapter is about.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT STUDENT CHAPTER FUNCTION!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW ChE Dept. Head and KUSE CHAIR Professor

This is the beginning of a new "era" for the OSU ChE Dept. and not only because of this Y2K thing. The "McConica Era" began on September 1, 1999 when Dr. Carol McConica joined the OSU ChE Department as Department Head and Kuse Chair Professor. The ChE Dept. was very fortunate to "recruit" such an established and respected researcher and academic from Colorado State University, where she had been on the faculty for 18 years. With her arrival comes the excitement of a new beginning with fresh ideas and innovative programs, leading to curriculum changes which will help OSU meet

the challenges of the new ABET 2000 requirements. Of course, we think we're already doing a pretty good job of giving all of you a quality education, but Dr. McConica has made it her goal to increase student involvement in research and projects at the undergraduate level, as well as to make Gleeson Hall a more pleasant place in which to spend your "18 hour days"! The first year students have already had the pleasure of working with Dr. McConica as she introduces the "bead project" to the ChE 101 class. I would encourage all of you to stop by her office and welcome her to OSU. She loves to meet students....and that helps get her away from all those "budget things" she has been doing!

OSU FRESHPERSONS PLAY KEY ROLES IN BEAVER FOOTBALL SUCCESS

We are very lucky this year to have two new ChE students that are playing "pivotal" roles in the success of the Beaver football program. TIM EUHUS, a highly recruited tight-end out of Churchill High School in Eugene (and "little brother" of Dan Euhus, past-president of AIChE Student Chapter and current graduate student at Georgia Tech) has chosen to "start" his academic career as a chemical engineer, much to the chagrin of the football coaches who suggested he major in "underwater basket-weaving". Tim is currently a "redshirt freshman" who plays the "other guys" each week in practice. His main goals this year are to stay healthy, learn the "system", put some "meat" on his lanky frame (6'6", 218 lbs), and pass ChE 101! He also provides the "Tim Euhus Scouting Report" to the ChE 101 class each Friday afternoon, enabling all of us to get rich in football pools. Tim was also a highly recruited basketball player (#4 Oregon high school player in scoring avg. in 1999) and will attempt to "walk-on" to what should be a strong OSU basketball team this year. SARAH COOK was also highly recruited (by me personally) as a chemical engineer and starting member of the "world renowned" OSU Marching Band. We thought we lost Sarah last year, but she was only "redshirting" by spending a year abroad as an exchange student in Germany. She resurfaced this year and is one of several outstanding ChE freshpersons who are also members of the prestigious OSU Honors College Program (more on those folks next time). Sarah plays saxophone (which she carries everywhere, making her right side "ripple" with muscles) and is either in the middle of the O or U in the OSU that we see spelled out each half-time. Sarah is also an accomplished jazz musician and is slated for a "concert" in the ChE 101

class later this quarter, most likely when Dean Adams visits our class!

Chemical Engineering Research Scholars (ChERS) Program Established

The Oregon State University Chemical Engineering Department recognizes that to recruit the "best and brightest" high school students in Oregon and throughout the country requires not only a financial incentive for the students, but also an "intellectual incentive". For this purpose, and with the financial backing of a generous alumni, the **ChE Department Research Scholars Program (ChERS)** was initiated in the 1999-2000 academic year.

The purpose of this pioneering program is to engage students in research activities within the ChE Department, starting with their freshman year. The students are offered a \$2000 per year scholarship (guaranteed for four years) to engage in research activities in the laboratory of one of the ChE faculty, who will serve as the faculty mentor for research as well as the students academic advisor. It is intended that the scholarship will allow them to participate in a research program during their entire four years at OSU, and will culminate in a **senior thesis** based on their primary research activity during that period. The only requirements after entering the program are to be actively involved in a research project of their choosing and remain in the chemical engineering program.

Three outstanding high school students were selected as the first group of ChERS participants: **Jason Hower**, Corvallis High School; **Steven Knepprath**, Barlow High School; and **Heather McCaig**, Central Catholic High School. These three students are currently in the ChE 101 class and are participating in the "world renowned" OSU WERC group, under the direction of Dr. Goran Jovanovic, as their first "research experience".

NATIONAL AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS

1999 AIChE Othmer Outstanding Sophomore Award

Jeff Lyons has been chosen to receive this national award given to the AIChE Student Chapter member in each Chemical Engineering Department, for outstanding academic achievement and service to the student chapter.

'98 -'99 TAPPI Student Chapter Outstanding

Student of the Year Eric Mackender (Sr) was honored for his many contributions to the OSU TAPPI Student Chapter, including serving as President for the '98-'99 academic year (as well Treasurer for the AIChE Student Chapter).

1999 AIChE National Scholarship Eric Mackender has been selected as one of only 15 national recipients from over 150 Chemical Engineering Departments in the country. The award carries a \$1000 stipend.

Hello from the Department Head

Welcome back to OSU ChE. As I adjust to the new position, I am learning about the phenomenal heritage of this department. On Sunday, October 25, the college of engineering honored past graduates at the Oregon Stater Awards ceremony. I spent the ceremony in awe and amazement. I never imagined sharing lunch with the President of Occidental Chemical Corporation, the President of Chevron Chemical Company and an astronaut. These are your colleagues, chemical engineering graduates from OSU! Welcome to the legacy.

We have a legacy with respect to our own faculty as well. You might see Octave Levenspiel, Charlie Wicks or Jim Knudsen in the halls. These are fathers of chemical engineering who wrote "the " books and who built this department. Be sure to say "hi" if you see them.

My goals for the next few years are to raise money for the department, clean up the Gleeson building, improve the library space, improve the labs, stay within budget and make sure we pass accreditation in 2002. I am looking forward to the challenge.

Have a great year. If you see my door open on Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6 (my attempt at office hours), please pop in and say hi.

Carol

President's Update

For those of you who do not know me, I am Eric MacKender. This is my fourth (and final) year at OSU and I hope to make it an exciting one for all of us. I have been involved in AICHe since my freshman year and hope to continue making it the most active engineering group on campus. We are fortunate to have a great group of officers and members as well as a gracious and enthusiastic faculty advisor to ensure our success.

We are off to a great start with several events under our feet and many more activities to come throughout the year. In November, a few of last summers interns will discuss their experiences. There will also be a "meet the faculty" night where the underclassmen can meet some of the professors they might not otherwise know until later in their studies. To prepare you for interviews and job searching we will have former graduates and industry professionals come and talk about resume formatting and interviewing techniques.

Looking down the road a few months, winter term we hope to host the first department wide ski trip and possibly some plant tours. In spring term, there is the end of the year bbq and Regional Student Conference to look forward to enjoying. This year's student conference will be hosted by the University of Idaho. The conference is a great way to present projects, win cash, meet other chemical engineering students in the Northwest, and have a good time!!

If you want to become more active with AICHe or have comments and ideas on future activities, please feel free to contact the class reps, Dr. Rochefort, or myself. You do not have to be an officer to be involved, make decisions, and plan activities, you just have to desire to help out the department and you fellow students.

Take care and enjoy the rest of the term! As you are bogged down in homework and midterms, just remember, "there is no substitute for hard work." (Thomas Edison).

Regards,
Eric



TAPPI Announcements

Hi, my name is Kevin Barley and I'm this year's TAPPI student chapter president. For those of you who don't know what TAPPI is, read on. TAPPI, the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, is an industry wide organization used to better inform and promote paper science and technology. For students, it provides an excellent opportunity to keep up with this branch of Chemical Engineering as well as large sums of scholarship money. Recently, we have combined meetings, activities, and dues with the student AICHe section. For more information, listen for your class officer announcements, read the board in Gleeson rooms 100 & 200, or contact me at <barleykm@che.orst.edu>.

Class Representatives, Continued from page 5 Senior Class Representatives

Hello everyone, my name is **John Hunt**. This is my fifth year of school, transferring my Sophomore year from Chemeketa Community College put me a little bit behind. When I'm not in school, studying, or at work, I enjoy fishing, reading and spending time with my friends. I am a perfectly normal and well adjusted individual, and plan to see that this year and my time in AICHe is well spent and productive. Someone tell Rob to be quiet, I AM normal, honest.

My name is **Marjorie Johnson** and I am one of the three senior reps this year. Many of you know me as one of last years junior rep. I am also the outreach coordinator. If anyone is interested in setting up an outreach to their old high school, contact me at johnsmar@enr.orst.edu

Hi, I'm **Abbie Walker**. Just got back from a six month MECOP internship at Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton. It was a great experience! My other activities include editing this newsletter for AICHe, serving as secretary for the OSU chapter of Society of Women Engineers, and dancing when I can.

The annual T-shirt design competition is under way. If you want to design a T-shirt simply submit a design to your class reps or to the AICHe mailbox in the mailroom (Gleeson 103). The winning artist will be

famous throughout ChE department and will receive a free T-shirt!

Class Representatives and New Social Chairs

Freshman Class

Todd Marks graduated from Hermiston High School in 1992. Spent six years in the Navy as an Engineering Laboratory Technician aboard the USS Los Angeles, a fast-attack submarine stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI. Interests include snorkeling, diving, hiking, skiing, and rollerhockey.

Marci Whittaker: "I grew up on my parents' farm outside of Pendleton, Oregon, and graduated in 1999. I enjoy skiing, acting, equestrian sports, soccer, and generally anything to do with the outdoors. Naval ROTC is currently taking up quite a bit of my time, but I'm also working with Dr. Jovanovic and about 9 other students on an experiment involving fluidization in microgravity. I am going to be an astronaut."

Freshman Social Chairs "Party Animals"

Hello fellow seekers of the knowledge. My name is **Jason Hower**. I believe I got my position because I like to have a good time. I went to Corvallis High School, here in Corvallis. I have known I would be a chemical engineer since I met Dr. Rochefort during the summer after my sophomore year. I worked for a few years as Skip's lab rat and general go-for guy. I spent a summer looking into the inner workings of the Orbitz drink. When I am not in Gleeson hall, I enjoy the outdoors, rock climbing, skiing, and I study karate.

My name is **Wyatt Evan Tenhaeff** and I am a social rep for AICHe. I graduated from Springfield High School in '99 and came to OSU this fall, and I love the school. When I am not studying or involved in school, I like to backpack, camp, hike, play my euphonium in a group or just for myself, and spend quality time with my friends. I also collect original score soundtracks. Please feel free to contact me about anything concerning AICHe or anything else. My e-mail is tenhaeff@mailbox.orst.edu.

Sophomore Class Representatives

Hello my name is **Kevin Harris** and I am currently one of the sophomore class representatives for the AICHe. I am from a small farming community just north of

Salem, called Brooks. Many of you might have passed through the single intersection before. If any of you have any questions or concerns regarding the AICHe then please feel free to e-mail me at harriske@che.orst.edu. Have a great year.

Hello, I am **Eric Mock**, and will be one of your AICHe sophomore class representatives for the 1999-2000 school year. Besides chemical engineering I particularly enjoy outdoor activities, and playing tennis. If you ever have any questions concerning AICHe, please feel free to see me. I will also try to keep you up to date on any current activities. Good luck in the ChE 211 and 212 courses we will be taking this year.

Hi, I am **Alex Quesada**, one of your sophomore class representatives. Your will find me to be a pretty sociable person. I can assist anyone with questions about AICHe meetings, or even just ChE course work. I love to run, watch movies, and spend time in Springfield with my girlfriend, Laurel. Like anyone else, I am looking forward to learning new things this year.

Junior Class Representatives

My name is **Kevin Barley** and I'm one of the AICHe student chapter junior class rep's. I grew up in Springfield and graduated from Thurston High School in 1997. It's taken me this long, but I think with our 55-7 victory over UCLA, I've finally converted from the green and yellow to the good old orange and black. Other than (fair weather) sports I enjoy outdoor activities and cheesy movies.

My name is **Lacey Planton** and I am a Junior class rep. I am from Portland OR and graduated from Cleveland high school. If you need to get a hold of me you can find me in class or email me at plantonl@ucs.orst.edu. The past three summers I have interned at Intel and now will be participating in MECOP. In my spare time I like listening to music and hanging out with friends and family.

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