



Volume 7

6

C

Carbon
12.011

2

He

Helium
4.0026

10

Ne

Neon
20.180

74

W

Tungsten
183.84

16

S

Sulfur
32.06

Issue 3

May 2026

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Girl Scouts Day

Outreach

By Carley Britton

On March 21st, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) hosted its annual Girl Scouts Day at Swalm, drawing troops from across Mississippi for a hands-on exploration of science and engineering.



The event transformed the building into a lively laboratory, where Scouts mixed polymers to make stress balls, experimented with chemical

reactions, and even learned the chemistry behind crafting their own boba pearls.



Partnering with organizations such as NOBCChE and SPE, AIChE created an atmosphere that blended education with excitement—turning complex scientific principles into tangible experiences. For AIChE members, the day was as rewarding as it was educational. Beyond teaching, they connected with younger students, shared their passion for STEM, and strengthened ties within the Mississippi community.

The success of Girl Scouts Day underscored AIChE's commitment to outreach and its mission to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.



A big THANK YOU to all who helped Girl Scouts Day be a huge success!



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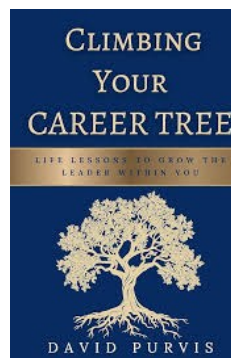
323 President Cir Mississippi
State, MS 39762

ChEs in History

Gilda Barabino is a chemical and biomedical engineer whose research in sickle-cell disease and tissue engineering has shaped modern bioengineering. She is also a national leader in advancing equity in STEM and has played a major role within AIChE, including co-founding the Minority Faculty Forum to support underrepresented scholars.



Special Shoutout



Congratulations to Mr. David Purvis, chemical engineering alumnus and Swalm Advisory Board member, on publishing his book on career development in March of this year!

Shining Scholar | *Stellar Students*

Dylan Griffith was awarded the Mississippi Engineering Society Scholarship for Junior/Senior undergraduate engineering students pursuing a degree from an ABET accredited university. This award allowed Griffith to attend the Mississippi Engineering Society Winter Meeting in Jackson, MS. At the meeting, he was recognized during their awards luncheon and given the opportunity to network with professionals from various career fields. Griffith reflected on the application process:

“A common theme throughout the application's supplemental questions was the importance of licensure in engineering. During my co-op rotations, I was made aware of the pervasiveness of engineering licensure in the chemical engineering discipline, whereas I had previously thought of civil engineers as the only discipline that had to worry about the P.E. By receiving this award, I have been made aware of the importance of licensure in ensuring that adequately competent, ethical engineers are designing chemical processes and ensuring their safety, whether the plant is public facing or not.”

“This award has solidified my decision to pursue a P.E. License and has spurred my registration and studying for the F.E. Exam. My advice to students



is to keep an open mind and never discount a career path or certification just because you think you'll never need to use it or encounter it. You never know what the future holds in terms of career paths.”

Corny Corner

How do chemical engineers stay calm under pressure?

See pg. 6

Bobby Hulett ('93) | *Alumnus Highlight*

By Marilyn Bell

Bobby Hulett, an alumnus in petroleum engineering, graduated from Mississippi State University in 1993. Despite having ephemeral dreams of playing professional sports as a kid, Mr. Bobby Hulett went on to lead an exceptional career at Chevron.

Growing up in Winona, MS, Hulett excelled in math and enjoyed it much more than any other subject, which led him to engineering. Given his love and ability for math, the close proximity to MSU, and the fact that he knew Mississippi State has an amazing engineering program, everything just fell into place.

Hulett began his career at Chevron with summer internships while still attending MSU. He connected with the company at an on-campus recruiting event. He was offered a full-time job after graduating in December 1993 and has been working with Chevron for the last 34 years. He began his career in New Orleans and has since held positions in Columbia, California, Kazakhstan, and Texas, as well as many other locations. He is currently stationed in Colorado. He emphasizes how rewarding it is to be able to travel and experience so many new cultures and see the world while working.

Hulett currently works as the Director of Chevron Colorado. He expresses that the company's "primary objectives are to conduct our operations safely." He explains that they strive for operational excellence through compliance with regulations while maximizing cost efficiency and productivity, resulting in productions of ~400,000 barrels of oil-equivalent gas a day.

"The culture of continual improvement is really important, and it's really fun to not get stuck in your ways and keep doing the status quo, but try to get better every day."

Improvement and competition are extremely important parts of the job, but there are leadership roles that make it extremely worthwhile. Hulett expresses how fortunate he was to be able to go from entry level to a supervisor, manager, and eventually director, as well as the multiple international assignments he has been able to receive. These experiences have allowed him to learn a lot.

Hulett encourages students to pursue all opportunities available—whether that's applying for internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs or furthering their personal skills in communication and teamwork. "Getting an internship is more important than get-



ting one with a specific company because you'll learn something no matter what you get, where you go, what you do. It's your learning and development that advances you, and you don't know what the future holds." Many students go into the field lacking soft skills like communication, which are just as important as technical skills and help set candidates apart. He recommends getting out and learning a trade, as well as practicing and improving on it, and finding a mentor to help guide you.

Hulett believes "mindset and mentalities are super critical to be successful. You have to be open to feedback. Don't be defensive. You should always be committed to continual improvement."

Thank you, Mr. Hulett, for your involvement and dedication to keeping MSU excellent.

Alumni Engagement Opportunities

The Swalm School is proud of its graduates! You are inspirations to current students, and there are opportunities to continue engagement. Keep us abreast of your latest accom-

plishments for the newsletter, website, and social media.

Volunteer to give a professional development seminar for CHE 3331. Recent presentations include Networking, Lifelong Learning, Budgeting & Investing, Process Safety Engineering, PE Licensure, Versatility of the CHE Degree, and Sustainability.

Participate in the Swalm alumni mentoring program. Mentors contribute to the professional preparation of their mentees by interactively sharing their knowledge, experience, and counsel.

Those interested can email Dr. Julie Jessop at jessop@che.msstate.edu.

Real Work, Real Impact *Co-op Highlight*

By Vitor Da Silva



While the chemical engineering major is known for its challenging curriculum, this workload is essential for taking on co-ops (especially for three semesters in a row)! During the entirety of 2024, I worked as an Environmental Engineering Co-op for Westlake Chemical in Aberdeen, MS. This exposed me to different cultures of people and thinking styles that were crucial to my professional and collegiate development. The three rotations also provided a much needed break from classes.

Previous engineers in other majors who have done co-ops have consistently described the independence they cultivated from this experience. However, the level of

trust that Westlake put in its engineers for critical deliverables was beyond anything that I had previously seen. Part of my responsibilities involved constant inspections of waste barrels (RCRA), and if these inspections were not performed by us, the company would face hefty fines. This level of independence and confidence that Westlake provided me is truly unique compared to co-ops in other engineering majors separate from chemical engineering.

This experience also developed important leadership skills as I had to teach the next co-op how to incorporate the Westlake continuous improvement mindset in daily deliverables. I was not only gathering technical skills that will allow me to stand out in industry but also leadership techniques that are necessary for future career advancements.

I would definitely recommend all chemical engineering undergrads participate in a co-op if possible as this is the best way for gathering work experience in the field. Organizations such as AIChE will provide tremendous exposure to several companies that provide internships, research, and co-ops. This co-op was integral to my current career ambitions and trajectory. **Hail State!**



Southern Success at Georgia Tech | *Regional Conference*

By: Marilyn Bell



ChemE Jeopardy team (L-R): Paul Gramelspacher, Robert Phillippe, Brenna Genthe, and Annemarie Coatney

This year, the AIChE Southern Regional Conference was hosted by the AIChE student chapter at Georgia Institute of Technology on April 3rd & 4th. On the first day of the conference, the ChemE Jeopardy team competed and advanced to the semi-finals. Participants **Annemarie Coatney** and **Brenna Genthe** expressed how fun and rewarding participating in the competition was despite the fact that they did not win—they still had an amazing time. On the second day, many students participated in the poster competition, including **Emalee West**. It was her first time presenting her research, and the conference allowed her to have



Back (L-R): Caleb Lassiter, James Caldwell, Hunter Chunn, Katelyn Wilson, Katherine Hayes, Annemarie Coatney, Brenna Genthe, Emalee West, Robert Phillippe, Emma Kate Wood, Jacob Odom, Rayne Rutherford, Taylor Nix; Front: Dr. Jessop, Keldon Brown, Paul Gramelspacher, Jacob Vernon, Clara Smith, Katie Evans, Riley Jackson

experiences she will reflect on for life. **Keldon Brown**, though not a presenter, detailed that the experience was very fulfilling and rewarding as he was able to see the potential the field holds for the future. There were also oral presentations that **Annemarie Coatney** described as enlightening: “the depth and variety of research being carried out by students across our region demonstrates just how intellectually diverse

and hardworking chemical engineering students are.” Later in the day, there were two technical sessions that consisted of several speakers—each with their own enticing topics ranging from financial literacy at the start of a career to career growth and expansion. Simultaneously, the ChemE Car competition was happening. Although our ChemE Car team did not compete this year, **James Caldwell, Katherine Hayes,**

Caleb Lassiter, and Jacob Vernon all reported that observing the competition was insightful and allowed them to bring back knowledge that will serve to improve our team’s design for next year. The conference was filled with experiences and connections that will serve to benefit them and our AIChE student chapter. Most importantly, our student chapter won the bid to host the Southern Regional Conference at MSU in 2028! Thank you to all those who participated in the chapter’s success. We hope many of you will join the team and assist us in hosting a great regional conference. Get involved now so that you can attend the 2027 Southern Regional Student Conference at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa!

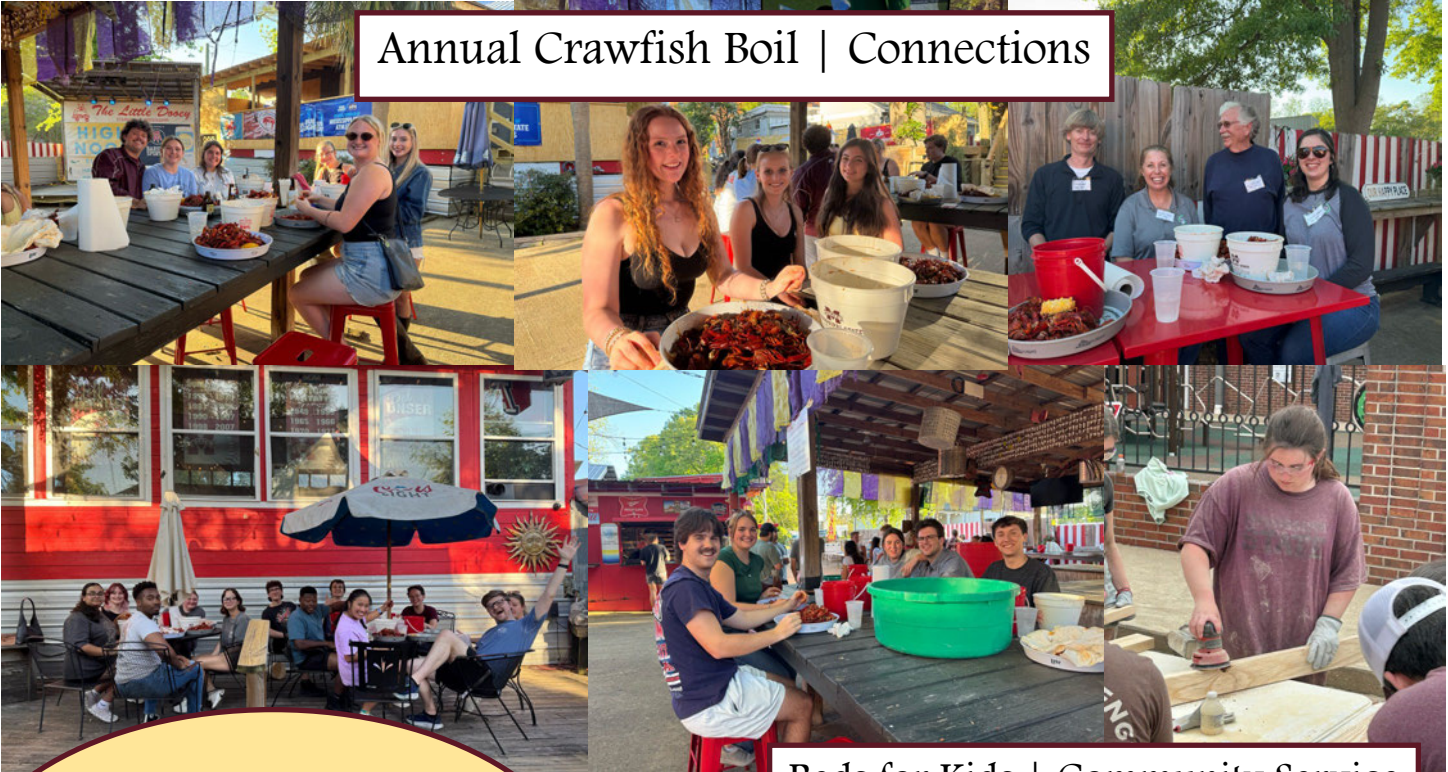


Goldwater Scholar | Rayne Rutherford | Recognition



“I am thrilled and honored to be named a 2026 national Barry Goldwater Scholar as only a sophomore. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship aims to support the next generation of highly impactful STEM researchers, with a rigorous application process that challenged me to reflect deeply on my research goals and trajectory. With the support of this scholarship program, I look forward to continuing my work exploring the genomic mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases through computational biology, with a focus on machine learning and genomic modeling. I am incredibly grateful to the mentors who supported me throughout this process and continue to push me to grow as a scientist at both Mississippi State and Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology.”

Annual Crawfish Boil | Connections



Cornzy Corner
They just increase
the volume!

Beds for Kids | Community Service



Senior Banquet | Celebrations



Congratulations to our Spring 2026 ChE Graduates!

Gregory Alpe A
 Brady Bobjak AΩ
 Alexandra Borovich Ω
 Jacob Bosarge
 Matthew Bowling
 Olivia Branum
 William Brinson Ω
 Cameron Brunson AΩ
 Tyler Bullock Ω
 John Bush Ω
 Avery Byars AΩ
 Logan Case Ω
 Katelyn Casey Ω
 Elizabeth Cornwell Ω
 Vitor Da Silva Ω
 Emily Dominique AΩ
 Kyrstin Dresser
 Nicholas Duzmal
 Hannah East AΩ
 Katie Evans AΩ
 Peiton Fasullo Ω
 Taylor Floyd A
 Parker Formsma Ω

Tye Gardner
 Paul Gramelspacher A
 Austin Green
 Lauren Hammett A
 Augusta Hirn A
 Charles Holliman A
 Andrew Knittig Ω
 Lindsey Kuykendall A
 Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan AΩ
 Matthew Langston
 Aaron Mason Ω
 Chloe McKenzie AΩ
 Julianna McQueen Ω
 Jasmyn Montiforte A
 Shelby Moore A
 Gavin Myers Ω
 Ashlyn Nguyen
 Hanna Nguyen AΩ
 Issac Parmenter
 Adeline Partrick
 Thomas Peaspanen
 Joshua Phillips AΩ
 Bryant Pollard

Zane Pritchard
 Isabella Ramsay AΩ
 William Randolph A
 Madeline Raynor Ω
 Austin Rexrode
 Walton Richardson
 Cohen Russell
 Gabriel Sandoz
 Lauren Temples A
 Emily Thompson AΩ
 Kevin Touchstone Ω
 Ethan Voss AΩ
 Nathan Watkins A
 Emalee West A
 Katelyn Wilson A
 A - AICHe
 Ω - ΩXE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this issue a success! Look for the next issue this August.

Merilyn Bell, Newsletter Editor

Corny Corner Suggestions?

We'd love to hear them. Email Dr. Bill Elmore at elmore@che.msstate.edu.



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