

December 10th 2008

2008 AIChE Annual Meeting Student Delegates

The 2008 AIChE Annual Meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA, in November 2008. Master students from Denmark, Camilla Berg and Anne Grydgaard, and PhD student, Jan Stepanik, from the Czech Republic attended the meeting as official European Student Delegates by the European Federation of Chemical Engineering. Some of their experiences from the event are summarised below.



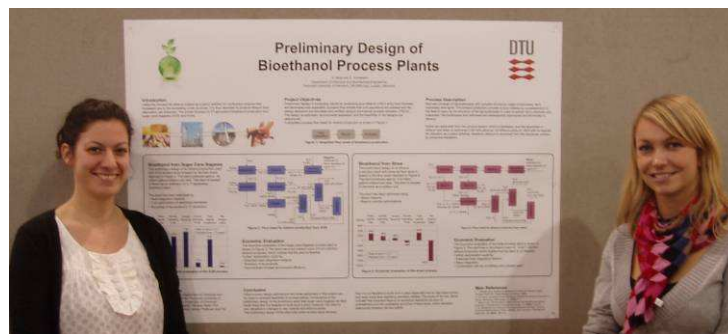
From left: PhD student Jan Stepanik, Master student Anne Grydgaard, Master student Camilla Berg, President of the EFCE Prof. Jiri Drahos.

The 2008 AIChE Annual Meeting was a very special event since it is a centennial celebration and therefore a milestone for AIChE. The 100 years anniversary was celebrated with an opening convocation session launched by the Masters of Ceremonies, Dr. Carol K. Hall and Dr. Eduardo D. Glandt. Ben Franklin impersonated by Ralph Archbold, told us about the beginning of AIChE and was succeeded by a cheerful welcoming speech by Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia. During the session the AIChE president, Dr. Dale L. Keairns, introduced the Dignitaries and the International Student Representatives which included us. It was a very memorable moment to stand up in front of all the participants of the Annual Meeting and be applauded for our attendance. Dr. Robert A. Brown, President of Boston University, was the keynote speaker, and he compared the expanding impact of chemical engineering with transport phenomena, which is a subject that is familiar to every chemical engineer. He excelled in showing that chemical engineers, despite their reputation, actually do have humour. It is a shame that you often have to be a chemical engineer to understand it.



Dr. Eduaodo D. Glandt and Ralph Archbold as Ben Franklin celebrating AICHEs 100 years existence at the AICHE Centennial convocation.

Camilla Berg and Anne Grydgaard attended the Student Poster Session with a contribution summarizing their process design projects on “Preliminary Design of Bioethanol Process Plants” which were conducted during the spring 2008. The projects concern the feasibility of construction of 2nd generation bioethanol plants with straw and sugar cane bagasse as feedstock.



Camilla Berg (left) and Anne Grydgaard at the Student Poster Session with their contribution: *Preliminary Design of Bioethanol Process Plants.*

It was an honour and an once-in-a-lifetime experience to attend this special meeting and be able to present a poster. It was very exciting to meet and mingle with authors of the books that we have been studying intensively the last couple of years. All of these aspects contributed to us having a great time in Philadelphia, and the experience certainly broadened our professional horizon and our international networks. We greatly appreciate the financial support that we were granted from the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Technical University of Denmark which enabled us to take part in this great event.

Best regards,
Camilla Berg s042324
Anne Grydgaard s022399

Department of Chemical & Biochemical Engineering
Soltofts Plads, Building 229,
Technical University of Denmark
DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark