

## The State of ACerS-NICE 2008-09



Each year the outgoing President of The American Ceramic Society's National Institute of Ceramic Engineers (ACerS-NICE) receives an opportunity to report on the state of The NICE. After being involved with this class as an officer for the past five-years, I can report that the state of The NICE is excellent. We have now focused on what we do well and are seeking to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

One of the key objectives I have set as a goal for us during this past year was to enhance and improve our communication with both the society as a whole, and our constituencies – our existing members, potential new members and our partner societies. I'm especially proud to report that as a result of the efforts in these areas, ACerS-NICE has made strides to further our visibility to our students through the ACerS President's Council of Student Advisors (PCSA), to educational activities related to accreditation and connectivity to ABET, and to our partner organizations such as TMS, ASM and NCEES who support our student activities and professional engineering registration exam activities, respectively. I will comment on these initiatives separately in a moment.

For those of you who have not been to an ACerS-NICE business meeting in a few years, we've seen a few noteworthy changes. During this time, we have transitioned from being financially supported by membership dues (like "normal" divisions) to being an ACerS budget line item. Thus we run a deficit for the year, and hence need to continue our focus on the role we serve toward assisting ACerS accomplish its mission. Since last year, we have further reduced our expenses. The bulk of our budget is focused on accreditation items — ACerS-NICE is a member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and we provide money toward the training of ABET Program Evaluators. A small portion of our budget goes toward awards, on-location meetings, and programming expenses.

On the membership front, we now have 1,105 members, down a bit from last year's 1,171. These numbers seem to reflect membership trends of the society as a whole. Since membership is free to all new ACerS members as well as current members. We feel that our efforts to grow membership is directly connected to our efforts to communicate not only who we are, but what we do. To this end, we sent out a *Welcome letter* to NICE members email after the January meeting. This was meant to tell our members hello, who we are (in case they forgot) and to let them know what we do. We have agreed that we will make this a regular mode of communication after each of our Executive meetings, providing brief snapshots of what "we've done lately." Hence, look for these *short* updates in your e-mail inbox.

An important effort in revitalizing our student-related activities was the establishment of a PCSA student liaison. Claire Weiss from the University of Connecticut is the inaugural NICE/PCSA liaison, and she has done a wonderful job of providing communication to/from the students who have been working to realize the ceramic demo kits we've worked on for the past several years. These demo kits will be used to reach out to and educate K-12 students about ceramic engineering.

We continue extensive efforts in the accreditation arena. Our Ceramic Engineering profession is down to four accredited Ceramic and Glass Engineering programs - Alfred University (ceramic and glass), Clemson University (ceramic) and the Missouri University of Science and Technology (ceramic). Most universities have moved away from ceramic and glass programs and towards materials science and engineering programs. With this trend, we see opportunities!

The NICE has enjoyed many successes over the following year, as follows:

- Active Committee on Accreditation Guidelines for Ceramic Engineering
  - Representation of NICE on the EAC Commission- Beth Judson
  - Provide the ACerS/NICE representative to ABET Board of Directors – Harrie Stevens
  - Conducted NICE/TMS ABET Refresher Training - MS&T08 and 09.
  - Supported the naming of two new program evaluators this year who are now working through their training
  - Hosted the new Executive Director of ABET, Mr. Michael Milligan to ACerS headquarters on October 5<sup>th</sup> to share our ACerS perspectives related to our programs
- Reinvigorate our efforts to the Professional Registration committee – link to PE licensure
  - John Sanders from Clemson University will now represent us on the TMS Professional Registration Committee and will write ceramic related questions for the Materials Engineering PE test.
- Order of the Engineer (OE) Ceremony – Fred Stover is the new point of contact for OE. We had 5 new members inducted at MS&T09.
- Support PCSA and the 17 Universities they represent in the preparation of demo kits. The goal is to implement in 2010.
- Support and work to maintain our activities for annual awards. The 2009 awardees included:
  - Arthur L. Friedberg Memorial Lecture, Gary Fishman, The National Academies
  - Arthur Frederick Greaves Walker Award, Edgar Lara-Curzio, Oak Ridge National Lab
  - Karl Schwartwalder-Professional Achievement in Ceramic Engineering (PACE) Award – Susmita Bose, Washington State University
- Encourage ACerS Fellow nominees
- Conducted student mock interviews, resume workshops, and resume tune-up sessions at MS&T '08

Next year ACerS-NICE plans to pursue initiatives that include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Continue our support of the various student initiatives – partner with EIC, MAC, PCSA, and others.
- Continue our reach out and touch efforts.....
- Update and continue planning via the Strategic Milestones – track activities
- Communicate with members on possible transition from a ceramics-based to materials science and engineering-based education/professional development
- Collaborate/partner with academia, government, industry, EIC, MA chapters, PCSA, and others to develop educational/professional programs
- Reincorporate The NICE Fellows – align with The SOCIETY Fellows
- Actively push participation in the Order of the Engineer ceremony amongst senior-level students from ABET accredited science and engineering programs, faculty, and others
- Push Materials PE licensure – business case; plan presentations on what does licensure mean and who can benefit from it
- Revisit Standing NICE/ACerS/TMS Joint Accreditation Committee - Ad Hoc or Standing

Please support the following 2009-2010 officers, committee chairs and accreditation manager:

- Elizabeth “Beth” Judson - President
- Alex Cozzi - President-Elect/Treasurer
- Geoff Brennecka - Vice-President
- Olivia Graeve - Secretary
- Elizabeth “Beth” Judson - Rules Committee, Chair
- John Sanders - Professional Registration Committee, Chair
- Harrie Stevens - Accreditation Guidelines Committee, Chair
- Fred Stover - Ethics/Order of the Engineer, Link 180, Chair
- Victor Greenhut - Fellow Committee, Chair
- Claire Weiss - PCSA Student Liaison
- Greg Geiger - Accreditation Manager and ACerS Liaison to NICE

In closing, we solicit your support to make ACerS-NICE the best that it can be. Thank you for your future support and please support the upcoming Order of the Engineer ceremony slated for MS&T’10.

Kathleen Richardson  
President  
National Institute of Ceramic Engineers  
23 October 2009