

C&PE NEWS

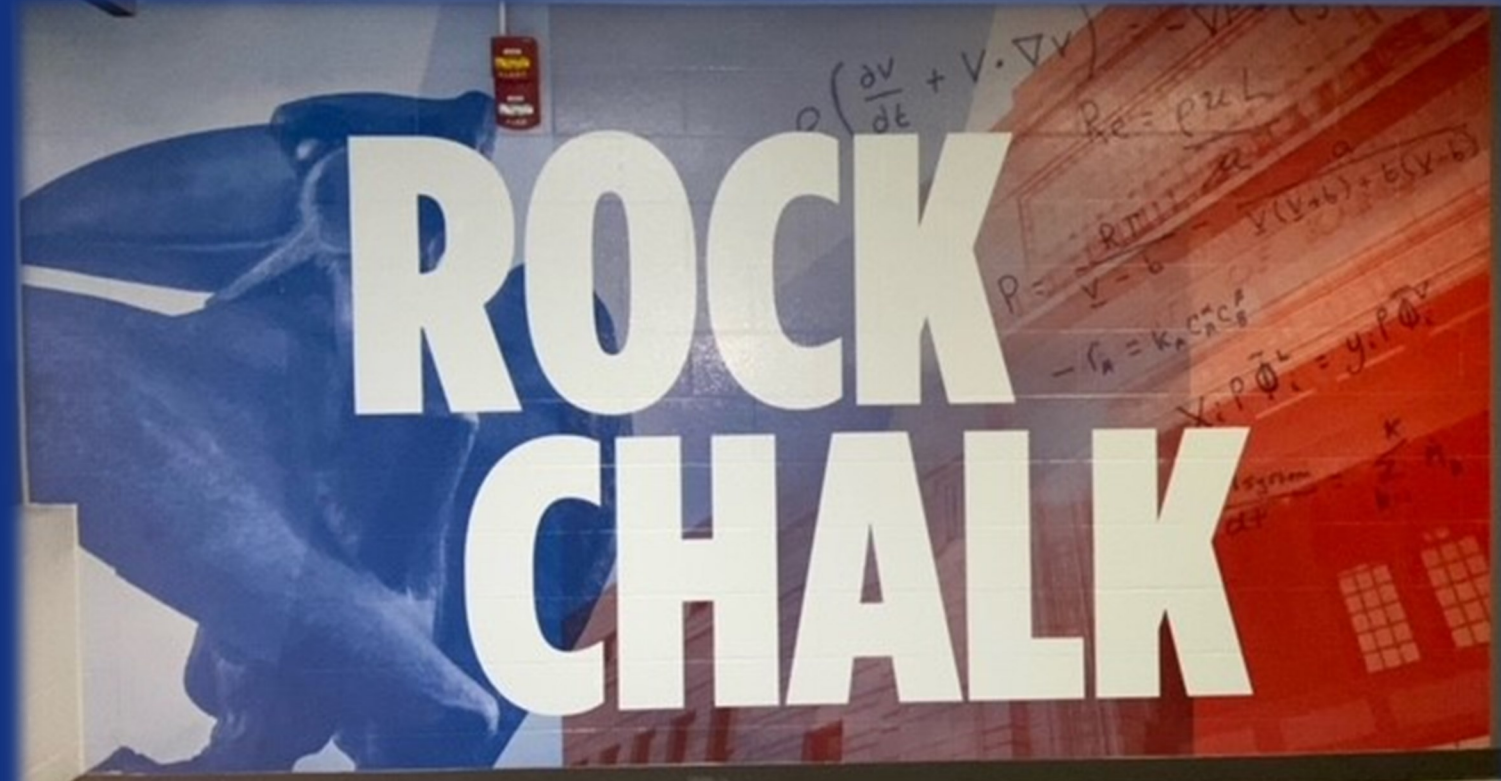
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering

December 8, 2021

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that you are having a great start to the holiday season. It is always a pleasure to be able to highlight some of the achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni. I am also very excited to share with you some photos of the redesigned hallway Learned Hall, and I hope you have a chance to come back to campus soon. Over the past few weeks, I have spent some time reflecting on what a blessing it is to be a Jayhawk, and I will be forever grateful for the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students and the continued support of our alumni. Rock Chalk!

HALLWAY REDESIGN UPDATE



IN THE NEWS

School of Engineering Honors Alumni with Distinguished Engineering Service Award

Christine-Ehlig Economides received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award (DESA) on November 4, which is awarded to individuals who have maintained close association with the school and have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and to society.

Christine Ehlig-Economides is recognized as one of the nation's most accomplished and influential figures in her field. She organized and helped establish new petroleum engineering departments at two universities. She developed methods of analyzing well test data from multilayer reservoirs that became the worldwide standard for the oil and gas industry. She has long advocated for women and underrepresented minorities in the field. Her career is decorated with some of the most prestigious awards in engineering, including induction into the National Academy of Engineering in 2003. After graduating from Rice University in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Ehlig-Economides attended KU, where she earned a master's degree in mathematics education in 1974 and a master's degree in chemical engineering in 1977. She went on to Stanford University and earned her doctorate in 1979 — her dissertation remains a landmark contribution to the theory and practice in a dominant technology in petroleum reservoir engineering, pressure transient test analysis.



Ehlig-Economides currently serves as a professor and Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair at the University of Houston

CPE Alumni, Amalesh Sirkar, Shares New Publication

Prof. Amalesh Sirkar, an alumni of the Chemical & Petroleum Engineering doctorate program, shared the details about a new breakthrough paper recently published in the journal *Chemical Engineering Communications*. The title of the paper is "Detailed explanations for the occurrence and nature of interfacial phenomena in liquid-liquid systems on the basis of the theory of spontaneous surface convection."

Amalesh Sirkar has been Dean of Chemical Eng and the Food & Biotechnology Departments of Haldia Institute of Technology. Prior to that, he was Professor and HOD of Chemical Eng Department of the same Institute (First Private Engineering College in West Bengal, India).

Find the full article on the [Chemical Engineering Communications journal website](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00987913.2021.1991111)

\$4 million Award from NSF's EPSCoR RII Track 2 Program Announced



Plastics are an indispensable part of today's society. These nimble polymers help keep foods fresh, cars safe, arteries clog-free and have countless other uses. But the benefits come at a cost. Each year millions of tons of discarded plastic pollute ecosystems, harm animals and exacerbate climate change.

Now, a \$4 million award from the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR RII Track 2 program will bring together researchers from Kansas and Delaware and fund work to improve how plastics are manufactured and recycled.

"We're excited to advance technologies that will help society transition to a more sustainable plastic economy," said lead investigator Bala Subramaniam, Dan F. Servey Distinguished Professor of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering at the University of Kansas and director of KU's Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis.

STUDENT NEWS

Mary Severt wins First Place at the SWE Poster Competition

Mary Severt, a junior in Chemical Engineering, was recently notified that she won First Place at the SWE Poster Competition this month. The title of her poster is "Valorization of residual hemp biomass through thermochemical processing."

Read the full article online at <https://cpe.ku.edu/mary-severt-wins-first-place-swe-poster-competition>



Erin Sturd, senior in Chemical Engineering, finalist for Marshall Scholarship

Erin Sturd, of Overland Park, is majoring in chemical engineering with an emphasis in bioengineering and minoring in Spanish. Sturd is the daughter of Deana and Joseph Sturd and a graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Sturd works with Mark Shiflett, Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering, at the Institute for Sustainable Engineering.

Read more about Erin and her research online at <https://cpe.ku.edu/erin-sturd-nominated-marshall-scholarship>

Marah Shulda, Jr. in Chemical Engineering, Finalist for EXCEL Award

Marah Shulda, a junior in chemical engineering with a minor in global & international studies from Shawnee is on the list. Marah is a Self Engineering Leadership Fellow and rank leader and equipment manager for the Marching Jayhawks. She also serves as vice president of KU Hearts for the Homeless.

Read more at <https://cpe.ku.edu/marah-shulda-junior-chemical-engineering-finalist-excel-award>



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

We continue to seek responses to our Alumni Survey. If you have not already done so, please find the survey @ https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eA6Vd9SoH5Qo31s

For those of you who have completed the survey, Thank You! We truly appreciate your thoughts, data, and feedback.

Home is where
The Jayhawk is.

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